

ACTIVITIES



CELEBRATE & THANK YOUR STAFF USING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

2025 | September

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alpaca



USE NATIONAL HOLIDAYS AS PART OF YOUR CELEBRATION PLAN EACH MONTH

Using national holidays as a way to celebrate your staff makes it easy for school leaders to show appreciation and create a positive atmosphere. These holidays provide ready-made themes and fun, engaging ways to recognize and reward your team.

Celebrating together boosts morale and reinforces a supportive work environment by reminding staff of their value within the school community.

Try out the holidays and ideas we've put together to make your staff feel special and appreciated throughout the year.



TIPS & TRICKS



- * **Plan Ahead:** Look over the national holiday calendar and decide which holidays you want to celebrate. Choose just a few or do them all... it's totally up to you! Share a monthly calendar with your staff in advance. This way everyone can be prepared and excited for the monthly celebrations.
- * **Budget Considerations:** Set a budget for each celebration and consider asking your PTO or other funding sources for support. This ensures you can provide adequate resources without overspending.
- * **Delegate Responsibilities:** After selecting the holidays you wish to celebrate, divide tasks among a committee or other school leaders to ensure everything runs smoothly. Need signs or tags? Use our printable decorations to add festive flair to the environment.
- * **Encourage Participation:** Invite staff to contribute to the celebrations by bringing in items related to the theme. For example, for National Root Beer Float Day, certain grade levels can bring ice cream while others bring cups and spoons.
- * **Gather Feedback:** After a few celebrations, ask your staff for feedback on what they enjoyed and what could be improved. This will help you plan even better celebrations in the future.





DIRECTIONS

- 1.** Set your calendar for the month, identifying which holidays you will celebrate as a school.
- 2.** Discuss with your leadership team, or staff well-being committee, and assign responsibilities for planning and execution. Determine what supplies or decorations are needed, and use our printable signs and/or tags below!
- 3.** Send a reminder to your staff about the upcoming holiday celebration. Include details about the location, timing, and any items they need to bring or prepare for the activity.
- 4.** The day before the celebration, double-check that everything is ready. Purchase any necessary supplies and set out decorations, gifts, or any other items in advance to ensure a smooth event.
- 5.** Have fun! Celebrate your team and enjoy the national holiday festivities together!



SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS TO
CELEBRATE YOUR STAFF

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01	02	03	04	05 National Read a Book Day (9/6)
08	09 National Teddy Bear Day	10	11 National Video Games Day (9/12)	12 National Positive Thinking Day (9/13)
15 International Dot Day	16	17	18	19 Talk Like a Pirate Day
22 World Gratitude Day (9/21)	23	24	25 National Comic Book Day	26
29 National Coffee Day	30			



SEPTEMBER 5: NATIONAL READ A BOOK DAY

"Thanks for making our school a novel place to be!"

Ideas to try:


- Set aside part of the school day for students and staff to read in their classrooms, and pass out a small treat for them to enjoy while reading!
- Have a trivia game where staff and students guess famous book quotes for small prizes.
- Set up a book exchange table where staff can bring in books they've read and swap them for new ones.
- Place thank-you notes inside books around the school, giving staff a fun surprise when they open them.



SEPTEMBER 9: NATIONAL TEDDY BEAR DAY

"You're un-BEAR-ably amazing! Thanks for everything you do!"

Ideas to try:

- Encourage staff and students to dress in cozy attire (think flannel or comfy sweaters) and bring their favorite stuffed animal for the day!
 - Offer bear-themed snacks like gummy bears or teddy bear cookies in the staff lounge.
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SEPTEMBER 11: NATIONAL VIDEO GAMES DAY

"You're a GAME-changer! Thanks for leveling up our school every day!"



Ideas to try:

- Provide energy-boosting snacks like protein bars and fruit in the staff lounge.
- Organize an all-school trivia quiz focused on video game history, characters, and fun facts. Offer small prizes for correct answers.
- Encourage students and staff to dress up as their favorite video game characters or in video game-themed apparel.

