

OBSERVANCES AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

JULY 2018

American Heritage Month

- 1 **Canada Day** – Celebrates the creation of the dominion of Canada through the signing of the British North America Act on July 1, 1867.
- 4 **Independence Day** – Celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
- 8 **Martyrdom of the Bab** – Recognizing the execution of Ali Mohammed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers. Observed by abstaining from commerce and work. Observances begin at sundown. [Baha'i]
- 27 **Asalha Puja** – Turning of the Wheel of Teaching. Observance of the day when Gautama Buddha made his first public proclamation to the five ascetics. [Buddhist]
- 27 **Full Moon**

AUGUST 2018

- 7 **Purple Heart Recipient Day** – A day designated by the Washington State Legislature to honor those who have been wounded in battle.
- 12 **Eid al-Adha** – The Festival of Sacrifice. A three-day festival concluding the season of the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah. It is observed by giving meat to the poor. Celebration begins at sundown. [Islam]
- 26 **Full Moon**

SEPTEMBER 2018

Library Card Sign-Up Month *Hispanic Heritage Month*

- 3 **Labor Day** – A federal holiday observed on the first Monday of September. Idea began in 1882 from a desire by the Central Labor Union to create a day off for the "working man."
- 3 **Krishna Janmashtami** – Celebrating the birthday of Krishna, the 8th incarnation of god Vishnu, who destroyed the evil king Kansa. Friends and family join to celebrate harmony. [Hindu]
- 8 **International Literacy Day** – A day sponsored by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Reading Association to highlight the importance of reading.

- 9 **Grandparents Day** – Observed on the first Sunday after Labor Day to show appreciation to grandparents.
- 9 **Rosh Hashana** – The Jewish New Year and birthday of the World. Begins the High Holy Days, a 10-day period of prayer, abstinence, self-examination, and repentance. The ram's horn is sounded and special foods are prepared. Observance begins at sundown. [Jewish]
- 9 **Navaratri** – Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings. [Hindu]
- 9-15 **National Arts in Education Week** – Organized by the National Art Education Association to promote and showcase the role arts education has in producing engaged and successful students.
- 11 **Patriot Day** – A day to honor the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Flags are flown at half-staff.
- 11 **Islamic New Year (Hijra)** – Celebrates the emigration of Muhammad and his followers to Medina. People exchange cards and gifts in many areas of the Muslim community. (Shia Muslims consider this to be a time of sadness and mourning commemorating the death of Imam Hussain, the grandson of Muhammad.) Celebration begins at sundown. [Islam]
- 16 **Mexican Independence Day** – Celebrates the day in 1810 when Father Miguel Hidalgo called for the end of Spanish rule of Mexico.
- 16 **Mayflower Day** – Anniversary of the departure of the *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England, in 1620.
- 17 **Citizenship Day** – As a way to honor the U.S. Constitution, President Harry Truman proclaimed the day as a time to recognize everyone who had become a U.S. citizen during the previous year.
- 17-23 **Constitution Week** – A week set aside to commemorate the day in 1787 when the Constitutional Convention adjourned after voting unanimously to approve the proposed U.S. Constitution.
- 18 **Yom Kippur** – The Day of Atonement. The most solemn holy day on the Jewish calendar. A time of strict fasting and ceremonial repentance. Observance begins at sundown. [Jewish]
- 19 **Dasara** – A festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil. People observe the holiday with special prayer meetings and food offerings to the gods at home or in temples. [Hindu]
- 21 **International Day of Peace** – The opening day of the United Nations General Assembly each year. Devoted to commemorating the ideals of peace among all nations and peoples.

SEPTEMBER 2018 (con't)

- 22 First Day of Fall** – Autumnal Equinox arrives at 6:54 p.m. PDT.
- 23 Sukkot** – Feast of the Tabernacles, which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents. Observance begins at sundown. [Jewish]
- 24 Full Moon**
- 28 National Good Neighbor Day** – Organized by the National Good Neighbor Day Foundation to help create a greater understanding and concern for others and develop values in children by giving them a tradition of caring.

