



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

TITLE: Calendar of Commemorative Dates and Observances, School Year 2015-16

NUMBER: MEM-5466.5

ISSUER: Earl R. Perkins, Assistant Superintendent
School Operations

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DATE: June 29, 2015

ROUTING
All Schools
All Employees

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Memorandum is to assist in the planning of school and work events. The increasingly pluralistic population of the United States creates diverse working and learning communities. LAUSD offers this Calendar of Commemorative Dates and Observances as a tool to enhance mutual understanding, respect, awareness and sensitivity among various religious, ethnic and cultural groups, to be a resource for schools who wish to incorporate these dates into their instructional activities, and for reference in scheduling school activities.

BACKGROUND: The Calendar of Commemorative Dates and Observances drawn from multiple sources, including the California Education Code 37220-37222.5, and LAUSD Board Rule 1102, a specific Board of Education resolution identifying the events, and cultural, religious, and community calendars. This calendar is based on the information available at the time of production. Ultimately, some events may differ from what was anticipated at the time of authorship. Inclusion does not imply official endorsement by LAUSD. Similarly, omissions are not intended to be exclusionary in nature.

The California State Board of Education publication *Handbook on Rights and Responsibilities of School Personnel and Students in the Areas of Providing Moral, Civic, and Ethical Education, Teaching About Religion, Promoting Responsible Attitudes and Behaviors and Preventing and Responding to Hate Violence (1995)* states, "To provide students with a full and appropriate education, the public schools are obligated to teach about religion, though they must not sponsor or advocate the practice of religion." Lessons are to be age and grade level appropriate, and taught in a historical and social studies context, as set forth in the California History/Social Science Framework. It is important to recognize the responsibility to teach about any religion in a neutral, prudent and objective manner.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

- MAJOR CHANGES:** This Memorandum replaces MEM-5466.4 Calendar of Commemorative Dates and Observances, School Year 2014-2015.
- INSTRUCTIONS:** Schools shall commemorate the events as noted by California Education Code and LAUSD Board Rule 1102. Schools may recognize the holidays and dates with culturally relevant and responsive lessons, activities, projects, and assemblies that connect to the core curriculum. When the dates fall on non-school days or conflict with school activities (such as during testing), observances may be held on an alternate day.
- RELATED RESOURCES:**
- Board Rule 1102, Observance of Certain Events
 - LAUSD Codes §§37220-37223, Calendar of School Holidays and Commemorative Dates
 - California Education, Framework for Multicultural and Human Relations
 - California Education Code §51511, References to Religion and use of Religious Literature
 - California Government Code, §6700, State Legal Holidays
 - California History Social Science Framework
 - BUL-5298.0, Guidelines for Halloween Activities, dated October 18, 2010, issued by Office of the Superintendent
 - BUL-5479.1, Guidelines for Teaching About Religions, dated April 25, 2014, issued by the Office of the Superintendent.
 - REF-5464.3, Initial Notification of Truancy (1st NOT) Report Central Automation and School Generated (2nd and 3rd NOT) Procedures, published August 25, 2014, Student Health and Human Services
 - BUL-6204.0, Holiday Displays and Programs, dated December 4, 2013, issued by School Operations
- See Calendar of Commemorative Dates and Observances (Attachment A).
- ASSISTANCE:** For assistance or further information, please contact School Operations - Human Relations, Diversity and Equity at (213) 241-5337.

**CALENDAR OF COMMEMORATIVE DATES AND OBSERVANCES
ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016**

This calendar is provided to assist in the planning of school and work calendars. There are ten federal holidays. New Year's Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and Christmas Day are set by date. Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday of November. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day are typically celebrated on Mondays.

Anniversaries of historical events, special commemorative occasions, and ethnic, cultural and religious celebrations are offered to assist schools that wish to incorporate these dates into their instructional activities. Religious events and observances are *italicized* and coded to indicate the faith(s) with which they are commonly associated.

B= Buddhism**I= Islam****O= Orthodox (Christian)****S= Sikhism****Ba= Bahá'í****J= Judaism****P= Protestant****Sh= Shinto****H= Hinduism****Ja= Jainism****RC= Roman Catholic**

The observation of some events may vary in accordance with the calendar being used, regional customs, group preferences and lunar/solar cycles. This document uses symbols to indicate events whose observation has calendaring considerations:

+ Observation begins at sunset of the preceding day

* Observation date may change annually

^ Local or regional variations of the observation date

+ Some religious holidays are solar based and begin at sundown of the preceding day and end at sunset of the day listed. These events are identified with a plus symbol (+).

* The observation of some events may be adjusted to fall on a standard workday or week, on a designated day rather than a designated date, or to adhere to a calendar other than a Gregorian calendar. For example, No Name Calling Week is always observed on a school day, Thanksgiving is always observed on the fourth Thursday in November, and Jewish holy days follow the Jewish calendar. These events are indicated with an asterisk (*).

^ Other observances have local or regional variations. These events are marked with a caret (^).

When the commemoration of a non-Federally recognized event conflicts with scheduled school activities (such as during the testing period), schools may opt to honor the event on an alternate date.

This Calendar of Commemorative Dates and Observances is based on the information available at the time of production. Ultimately, the recognition of some events may differ from what has been anticipated at the time of authorship. Sources of information include, but are not limited to, California Education Code, Los Angeles Unified School Board Rule 1102, National Conference for Community and Justice, Interfaith Calendar, and Educational Research Service, *Resources for Planning the School Calendar*, the Anti-Defamation League, www.adl.org, www.whichday.com, www.timeanddate.com, and www.chabad.org. Errors of omission or commission should be directed to Judy.Chiasson@lausd.net.

