Berkshire County

Head Start

2022-2023

Program Calendar

We enhance opportunities for success by inspiring each child's love of learning, partnering with families, advocating for equity, and fostering a connection to community.

Berkshire County Head Start 2022-2023

September 1 & 2, 2022	All Programs Closed—All Staff Training Days
September 5, 2022	All Programs Closed—Labor Day
October 10, 2022	All Programs Closed—Indigenous Peoples' Day
November 11, 2022	All Programs Closed—All Staff Training Day
November 24, 2022	All Programs Closed—Thanksgiving
November 25, 2022	All Programs Closed—Day after Thanksgiving Day
December 9, 2022	All Programs Close at 2pm—Teacher Planning Day
December 26 2022	All Programs Closed—Christmas Day Observance
January 2, 2023	All Programs Closed—New Year's Day Observance
January 16, 2023	All Programs Closed—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 20, 2023	All Programs Closed—Presidents' Day
March 10, 2023	All Programs Close at 2pm—Teacher Planning Day
March 24, 2023	All Programs Closed—All Staff Training Day
April 17, 2023	All Programs Closed—Patriots' Day
May 29, 2023	All Programs Closed—Memorial Day
June 9, 2023	All Programs Closed—All Staff Training Day
June 19, 2023	All Programs Closed—Juneteenth Day
July 4, 2023	All Programs Closed—Independence Day

Head Start Morning Program Only Closures:

November 23, 2022

December 27-30, 2022

February 21-24, 2023

April 7, 2023

April 18-21, 2023

Meadow Lane Head Start
1 Meadow Lane
Pittsfield, MA
413-499-0137

Head Start at Taconic
96 Valentine Road
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-448-9600 ext. 1172

Head Start at Conte
200 W Union St
Pittsfield, MA
413-496-9494

Head Start at Brayton
20 Barbour St
North Adams, MA
413-664-0384

North County Head Start
535 Curran Highway
North Adams, MA
413-499-0137

Head Start at Muddy Brook
318 Monument Valley Road
Great Barrington, MA
413-644-0005

Throughout the calendar look for colors with meaning:

Yellow are fun days: bring your child to school for dress up days and other special days!

Purple are closure days: be sure to look if it is morning program only!

Green are Policy Council Meetings: from September through June!

Represent Your Center! Join Policy Council!

You are the most important teacher in your child's life. We value your ideas about how to best serve all the children in the program. Policy Council meets monthly on Tuesday evenings via Zoom and gives you the opportunity to be a voice for decision making in our program. You will get to vote on various program components such as budgets, staffing, policies, and procedures.

Policy Council cannot happen without you!! Your commitment and dedication to Berkshire County Head Start will improve your child's preschool experience and your engagement will ensure that our Head Start program runs smoothly.

For more details just talk to your Family Advocate!

REACH

Berkshire County Head Start's new program, **Resources to Empower and Advocate for Children & Households** (REACH), provides access to affordable childcare, dedicated family support, community resources and health/wellness partners.

For eligible children and families, REACH provides:

- Free full-day childcare and transportation

- Dedicated advocates who work with families to identify needs and accomplish goals

- Access to additional community resources

- Financial assistance for transportation and fees for obtaining IDs and other documentation

For more information or to apply, contact Carrie Dupuis at cdupuis@berkhs.org or call 413.499.0137.

Berkshire County
Head Start

HOW LABOR DAY CAME TO BE:

1882: The Unions of New York City held a parade to celebrate their members and show support for all unions. At least 20,000 people were there, and workers had to give up a day's pay to attend.

1885-1886: Labor Day received its first governmental recognition through municipal ordinances.

1887: Parades similar to the first in NYC took placed in different regions of the county. Five states—Oregon, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York—created a state Labor Day holiday, and Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska follow suit by the end of the decade.

1894: A South Dakota senator introduced a bill to make Labor Day a federal legal holiday taking place on the first Monday of September, which passed on June 28, 1894.

Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, street parades and athletic events.