OCTOBER 2018*Disability History Month**Crime Prevention Month**Czech Heritage Month**Italian-American Heritage Month**Polish-American Heritage Month**UNICEF Month**National Principals Month**National Bullying Prevention Month*

- 1 Child Health Day** – Celebrated on the first Monday of October to raise awareness of how people can protect and develop children's health.
- 7-13 National Educational Office Professionals Week** – Recognizes the importance of the contribution made to education by educational office professionals.
- 7-13 National Metric Week** – Sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics to develop and maintain awareness of the metric system.
- 7-13 Fire Prevention Week** – Sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association.
- 8 Columbus Day** – A day to commemorate Christopher Columbus' sighting of the New World in 1492.
- 8 Thanksgiving (Canada)** – Celebrated in Canada as a day to give thanks for a successful harvest.
- 10 Walk to School Day** – Organized by the Partnership for a Walkable America to build awareness for the need for walkable communities.
- 14 Washington State Children's Day** – A day designated by the Washington State Legislature to honor children.
- 14-20 America's Safe Schools Week** – Organized by the National School Safety Center, state governors, and state school superintendents to advocate for school safety.

- 14-20 Earth Science Week** – An event sponsored by the American Geological Institute to engage students in discovering the Earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth through understanding.
- 14-20 National Character Counts Week** – A time that is set aside to recognize the notion that America succeeds when we look out for one another and lend a hand to building a brighter future.
- 15-19 National School Lunch Week** – Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the American School Food Association to highlight the importance of providing children with access to nutritious meals.
- 16 World Food Day** – Proclaimed in 1979 by the United Nations to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.
- 16-20 National School Bus Safety Week** – Sponsored by the National Association of Pupil Transportation and the National School Transportation Association to address the importance of school bus safety.
- 20 Birth of Báb** – Honoring the father of the Bábí religion, forerunner to Baha'u'llah and the Baha'i faith. School and work are suspended. [Baha'i]
- 23-31 Red Ribbon Week** – The oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country, it serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand to live drug-free lives. Organized by the National Family Partnership.
- 24 United Nations Day** – Established to commemorate the founding of the United Nations in 1945.
- 24 Full Moon**
- 27 Make A Difference Day** – Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and USA Weekend Magazine to encourage children, youth, and adults to volunteer on behalf of their communities.
- 31 Halloween** – All Hallows' Eve (the night before All Saints Day) had its beginnings in ancient festivals honoring the dead, but has since evolved into child-friendly activities such as trick-or-treating.
- 31 Day of the Dead** – Also known as Día de los Muertos, it is a Mexican public holiday that is celebrated with family gatherings to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died and to help support their spiritual journey.

NOVEMBER 2018*Native American Heritage Month*

- 1 All Saints Day** – A day for honoring persons, known and unknown, with reputation for unusual lives of holiness and devotion to God or who were

NOVEMBER 2018 (con't)

martyred for their faith. A Holy Day of Obligation in the Roman Catholic Church. [Christian]

4 Standard Time begins

6 Election Day

7 Diwali – The Festival of Lights. Celebrates the victory of good over evil. A time of family reunion, gift exchanges, fireworks, and festive meals. [Hindu and Sikh]

11 Veterans Day – A day to honor military veterans became a federal holiday in 1938. The date also is known as Armistice Day in recognition of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. The date has additional significance in Washington because it is the date that the state was admitted to the Union in 1889.

12 Birth of Baha'u'llah – Celebration of the birth of the faith's founder and teacher. Celebration begins at sundown. School and work are suspended. [Baha'i]

12-16 American Education Week – Co-sponsored by the National Education Association, the National PTA and other national education associations, it is a time to spotlight the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education. Always observed the week before Thanksgiving.

