

june 2009

National Rose Month | June Dairy Month | National Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Month | Audio Book Month

June 1

Promote your audio books this month on your library's Web site. Feature new children's titles.

June 2

It's Helen Oxenbury's birthday.

Visit Reading Rockets at www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/oxenbury for a video interview with this children's book illustrator.

June 3

And the winner is...

Read *The Postcard* by Tony Abbott, the 2009 Edgar Award winner for best juvenile mystery.

June 4

June is Dairy Month.

Visit <http://kidzzone.wisdairy.com/> for games and activities to celebrate Dairy Month.

June 5

World Environment Day

It's Rick Riordan's birthday.

Throw a Percy Jackson party to celebrate the conclusion of the series.

June 6

D-Day anniversary

It's National Trails Day.

Work with local organizations and help promote National Trails Day. Display books about hiking.

June 7

Full Moon

Have a garden day with stories about gardening, such as Peter Brown's *The Curious Garden*.

June 8

Neil Gaiman narrates his Newbery winner, *The Graveyard Book*, available on cassettes or CDs.

June 9

It's Donald Duck's birthday.

Just Ducky: Lynne Berry's *Duck Tents*, is the latest addition to her stories about five ducks.

June 10

It's Maurice Sendak's birthday.

Did you know? Sendak has written more than 80 books.

June 11

Check out the DVD of Brian Lies's *Bats at the Beach*.

June 12

It's Anne Frank's birthday.

Visit www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/af/htmlsite/ at the US Holocaust Museum for the online exhibition, "Anne Frank: The Writer."

June 13

Pack your bags!

Follow Helen Lester's penguin when he goes to Camp Whoopihaha in *Tacky Goes to Camp*.

June 14

Flag Day

It's Laurence Yep's birthday.

Did you know? Yep's novel, *Dragonwings*, is about the experience of a young boy who emigrates from China to San Francisco. It was a Newbery Honor Book in 1976.

June 15

It's Brian Jacques birthday.

Check out the Redwall Wiki at redwall.wikia.com/wiki/Redwall_Wiki, a resource for all things Redwall.

June 16

Share stories and chocolate at a program and read Davide Cali's *I Love Chocolate*.

June 17

Good news! Children's classic *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey returns to bookstores this summer.

June 18

It's Vivian Vande Velde's birthday.

Have children vote for their favorite book series this summer.

June 19

Juneteenth, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

It's Garfield the Cat's birthday. Display your Garfield collection!

June 20

Serve fresh fruit after reading fruity stories such as Robert McCloskey's *Blueberries for Sal*, *The Apple Pie That Papa Baked* by Lauren Thompson, and *Detective Small in the Amazing Banana Caper* by Wong Herbert Yee.

June 21

Happy Father's Day!

Summer begins

Summer reading: *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv.

June 22

The doughnut was invented on this day in 1847. Share the episode about the run-amok doughnut machine in Robert McCloskey's *Homer Price*, and celebrate this tasty treat with Rebecca Bond's *The Great Doughnut Parade*.

June 23

It's Wilma Rudolph's birthday.

"Winning is great, sure, but if you are really going to do something in life, the secret is learning how to lose."

— Wilma Rudolph

June 24

Read Mark Teague's *Funny Farm* and meet Edward, the spiffy bulldog who doesn't quite fit in to farm life.

June 25

"The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts,
All on a summer's day.

The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts,
And took them clean away!"—Lewis Carroll

June 26

It's Charlotte Zolotow's birthday.

Did you know? Author Charlotte Zolotow's daughter writes children's books, under the penname Crescent Dragonwagon.

June 27

It's Helen Keller's birthday.

Check out *Dragonbreath*, Ursula Vernon's new graphic novel for middle graders.

June 28

"Thundering Typhoons! Why does everything happen to me?"

—*The Adventures of Tin Tin: The Red Sea Sharks*

June 29

Anna Alter's book, *What Can You Do with an Old Red Shoe?* will inspire creativity as it shows how every day things can be reused.