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 All Staff Training Day—CLOSED	2 All Staff Training Day—CLOSED	3
4	5 Labor Day All programs Closed	6 First Day of Head Start	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 **Show and Tell Day**	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Rosh Hashanah All programs open	27 Policy Council Meeting	28 Board of Directors Meeting	29	30	

October is Head Start Awareness Month and it aims to spread awareness about a crucial program that benefits millions of families in the U.S. Head Start assists children belonging to low-income families by providing them with a framework meeting their social, emotional, psychological, nutritional, and health needs.

HOW HEAD START CAME TO BE:

Project Head Start, launched as an eight-week summer program by the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965, was designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs.

In 1969, Head Start was transferred from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Office of Child Development in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and has now become the Office of Head Start.

The Head Start program, including the Early Head Start program, was most recently reauthorized in 2007 with bipartisan support.

OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 Yom Kippur All programs open	6 **Costume Day**	7	8
9	10 Indigenous Peoples' Day—All programs CLOSED	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Diwali All Programs open	25 Policy Council Meeting	26 Board of Directors Meeting	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween All programs open					

Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, it is designated as a day to honor the more than 19 million men and women who have served in the U.S. military.

HOW VETERANS DAY CAME TO BE:

1919: Remembrance Day was first observed in **1919,** It was originally called "Armistice Day" to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War on Monday, November 11.

1938: November 11 became a legal holiday dedicated to honoring World War I veterans it was known as Armistice Day.

1954: The act was amended to honor veterans of World War II and Korea as well, and the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans Day. President Dwight D. Eisenhower marked the occasion with a special proclamation.

1968: the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October.

NOVEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Saving Time End	7	8 Sports Jersey Day Election Day	9	10	11 All programs CLOSED for Staff Training Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Policy Council Meeting	23 Board of Directors Meeting Morning program only closed	24 Thanksgiving Day– CLOSED	25 All Programs CLOSED	26
27	28	29	30			

International Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (UDHR)

HOW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CAME TO BE:

1946: In response to the "barbarous acts which outraged the conscience of mankind" during the Second World War. Work on the UDHR began with a drafting committee composed of representatives of a wide variety of countries allowing the document to benefit from contributions of states from all regions, and their diverse religious, political and cultural contexts.

1948: The UDHR was finally adopted by the General Assembly in 1948. The Declaration outlines 30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us and that nobody can take away from us. The rights that were included continue to form the basis for international human rights law. Today, the Declaration remains a living document. It is the most translated document in the world.

Samantha, from ML 4 learning about other countries cultures and people!

DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 All programs close at 2pm—staff planning day	10
11	12 Mismatched Shoe Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Hanukkah (1st day)	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26 All programs CLOSED—observance of Christmas Day Kwanzaa	27 Policy Council Meeting Head Start morning only recess	28 Board of Directors Meeting Head Start morning only recess	29 Head Start morning only recess	30 Head Start morning only recess	31 New Year's Eve

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (MLK Day) commemorates the life and work of Dr. King, a Baptist minister and prominent leader in the American civil rights movement who advocated for nonviolent resistance against racial segregation. People are encouraged to use the day to "reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change espoused by Dr. King.
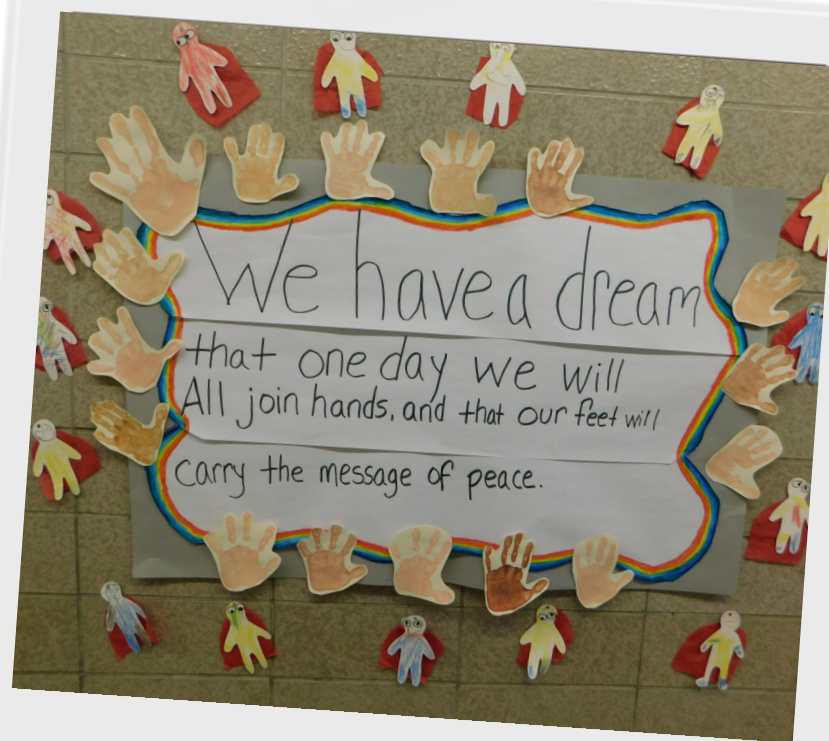