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July 2015		
<p>National Park and Recreation Month Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation’s official Park and Recreation Month. NRPA strives to advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people. www.nrpa.org</p> <p>Fireworks Safety Month raises awareness about eye safety and gives free lenses and prescriptions through community partners. Sponsored by Prevent Blindness America www.fireworksafety.com</p>		
June 18– July 17 ^{+*^}	Ramadan (I)	The commemoration of the first revelation of the Qur’an. Marks the beginning of a month long fast that all Muslims must keep during daylight hours.
July 4 Schools closed July 3	Independence Day Government Code Sec. 6701, Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	The federal holiday celebrating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.
July 9	Martyrdom of the Báb (Ba)	The day is in observance of the martyrdom of the Báb, the forerunner of the Prophet and the founder of the Bahá’í Faith. One of the nine Holy days during which Bahá’ís do not work.
July 11	World Population Day	World Population Day was established by the United Nations Development Programme to raise awareness of global population issues. The 2015 theme is “Investing in Young People”. www.unfpa.org
July 13 [^]	Asalha Puja Day – Dharma Day (B)	The anniversary of the start of Buddha’s teaching after his enlightenment.
July 13 ^{+*^}	Lailat Al-Qadr (I)	The Night of Power marks the night in which God first revealed the Qur’an to the Prophet Muhammad.
July 17 ^{+*^}	Eid Al-Fitr (I)	The Feast of the Breaking of the Fast marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day	Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity – as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.
July 26 ^{+*}	Tisha B’av (J)	A day of mourning to commemorate the many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people.
July 26	Americans with Disabilities Day	American with Disabilities Act Day was signed in 1990 to guarantee equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

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August 2015		
National Truancy Prevention Month The U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan resolution designating August 2008 as National Truancy Prevention Month and recognizing that chronic truancy causes serious harm to young people in America.		
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	The celebration of the richness of indigenous cultures and the recognition of the challenges to indigenous peoples today.
August 12	International Youth Day	Established by the UN in 1999, International Youth Day is an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, as well as an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges and hardships facing the world's youth.
August 13-15	<i>Obon (B)</i>	Three days during which families honor their ancestors.
August 15	<i>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (RC)</i>	The largely Catholic belief that at the end of her life, Mary, the mother of Christ, was taken body and soul into heaven to live with her son Christ forever.
August 17*	<i>Ganesh Chaturthi (H)</i>	The birthday of Lord Ganesha, the elephant deity is one of the most popular of Hindu festivals.
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	World Humanitarian Day recognizes those who face danger and adversity to help others. The day coincides with the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. Make your mark on http://whd-iwashere.org by doing something good, somewhere, for someone else.
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	The memorialization of the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo that initiated its abolition. www.un.org
August 26	Women's Equality Day	The commemoration of the 1920 passage of the 19 th Amendment which gave women full voting rights. www.nwhp.org
August 28*	<i>Ulambana, The Buddhist Ghost Festival(B)</i>	The unsettled spirits of the dead ancestors are calmed with chanting and offerings to enable them to pass peacefully into the next world.
August 29*	<i>Raksha Bandhan (H)</i>	The Hindu festival that celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.

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September 2015		
<p>Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Hispanic Americans and the many contributions they have and continue to make to American culture. The month long celebration from September 15 - October 15 was designated by presidential proclamation. Board Rule 1102</p> <p>Library Card Sign Up Month serves as a reminder to ensure all children have library cards. Information and materials available from American Library Association. www.ala.org.</p>		
September 4* Single-track schools closed	California Admission Day, observed Board Rule 1102	The admission of California as the 31 st state on September 9, 1850. <i>LAUSD observed September 4 for single-track schools.</i>
September 5*	Janmashtami - Krishna Jayanti (H)	The Hindu commemoration of the birth of Krishna, the eighth incarnation of god Vishnu who took the form of Krishna to destroy the evil king Kansa.
September 7* Schools closed	Labor Day Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	The federal holiday was first celebrated in 1882, to recognize U.S. workers, following the suggestion of Peter J. McGuire of the Knights of Labor. <i>Observed the first Monday in September.</i>
September 7-13*	National Suicide Prevention Week	Suicide is never the answer. National Suicide Prevention Week surrounds World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10 th to increase suicide prevention awareness. www.suicidology.org
September 8	International Literacy Day	There are close to four billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all children, youth and adults is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever-moving target.
September 9	California Admission Day Board Rule 1101	The admission of California as the 31 st state on September 9, 1850. <i>LAUSD observed September 4 for single-track schools.</i>
September 11	Patriot Day	An annual observance to remember those who were injured or died during the September 11 th terrorist attacks on the U. S. www.911memorial.org
September 14-15 ^{+*}	Rosh Hashanah (J)	The day that marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year, the opening of the Ten Days of Penitence, which close with Yom Kippur.
September 16	Mexican Independence Day/ Celebration of Mexican History and Culture Board Rule 1102	September 16 marks the beginning of Mexico's struggle for independence from Spain in 1810.
September 16	National Stepfamily Day	A day to celebrate blended families, founded in 1997.

