

August

1 **Francis Scott Key's Birthday** Born in 1779, he wrote our national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*. Play it and discuss what the lyrics mean.

2 **National Clown Week** is the first full week in August. Give each child a paper plate and have him draw a clown face on it. Glue yarn around the edge for hair.

3 **Columbus set sail from Spain** on this day in 1492. Have students come up with headlines that might have appeared when Columbus reached land.

4 **Louis Armstrong's Birthday** He was born in 1901. Share some of this jazz great's music with the class.

5 **Neil Armstrong's Birthday** Born in 1930, this astronaut was the first person to walk on the moon. Due to less gravity, weight on the moon is $\frac{1}{6}$ of what it is on Earth. Using calculators, let students find their moon weights.

6 **National Fresh Breath Day** Share gum or mints with the class to celebrate.

7 **Sandwich Month** Bring in bread, spreads, and meats and celebrate sandwiches!

Day-by-Day Calendar

8 **Jaqueline Cochrane** was the first woman to break the sound barrier. She did it on this day in 1980 at the age of 80. Have students write or tell about what they imagine they will do when they are 80.

9 **Smokey Bear's Birthday** He was "born" in 1950. Make a class list of campfire safety rules. Then, make campfire safety booklets illustrating these rules.

10 **Smithsonian Institution** was founded on this day in 1846. Have students brainstorm a list of museums they would like to see at the Smithsonian. If they could add one, what would it be? Would there be a museum dedicated to dogs? Comic book heroes? A favorite food?

11 **National Parks Month** Have students research a national park and design a poster enticing people to visit it.

12 **Family Day** is the second Sunday in August. Have students decide on a family activity for that day and complete it.

13 **International Left-Handers Day** Assign some classwork to be written with the left hand only, or for left-handed students, with the right hand.

14 **Ernest Lawrence Thayer's** (who wrote *Casey at the Bat*) **Birthday** He was born in 1863. Read the poem *Casey at the Bat*. Then, have students write poems about their favorite sports.

15 **Middle Children's Day** Today is dedicated to children who are the middle child. Survey to see how many children are middle, youngest, oldest, and only. Graph the results.

16 **Klondike Gold Rush** began on this day in 1896. Paint rocks gold and let students weigh them.

17 **Davy Crockett's Birthday** Born in 1786, Davy Crockett told many tall tales about his hunting trips. Have students write tall tales.

18 **The Nineteenth Amendment** to the constitution, which gave women the right to vote, was ratified on this day in 1920. Provide students with things to vote on such as: choice of a story, math activity, etc. Let boys vote for something, then girls. Discuss how it feels not to have a vote.

19 **National Aviation Day and Orville Wright's Birthday** Let the children make paper airplanes. Practice flying the planes and measuring the distance each one travels.

20 **Water Quality Month** Discuss the importance of clean water with your class. Let them taste samples of bottled water, flavored water, and tap water. Did they taste a difference?

21 **Hawaii became the 50th state** on this day in 1959. Have the children locate it on the map, do research, and make travel brochures.

22 **Be An Angel Day** Cut out angel wings to give to students when they're good. Have them write *I was an angel because....* Post the completed wings on the bulletin board.

23 **National Inventors Month** Ask each student to draw a picture of what they consider to be the greatest invention of all time and tell why they think it is the greatest.

24 Newspaper editor **Charles Dudley Warner** printed the statement, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it" on this day in 1897. Have students write or tell what the weather would be like if they could control it.

25 **Be Kind to Humankind Week** is August 25-31. Brainstorm ways to show kindness to others. Ask students to take note when others exhibit kindness. Encourage students to share their classmates' good deeds with the class.

26 **Make Your Own Luck Day** The four-leaf clover is considered a symbol of good luck. Have students create their own good luck symbols and wear them for the day.

27 **Mother Teresa's Birthday** She was born in 1910. Make "just because" cards for a local convalescent home.

28 **Martin Luther King, Jr.** gave his "I Have a Dream" speech on this day in 1963. Cut out cloud shapes and have students write their dreams for a better world.

29 **Charlie "Bird" Parker's Birthday** He was an African-American jazz saxophonist. In 1920, many jazz musicians improvised in "jam sessions." Give students a variety of musical instruments and let them improvise.

30 **Mary Shelley's Birthday** Born in 1797, she wrote *Frankenstein*. Have students draw their own monsters and write a short story about them.

31 **The First U.S. Tennis Championships** were held on this day in 1881. Share a few rules of tennis with the class, such as how scores are kept (love, 15, 30, 40, deuce, game).