HOW MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CAME TO BE:

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day is usually celebrated with marches, parades and with speeches by civil rights leaders and politicians. Individuals and organizations also undertake volunteer efforts in support of what is often called the MLK Day of Service.

1968: Almost immediately after King's death, there were calls for a national holiday in his honor. Legislation for the holiday had been introduced in Congress, but initially received enough opposition to block its passage.

1983: Legislation making Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the third Monday in January; a federal holiday was finally passed.

1986: Although states and cities began honoring King's birthday, January 15, as early as 1970 it wasn't until 1986 that the first nationwide observance took place.
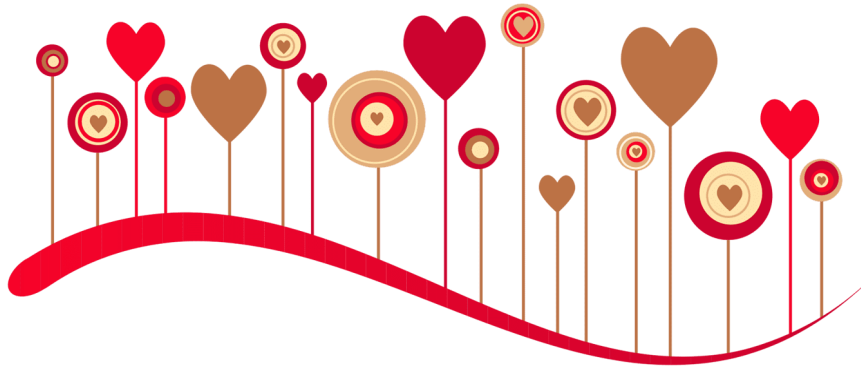

We have a dream that one day we will All join hands, and that our feet will carry the message of peace.

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 All programs CLOSED in observance of New Year's Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 **Pajama Day**	13	14
15	16 All programs CLOSED—Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22 Lunar New Year	23	24 Policy Council Meeting	25 Board of Directors Meeting	26	27	28
29	30	29	30	31		

The holiday we know today got its name from a man named Valentine. While a few different stories are told about what he did to inspire the holiday, many people believe he's celebrated for his role as a Roman priest who helped couples secretly get married.

HOW VALENTINE'S DAY CAME TO BE:

Right before he died, Valentine supposedly wrote the first-ever "valentine" to his jailer's daughter, with whom he'd fallen in love. Later, in the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I declared the day of his death as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day traditions have evolved a lot over the years. For example, in the Middle Ages—which lasted from the 5th to 15th centuries in Europe—people started exchanging handmade cards with love notes inside. Today billions of dollars are spent on Valentine's Day cards and gifts each year around the world.

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Groundhog Day All programs open	3	4
5	6	7	**8** **Wear pink or red day**	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day All programs open	15	16	17	18
19	20 All programs CLOSED—Presidents' Day	21 Policy Council Meeting Head Start morning only recess	22 Board of Directors Meeting Head Start morning only recess Ash Wednesday	23 Head Start morning only recess	24 Head Start morning only recess	25
26	27	28				

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history, and to celebrate how their efforts and bravery afforded women the opportunities and freedoms they have today. The timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States.

HOW WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CAME TO BE:

1978: The actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.

1980: President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration.

