

august 2004

National Inventors Month | Family Fun Month

August 1

Gail Gibbons has a birthday.
It's International Clown Week! Make balloon animals.

August 2

The first Lincoln penny was issued on this day in 1909. Make penny rubbings: place a coin under a sheet of paper and rub it with the side of a pencil.

August 3

National Waffle Day. Make waffles today. Read Chris Raschka's *Waffle* or Polly Horvath's *Everything on a Waffle*.

August 4

National Chocolate Chip Day. Make chocolate chip cookie dough and freeze it. Then make cookies for the children during that busy first week of school.

August 5

It's fair season! Join Minerva the chicken in *Minerva Louise at the Fair* by Janet Morgan Stoeke. Talk about what kids like to do at the fair.

August 6

It's National Inventors Month! Visit the Inventors and Inventions for K-12 Education page at falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/inventors.htm.

August 7

Betsy Byars has a birthday. Visit her Web site at www.betsybyars.com where you will learn about her unusual house.

August 8

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings was born on this day. Did you know? Rawlings, author of *The Yearling*, has a state park named after her.

August 9

Smokey the Bear has a birthday. Visit www.smokeybear.com for information and activities about Smokey and fire prevention.

August 10

Read *Walter the Baker* by Eric Carle then enjoy baked pretzels.

August 11

Joanna Cole has a birthday. Visit www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/books/authors/ to learn how Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen work on the Ms. Frizzle books.

August 12

It's Walter Dean Myers's birthday.
For an interview with this award-winning author visit www.kidsreads.com/authors/au-myers-walter-dean.asp.

August 13

Want to know why Friday 13th is considered unlucky? Visit people.howstuffworks.com/friday-thirteenth.htm for some explanations.

August 14

"'Summer reading is killing me,' said Fred." Find out why in *Summer Reading Is Killing Me* by Jon Scieszka.

August 15

Have a Teddy Bear's Picnic. Everyone brings a toy bear and sings "The Teddy Bear's Picnic." Read stories about bears.

August 16

Matt Christopher has a birthday.
How many of Christopher's action-packed sports stories have you read? (He has written over 100!)

August 17

It's Myra Cohn Livingston's birthday. Use Livingston's *Poem-Making: Ways to Begin Writing Poetry* when planning your next poetry lesson.

August 18

Paula Danziger has a birthday. You'll find Paula's ten tips for young writers at www.scholastic.com/titles/paula/writer.htm.

August 19

Bill Clinton was born on this day. Read a bibliography of Bill Clinton written by a fifth grader at www.whitehouse.gov/kids/presidents/william-clinton.html.

August 20

Cool Off! Have a water balloon toss.

August 21

Hawaii became the fiftieth state on this day in 1959. Share *Aloha, Dolores* by Barbara Samuels or display books about Hawaii.

August 22

It's Family Fun Month. Have some fun with your family.

August 23

Where in the world were Lewis and Clark 200 years ago? Visit www.lewis-clark.org/index.htm to find an excerpt from their journals on this day.

August 24

Time to weed? If your library 'garden' is overdue for weeding, start with one small section at a time.

August 25

Blast Off! Preschoolers will get a blast out of Tony Mitton's *Roaring Rockets*, a story about how space rockets work.

August 26

Equality Day
Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the nineteenth amendment. Visit www.nwhp.org/events/equality-day/celebrate-equality-day.html for ways to celebrate.

August 27

Banana Lovers Day
Read *¡Quiero Mi Plátano! / I Want My Banana!* by Mary Risk. Then make banana splits.

August 28

Read Clifford books, then serve bone-shaped sugar cookies.

August 29

Inventive Thinking?
Try *A Whack on the Side of the Head: How You Can Be More Creative* by Roger von Oech.

August 30

"I touch the future. I teach." Christa McCauliffe.
Think for a moment how important your work is.

August 31

Trail Mix Day
Host a trail mix making contest. Have the children create their own mix of ingredients and design a cereal box to promote it.