June 30

It's David McPhail's birthday.

Summer Program tip: Check out books or Web sites to learn some new cooperative games where the focus is on succeeding as a group.

july 2009

National Recreation and Parks Month | National Blueberries Month | National Hot Dog Month

July 1

It's Emily Arnold McCully's birthday.

Pull books with red, white or blue covers and create a patriotic display for Independence Day.

July 2

It's National Recreation and Parks Month.

Find out and publicize information about state, county, and city parks in your area and the recreational activities they offer to families.

July 3

What is Uncle Sam's favorite snack? Fire crackers!

July 4

Independence Day

Visit www.usa.gov/Topics/Independence_Day.shtml for facts, fun and lots of links to information about our nation's birthday.

July 5

It's P. T. Barnum's birthday.

"Without promotion something terrible happens...Nothing!"

—P.T. Barnum

July 6

Did you know? July is named after Julius Caesar. Learn more about the Caesar cipher at www.simonsingh.net/The_Black_Chamber/caesar.html

July 7

Full Moon

It's Father-Daughter Take a Walk Together Day.

Encourage a walk to the library for a father-daughter program.

July 8

It's Raffi's birthday.

Visit www.raffinews.com/educators/music for lyrics and music arrangements for dozens of songs sung by this famous troubadour.

July 9

The American Library Association's annual conference is in Chicago (July 9-15)

July 10

Be creative with paper. Get ideas from Judith Cressey's *What Can You Do with a Paper Bag? Hats, Wigs, Masks, Crowns, Helmets, and Headresses Inspired by Artworks from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.*

July 11

It's E. B. White's birthday.

Visit <http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/reading/charlotteweb.htm> for links to many Charlotte's Web activities and lesson plans.

July 12

It's Henry David Thoreau's birthday.

"Books are the carriers of civilization" —Henry David Thoreau

July 13

New from Jane O'Connor: *Fancy Nancy: Tea Parties.*

July 14

It's Woody Guthrie's birthday.

Invite a folksinger to sing Woody Guthrie's and others' folk songs for a family program.

July 15

Get your wands out! The film *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* opens today.

July 16

Hot off the Press! *Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes*, the latest of Kate DiCamillo's easy chapter books about Mercy, the precocious pig.

July 17

Did you know? Disneyland, America's first theme park, opened today in 1955.

July 18

It's Felicia Bond's birthday.

Visit the Mouse Cookies Web site at www.mousecookiebooks.com/indexSite.html for lots of activities.

July 19

It's National Blueberry Month. Plan a blueberry program with stories like *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey and *Blueberry Mouse* by Alice Low. Serve blueberry muffins.

July 20

Visit Kevin Henkes's Web site at www.kevinhenkes.com/meet/fun.asp for activities related to his mouse books.

July 21

Make a Kite. Visit <http://jas.familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts?page=CraftDisplay&craftid=11420> for easy kite directions.

July 22

Game day. Gather puzzles and board games and have a game day at the library.

July 23

Jewelry making. Make easy necklaces and bracelets from colorful paperclips.

July 24

It's Amelia Earhart's birthday.

"Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others." Amelia Earhart

July 25

Make sure Junie B. Jones fans know about her Web site at www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieb/

July 26

Share *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson with children. Ask them what they would draw with a magic crayon. What color would they choose?

July 27

Share tongue-tangling poems from Jon Agee's *Orangutan Tongues: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue.*

July 28

Flower Power. Teach children how to make daisy chains.

July 29

It's NASA's birthday. Invite amateur astronomers to bring their telescopes to the library for a stargazing night.

July 30

Organize a kitchen band with pots and pans, wooden spoons, etc. and have children put on a performance.

July 31

It's J.K. Rowling's birthday.