1987: The National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

MARCH 2023

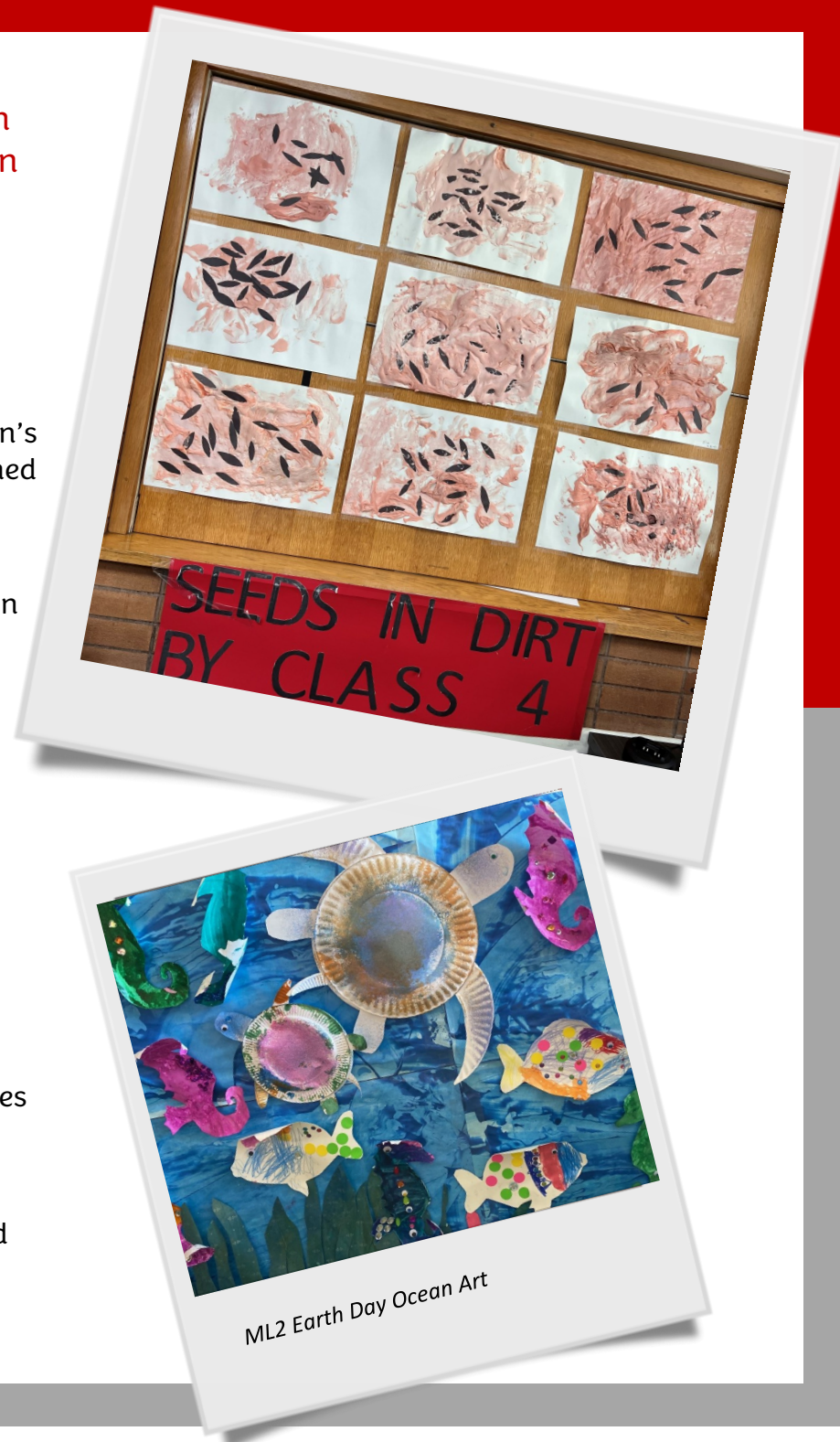| SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 **Dress like a baby day**	8 Holi All programs open	9	10 All programs close at 2pm—staff planning day	11
12 Daylight Savings Time	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day All programs open	18
19	20	21 Policy Council Meeting	22 Board of Directors Meeting Beginning of Ramadan All programs open	23	24 All programs closed— Staff Training	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Every year on April 22, people around the world celebrate Earth Day. The day marks the start of the environmental movement in 1970, and for the past 52 years has resulted in policy change and a greater awareness of the environment.

