

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP*

January 2015

- 1 **January is National Mentoring Month! Find your child a mentor who can guide his or her development and growth this year.**
- 2 Go on a letter scavenger hunt around the house. Ask your child, "How many items can you find that begin with the same sound as dog?"
- 3 Help your children clean and organize their rooms. Make sure that they have a well-lit homework and reading area.
- 4 Artist Georgia O'Keefe, best known for colorful and large-scale paintings, was born in 1887. Give your child a brush and create a masterpiece together!
- 5 Take some time to look at old family photographs. Talk to your child about your family's history.
- 6 Happy birthday, Sherlock Holmes! Is there a mystery – like who ate the last chocolate chip cookie – lingering in your home? Encourage your children to play detective and solve it!
- 7 Talk to your child about dealing with stress. Teach and show them healthy ways to relax and release anxiety.
- 8 Break out the recycling bin – today is Clean off Your Desk Day! Have your children tidy up their computer and homework desks.
- 9 Offer your children alternatives to television: family cooking, games, crafts, reading or a new indoor hobby.
- 10 Famed teacher Anne Sullivan taught Helen Keller how to communicate. Check online for stories about this accomplished pair and share your findings with your family.
- 11 Encourage your child to express gratitude to friends or relatives with thank-you notes or drawings.
- 12 After school and organized activities, take time for unstructured, imaginative play. Allow your child to invent toys or make up games.
- 13 Albert Einstein was an educator before and after he won a Nobel Prize in 1921. Why was he famous?

*For additional ideas and daily parent tips, visit the [Maryland State Department of Education Family Literacy Take 15 Web page](#). Click on [English](#) or [Spanish](#) to view the tips.

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- 14 Avoid catching and spreading germs; make sure that your children wash their hands before using the restroom, before and after meals and when coming in from outside.
- 15 Happy birthday, Martin Luther King, Jr.! King was a leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. Can your child name other leaders from the movement?
- 16 Andrew Johnson, the 17th president of the United States, was born in 1808. He served as vice president under Abraham Lincoln. How did Johnson become president?
- 17 Today is Golf Day! How might applying knowledge of harmonic motion improve your child's golf swing? Grab your golf clubs and find out!
- 18 Start a jigsaw puzzle. Help your child sort shapes and colors. Take turns fitting pieces.
- 19 The third Monday of January is Civil Rights Day, also known as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Besides leading the Civil Rights Movement, what are some of King's other accomplishments?
- 20 Today is Penguin Awareness Day! Can your child name the largest (emperor) and smallest (little blue) species of penguins? Quiz him or her to find out!
- 21 Everyone likes a warm hug! Show your children how much you love them by celebrating National Hugging Day today!
- 22 Mark Twain was born in Missouri in 1835. How old would the author of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn be today?
- 23 The Second Marking Period ends today. What did your child do well during the second quarter? Strategize with him or her ways to improve during the third quarter.
- 24 Positive praise, love and appreciation will take your child far. Learn how to say "I'm proud of you" in another language.
- 25 When has a school nurse helped your child feel better? Encourage your child to write a "thank-you" note to his or her school nurse for School Nurses Day!
- 26 Think fast: what is both the smallest continent and the sixth largest country in the world? Australia, of course! Help your children research Australia Day online!