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September 17-23	Constitution Day Constitution Week Ed Code 37221	The Constitutional Convention ended its work of framing the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. A presidential proclamation set aside this day and week for observance. www.constitutionday.com
September 23 ⁺ *	Yom Kippur (J)	The Day of Atonement marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.
September 18 ⁺ *	Paryushan (Ja)	The most important Jain festival consists of eight (Swetambra) or ten (Digambara) days of intensive fasting, repentance and reflection.
September 19	Talk Like a Pirate Day	It is a fun day to talk and dress like pirates. Talk Like A Pirate Day is celebrated in more than 40 countries.
September 21	Peace One Day	A day for wide-scale community action and for UN agencies and aid organizations to safely carry out life-saving work. The 2015 theme is "Who will you make peace with?" www.peaceoneday.org
September 23*	Autumn Equinox	The date when night and day are nearly the same length. Marks the first day of fall.
September 23*	See You at the Pole	National event of students praying together, usually before school at the school's flagpole. <i>Observed the fourth Wednesday in September.</i> www.syatp.com
September 23 ⁺ *	Eid al Adha(I)	The Muslim holy day, also known as the <i>Feast of Sacrifice</i> , marking the end of the Pilgrimage to Mecca.
September 25*	Native American Day Ed Code 37220.7	The day set aside to recognize the role and contributions of American Indians to American culture and society. <i>Observed the fourth Friday in September.</i>
September 28-October 4 ⁺ *	Sukkot (J)	The weeklong Feast of Booths commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

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October 2015		
<p>Bully Prevention Month unites communities nationwide to raise awareness of bullying prevention. During the event—and throughout the year—we are encouraged to engage, educate and inspire others to end bullying. www.stopbullying.gov</p> <p>Cultural Diversity Month is about opening dialogues that foster an appreciation of the differences that separate us as well as the similarities that unite us. Sponsored by the LA County Commission on Human Relations, free posters are available. Board Rule 1102. www.lahumanrelations.org</p> <p>Daniel Pearl World Music Days is an international network of concerts that use the power of music to reaffirm our commitment to tolerance and humanity. www.danielpearlmusicdays.org</p> <p>Disability Awareness Month was designated to increase awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Board Rule 1102</p> <p>Filipino American History Month celebrates and honors Filipino Americans and their contributions in the U.S. and globally. www.fanhs-national.org</p> <p>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) History Month marks and celebrates the achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. www.lgbthistorymonth.com</p> <p>National Breast Cancer Awareness Month increases awareness of the disease to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention and cure. The campaign also offers information and support to those affected by breast cancer. www.nbcam.org</p> <p>National Substance Abuse Prevention Month focuses on the role substance abuse prevention plays in promoting safe and healthy communities. www.samhsa.gov/prevention/nationalpreventionmonth</p> <p>National Domestic Violence Awareness Month implemented to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children.</p>		
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	The United Nations established the International Day of Non-Violence on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
October 5 ^{+*}	ShminiAtzeret (J)	The Eighth Day of Assembly is observed immediately following Sukkoth.
October 5*	National Child Health Day 36 U.S. Code Section 105	National Child Health Day focuses attention on issues related to children's development and well-being. <i>Observed the first Monday in October.</i>
October 6 ^{+*}	Simchat Torah (J)	Simchat Torah celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle.
October 7	Walk or Bike to School Day	Take the first step to change community culture and to create options for getting around that are more inviting for both young and old. www.walkbiketoschool.org
October 10	World Mental Health Day	The World Health Organization raises awareness and provides assistance to advocacy campaigns about mental health concerns. www.who.int

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October 11	National Coming Out Day	Established in 1987 to promote the vision of a country where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals could live truthfully and openly. National Coming Out Day is celebrated internationally. www.hrc.org
October 12*	Columbus Day Discoverers' Day Board Rule 1102	The federal holiday that honors all explorers and commemorates Christopher Columbus' sighting of the New World on October 12, 1492. <i>Observed the second Monday in October.</i>
October 12-16*	Ally Week	Ally Week is for students to organize events that serve to identify, support and celebrate allies against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender biased-language, bullying and harassment. www.allyweek.org
October 13- October 21*^	Navaratri (H)	The nine nights symbolize the triumph of good over evil and mark the start of autumn.
October 14 ⁺ *	Al-Hijra New Year's (I)	The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year.
October 15*	The Great California Shake Out	The Great California Shakeout drill is held at 10:15 a.m. to help Californians prepare for a major earthquake. www.shakeout.org
October 15	Spirit Day	Wear purple as a visible statement against bullying. <i>Observed the third Thursday in October.</i> www.glaad.org/spiritday
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	This day is a call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.
October 19-23*	National School Bus Safety Week	Sponsored by the National Association for Pupil Transportation. The 2015 theme is "Stand Back From the Yellow and Black." <i>Observed the third full week in October.</i> www.schoolbusinfo.org
October 20 ⁺	Birth of Báb (Ba)	The anniversary of the 1819 birth of Siyyid, the Báb, the forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith. One of the nine holy days during which Bahá'ís do not work.
October 20	Installation of the Guru Granth Sahib as Eternal Guru (S)	The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh Scripture, is a compilation of the divine revelations to the Sikh Gurus and saints of other faiths reaffirming the fundamental unity of all religions.