13 Community Education Day – Observed on the Tuesday of American Education Week.

14 Education Support Professionals Day – Observed on the Wednesday of American Education Week.

15 Parental Involvement Day – Observed on the Thursday of American Education Week.

16 Substitute Educators Day – Organized by the National Education Association to focus on the importance of substitute school employees.

18-24 National Family Week – Organized by the Alliance for Children and Families, the time is set aside to honor the premise that strong families are at the center of strong communities.

20 Revolution Day (Mexico) – A national holiday that marks the start of what became the Mexican Revolution. The day is celebrated with parades.

22 Thanksgiving Day – Celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November to give thanks for the things one has at the end of the harvest season.

22 Full Moon

23 Native American Heritage Day – President George W. Bush signed legislation in 2008 designating the Friday after Thanksgiving as a day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to the United States. In Washington, it is observed on the Friday following the fourth Thursday in November.

23 Guru Nanak's Birthday – Celebrates the birth of the first Sikh Guru Nanak Dev Sahib, the Sikh founder. [Sikh]

DECEMBER 2018

1 World AIDS Day – Established by the World Health Organization in 1988 to focus global attention on the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

2 Advent begins – A time of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed with the lighting of candles, display of wreaths, and special ceremonies. [Christian]

2 Hannukah (Chanukah) – Commemorates the victory of the Jews over the Assyrian armies and the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem. Observed by lighting candles, eating latkes, and giving gifts. Celebration begins at sundown. [Jewish]

7 Pearl Harbor Day – A day to remember those who died during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. Flags are flown at half-staff.

10 Human Rights Day – Recognition of the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

12 Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe – A religious festival in Mexico that celebrates the belief that a man named Juan Diego encountered the Virgin Mary (patron saint of Mexico) in Mexico City on this date in 1531. Children are dressed in traditional costumes and are blessed in churches.

15 Bill of Rights Day – Anniversary of the adoption of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution in 1791.

21 First Day of Winter – Winter Solstice arrives at 2:22 p.m. PST.

22 Full Moon

25 Christmas – The celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, the exchange of gifts, and family gatherings. [Christian]

26 Kwanzaa begins – Established in 1966, it is an African American and Pan-African holiday that celebrates family, community, and culture. Its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa, from which it takes its name.

28 Day of the Holy Innocents – A day in Mexico that is much the same as April Fools' Day. People play jokes and pranks to trick friends and family members. The day remembers the biblical story of King Herod's orders to execute male babies in Bethlehem in order to kill baby Jesus.

JANUARY 2019*School Board Recognition Month*

- 1 New Year's Day**
- 1 Emancipation Proclamation Day** – Recognizing this date in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln declared that all people held as slaves shall be free.
- 6 Day of the Holy Kings (Día de los Reyes)** – Is celebrated in Mexico in remembrance of the biblical story of the three kings. [Christian]
- 7 Orthodox Christmas** – Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7 of the Gregorian calendar, which works out to be December 25 in the Julian calendar that Orthodox Christians follow. [Orthodox Christian]
- 16 Temperance and Good Citizenship Day** – State law (RCW 28A.230.150) requires that the day be observed within each public school and requires OSPI to develop resources that may help public schools observe this day.
- 20 Full Moon**
- 21 Martin Luther King Day** – Observed on the third Monday of January since 1986 to commemorate the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal legislation passed in 1994 challenges Americans to transform the holiday into a day of citizen action through volunteer service.
- 26 Washington National Guard Day** – A date established by the Washington State Legislature to honor those who serve in the Washington National Guard.