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- 27 Have your children count the number of steps it takes to walk to school or the bus stop. Then, estimate how many steps they take a day.
 - 28 Children's author Edward Stratemeyer, who wrote the *Rover Boys*, *Nancy Drew* and *Hardy Boys* series, was born in 1862. Share your childhood adventures.
 - 29 Bring your children with you to the grocery store. Let them help set a budget and plan a special meal.
 - 30 Write a story for your child about your favorite teacher. Who helped you in school and how? Compare experiences with your child.
 - 31 Fun family games, like charades and hangman, boost vocabulary and social skills. Enjoy playtime with your children!
- February**
- 1 February is International Expect Success Month! Gather your family around a table and discuss what everyone would like to achieve this month.
 - 2 Happy Groundhog Day! Have your children predict whether the groundhog will see its shadow and then see if their predictions come true!
 - 3 Learn and practice using a new word each day. Teach your child to use a dictionary and keep a journal of new words.
 - 4 Read a newspaper with your child. Discuss news, sports, reviews and even the comics!
 - 5 Report Card Day! Review your child's report card with him or her and schedule an appointment to meet with your child's teachers about his or her progress.
 - 6 Jokes, tricks and gags are fun, as long as they don't hurt any feelings. Pick a silly song or story and have a laugh with your family and friends.
 - 7 Today is Ballet Day! Have your children practice their best ballet moves with you but be careful with the pirouettes!
 - 8 Is your son a boy scout? If not, now is the perfect time for him to join his local troop because today is Boy Scouts Day!
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- 9 Who do you admire most? Why? Tell your children about those whom you respect. Ask them whom they chose.
- 10 Homework is an integral part of your child's learning. It fosters responsibility and reinforces academic skills. Review assignments daily.
- 11 Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452. What is the notable feature of his famous painting known as *Mona Lisa*?
- 12 Happy birthday, Abraham Lincoln! Born in 1809, Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States. What are some of his other accomplishments?
- 13 In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play major league baseball when he batted for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Where are the Dodgers now?
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day! Have your children write haiku poems for family members and friends to show them how much your children care about them.
- 15 February 15 honors Susan B. Anthony, a leader in the American Civil Rights Movement and a founder of the first Women's Temperance Movement. What else do your children know about her?
- 16 Today is Presidents' Day! The United States has had 44 different presidents. How many can your child name? Give bonus points for knowing them all!
- 17 Did you know that there are no rhyming words for orange, purple or silver? Create a poem with your child.
- 18 Talk to your child about dental hygiene. Effective brushing should last 2-3 minutes. Why is it important?
- 19 Start a Family Non-Video Game Night in your home. Games, like Scrabble, checkers and hangman, teach spelling, math and strategy.
- 20 How many pets did you have growing up? Discuss with your children what made your pets special for Love Your Pet Day!

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- 21 The oldest public school in the United States was founded in Boston on this day in 1635. When was your child's school established?
- 22 Happy Birthday, George Washington! Born in 1732, Washington was the first president of the United States. What are some of his other accomplishments?
- 23 Play historical "Who Am I?" by picking a character from a history lesson and inviting your family to guess whom you are.
- 24 Create a creativity corner in your home. Fill the space with pencils, paper, crayons and other art materials. Encourage crafts and writing.
- 25 Do your children know the differences between monkeys and chimpanzees? Most monkeys have tails, while chimps do not. What are some other differences?
- 26 Create a family puzzle portrait. Make a copy of a family photo and then cut it into pieces. Take turns putting the family back together!
- 27 Have your child predict how many times a coin will land heads up or tails up when flipped 50 times. Then, tally the results and compare predictions.
- 28 Today is the last day of February! Why is February the shortest month of the year? Research the answer to this question online!

March

- 1 March is Youth Art Month! Stock up on glue sticks, paintbrushes and other craft supplies for art projects all month long!
- 2 Play a multiplication game with dice: take turns throwing the dice and see who can multiply the numbers first.
- 3 Believe it or not, today is If Pets Had Thumbs Day. Have your children look up other silly holidays online or imagine some of their own!
- 4 Make melodies! Students with musical training tend to make faster gains in reading fluency than students without experience with music.

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- 5 The first president of the United States was inaugurated in 1789. Where was George Washington sworn in? (Hint: the ceremony was not held in Washington, D.C.)
- 6 When was your child's last dentist check-up? Call his or her dentist to find out and schedule another appointment.
- 7 Grab your racket and a few neon yellow tennis balls for a family fun day outdoors! Be sure to remember your sunscreen!
- 8 Today is International Women's Day! Have each of your children research a woman who has made significant contributions to society and then present their findings.
- 9 Ask open-ended questions about school. To start, ask, "What was your favorite activity in school today?" or "What did you learn in class today?"
- 10 How has money changed over time? Encourage your children to find out how online as part of their celebration of Money Day!
- 11 Call your local police or fire station and request a visit. When the firefighters or police officers arrive, have your children interview them and thank them for their hard work.
- 12 Annapolis is a great place to visit but the city was not the first capital of Maryland. What was the state's first capital city?
- 13 A baby whale is bigger than any other baby on earth at up to 26 feet and 6,000 pounds. How big can an adult whale grow? Encourage your children to find out!
- 14 Happy Pi Day! Compete with your children to see who can remember the most digits of pi. The winner earns a big piece of pie!
- 15 Today marks the Ides of March. What significance do Julius Caesar and the Roman Empire have to this ancient observance? Quiz your kids to find out!
- 16 How do animals communicate? Have your children pretend to be their favorite animals and brainstorm ways to share thoughts without using words.