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October 22*	Unity Day Board Rule 1102	Wear orange as a message for support, hope and unity. <i>Observed the fourth Wednesday in October.</i> www.pacer.org
October 22*	Dussehra (H)	The day signifies victory and valor. Lord Rama slew the evil Ravana and emerged victorious on this day.
October 23*+	Ashura (I)	A day of fasting that is observed on the tenth day of Muharram to celebrate Moses' exodus from Egypt.
October 24*^	Pavarana / Sangha Day (B)	The last day of the Rains Retreat (the Vassa).
October 24	United Nations Day	The commemoration of the founding of the United Nations in 1945.
October 24*	Make a Difference Day	The day dedicated to the helping others -- a national celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. <i>Observed the fourth Saturday in October.</i> www.makeadifferenceday.com
October 26-30*	Red Ribbon Week	Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign. The 2015 theme is "Respect Yourself: Be Drug Free." www.Redribbon.org
October 31	Halloween	The Eve of All Saints' Day, traditionally an occasion for masquerading and pumpkin carving.
October 31	Reformation Day (P)	This day commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.
October 31- November 1	Samhain	Samhain is a Gaelic harvest festival linked to festivals held around the same time in other Celtic cultures and is now popularized as the Celtic New Year.
November 2015		
<p>Alzheimer's Awareness Month draws awareness to the common neurodegenerative disease in the United States. www.alz.org</p> <p>National American Indian/Alaskan Native Heritage Month remembers the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives and honors the heritage of our continent's first inhabitants. http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov</p>		
November 1*	Standard Time begins Daylight Saving Time ends	The beginning of all U.S. time zones. At 2 a.m., clocks move back one hour.

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November 1*	Change your clock Change your batteries	The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urges us to stay safe by changing the batteries in our smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms when we change our clocks. www.cpsc.gov .
November 1	All Saints' Day (RC, P)	The Roman Catholic and Anglican holiday celebrating all saints, known and unknown.
November 1– 2	Día de los Muertos (RC)	An occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.
November 2	All Souls' Day (RC, P)	Commemoration of all faithful Christians who have died.
November 3	Bunka No Hi	This public Japanese holiday was established to promote appreciation of peace and culture.
November 3*	Election Day	The day that elections are held in many states and cities, usually on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
November 9	Kristallnacht (J)	Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.
November 11 Schools closed	Veterans Day Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	Also known as <i>Remembrance Day</i> and <i>Armistice Day</i> , the U.S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.
November 11-15*^	Diwali Festival of Lights (H, Ja, S)	The most popular of the Hindu festivals, Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.
November 12+	Baha'u'llah Birthday (Ba)	The day that commemorates the 1817 birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet Founder of the Bahá'í Faith. One of the nine Holy days during which Bahá'ís do not work.
November 16	International Day for Tolerance	The day that focuses attention on the dangers of intolerance and encourages respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and people.
November 16-20*	American Education Week	This week profiles the accomplishments and needs of public schools. Sponsored by the National Education Association and the American Legion. www.nea.org
November 18*	Education Support Professionals Day	The day dedicated to the recognition of educational support personnel. <i>Observed on Wednesday of American Education Week.</i>

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November 19*	National Parental Involvement Day	The day dedicated to the recognition of parental involvement. <i>Observed the third Thursday in November.</i> www.projectappleseed.org
November 19*	Great American Smokeout	The American Cancer Society encourages smokers to take an important step toward a healthier life by quitting smoking – even for one day. <i>Observed the 3rd Thursday of November.</i> www.cancer.org
November 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance	The day that recognizes activities that memorialize those who were killed due to transgender prejudice. www.glaad.org
November 24	Martyrdom of Guru TegBahadur (S)	The day that honors Guru TeghBahadur as the ninth of the ten Gurus who founded Sikhism. He is honored as a man who died for religious freedom.
November 26 ⁺	Day of the Covenant (Ba)	The festival that commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of his eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the center of his covenant.
November 26* Schools closed Nov.26-27	Thanksgiving Day Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	The federal holiday established by Act of Congress in 1941, the first such national proclamation, issued by President Lincoln in 1863. <i>Observed the fourth Thursday in November.</i>
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu' (Ba)	The commemoration of the passing of the son of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá.
November 29*	First Sunday of Advent (O, P, RC)	The Christian time of preparation for observing the birth of Jesus Christ. The four Sundays before Christmas are marked by special church services.
December 2015		
<p>Universal Human Rights Month was formed to promote action that would advance respect for human rights both at home and abroad. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. www.udhr.org</p>		
December 1	World AIDS Day	The international day of action focused on HIV and AIDS. www.worldaidscampaign.org
December 3	International Day of Disabled Persons	The day that promotes the raising of awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

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December 5-14 ⁺ *	Chanukah Festival of Lights, (J)	The commemoration of the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees that lasts for eight days and nights. Primarily a children’s festival, a time for fun, songs, games and gift giving.
December 8 ^{*^}	Bodhi Day - Enlightenment of Buddha (B)	The Buddhist celebration of the Enlightenment of founder Shakyamuni Buddha, ca 596 B.C.
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception (RC)	The Roman Catholic holy day commemorates the Virgin Mary’s freedom from origin sin.
December 10	Human Rights Day	The anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
December 12	Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (RC)	The celebration of the patron saint of Mexico.
December 12+*	Mawlid al-Nabi (I)	The celebration of the birthday of Muhammad, the founder of Islam.
December 15	Bill of Rights Day	The anniversary of the adoption of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution in 1791.
December 16-24	Las Posadas (RC)	A period of nine days in which the journey of Mary and Joseph is replayed. A time of religious ceremonies and festivities.
December 22*	Winter Solstice	The shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. Marks the first day of the season of winter.
December 25 Schools closed	Christmas—Feast of the Nativity (RC, P) Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	The most widely celebrated holiday of the Christian year marks the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. Christmas customs are centuries old.
December 26 - January 1	Kwanzaa	Created in 1966, this African American seven-day spiritual festival is dedicated to the values of unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.
December 29	Wounded Knee Day	The memorialization of the massacre of more than 200 Lakota Sioux by US troops at Wounded Knee, South Dakota in 1890.
December 31	New Year’s Eve	Countries across the world celebrate the last day of the year.