FEBRUARY 2019*African-American History Month**National Children's Dental Health Month*

- 1 National Freedom Day** – Recognizes the day in 1865 when President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery in the United States.
- 2 Groundhog Day** – A legend based on an old Scottish couplet: "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year." According to the legend, if the groundhog sees its shadow on this day, winter will continue for six more weeks.
- 2 Candlemas Day** – The day is celebrated in Mexico as Día de la Candelaria. It commemorates Mary's visit to the temple in Jerusalem 40 days after the birth of Christ. [Christian]

- 4-8 National School Counseling Week** – Organized by the American School Counselor Association to celebrate the contributions of school counselors.
- 5 Lunar New Year** – (Also known as Chinese New Year) An important day in East Asia that signifies the first day of the first lunar month in the Chinese calendar. This year's celebration will begin the year of the Pig.
- 10-16 Take Your Family to School Week** – Organized by the National PTA to pay tribute to PTA's legacy, encourage strong family engagement, and highlight the importance of partnerships among parents, teachers, and school administrators in supporting student achievement.
- 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday** – Celebrating the birth in 1809 of the 16th president of the United States.
- 14 Valentine's Day** – A traditional day in which lovers express their love for each other. The holiday is named after either Valentine of Rome or Valentine of Terni, who were both early Christian martyrs. Accounts of Valentine's Day observances date back to the 14th Century or perhaps even to a fertility festival known as Lupercalia that was celebrated in Ancient Rome.
- 17 PTA Founder's Day** – Organized by the National PTA to remind the public of the role that the PTA has played in supporting parent involvement in schools. The day recognized PTA founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney.
- 18 Presidents Day** – A federal holiday that celebrates the birthday of George Washington. The date was officially shifted to the third Monday of February in 1971 and its theme has since expanded to include a celebration of all U.S. presidents.
- 19 Full Moon**
- 22 George Washington's Birthday** – Celebrates the birth in 1732 of the nation's first president.
- 24 Mexican Flag Day** – A national holiday in Mexico to celebrate the nation's flag.

MARCH 2019*American Red Cross Month**Irish-American Heritage Month**Music in Our Schools Month**National Middle Level Education Month**National Nutrition Month**Social Work Month**Women's History Month**Youth Art Month*

- 1 Read Across America Day** – Sponsored by the National Education Association to celebrate the joy of reading and to motivate children to read.

MARCH 2019 (con't)

Celebrated since 1997 to recognize the birthday of Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss.

- 4-8 National School Breakfast Week** – Sponsored by the School Nutrition Association to focus attention on the importance of a morning meal.

- 5 Mardi Gras** – French for “Fat Tuesday,” it is a celebration in preparation for Lent, the fasting season that begins the following day. Also known as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day.

- 5-11 National Foreign Language Week** – Sponsored by Alpha Mu Gamma, the national collegiate foreign language honor society, for the purpose of making American students aware of the necessity of foreign language study.

- 6 Ash Wednesday** – The first day of Lent, the 40-day period of preparation for Easter. Ashes are marked on worshippers as a sign of penitence. Lent is a time of intense devotion observed by fasting, frequent worship, and acts of charity. [Christian]

- 8 International Women’s Day** – A day to connect all women around the world and inspire them to achieve their full potential. The observation emerged from the activities of labor organizations in the early 1900s as a day to honor working women.

- 10 Daylight Savings Time begins**

- 11 Johnny Appleseed Day** – A day to recognize the legend of Johnny Appleseed, a frontiersman named John Chapman who explored the land west of the Ohio River in the early 1800s and planted apple trees as he traveled. The observation coincides with the anniversary of Chapman’s death in 1845.

- 11 Great Lent** – The beginning of the 40-day fast that leads to Pascha. Orthodox Christians are not allowed to eat dairy or meat during this time. [Orthodox Christian]

- 11-15 Classified School Employees’ Week** – Observed on the second full week in March to recognize the contribution of classified employees in nearly every aspect of education.

- 17 St. Patrick’s Day** – Celebrated worldwide by Irish people and others to recognize Saint Patrick, a Christian missionary and one of the patron saints of Ireland, who died on this date in 461. The secular version of the holiday is celebrated by wearing green and eating Irish food.