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- 17 St. Patrick's Day is always March 17. What other holidays fall on the same date every year? Which holidays fall on different dates?
- 18 The first Indianapolis 500 car race was held in 1911. How fast did the cars go back then? How fast do they travel today?
- 19 Breakfast provides nutrients and energy for concentration throughout the day. As a family, plan the night before what to eat for breakfast.
- 20 A day just for kids – who knew? Celebrate Absolutely Incredible Kid Day with your child by discussing which talents and traits make him or her "incredible"!
- 21 Roses are red, violets are blue, everyone likes flowers, so here's one for you! Celebrate Flower Day with your children by exchanging pretty flowers!
- 22 In 1923, women in the United States earned the right to wear trousers at any time. What countries still have clothing restrictions for women?
- 23 Make time for playtime. Toss a ball around or take a walk with your child before dinner or after homework.
- 24 If there are 24 hours in a day, 60 minutes in an hour and 60 seconds in a minute, help your child to resolve how many seconds are there in a day? In a month? In a year?
- 25 Maryland Day celebrates the arrival of the first European settlers in the Province of Maryland in 1634. Does your child know what determined the state's name?
- 26 There are countless holidays observed each year, but what if you could add your own to the list? You and your children can today for Make Your Own Holiday Day!
- 27 Take turns acting out your favorite books or shows. Training in acting techniques can lead to memory improvement.
- 28 Play the "Name Game" with your family. Start with the name of someone whom you all know and then take turns calling out another person with the same name.

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29 Italian artist Michelangelo, a sculptor, painter, poet and architect, was born in 1475. What famous ceiling in Rome did he paint?

30 When was your child's last doctor check-up? Call his or her doctor to find out and schedule another appointment.

31 Create a math game with a deck of cards: each player puts out a card; the first to add or multiply the numbers on those cards is the winner.

April

1 The Third Marking Period ends today. What did your child do well during the third quarter? Strategize with him or her ways to improve during the fourth quarter.

2 Spring Break begins today for students! Check out the Parents page on the BCPS website to learn how your children have a fun, relaxing and learning-filled break!

3 April is Keep America Beautiful Month! How can your children lend a helping hand to keep the grounds clean in their community?

4 *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in 1852. Have your children research this novel and its author. Why is this book so significant?

5 Count out loud during everyday activities, like getting dressed and brushing teeth. Then, count by two's, five's, ten's, etc.

6 Stay in touch with your child's teachers. Talk to them if your child does not understand assignments or expectations.

7 You and your kids will love this one – today is No Housework Day! Spend a day in the great outdoors but remember: no yardwork, either!

8 In 1928, Charles Lindbergh was awarded the Medal of Honor. What was his major accomplishment?

9 Invite your child to help around the house. Use math while measuring and introduce new words as you work together.

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- 10 American playwright Tennessee Williams was born in Mississippi in 1911. Can your children name some of his famous plays?
- 11 Passover ends this evening. Make tonight a geography lesson night by tracing the path of the Exodus on a map. Be sure to point out important cities to your children along the way!
- 12 March was named for Mars, the Roman god of war. What name did the ancient Romans call the god of the sea? (Hint: the eighth planet in the solar system.)
- 13 We hope that you and your child had a great break! Have your child eat a big, healthy breakfast so that he or she can focus on classwork during the school day.
- 14 Play “Two Truths and One Fake” at dinner tonight. Each person tells three facts about the day; others figure out what is true and what is not.
- 15 Happy Tax Day! Look up sales tax rates across the United States and create math problems for your children to solve. For example, how much would a \$13 shirt with 7.5 percent tax cost in California?
- 16 A U.S. Navy officer famously shouted “Don’t give up the ship!” on the *USS Chesapeake* in 1813. What war was he fighting? Where was the ill-fated battle?
- 17 Keep paper, pencils, crayons and markers handy for notes, grocery lists and schoolwork. Writing takes practice and it starts at home!
- 18 In 1953, Elizabeth II became Queen of England at the age of 27. Ask your child what laws he or she would create if he or she ruled a country.
- 19 Take a bird walk with your family. Look for Maryland birds in your yard or a nearby park. Can your children spot ospreys, piping plovers, razorbills or ravens?
- 20 The school year is coming to an end. How many days remain? How many hours? How many minutes? Have your child count them!
- 21 In 2004, former president George H.W. Bush celebrated his 80th birthday by skydiving. Help your child plan an exciting activity for his or her next birthday.