HOW EARTH DAY CAME TO BE:

1962: The stage was set for change with the publication of Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller Silent Spring. The book represented a watershed moment,
selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries as it raised public awareness and concern
for living organisms, the environment and the inextricable links between pollution and public health.

1970: the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental
Protection Agency and the passage of other first of their kind environmental laws,
including the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and
Health Act, and the Clean Air Act. These laws have protected millions of men, women
and children from disease and death and have protected hundreds of species from extinction.

1990: Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting
Environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to
recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio.
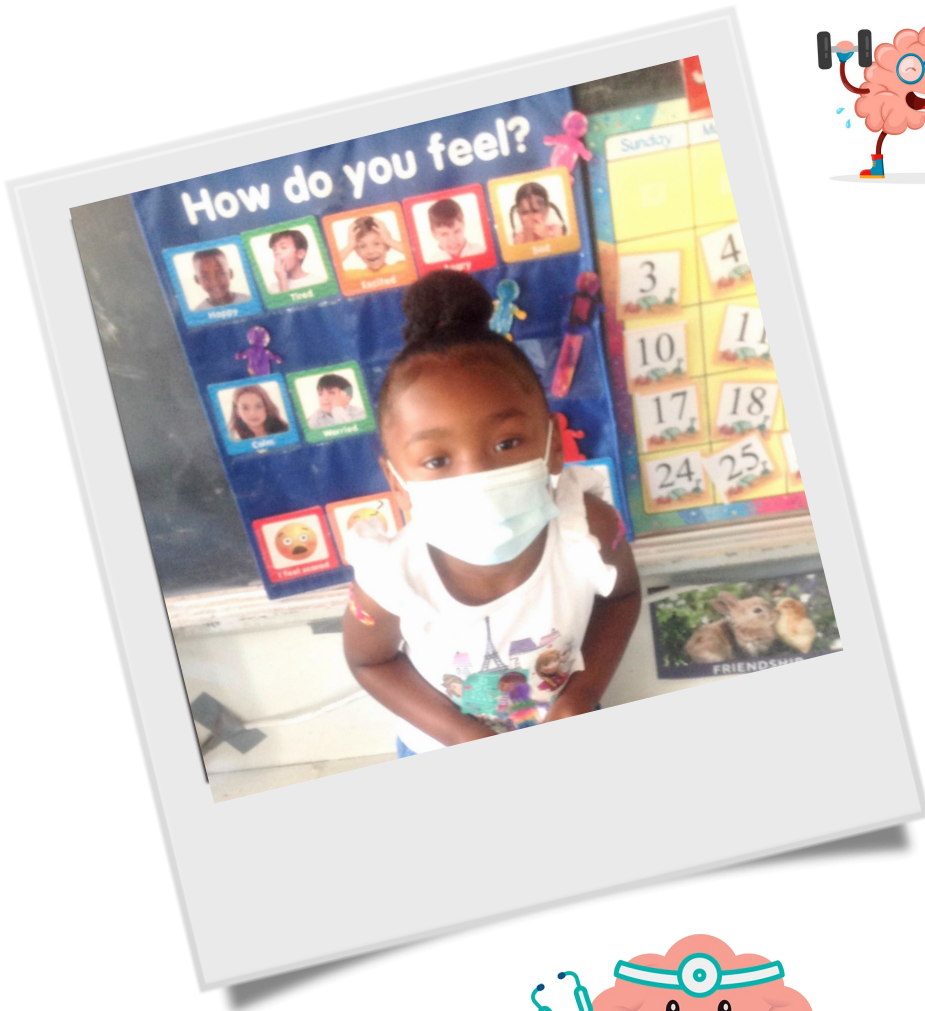

ML2 Earth Day Ocean Art

APRIL
2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 April Fools' Day
2 Palm Sunday	3	4 **Whacky hat day**	5 Passover All programs open	6	7 Head Start Morning Only closed—Good Friday	8
9 Easter	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Orthodox Easter	17 All programs closed—Patriots 'Day	18 Head Start morning only recess Tax Day	19 Head Start morning only recess	20 Head Start morning only recess	21 Head Start morning only recess Eid al-Fitr	22 Earth Day
23	24	25 Policy Council Meeting	26 Board of Directors Meeting	27	28	29
30						

Mental Health Awareness Month was created as a way to educate the public about mental illness, raise awareness surrounding research and treatments, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, and celebrate recovery from mental illness.