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January 2016		
<p>National Blood Donor Month is a time when blood organizations like the American Red Cross pay tribute to the nearly 11 million people who give blood each year and encourage others to start the New Year off right by coming to give the gift of life. www.redcrossblood.org</p> <p>National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month calls upon all Americans to recognize the vital role we can play in ending all forms of modern slavery.</p>		
January 1 Schools closed	New Year's Day Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	The federal holiday with origins in Roman times when sacrifices were offered to Janus, the two-faced Roman deity who looked back on the past and forward to the future.
January 1	Gantan-sai (Sh)	Gantan Sai is the Shinto New Year festival observed with prayers for inner renewal. The holiday lasts seven days during which observers visit shrines to pray for good health and prosperity.
January 6	Epiphany (RC, P)	The visit of the three kings to baby Jesus is celebrated twelve days after Christmas. One of the three major Christian festivals. <i>Celebration is often transferred to the following Sunday.</i>
January 6	Armenian Christmas	The most widely celebrated holiday of the Christian year marks the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. The day celebrated by the Armenian Apostolic Church, also known as the Armenian Orthodox Church.
January 7	Christmas (O)	The most widely celebrated holiday of the Christian year marks the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. The day celebrated by Eastern Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian calendar.
January 11	Human Trafficking Awareness Day	National campaign to raise awareness on human trafficking and modern-day slavery.
January 14	Makar Sankrant (H)	Makar Sankrant is one of the most important Hindu festivals and celebrates the sun's journey into the northern hemisphere.
January 17*	World Religion Day (Ba)	The day that fosters the interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasizing the common characteristics found in all religions. <i>Observed the third Sunday in January.</i> www.worldreligionday.org .
January 18* Schools Closed	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	The day that celebrates the birthday of Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader and winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. <i>Observed the third Monday in January.</i>

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January 18 – 22	No Name Calling Week	Celebrate kindness while working to create safe schools free of name-calling, bullying and bias. For activities and lesson plans, visit www.glsen.org .
January 23	Ed Roberts Day Ed Code 37222.17	The day to recognize the life, accomplishments and contributions of Ed Roberts and other Californians with disabilities.
January 24 ⁺ *	TuB'shvat (J)	The Jewish Arbor Day
January 24-27*	Mahayana New Year (B)	The new year celebrated by Mahayana Buddhists on the first full moon day in January.
January 30	Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution Ed Code 37222.15	Commemorates the contributions of Fred Korematsu and other civil rights advocates for Japanese American Redress. First U.S. holiday named after an Asian American. http://korematsuinstitute.org
February 2016		
African American History Month was created by Carter G. Woodson in the 1920s. This month-long celebration is a time to reflect on the history, teachings and achievements of African Americans. Board Rule 1102. http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov		
February 1	National Freedom Day	The day that commemorates the signing of the 13 th Amendment that abolished slavery in 1865.
February 1*	Clean Monday	The beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha).
February 2	Groundhog Day	Legend has it that if the groundhog sees his shadow on this day and returns to his burrow, winter will continue for six more weeks. www.groundhog.org
February 8*	Lunar New Year (B)	The Lunar New Year is the longest and most important celebration in many Asian countries. Festivities traditionally start on the first day of the lunar month and continue until the fifteenth, when the moon is brightest. <i>2016 is the Year of the Horse.</i>
February 9*	Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday (RC)	The last celebratory feast before Lent. It is celebrated in New Orleans, Mobile, Alabama and certain Mississippi and Florida cities.
February 10*	Ash Wednesday -Beginning of Lent (RC, P)	Lent is a 40-day period of fasting and penitence observed by Christians.

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February 12	Lincoln Day Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	This day was first formally observed in Washington, DC, in 1866 when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address in tribute to the assassinated president. <i>Observed as the federal holiday Presidents' Day on the third Monday in February.</i>
February 14	Valentines Day	A day that many exchange cards, candy, gifts or flowers as a sign of caring.
February 14*	Race Relations Sunday	Created in 1922 by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning. Falls on the Sunday nearest February 12 th or Lincoln's birthday because of his involvement in freeing the slaves.
February 15*^	Parinirvana - Nirvana Day (B)	The Mahayana Buddhist festival celebrates the day when the Buddha achieved Nirvana upon the death of his physical body. Parinirvana is celebrated by some Buddhists on February 8.
February 15	Susan B. Anthony Day Ed Code 37221, Board Rule 1102	The anniversary of the birthday of Susan B. Anthony calls for instruction on the political and economic status of women.
February 15* Schools closed	Presidents' Day	Presidents' Day is the recognition of Washington's Day (February 22) and Lincoln's Day (February 12). <i>Observed third Monday in February.</i>
February 15-19*	Take Your Family to School Week	The National PTA sponsors this week for the purpose of building positive partnerships with parents and letting children know that their families value education. The Week recognizes PTA's founding on February 17, 1897. www.pta.org
February 19	Day of Remembrance	The anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 that authorized the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Programs on this date seek to educate the public about the fragility of civil rights during wartime.
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	The United Nations established World Day of Social Justice to promote efforts to tackle issue such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment.
February 21-27*	Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week	Established in 1934, this week calls for people of all faiths to get together, discuss their differences and reaffirm the human brotherhood that underlies the variations in religious beliefs. <i>Observed the third week of February.</i> www.nccj.org