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- 22 Happy Earth Day! Celebrate with your children by planting a tree in your backyard or by cleaning up litter in your community.
 - 23 Report Card Day! Review your child's report card with him or her and schedule an appointment to meet with your child's teachers about his or her progress.
 - 24 In 1965, Major Edward White became the first United States astronaut to walk in space. Who was the first astronaut to walk on the moon?
 - 25 Today is National Arbor Day! Do your children know what the Latin word arbor means? If not, see if they recognize the French or Spanish cognate.
 - 26 Does your child know what a vexillologist studies? (Hint: the one for the United States has stars and stripes!)
 - 27 British author Charles Dickens died in 1870. In what book does his famous character Ebenezer Scrooge appear?
 - 28 Learn about the weather with your children. How much rain have we had in Maryland? How does it compare to other parts of the country?
 - 29 Today is Puppetry Day! Have your children collect old socks and bring them to life with googly eyes and markers. Then, sit back and watch the show!
 - 30 Time for a new 'do! Today is Hairstylist Day, so stop by your local hair salon or barber shop for family haircuts.
- May**
- 1 May is Safety Month! Gather your family and brainstorm ways to make your home, street and community safer for everyone!
 - 2 Today is Brothers and Sisters Day! Have your children spend the day with their siblings and share why each sibling is appreciated.
 - 3 In 1963, Governor George Wallace tried to prevent two African American students from entering the University of Alabama. Have your children research the case online.

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- 4 In 1928, Amelia Earhart embarked on the first transatlantic flight by a woman. She flew from Newfoundland to Wales. Ask your child to locate these places on a globe.
- 5 ¡Hoy es el día de fiesta Cinco de Mayo! Can you help your child translate that sentence into English? Can your child translate it into another language after that?
- 6 Happy National Nurses Day! Has your child ever been helped by a nurse? Ask your child to describe how the nurse helped him or her feel better.
- 7 Author Maurice Sendak, who wrote *Where the Wild Things Are*, was born in 1928. How old would he be now?
- 8 Let those toes be free – it's No Socks Day! Let your children sport their favorite pair of flip flops or sandals to a friend's house today.
- 9 Create a business plan with your children for a lemonade stand or other venture. Work on a budget for supplies and project your profits.
- 10 Dads, wish Mom a very happy Mother's Day today! Offer to help your child bring her breakfast in bed or draw a picture of your family together to show how much you care about her!
- 11 Have your children been eating all of their fruits and vegetables lately? Allow them to swap peaches for pizza and spinach for soda for Eat What You Want Day!
- 12 Abner Doubleday was born in New York in 1819. Many believe that he invented the game called America's pastime. What is this game?
- 13 Have a family camp-out in the yard, garage or even the living room. Talk about how pioneers lived.
- 14 In 1997, the territory of Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years of separation. Which country ruled over the colony during those 156 years?
- 15 Does your family have a pet cat? Celebrate Hug Your Cat Day by encouraging your children to share a warm embrace with their favorite feline friend.
- 16 Pick your family's favorite board games and have a marathon. Take the games outside and fly a kite between matches.

