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Holidays Celebrated in the United States

There are many holidays celebrated around the world with religious and secular traditions. Here is a list of some holidays that are recognized here and in other places:

AUGUST

Del Mar Schools generally begin the new school year the last week of August. Please check the current school calendar for the first day of school.

Other days to note:

Ramadan (Islamic, Muslim, Moslem) Pakistan's Independence Day
India's Independence Day Liberation Day (Korea, South Korea)
Lammas and Lughnassad (Britain, Pagan, United States)

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day is a legal holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September in honor of the working class. Parades are held throughout cities and towns. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

Other days to note:

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Mexico) Yom Kippur (Jewish)
Israel Miraji Ascent of Prophet Muhammad San Gennaro Day (Italian-American)
Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) Autumnal Equinox (Japan)
Eid-Al-Fitr (Islamic, Muslim) Sukkot (Jewish)
Mexico's Independence Day (September 16) Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
Lailat-UI-Quadr (Islamic, Muslim)

OCTOBER

Halloween is the eve of All Saints' Day, falling on October 31 and celebrated by children who carve pumpkins, dress in costumes and beg for treats. They walk from door to door collecting candy. The chant "trick or treat" is heard throughout the neighborhood. There is no significance to Halloween other than it is fun to dress in costumes, go to parties, play spooky music and collect candy!



Other days to note:

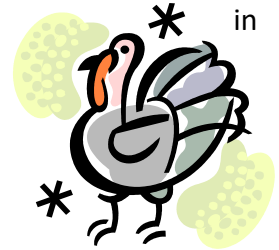
German-American Heritage Month Simchat Torah (Jewish)
National Italian-American Heritage Month Cirio de Nazare (Brazil)
Polish-American Heritage Month

NOVEMBER

Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day and is celebrated on November 11 or the second Monday in November. It is observed to honor all the men and women who served in the U.S. armed forces during the wars. American flags are displayed outside homes, banks, and offices. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday set apart for giving thanks. It is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November, usually with a feast of turkey, stuffing, corn, mashed potatoes and other foods. It was first celebrated in colonial times in New England. When the Pilgrims landed their ships at Plymouth Rock in the year 1621, they needed the help of the Native Americans to learn how to plant crops and grow food. After they had their first harvest, the Pilgrims had a feast with the Native Americans to celebrate their friendships. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Other days to note:

National American Indian Heritage Month
Dia de los Muertos (Mexico)
Diwali (Buddhist, Hindu)

Birthday of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
Eid al-adha (Islamic, Muslim)

DECEMBER

Del Mar Schools are generally closed for two weeks at the end of December for Winter Break. Please check the current school calendar for the dates of Winter Break.

Other days to note:

St. Nicholas Day (International)
Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
Hannukkah (Jewish)
Al Hijra - Muslim New Year
Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)
Santa Lucia Day (Sweden)

Ashura (Islamic, Muslim)
Las Posadas (Mexico)
Christmas (Christian)
Boxing Day (Canada, United Kingdom)
Kwanzaa (African American)

JANUARY

New Year's Day is the first day of the calendar year, January 1. It is a celebration of the old year and the new one to come. The traditional New Year's Ball is dropped every year in Times Square in New York City at 12:00 midnight, which is seen on television around the world. Each New Year, people make resolutions to change (such as to eat better, to exercise more, or to give up bad habits) and promise themselves to keep these resolutions all year. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Martin Luther King Day is celebrated the third Monday of January. It is a remembrance of the life and legacy of civil rights champion Dr. Martin Luther King. It is a time for the nation to celebrate the values Dr. King fought for: equality, tolerance, freedom and dignity of all races and people. Dr. King said we should create change through nonviolence. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Other days to note:

Emancipation Day (African American)

Japanese New Year (Japan)

Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday (Sikh)

Three Kings' Day (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic)

Lohri (Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh)

Religious Freedom Day

World Religion Day

India Republic Day

Tu b'Shvat (Jewish, Israel)

FEBRUARY



Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. People send greeting cards or treats to loved ones and friends to show them that they care.

President's Day is an observance combining Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington's birthdays in a mid-month celebration to honor these great U.S. leaders. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



Other days to note:

National Black History Month

Mexico Constitution Day

National Foundation Day (Japan)

Chinese Lunar New Year (China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam)

Tet Nguyen Dan (Vietnam)

Mardi Gras (United States)

Flag Day (Mexico)

MARCH



Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17. There are many different customs that people do. One of the most widely known customs is to wear green on this day. One famous saying is, "On St. Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish!"

Other days to note:

Greek-American Heritage Month
Irish-American Heritage Month
Spiritual Wellness Month

St David's Day (Welsh)
Naw Ruz (Baha'i, Persia)

APRIL

Del Mar Schools are generally closed for one week in April for Spring Break. Please check the current school calendar for the dates of Spring Break.

Arbor Day is a tree-planting day to beautify our cities and towns. Most public schools celebrate Arbor Day in order to teach about protecting our forests.

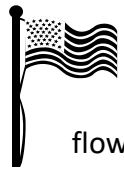
Other days to note:

Easter (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
Sinhala and Tamil New Year (Sri Lanka)
Vesak – Buddha's Birth (Buddhist)

Passover (Jewish)
St. George's Day (English)

MAY

Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May, honoring mothers. It is a time of commemoration and celebration for Mom, and all women who have acted as a mother figure in your life. It is a time for family gatherings and lots of love.



Memorial Day is a legal holiday on the last Monday in May, in honor of the nation's armed forces who were killed in defending their country in war. It is celebrated with parades, memorial speeches and ceremonies, as well as decorating graves with flowers and flags. Memorial Day is also a reminder that summer is on the way. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

Other days to note:

Asian Pacific American History Month
Beltane (Celtic)
Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)
Malcom X's Birthday (African American)

Israel's Independence Day
Shavuot (Jewish)
Victory Day (Russia)
Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)

JUNE

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, honoring fathers. It is a day not only to honor your dad, but all men who have acted as a father figure in your life. It is a time for family gatherings and lots of love.



Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. The first national observance of Flag Day was one hundred years after George Washington's display of the first U.S. flag. Since that day in 1877, June 14 has been celebrated each year as the National Flag Day.

Other day to note: Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjan (Sikh)

JULY



Independence Day is July 4. It celebrates the birthday of the U.S.A. It commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Many families celebrate this day by having picnics and going to the beach. You will also find fireworks displays in many towns and cities across America. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

Other days to note:

Canada Day (Canada)

Fil-American Friendship Day (Philippines, US)

Bon Festival/Feast of Lanterns (Japan)