- 17-23 National Poison Prevention Week** – A week designated by Congress to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. Sponsored by the Poison Prevention Week Council.

- 20 First Day of Spring** – Vernal Equinox arrives at 2:58 p.m. PDT.

- 20 Full Moon**

- 20 Holi** – Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. People shower each other with colored water and smear red and green powder on each other. [Hindu]

- 21 Absolutely Incredible Kid Day** – This is Camp Fire USA’s annual call to action asking adults to write letters of love and support to youth.

- 21 Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** – A day to remember the people throughout the world who have been victims of racial injustice. Observed on the date in 1960 when police in South Africa killed 69 people who were demonstrating against apartheid “pass laws.”

- 21 Benito Juarez’s Birthday** – A public holiday in Mexico to honor Juarez, a national hero who is known for making reforms to create a democratic federal republic. The day is celebrated with contests, fireworks, and popular dances.

- 21 Naw Ruz** – The Baha’i New Year. A celebration of hospitality and rejoicing. Celebration begins at sundown. Work and school are suspended. [Baha’i]

- 21 Magha Puja Day** – Celebration of the presentation of teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men. Buddhists go to the temple to perform merit-making activities. [Buddhist]

APRIL 2019

School Library Month

Mathematics Awareness Month

National Autism Awareness Month

National Poetry Month

- 1 April Fools’ Day** – Marked by the commission of hoaxes and practical jokes. Though its origin is disputed, the custom of April Fools’ Day jokes can be traced as far back as the early 16th Century.

- 2 International Children’s Book Day** – In recognizing the anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen’s birth in 1805, the day is celebrated to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children’s books.

- 7 World Health Day** – Sponsored by the World Health Organization to emphasize significant issues of worldwide concern in public health.

- 7-13 National Library Week** – Sponsored by the American Library Association since 1958 to celebrate the contributions of libraries and to promote library use and support.

- 9 Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day** – A day designated by the Washington State Legislature to honor those who have been prisoners of war.

- 10 Arbor Day (in Washington)** – The second Wednesday in April has been designated by the Washington State Legislature as a day when people are encouraged to plant and care for trees.

APRIL 2019 (con't)

- 14 Palm Sunday** – The beginning of Holy Week. Observes the arrival of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. [Christian]
- 14 Vaisakhi** – (or Baisakhi) The Hindu New Year. Celebrates the beginning of the harvest season. For Sikhs, the day remembers Guru Gobind Singh and the founding of the fraternity named Kahlisa. Observed with temple worship, feasting, and dancing. Greetings are exchanged that wish good life in coming days. [Hindu and Sikh]
- 15-19 Public School Volunteer Week** – A time sponsored by Project Appleseed to encourage parents and community members to volunteer in their public schools.
- 18 Maundy Thursday** – Observance of the first Lord's Supper. [Christian]
- 19 Good Friday** – Remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. [Christian]
- 19 Passover (Pesach)** – Commemorates the Jews' deliverance out of slavery in Egypt. The story of the Exodus is recounted and a ritual Seder meal is eaten. There are strict dietary rules throughout the eight-day observance. Observance begins at sundown. [Jewish]
- 19 Full Moon**
- 21 Easter** – The most holy of Christian holidays. Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. [Christian]
- 21 Feast of Ridvan begins** – Celebration of the period when Baha'u'llah resided in a garden in Baghdad. Celebration begins at sundown. School and work are suspended on the 1st Day (April 21), the 9th Day (April 29), and the 12th Day (May 2). [Baha'i]
- 21-27 National Student Leadership Week** – Organized by the National Association of Student Councils to highlight and encourage student leadership and service in the nation's schools.
- 21-27 National Environmental Education Week** – Held the week of Earth Day to inspire environmental learning and stewardship among students. Organized by the National Environmental Education Foundation.
- 21-27 Administrative Professionals Week** – Sponsored since 1952 by the International Association of Administrative Professionals to recognize the contributions of office support staff.
- 22 Earth Day** – An event intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. The event grew from an environmental teach-in that was first organized on April 22, 1970.
- 24 Administrative Professionals Day.**
- 25 Bring Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day** – A day when parents are encouraged to take their

child to their place of work. Initiated in 1993 by the Ms. Foundation for Women, the effort was broadened in 2003 to include boys.