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- 17 Teach your child to make a difference. Organize a group of friends or neighbors and clean up a street, park or stream.
- 18 Help your child create a statue of him or herself using aluminum foil. Have him or her lie on the floor and then mold the foil into shape over his or her body. Lift carefully and hang the masterpiece on the wall!
- 19 Help your children collect home and e-mail addresses of friends whom they may not see over the summer. Encourage them to send postcards and letters.
- 20 Blue jeans were first created on this day in 1873. Have your children look at some of their clothes and identify the materials used to make them.
- 21 Create a potluck menu: each family member chooses and prepares a favorite dish. Research the nutritional value of each item.
- 22 Today is the last day of school for seniors. Have your child calculate how many school days must pass before he or she is a senior.
- 23 It's World Turtle Day! How many species of turtles can you and your children name? Compete to see who knows the most!
- 24 In 1777, Vermont was the first state in the United States to abolish slavery. How many years later were all slaves officially freed?
- 25 Memorial Day always falls on the last Monday of May. How can you and your family honor those who passed during their service to the United States Armed Forces?
- 26 Do a neighbor a favor – it's Neighbor Day! Whether your children help a neighbor with gardening or simply deliver a neighbor's mail, remind them that it's always nice to lend a hand!
- 27 Is it really possible to fry an egg on the sidewalk on a hot day? Have your children find out just how hot the sidewalk gets. Would you eat that egg?
- 28 Stay active! Children should participate in at least one hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity at least five days per week.

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- 29 Baseball great Joe DiMaggio hit his first grand slam homerun in 1937. On what team was he? Help your children write a story about their favorite sports teams.
- 30 In what year did the United States Naval Academy admit women for the first time? Have your children search for the answer online and then calculate what percentage of the class was female.
- 31 Take a moment to talk to your children about the dangers of smoking for World No Tobacco Day.
- June**
- 1 June is Student Safety Month! Sit your children down for a conversation about ways to stay safe both in and out of school.
- 2 Ask your children to help gather supplies to create a summer journal later this month. Include sections for photos, activities and new things learned.
- 3 Can you say that again? Celebrate Repeat Day with your children by using repetition as a strategy to learn facts or important dates.
- 4 Cool down with a sweet treat – it's Frozen Yogurt Day! Chat about summer plans with your children over a cup of this yummy dessert!
- 5 Today is World Environment Day. Last year's theme was "Raise your voice, not the sea level." Research this year's theme and brainstorm with your children ways that your family can help the
- 6 Dutch artist Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn was born in 1606. He was known for his self-portraits. Have your children draw portraits of themselves!
- 7 Final exams are approaching. Encourage your high school students to share best practices for studying for exams with their classmates. Be sure to wish everyone good luck!
- 8 Today is Best Friends Day! Who is your child's best friend? Coordinate a parent-child playdate for them!
- 9 Hit the music! Playing soft music before bed, in the morning, at breakfast and on the way to school has been known to reduce student stress.
- 10 It's Children's Day! Ask your children to plan their perfect day and then discuss as a family how to make those plans a reality!
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- 11 In 1989, an Exxon tanker ran aground in Alaska, causing the nation's worst environmental disaster in history. Have your family brainstorm ways to help the environment.
- 12 Vincent Van Gogh was born in 1853. Can your children name some of his works?
- 13 Break out the clown costumes – it's Juggling Day! Challenge your children to a "juggle-off"! The winner earns a delicious dessert after dinner this evening!
- 14 Flag Day honors the adoption of the United States flag in 1777. Does your child know how the flag's design has changed over time?
- 15 They say that smiling is infectious, so encourage your children to show off their pearly whites today on Smile Power Day!
- 16 Have your child calculate the gas mileage, tolls and cost for gas when your family takes a trip in the car.
- 17 According to the Islamic calendar, Ramadan begins today. But, according to the Gregorian calendar, this Muslim holiday begins tomorrow. How come? Encourage your child to find out!
- 18 Make your family juice cubes. Freeze your favorite juice in ice cube trays and then add them to drinks or eat them as a frozen treat!
- 19 Happy last day of school! Ask your child what was his or her proudest accomplishment from this school year. What are his or her hopes for next school year?
- 20 Looking for a tasty way to start summer vacation? Take your children to your family's favorite ice cream parlor for Vanilla Milkshake Day!
- 21 Happy first day of summer! Today is also the summer solstice. Have your child research the science behind the summer solstice and then describe it to a family member.
- 22 Put together an end-of-school-year memory book. Include memories of class milestones, trips and lessons learned.
- 23 In 1983, the temperature in Vostoke, Antarctica, was -128.6°F, the lowest temperature ever recorded. What is the coldest temperature recorded in Maryland?