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February 22	Washington Day Ed Code 37220, Board Rule 1101	The holiday that celebrates the birthday of George Washington, the first president of the U. S. <i>Observed as the federal holiday Presidents' Day on the third Monday in February.</i>
February 26 - March 1 ⁺ *	Ayyám-i-Há or Intercalary Days (Ba)	This day begins a four-day period (five in leap year) devoted to spiritual preparation for the Bahá'í fast, celebration, hospitality, charity and gift giving.
March 2016		
<p>National Women's History Month was proclaimed by Congress and many governors and state legislatures as a month to celebrate the rich and inspiring heritage of the contributions of women to the United States. For information and materials, contact National Women's History Project at www.nwhp.org Board Rule 1102.</p> <p>National Middle Level Education Month encourages middle schools to schedule local events focusing on the educational needs of early adolescents. Sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. http://www.nassp.org</p> <p>Music In Our Schools Month communicates the importance of music in the learning experience. Sponsored by The National Association for Music Education, www.menc.org</p> <p>Arts Education Month based on the words of President Kennedy "To further the appreciation of culture among all people, to increase respect for the creative individual, to widen participation by all the processes and fulfillments of art – this is one of the most fascinating challenges of these days." Sponsored by Council for Art Education www.acminet.org/youth_art_month.htm</p> <p>National Social Work Month recognizes the importance of social workers and celebrate those in the field.</p>		
March 7 – 11*	Week of the School Administrator Ed Code 44015.1	Honor the leaders who make our schools great during the first full week of March. www.acsa.org
March 2 -20 ⁺	Nineteen Day Fast (Ba)	The period during which the Bahá'ís fast from sunrise to sunset.
March 2	NEA's Read Across America	On Dr. Seuss's birthday, guest readers celebrate the importance of reading by sharing books with students. www.readacrossamerica.org
March 4	National Grammar Day	National Grammar Day was established in 2008 by the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar to promote awareness of proper grammar. www.nationalgrammarday.com
March 5	Black American Day Ed Code 37221, Board Rule 1102	The anniversary of the death of Crispus Attucks, the first black American martyr, in the Boston Massacre.
March 7	California Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day Ed Code 37221, Board Rule 1102	The anniversary of the birthday of Luther Burbank and also of Conservation.

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March 7	Maha Shivaratri (H)	The Great Festival of Shiva is celebrated annually in reverence of the god Shiva. It is the day Shiva was married to the goddess Parvati.
March 10	National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day raises awareness about how women can protect themselves and their partners from HIV. www.cdc.gov
March 13*	Daylight Saving Time begins Standard Time ends	The beginning of all U.S. time zones. At 2 a.m., clocks move forward one hour.
March 13*	Change your clock Change your batteries	The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urges us to stay safe by changing the batteries in our smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms when we change our clocks. www.cpsc.gov .
March 14*	Ash Wednesday -Beginning of Lent)	Lent is a 40-day period of fasting and penitence observed by Christians.
March 14	Pi Day	Pi Day is celebrated around the world. Pi (Greek letter “π”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159. www.piday.org
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	The patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick, has been honored in America since the first days of the nation. A notable observance is the annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade in New York City and the wearing of green.
March 20*	Vernal Equinox	The date when night and day are nearly the same length. It marks the first day of the season of spring.
March 20*	Palm Sunday (RC, P)	The day commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. <i>Observed the Sunday before Easter.</i>
March 21*^	New Year (H)	The new year marks the first day of Hindu Solar calendar. It is a time of celebrations as Spring arrives and there is happiness all around. It also marks the advent of seeding time.
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	The call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, worldwide, adopted in 1979 by the United Nations.
March 20-26*	National Tsunami Preparedness Week	On the anniversary week of the 1964 Great Alaska Tsunami and Earthquake, we recommit to learn about and prepare for tsunamis. <i>Observed the last full week of March.</i> http://nthmp.tsunami.gov

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March 23*^	Magha Puja (B) <i>(aka Sangha Day)</i>	This day commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1250 arahants (completely enlightened monks) in the historical Buddha's presence.
March 23*^	Holi(H)	The spring festival in India featuring bright colors and bonfires.
March 24*^	Purim (J)	This day commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from a conspiracy to destroy them. Activities include reading the Book of Esther, gift exchanges, donations to the poor and enactment of Purim plays.
March 25*	Good Friday (RC, P)	Also known as Holy Friday, it is observed on the Friday before Easter and commemorates the end of Lent and Christ's crucifixion, death and entombment.
March 27*	Easter Sunday (RC, P)	The Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ. <i>Observed the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox.</i>
March 28* Single-track schools closed	Cesar Chavez Day, observed Ed Code 37220.5; Board Rule 1102	The March 31 st California holiday honors Cesar Chavez, champion of nonviolence, the rights of farm workers and promotes service to the community. www.chavezfoundation.org .
March 31	Cesar Chavez Day Ed Code 37220.5; Board Rule 1102	The California holiday that honors Cesar Chavez, champion of nonviolence, the rights of farm workers and promotes service to the community. <i>LAUSD observed March 28th.</i> www.chavezfoundation.org .
April 2016		
<p>Autism Awareness Month highlights the need for education and awareness about autism and issues within the autism community. www.autism-society.org</p> <p>Jazz Appreciation Month shines the spotlight on the extraordinary history of jazz and its importance in American culture.</p> <p>Mathematics Awareness Month is held to increase public understanding of and appreciation for mathematics. www.mathaware.org</p> <p>National Child Abuse Prevention Month calls upon all people to recognize the alarming rate at which children are abused and neglected, the need to prevent child abuse and to assist families affected by maltreatment. www.childwelfare.gov</p> <p>Parkinson Awareness Month draws awareness to Parkinson's disease, the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second to Alzheimer's disease. www.pdf.org</p> <p>Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls upon all people to share responsibility for protecting each other from sexual assault, supporting victims when it does occur and bringing perpetrators to justice. www.nsvrc.org/saam/</p> <p>Stress Awareness Month is a national, cooperative effort to inform people about the dangers of stress, successful coping strategies and harmful misconceptions about stress that are prevalent in our society.</p>		