HOW MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH CAME TO BE:

1909: Mental Health America was Founded and Clifford Beers established the
National Committee for Mental Hygiene, now known as Mental Health America.

1913: The Clifford Beers Clinic in New Haven is established and it is the first outpatient clinic for mental health patients in the U.S.A.

1948: The World Federation for Mental Health comes into existence,
which is affiliated with numerous NGOs and volunteers.

1949: Mental Health Awareness Month began in the United States, it was started by the Mental Health America (MHA) organization (then known as the National Association for Mental Health).

MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo All programs are open	6
7	8	9 **Tie Dye Day**	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Policy Council Meeting	24 Board of Directors Meeting	25	26	27
28	29 All Programs CLOSED—Memorial Day	30	31			

The goal of Summer Safety Month is to increase public awareness of the leading safety and health risks that are increased in the summer months to decrease the number of injuries and deaths at homes and workplaces.

Safety First!

HOW NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH CAME TO BE:

The National Safety Council is a nonprofit organization founded in 1913 and chartered by the United States Congress in 1953. Today, the NSC membership list includes 8.5 million employees at more than 54,000 organizations of all sizes and types world-wide. NSC is headquartered in the United States near Chicago, Illinois.

The National Safety Council is the founder of National Safety Month. It declared June as National Safety Month in 1996.
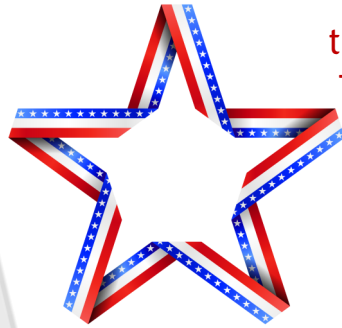
JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 All programs CLOSED—staff training	10
11	12	13	14 ☀ Beach day Flag Day	15	16	17
18	19 All programs CLOSED— Juneteenth Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Policy Council Meeting	28 Board of Directors Meeting	29 Eid al-Adha All programs open	30	

Samantha from ML 4
peace and love
American flag art

Great Barrington students
firework art

It was on 4th July 1776, when Congress signed the Declaration of Independence of the United States, thereby giving freedom to the country from British rule. Thus, 4th July marks the Independence Day of the U.S.

HOW INDEPENDENCE DAY CAME TO BE:

1776: The first effective celebration of Independence Day was held in
Philadelphia. After the people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell
the first public reading of The Declaration of Independence took place.

1781: Massachusetts became the first state to recognize the Fourth of July
as an official holiday.

1801: The White House held its first Fourth of July Party.

1870: Congress made Independence Day an official holiday for federal
employees that worked in Washington, D.C.

1938: Congress formalized Independence Day as an official federal paid holiday.

JULY   2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 All programs CLOSED— Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Ashura All programs open	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 **Crazy hair day**	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Since the 1960s, National Back to School Month has been observed during the month of August. In the United States, the school year traditionally starts in the fall and ends in the spring. This schedule was created with the intention of allowing children in farming families to be home to help out during the planting and harvesting seasons in our primarily agricultural society. With more families living in urban and suburban areas, some schools have shifted to a year-round or alternative academic calendar, but the majority of schools still keep a start date sometime in August, making it the perfect awareness month for back-to-school preparations.

1635 The first school is founded

Boston Latin School opened its doors, becoming the first public school in the colonies.

1639 Tax dollars support a North American school

The Mather School, founded in Dorchester, MA, became the first public school in North America supported by tax dollars.

1918 Elementary school became a requirement

This was the first year that all 50 states required students to complete their elementary schooling.

AUGUST

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	**15** Animal Day	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

My child's room number: _____

My child's family advocate: _____

My child's teachers: _____

Family advocate's contact information: _____

Berkshire County Head Start®