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- 24 Everyone had a favorite teddy bear growing up. Gather your family and share fond memories of everyone's furry friends for Teddy Bear Day!
- 25 Create your own family crossword puzzle with clues like "Which aunt plays the piano?" or "Which uncle loves to play golf?"
- 26 Why do roses have thorns? What do the different rose colors signify? Have your children research online and report back for Rose Day!
- 27 Paul Bunyan Day celebrates a mythical, giant lumberjack from American folklore. Have your children try writing their own folktales.
- 28 Write a summertime song to celebrate the season with your children. Have them include their favorite activities and summer treats.
- 29 Take a walk with your child and incorporate patterns in your movement. For example, skip one block, then hop a few times, run two blocks, etc.
- 30 Time to check out the space dust and ice in the earth's atmosphere – it's Meteor Watch Day! Have your family scan the night skies in search of meteors.

July

- 1 July is Recreation and Parks Month! Go online and look for ways that your family can have fun outdoors.
- 2 Racehorse and Triple Crown winner Whirlaway was born in 1938. Which races make up the Triple Crown? (Hint: one of them takes place in Baltimore!)
- 3 Check your children's progress with their recommended summer reading lists. Make sure that the books are available at home or the library.
- 4 Happy Independence Day! Encourage your children to investigate the science behind fireworks and explain their findings to family and friends before seeing fireworks tonight!
- 5 Encourage your family to learn a new trick today: try magic, jumping rope or juggling. Visit your library for books or videos about your family's new trick.

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- 6 Time for some exercise – it's Dad and Daughter Take a Walk Day! Moms and sons can lace up for their own walk, too!
- 7 In 1807, the Slave Trade Act abolished slavery in Great Britain and Ireland. When did slavery end in the United States?
- 8 They're not all bad! Set aside an extra hour today to join in on your child's gaming for Video Games Day.
- 9 Smells like something's baking – it's Sugar Cookie Day! Bake up a batch of this tasty treat with your children today!
- 10 The modern pencil was created in the 14th century. What did writers use to erase unwanted marks before rubber erasers were invented in the 1700s?
- 11 It's cool in the pool! Celebrate Swimming Pool Day with your children by taking a dip in your community's local pool!
- 12 Take care of your pets. Make sure that they have plenty of water in hot months. Arrange to have someone feed and walk them if you are away.
- 13 The northernmost and westernmost points of the United States are in the same state. Can your child locate this state on a map?
- 14 Happy Bastille Day, known in France as the Fête nationale! Discover the fascinating history of this holiday with your family by browsing your local library for books on France.
- 15 Make words with names! See how many words your children can create using only the letters of their names.
- 16 Which president signed the National Security Act, creating the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Joint Chiefs of Staff? What is the role of each department?
- 17 In 1945, the United States dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Have your children talk to an older relative or neighbor about memories of World War II.

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- 18 Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long Ramadan fast and the first day of Shawwal. Have your child research some of the many ways that Muslims celebrate this important day.
- 19 Encourage your children to conduct an ice cream survey with family and friends. What is the most popular flavor? Do they prefer rainbow or chocolate sprinkles?
- 20 How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop? Give a few Tootsie Pops to your children and find out today on Lollipop Day!
- 21 Talk to your children about stranger safety. Remind them never to offer information about the family over the phone or online and practice safe ways of answering the phone and the door.
- 22 It's Spoonerism Day! Do you know what a spoonerism is? Look up a few examples and try them out on your kids!
- 23 Check online movie reviews written by professional and student writers before seeing a summer film. After the movie, have your children write their own reviews.
- 24 While drinking your morning cup of joe, discuss the extensive coffee production process with your children for Coffee Day!
- 25 Travel back to the Paleolithic Era for Act Like a Caveman Day! How can your children use their imaginations and the great outdoors to entertain and shelter themselves?
- 26 Challenge your children with vocabulary and math problems. Check www.abcteach.com for resources.
- 27 Ready for a good laugh? Today is Take Your Plants for a Walk Day! What are some silly ways that your family can stay active this summer?
- 28 When the first United States census was completed in 1790, there were four million people in the country. How many people live in the United States today?
- 29 This one's for you – it's Parents' Day! Invite your children to participate in activities, such as biking or gardening, that you enjoy.