Check out the offerings of the National Children's Museum in Washington, D.C. and the plans for their new building at www.ncm.museum/home.

august 2009

National Inventors Month | Children's Vision and Learning Month | Family Fun Month | Get Ready for Kindergarten Month

August 1

Did you know? Superhero Spider-Man was introduced on this day in 1962. Read about Adventure Girl, a.k.a. Amelia Grace, the heroine of Toni Buzzeo's *Adventure Annie Goes to Work*.

August 2

National KidsDay

Visit www.kidsday.net to learn more.

August 3

National Watermelon Day

Visit www.watermelon.org for recipes and fun facts about nutritious watermelons.

August 4

Baseball season is heating up!

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! by Jonah Winter will introduce young readers to the ace Dodger pitcher.

August 5

Nature writer Jim Arnosky moves to middle grade fiction with *The Pirates of Crocodile Swamp*, in which siblings Sandy and Jack flee to a nature preserve.

August 6

It's Barbara Cooney's birthday.

Create a display of her picture books.

August 7

It's Betsy Byars's birthday. Visit www.holidayhouse.com/free_materials.php for downloadable readers' guides to Byars's Blossom Family books.

August 8

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

August 9

Check out *Underwear: What We Wear Down There* by Ruth Freeman Swain for a "brief" overview of this fascinating article of clothing.

August 10

Plan a boating storytime! Make paper boats and share Patricia Hubbell's *Boats: Speeding! Sailing! Cruising!*

August 11

It's Joanna Cole's birthday.

Ask students where they would most like to go with Ms. Frizzle in the Magic School Bus.

August 12

It's Ann M. Martin's birthday.

Did you know? Ann M. Martin LOVES scary books.

August 13

It's corn season. Tell some corny jokes today.

August 14

Did you achieve your goals for your summer reading program?

August 15

It's E. Nesbit's birthday.

Best Friends Day. Create a display of books about best friends.

August 16

It's National Aviation Week (August 16-22)

Visit AVKids.com at www.avkids.com/about/ for lesson plans, classroom activities, reading lists and resource materials.

August 17

Visit the Library of Congress at www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/ for webcasts of many children's book creators.

August 18

It's Paula Danziger's birthday.

Visit www2.scholastic.com/browse/search?query=amber+brown+ for extension activities for many of Danziger's Amber Brown books.

August 19

The "Black Cow" root beer float was created on this day in 1893. Serve root beer floats and celebrate!

August 20

It's National Inventors Month.

Read aloud poems from Lee Bennett Hopkins's *Incredible Inventions*.

August 21

Did you know? Hawaii became a state 50 years ago today.

Visit 50 States.com at www.50states.com/hawaii.htm for information on our 50th state.

August 22

National Tooth Fairy Day

Ramadan begins.

Did you know? Ramadan is a month of fasting for adult Muslims.

August 23

Introduce children to pioneering oceanographer Jacques Cousteau with Jennifer Berne's *Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau*.

August 24

Mount Vesuvius erupted on this day in AD 79.

For a good mystery set at that time, read *The Pirates of Pompeii* by Caroline Lawrence.

August 25

Beginning readers will enjoy another Fancy Nancy title by Jane O'Connor, *Poison Ivy Expert*.

August 26

It's Women's Equality Day.

Visit www.nwhp.org/resourcecenter/equalityday_quiz.html for a quiz.

August 27

No More Bullying

Visit www.education.wisc.edu/cbc/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=309 for an article and list of recommended children's books about bullies and bullying.

August 28

It's Allen Say's birthday.

Visit www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/allensay/author.shtml to learn more about Say and www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=11401 for extension activities to use with Grandfather's Journey.

August 29

Just for Fun.

Visit Sea Serpents and Lake Monsters at <http://theshadowlands.net/serpent.htm> for pictures, videos and accounts of sea serpent sightings.

August 30

Did you know? Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* began as a series of bedtime stories to his young son, Alistair.

August 31

Why should you never tell secrets in the garden?

Because the corn has ears, the potatoes have eyes, and the beans talk!