- 26 National Arbor Day** – A tree-planting holiday proposed in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, a Nebraska newspaper editor who would later serve as Secretary of Agriculture. Each state celebrates the day at different times, depending on climate. The date of the national Arbor Day was established in 1970.
- 28 Pascha (Orthodox Easter)** – The most important religious holiday of the year for Orthodox Christians. Celebrated with a festive midnight service to usher in Easter Day. (The Orthodox Church observes the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar, which is why the date is different than the Christian Easter.) [Orthodox Christian]
- 30 Children's Day (Mexico)** – A day that is filled with activities, fun, gifts, and special events. Though not an official holiday in Mexico, it is a day that children anxiously anticipate.

MAY 2019

Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month
Better Hearing and Speech Month
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
Jewish Heritage Month
Preservation Month
Food Allergy Action Month

- 1 Law Day** – Sponsored by the American Bar Association to celebrate and learn about the rule of law in a constitutional democracy.
- 1 Labor Day (Mexico)** – Also known as May Day, it is a public holiday in Mexico.
- 1-7 Physical Education and Sport Week** – Organized by the National Association for Sports and Physical Education to recognize the quality sport and physical education programs in schools and the community.
- 3 School Lunch Hero Day** – An event organized by the School Nutrition Association to provide an opportunity for parents, students, and school staff to thank those who provide healthy meals each school day.
- 5 Cinco de Mayo** – Although a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, the day is widely celebrated in the United States as a time to recognize Mexican heritage and pride. The date commemorates an initial victory of Mexican forces over French forces in the Battle of Puebla in 1862.
- 5 Ramadan begins** – The holiest period in the Islamic year recognizing the time in which the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed.

MAY 2019 (con't)

All Muslims over the age of 12 are expected to fast from sunup to sundown. Celebration begins at sundown. [Islam]

- 5-11 Be Kind to Animals Week** – Sponsored by the American Humane Society to celebrate the bond between humans and animals.
- 5-12 National Music Week** – Sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs to create an understanding and appreciation for the value of music.
- 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week** – The National PTA established this time in 1984 as a way to honor teachers and the teaching profession.
- 7 National Teachers Day** – The Tuesday of Teacher Appreciation Week is designated as National Teacher Day.
- 8 World Red Cross Day** – A day to remember efforts that advocate for the relief of human suffering. The day marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross.
- 8 National School Nurse Day** – A day sponsored by the National Association of School Nurses to develop a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting.
- 8 National Bike to School Day** – Organized by the League of American Bicyclists to encourage children to safely bicycle or walk to school.
- 10 Mother's Day (Mexico)** – Children honor their mothers with gifts and cards and often present skits and songs to express their gratitude to their mothers and to entertain them.
- 12 Mother's Day** – A holiday that honors mothers. The celebration in the United States was loosely inspired by a British holiday known as Mothering Day, which originated in the 16th Century. President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day in 1914.
- 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day** – A day when the nation honors the heroism of all law enforcement officers, especially those who have given their lives in the line of duty. Flags are flown at half-staff.
- 15 Teacher's Day (Mexico)** – A special day when teachers in Mexico are treated to a nationwide celebration where they are showered with handmade presents, cards, poetry, artwork, and the performance of skits and songs.
- 18 Armed Forces Day** – A day designated in 1949 to honor Americans who are serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard.
- 18 Visakha Puja (Buddha Day)** – Buddha's birthday. The holiest of Buddhist holy days, it celebrates Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death. A public holiday in some countries. [Buddhist]