*For additional ideas and daily parent tips, visit the [Maryland State Department of Education Family Literacy Take 15 Web page](#). Click on [English](#) or [Spanish](#) to view the tips.

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP*

August

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- 30 Maryland native Samuel Hopkins was issued the first U.S. patent in 1790 for an invention that improved the process of making potash. Why are patents important?
 - 31 Author J.K. Rowling shares her birthday with her most well-known character. Who is he?
 - 1 August is Back-to-School Month! Prepare your children for the new school year by sending them to bed 15 minutes earlier each night until they reach their school-year bedtime.
 - 2 The first Sunday of this month is Friendship Day. Have your children create a card, a poem or even a song to let their friends know that they are appreciated.
 - 3 Play ball! The Baltimore Orioles debuted in 1954 and won their first World Series in 1966. Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken, Jr., are just two notable players. Can your child name others?
 - 4 Jacob Fussell of Baltimore was the first to manufacture ice cream on a large scale. Have your children research how ice cream is made.
 - 5 Everyone makes mistakes, so it's important to learn to forgive family and friends for theirs. Talk to your child about the importance of forgiveness for International Forgiveness Day.
 - 6 Teach water conservation and responsibility in your home. Collect rain and use it to water indoor plants.
 - 7 The world's oldest functioning lighthouse is located at the northwest tip of Spain. What's the name of this lighthouse? Find out on National Lighthouse Day!
 - 8 How can your children lend a helping hand to senior citizens in your community? Contact a local retirement home about volunteer opportunities on Senior Citizens Day.
 - 9 Ask your child how many bones he or she has in his or her body. Adults have 206; babies are born with about 275. What happens to them as you grow?
 - 10 Check the newspaper for sales on school supplies. Allow your children to pick some of the items and work on a budget.
 - 11 Parents, your sons and daughters are a significant source of joy in your life, but do they know that? Remind your children of how special they are to you on Sons and Daughters' Day.
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OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP*

- 12 Give your children some grown-up responsibilities for the night. Have them cook dinner, clean up and read to you before bed.
- 13 After visiting a park, playground or beach, always leave it better than you found it. Encourage your children to clean up their messes, and others might do the same.
- 14 Share an old family recipe with your children. Ask them to double the recipe, then cut it in half.
- 15 Everyone could use a little break! Prepare a pitcher of ice-cold lemonade and set out a few blankets or lawn chairs in the backyard for Relaxation Day with your family.
- 16 Have fun with numbers while traveling. Add up the numbers on license plates; then, multiply and divide them!
- 17 Jazz musician John Coltrane was born in 1926 in North Carolina. What makes jazz music different from classical or blues?
- 18 Protect your children online by talking about cybersafety. Set up parental controls and remind them never to share personal information online.
- 19 What is aeronautics? Take your family for a trip to the library to learn more about this fascinating science in celebration of National Aviation Day!
- 20 French painter Claude Monet was known as the father of what style of art? Have your children pick a landscape and paint it in that style.
- 21 It's Hawaii Day! Did you know that there are only 12 letters – A, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, U and W – in the Hawaiian alphabet?
- 22 Does your child believe in the Tooth Fairy? Encourage your child to draw a picture of what he or she believes this fantasy figure looks like for Tooth Fairy Day!
- 23 John F. Kennedy was elected president in 1960. At 43, he was the youngest man elected to the office. What is the minimum age requirement to be president?
- 24 Create a well-lit, comfortable and TV-free schoolwork spot for your children. Review homework expectations for the coming school year.

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OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP*

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- 25 Help your children plan for the first day of school: pick out a special outfit, get plenty of sleep and prepare a healthy breakfast.
 - 26 Happy first day of school! Ask your children to share stories and information from their teachers with you.
 - 27 Plan to attend the back-to-school events at your child's school. Talk to teachers about how to support learning at home.
 - 28 At the 1963 March on Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Have your children write about their dreams for the future.
 - 29 Read your child's student handbook. Be sure you and your child understand the school behavior rules and regulations.
 - 30 In 1762, the Earl of Sandwich created a simple-to-eat meal by putting meat between two pieces of bread. What do we call this lunch staple today?
 - 31 Find out what books your child will read in school this year and read them yourself. Talk about your favorite childhood book.
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