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April 1	April Fools' Day	The day for pranks and placing people in situations that make them look like an "April fool."
April 2	National Walking Day	People are encouraged to lace up their sneakers and take at least 30 minutes out of their day to get up and walk. It's a great way to raise awareness of the importance of physical activity and to get family, friends and co-workers started on a healthier way of life.
April 4-8*	Labor History Week Ed Code 51009	The week enacted by the California legislature in 2002 to encourage schools to make pupils aware of the role the labor movement has played in shaping California and the U. S. <i>Observed the first week in April.</i>
April 6	California Poppy Day Ed Code 37222, Board Rule 1102	The day to honor the California Poppy, provide instruction about the economic and aesthetic value of wildflowers and native plants, and promote responsible behavior toward our natural resources.
April 10-16*	Week of the Young Child Board Rule 1102	The week promotes activities that honor young children and thank teachers and all those who make a difference in their lives. Sponsored by National Association for the Education of Young Children. www.naeyc.org
April 11-15*	National Library Week	The week that promotes the use and support of libraries. Sponsored by American Library Association <i>Observed the second full week of April.</i> www.ala.org .
April 11-15*	Public School Volunteer Week	The week during which activities that encourage parents and citizens to volunteer in their public schools. Sponsored by Project Appleseed <i>Observed the second full week of April.</i> www.projectappleseed.org .
April 15*	Rama Navami(H)	The celebration of the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the God Vishnu. It is a major Hindu festival that is celebrated all over the India.
April 15*	The Day of Silence	Participants across the country take a vow of silence to bring attention to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender biased name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. www.dayofsilence.org
April 15*	Day of Dialogue	On the Day of Dialogue, the Golden Rule Pledge calls on people of faith to affirm the safe and respectful treatment of all persons, focusing today on building bridges with GLBTQ people. Observed on the same day as Day of Silence. www.goldenrulepledge.com

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April 18*	Patriots Day	Commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord which were fought near Boston in 1775. <i>Observed the third Monday of April.</i>
April 19 [^] *	Mahavira Jayanti (Ja)	The birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira, the 24 th Tirthankar and the founder of modern Jainism.
April 22-23 [^] *	Theravada New Year (B)	New Year festival for Theravada Buddhists, celebrated for three days from the first full moon in April.
April 22-30 ⁺ *	Passover (Pesach) First Days (J)	The Jewish festival marking the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.
April 25*	Denim Day –Peace Against Violence	The day designated as a rape prevention and education campaign that asks community members to wear jeans as a visible protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault. <i>Observed the fourth Wednesday in April.</i> www.denimdayinla.org
April 24*	Palm Sunday (O)	The day commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The day is celebrated by Eastern Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Christians who follow the Julian calendar. <i>Observed the Sunday before Easter.</i>
April 24	Armenian Martyrs Day Commemoration of Armenian Genocide	The commemoration of 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire who perished between 1915 and 1923. www.armenian-genocide.org Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide-California State Board of Education, 1988.
April 28*	Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day MEM-5415.4	Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® Day creates an opportunity for girls and boys to share and communicate their expectations for the future. <i>Observed the fourth Thursday in April.</i> The 2016 theme is “Sparking Aha Moments.” www.daughtersandsonstowork.org
March 25*	Good Friday (O)	Also known as Holy Friday, it is observed on the Friday before Easter and commemorates the end of Lent and Christ’s crucifixion, death and entombment.
April 29 ⁺	Ninth day of Ridvan(Ba)	The ninth day of the Ridván Festival. One of the nine Holy days during which Bahá’ís do not work.
May 2016		

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<p>Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the collective accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans who comprise many ethnic groups with diverse backgrounds, histories, languages and cultures. Board Rule 1102. www.loc.gov/topics/asianpacific</p> <p>Foster Care Month shines a light on the experiences of youth in the foster care system. www.fostercaremonth.org</p> <p>National Physical Fitness and Sports Month encourages all Americans to take part in regular physical activity and increase their knowledge about the health benefits of exercise. www.fitness.gov</p>		
May 1*	Easter Sunday (Pascha) (O)	The Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ. The Orthodox Easter follows Passover.
May 1	International Workers' Day	The worldwide celebration of the social and economic achievements of workers.
May 1	May Day	May Day is a traditional spring holiday in many cultures. Dancing, singing and cake are usually part of the celebrations.
May 2 ⁺	Twelfth day of Ridván (Ba)	The twelfth day of the Ridván Festival is one of the nine holy days during which Bahá'ís do not work.
May 2-8*	National Children's Book Week	Libraries and bookstores generally have special activities for children to encourage a love of books. <i>Observed the first Monday – Sunday in May.</i> www.bookweekonline.com
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	This date serves to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.
May 4	Yom Hashoah (J)	Holocaust Remembrance Day memorializes the martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
May 4*	National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy	A day to continue helping teens postpone parenting until they are through school and in stable, committed relationships. <i>Observed the first Wednesday in May.</i> www.thenationalcampaign.org
May 5	Cinco de Mayo Board Rule 1102	The anniversary of the 1862 Mexican victory over the French army in the Battle of Puebla.
May 5*	Ascension Day (RC, P)	The ascension of Jesus took place in the presence of his apostles forty days after the Resurrection, thought to have occurred on Mount Olive in Bethany.

