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“Saying hello to something new means saying good-bye to something old and loved.”

– Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, *Incredibly Alice*

JANUARY 2018

Children's Activity Calendar

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

1

New Year's Day

Polar Bear Plunge Day

Each year organizations across the country challenge participants to **“take the plunge”** into frigid waters to support worthy causes. Ask students whether they think this is a good idea!

2

Happy book birthday to *When Sophie Thinks She Can't...* by Molly Bang.

7

Universal Letter-Writing Week

Provide paper, envelopes and stamps, and encourage students to write a letter this week to a friend, family member, author, illustrator or teacher. Don't forget to mail the letters!

8

Bubble Bath Day

Read *A Whale in the Bathtub* by Kylie Westaway and Tom Jellett. Later, treat yourself to a bath brimming with bubbles and let your imagination drift to bubble kingdoms with bubble cannons and bubble sea monsters.

9

Happy book birthday to *Grandma's Purse* by Vanessa Brantley-Newton and *Love* by Matt de la Peña and Loren Long.

14

International Kite Day

Read *Blue Sky Yellow Kite* by Janet A. Holmes and Jonathan Bentley about a girl and a boy and a stolen kite, and watch the **book trailer**.

15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Read *The Crayon Box That Talked* by Shane Derolf and Michael Letzig. Create a class crayon box to celebrate that when we work together, the world is a much more interesting and colorful place.

16

Hold a craft workshop to make adorable **snowman crafts**.



21

Squirrel Appreciation Day

Read *The Secret Life of Squirrels* by Nancy Rose to find out and appreciate all the things squirrels are up to when you're not looking.

22

International Creativity Month

Encourage students to let their creativity take them places. Write a story! Build a cardboard arcade game! Paint a favorite scene! Read a new book! The possibilities are endless!

23

Happy book birthday to *Free as a Bird: The Story of Malala* by Lina Maslo.

28

Kazoo Day

Enjoy *Koala's Kazoo*, a song story by Emily Arrow and Renee Kurilla about zoo animals taking turns playing a kazoo.

29

Puzzle Day

What to do with puzzles that are missing pieces? Have students make **puzzle-piece picture frames!**

30

Happy book birthday to *Festival of Colors* by Surishtha Sehgal, Kabir Sehgal, and Vashti Harrison.

Brain Teaser Month | International Creativity Month

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

3

National Drinking Straw Day

Celebrate by getting creative with **crafts made out of drinking straws**.

4

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's Birthday

Watch the book trailer for **Shiloh** and read aloud an excerpt of the Newbery Medal-winning book.

5

Drew Daywalt's Birthday

Read aloud *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors* for a hilarious take on the classic game!

6

Introduce students to the Habitat app, where players adopt a virtual polar bear and then take real-world actions to improve the bear's health. Available from **iTunes** and **Google Play**.

10

National Cut Your Energy Costs Day

Inventory your school for ways to save energy, including unplugging unused technology, turning off lights when not needed, and taking advantage of natural light when possible.

11

Step in a Puddle and Splash Your Friends Day

Read aloud *Puddles* by Jonathan London, illustrated by G. Brian Karas.

12

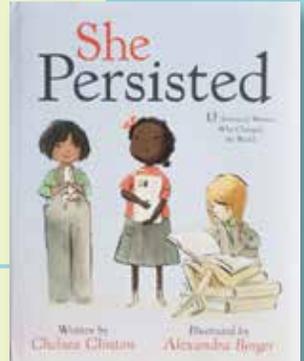
Work Harder Day

Share *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World* by Chelsea Clinton. Have a discussion about what these amazing women accomplished through hard work and persistence.

13

Poetry Break Day

Share poetry from Jack Prelutsky's *A Pizza the Size of the Sun*, and challenge students to write their own poem about pizza (or any other subject they like!)



17

Brain Teaser Month

Challenge students to solve **45 riddles and brain teasers** from Everything Mom.

18

Thesaurus Day

Read aloud *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* by Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet, and have students use a thesaurus to find interesting words to describe their day.

19

Pat Mora's Birthday

Gracias, Thanks, Pat Mora's picture book with John Parra, is a perfect read aloud for this month of expressing thanks to people we appreciate.

20

International Day of Acceptance

Read *Lovely* by Jess Hong, a book that celebrates our differences — we look different, but we are all lovely in our own ways.

24

National Compliment Day

"You were so kind in class yesterday!" Give your students compliments, and encourage them to compliment others.

25

Clashing Clothes Day

Encourage students to wear clothes today that intentionally clash! Spots and plaid. Flower print and rainbow print. Mismatched socks. Then read aloud a section of *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren.

26

National Preschool Health and Fitness Day

Browse this **great list** of preschool-appropriate games, activities and art projects promoting health and fitness and choose one to do with your youngsters today.

27

National Thank-You Month

Have students make thank-you cards for someone they appreciate at school or at the library.

31

Bryan Collier's Birthday

Share *Hey Black Child*, Bryan Collier's newest book with Useni Eugene Perkins, and check out more of Bryan's art at **bryancollier.com/gallery.php**.

Holiday
 Month/Week/Day/World Celebration
 Birthday Celebration

Month | National Thank-You Month