- 18 Full Moon**
- 20 Victoria Day (Canada)** – A holiday to honor Queen Victoria's birthday as well as the birthday of the current reigning Canadian sovereign.
- 20-26 National Educational Bosses Week** – Sponsored by the National Association of Educational Office Professionals to recognize the duties and responsibilities of educational leaders.
- 22 Declaration of the B'ab** – The date marks the beginning of the Baha'i faith when Ali-Muhammad declared himself to be the B'ab, or the Gate of God. Celebration begins at sundown. School and work are suspended. [Baha'i]
- 27 Memorial Day** – A federal holiday to commemorate the men and women who have died in military service to their country. The first Memorial Day was observed in 1865 to honor Union soldiers who died during the Civil War. Flags are flown at half-staff.
- 28 Ascension of Baha'u'llah** – Recollection of the death of Mirza Husayn Ali. Observed by prayers and readings. Celebration begins at sundown. School and work are suspended. [Baha'i]
- 31 World No-Tobacco Day** – A day organized by the World Health Association to encourage strict regulation of tobacco products.

JUNE 2019

Fireworks Safety Month

Caribbean-American Heritage Month

Great Outdoors Month

- 3 Eid al-Fitr** – The end of Ramadan. A time of rejoicing and thanksgiving. Houses are decorated, people wear their finest clothes and gifts are exchanged. Celebration begins at sundown. [Islam]
- 5 World Environment Day** – Sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme to reaffirm concern for the environment.
- 9 Race Unity Day** – An event sponsored by the Baha'i National Center promoting racial harmony and understanding, and the essential unity of humanity.
- 9 Pentecost** – Observation of the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind. A traditional day for baptisms and the confirmation of new Christians. [Christian]
- 14 Flag Day** – A day of patriotic observances. Celebrated to commemorate the day in 1777 that the Second Continental Congress adopted the flag of the United States. First celebrated in 1914 by proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson.
- 16 Father's Day** – A holiday to honor and commemorate fatherhood. First celebrated in

JUNE 2019 (con't)

1908 as a complement to Mother's Day. President Lyndon Johnson first established the date of Father's Day in 1966, but it wasn't officially recognized as a holiday until 1972.

- 16 Day of the African Child** – Sponsored by UNICEF, the day commemorates the achievements and future challenges of Africa and celebrates the heritage of African-American children.
- 16 Father's Day (Mexico)** – Observed with the giving of cards, chocolates, artwork, and other presents.
- 17 Full Moon**
- 19 Juneteenth** – Also known as Freedom Day, it commemorates the announcement of the emancipation of African-American slaves throughout the Confederate South in 1865.
- 21 First Day of Summer** – Summer Solstice arrives at 8:54 a.m. PDT.

destroyed the evil king Kansa. Friends and family join to celebrate harmony. [Hindu]

JULY 2019*American Heritage Month*

- 1 Canada Day** – Celebrates the creation of the dominion of Canada through the signing of the British North America Act on July 1, 1867.
- 4 Independence Day** – Celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
- 8 Martyrdom of the Bab** – Recognizing the execution of Ali Mohammed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers. Observed by abstaining from commerce and work. Observances begin at sundown. [Baha'i]
- 16 Asalha Puja**– Turning of the Wheel of Teaching. Observance of the day when Gautama Buddha made his first public proclamation to the five ascetics. [Buddhist]
- 16 Full Moon**

AUGUST 2019

- 7 Purple Heart Recipient Day** – A day designated by the Washington State Legislature to honor those who have been wounded in battle.
- 11 Eid al-Adha** – The Festival of Sacrifice. A three-day festival concluding the season of the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to Allah. It is observed by giving meat to the poor. Celebration begins at sundown. [Islam]
- 15 Full Moon**
- 23 Krishna Janmashtami** – Celebrating the birthday of Krishna, the 8th incarnation of god Vishnu, who