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May 6*	Walk or Bike to School Day	Take the first step toward changing community culture and to creating options for getting around that are more inviting for everyone. www.walkbiketoschool.org
May 8*	Mother's Day	Mother's Day was established in 1914. <i>Observed on the second Sunday in May.</i>
May 8-14*	National Women's Health Week	The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health encourages women to take steps to improve their physical and mental health. www.womenshealth.gov
May 9*	Akshaya Tritiya (H)	A day of fasting and pilgrimage. Those who fast are rewarded with sugar cane juice.
May 10	Mexican Mother's Day	This day is the time to reflect on and rejoice the greatness of motherhood. Mexicans participate in the custom of giving gifts to their mothers.
May 11 ⁺ *	Yom Haatzma'ut (J)	Israel Independence Day celebrates the establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948.
May 11*	Day of the Teacher Ed Code 37222.10, Board Rule 1102	This commemorates teachers and the teaching profession. <i>Observed the second Wednesday in May.</i>
May 15	Buddha Day (B)	Also known as Vesak or Visakha Puja, it marks the occasion of the birth, spiritual awakening and death of the historical Buddha.
May 15*	Pentecost – Whitsunday (RC, P)	Considered the birthday of the Church, Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and disciples of Jesus.
May 17	Anniversary of School Desegregation Ruling, Brown v. Board of Education	The racial segregation in public schools was unanimously ruled unconstitutional in 1954 by the Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia	The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia raises awareness of LGBT rights violations worldwide.
May 21	NISF Shabaan (I)	Night of Repentance in preparation for the fast of Ramadan. Fixed as the 15 th day or middle (nisf) of the eighth month of Shabaan in the Islamic calendar.

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May 22	Harvey Milk Day Ed Code 37222.13	The day to recognize the life, accomplishments and contributions of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California.
May 23+	Declaration of the Bab (Ba)	The commemoration of the day in 1844 when the Báb announced the imminent appearance of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith. One of the nine holy days during which Bahá'ís do not work.
May 26+*	Lag B'Omer (J)	This date celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiv's lifetime.
May 29	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh(Ba)	The day that marks when Baha'u'llah passed away in 1892. One of the nine holy days during which Bahá'ís do not work.
May 30* Schools closed	Memorial Day Ed Code 37220	Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day pays homage to all who died in war. <i>Observed the last Monday in May.</i>
June 2016		
<p>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness Month honors the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, which was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. June as Pride month was first recognized by the LAUSD Board of Education in 1992, reaffirmed in Board Rule 1102 and again annually as a District approved observance.</p>		
June 6– July 15+*^	Ramadan (I)	The commemoration of the first revelation of the Qur'an. Marks the beginning of a month long fast that all Muslims must keep during daylight hours.
June 9*	Ascension Day (O)	The ascension of Jesus took place in the presence of his apostles forty days after the Resurrection, thought to have occurred on Mount Olive in Bethany.
June 11-12^*	Christopher Street West Anniversary of Stonewall Rebellion	The 1969 Stonewall Rebellion marked the turning point in the struggle for equity for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Communities throughout the world host pride events to commemorate this anniversary. <i>Observed the second weekend of June in Los Angeles.</i>
June 12	Loving Day	Observes the anniversary of the 1967 Supreme Court decision Loving v. Virginia that struck down the miscegenation laws barring interracial marriage.
June 12	Anne Frank Day	The birthday of a young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family's experiences hiding from the Nazis through the assistance of Gentile friends.

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June 12-13+*	Shavuot, Festival of Weeks (J)	A festival commemorating the giving of the law (Torah) to Moses on Mount Sinai.
June 12*	Race Unity Day (Ba)	The Bahá'í-sponsored observance promotes racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity. <i>Observed the second Sunday in June.</i>
June 14	Flag Day	The Continental Congress adopted the stars and stripes as the nation's official flag on June 14, 1777. A day for patriotic observances. www.nationalflagday.com
June 19*	Pentecost (O)	The observance considered the birthday of the Church, celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and disciples of Jesus.
June 19	Juneteenth	The observance of the anniversary of the emancipation of African Americans in Texas in 1865 by General Granger.
June 19*	Father's Day	The exact origin of Father's Day is unclear, but it was first celebrated June 19, 1910 in Spokane, Washington. <i>Observed the third Sunday in June.</i>
June 20*	Summer Solstice	Summer solstice marks the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and is the first day of summer.
June 20	World Refugee Day	This date raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.
June 26	All Saints Day (O)	The day in Orthodox churches commemorating all known and unknown Christian saints. <i>Observed the first Sunday after Pentecost.</i>

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