SEPTEMBER 12: POSITIVE THINKING DAY

"You are positively the best staff around!"

Ideas to try:

- Distribute cards with positive affirmations and thank-you messages to staff members throughout the day.
 - Set up a "Gratitude Garden" where staff and students can write things they're thankful for on paper leaves and attach them to a bulletin board or a large paper tree.
 - Place a jar in the staff lounge where staff can leave positive notes for their colleagues.
 - Greet staff with a small pack of positive affirmations and a sweet treat.
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SEPTEMBER 15: INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY

"Our staff is always spot on! Thanks for hitting the mark and making our school a better place!"



Ideas to try:

- Provide dot-shaped candies like M&M's, Skittles, etc., in the staff lounge for your team to enjoy throughout the day!
- Encourage staff and students to wear polka dot-themed clothes!
- Provide dot-shaped paper and encourage students and staff to write appreciation notes to their peers, teachers, or staff members. Collect the notes and display them on a "Wall of Dots."

SEPTEMBER 19: TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

"We arrr so lucky to have you as a staff!"

Ideas to try:

- Set up a treasure chest in the staff lounge filled with small treats or prizes. Throughout the day, staff members can stop by to pick a "treasure" as a token of appreciation.
 - Organize a treasure hunt for staff with clues leading to hidden thank-you notes and small prizes.
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SEPTEMBER 22: WORLD GRATITUDE DAY

"Thanks for all you do – we're grateful for you!"



Ideas to try:

- Start the day with a breakfast to show appreciation to your staff. Encourage them to spend time writing quick notes of gratitude to a coworker, student, friend, or family member!
- During morning announcements, read out gratitude shout-outs from staff and students.
- Ask your staff to spend time writing gratitude notes with their students.

SEPTEMBER 25: NATIONAL COMIC BOOK DAY

"Thanks for being superheroes every day!"

Ideas to try:

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- Provide superhero-themed snacks like "power bars" (granola bars) and "hero sandwiches" in the lounge.
 - Cut out pictures of superheroes and place your staff's faces on them. Hang them up in the staff lounge along with speech bubbles that highlight each staff member's "superpower" (e.g., "Super Mrs. Smith – Master of Math Magic!").
 - Encourage students and staff to dress up as their favorite comic book characters.
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SEPTEMBER 29: NATIONAL COFFEE DAY

"Thanks a latte for all you do!"

Ideas to try:

- Roll a coffee cart around the school in the morning, offering staff their favorite brews with a thank-you note.
- Organize a mug swap where staff can bring in a fun mug to exchange with a colleague.
- Set up a coffee bar in the staff lounge with different flavors and toppings.

PRINTABLES FOR EACH THEME

- **Pages 11 - 19:** Single sign
 - **Pages 20 - 28:** Individual tags (four on each page)
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The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of light gray line-art icons. These icons include various styles of books (some open, some closed) and sheets of paper, scattered across the white background.

THANK YOU

FOR MAKING OUR SCHOOL

A NOVEL

PLACE TO BE!



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GAME-CHANGER!**

**THANKS FOR
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SCHOOL EVERY DAY!**



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Thank you for all you do!



OUR STAFF IS ALWAYS
SPOT ON!

**THANKS FOR HITTING THE MARK AND
MAKING OUR SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE!**



**WE
—ARRR—**

**SO LUCKY TO HAVE
YOU AS A STAFF!**

Thank you for all you do!



Thanks for all you do!
WE'RE SO
GRATEFUL
for you!





THANKS FOR BEING
SUPERHEROS
EVERY DAY!

**THANKS A
LATTE**



FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!



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WANT ANOTHER FUN ACTIVITY FOR YOUR STAFF OR STUDENTS? TRY THIS!

Check out one of our favorite activities or find more ideas in our [resource library](#)!



[Download the resource](#)

