

ACTIVITIES



CELEBRATE & THANK YOUR STAFF USING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

2025 | December

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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

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- 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!
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DECEMBER 2025

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS TO
CELEBRATE YOUR STAFF

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

01

02

03

04

National Cookie Day
National Sock Day

05

**National Comfort
Food Day**

08

**Pretend to Be a Time
Traveler Day**

09

10

11

12

**Gingerbread
House Day**
**National Hot
Cocoa Day (12/13)**

15

**National
Cupcake Day**
Hanukkah Begins (12/14)

16

17

18

19

**National Ugly
Sweater Day**
Winter Solstice

22

23

24

25

Christmas

26

**Kwanzaa
Begins**

29

30

31

**New Year's
Eve**

01

02



DECEMBER 4TH: NATIONAL COOKIE DAY

"You're one smart cookie—thanks for making our school so sweet!"



Ideas to try:

- **Cookie Swap Party:** Invite staff to bring a batch of their favorite cookies to share, creating a delicious variety for all to enjoy.
- **Decorate Your Own Cookie:** Set up a station with plain sugar cookies, frosting, and sprinkles for a quick creative break.
- **Cookie Cart Delivery:** Push a cart filled with different cookies and deliver them directly to classrooms or workspaces.

DECEMBER 4TH: NATIONAL SOCK DAY

You knock our socks off every day—thanks for being toe-tally amazing!

Ideas to try:

- **Crazy Sock Day:** Invite staff and students to wear their craziest, most colorful, or funniest socks.
 - **Sock Surprise:** Fill holiday-themed socks with small goodies (candy, gift cards, or notes) and hang them in the lounge for staff to grab.
 - **Sock Swap:** Organize a fun sock exchange where staff bring a wrapped pair of festive or cozy socks to trade.
 - **Sock Donations:** Encourage staff to donate new socks to a local shelter and celebrate their generosity with hot cocoa and cookies in the lounge.
- 
- 



DECEMBER 5TH: NATIONAL COMFORT FOOD DAY

You're the recipe for comfort and connection!

Ideas to try:

- Staff Potluck of Comforts: Invite everyone to bring a favorite comfort food from home. Create a "Comfort Food Cookbook" by collecting the recipes afterward to share digitally.
- Soup & Sweatpants Lunch: Host a cozy staff lunch where everyone wears comfy clothes and enjoys soup, chili, or mac & cheese.
- Snack & Share Cart: Roll a cart of warm drinks and comfort snacks (hot cocoa, popcorn, cookies) through classrooms as a midday morale boost.
- Favorite Flavor Poll: Post a quick hallway poll or digital survey—"What's your ultimate comfort food?"—and share the results in your next staff memo.

DECEMBER 8TH: PRETEND TO BE A TIME TRAVELER DAY

"You're ahead of your time—thank you for all your hard work!"

Ideas to try:

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- Throwback Photo Guessing Game: Ask staff to bring in childhood photos, then have everyone guess who's who.
 - Future Vision Board: Provide magazines, paper, and markers for staff to create a fun vision board of what teaching might look like in 20 years.
 - Time Traveler Dress-Up Day: Encourage staff to dress up as their favorite era or a "teacher of the future" for laughs and creativity.
- 



DECEMBER 12TH: GINGERBREAD HOUSE DAY

"You're building a bright future for our students—thank you!"

Ideas to try:

- Mini Gingerbread Kits: Provide staff with small kits to take home or build during a break.
- Gingerbread Decorating Contest: Have teams create gingerbread houses and vote on categories like "most creative" or "funniest."
- Gingerbread Hunt: Hide 5-10 gingerbread men around the school and tell your staff to go on the hunt. If they find one, they can turn it in for a prize!

DECEMBER 13TH: NATIONAL HOT COCOA DAY

"Thanks for keeping our school warm and cozy—you're the best!"

Ideas to try:

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- Hot Cocoa Bar: Set up a station with cocoa, marshmallows, whipped cream, and toppings like caramel drizzle or peppermint sticks.
 - Hot Cocoa Deliveries: Prepare individual cups of cocoa to deliver to staff throughout the day.
 - Mug Swap: Organize a fun exchange where staff bring in a wrapped mug to swap with a colleague.
- 



DECEMBER 15TH: NATIONAL CUPCAKE DAY

Our staff is the cherry on top! Thanks for making our school sweet!

Ideas to try:

- Sweet Notes & Cupcakes: Place cupcakes in the staff lounge along with slips of paper and pens. Encourage staff to write a "sweet note" of appreciation or encouragement to a coworker and deliver it to their desk.
- Cupcake Drop-Off: Deliver cupcakes to classrooms as a sweet mid-day surprise.

DECEMBER 16TH: NATIONAL UGLY SWEATER DAY

"Thanks for making our school sew festive and fun!"

Ideas to try:

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- Ugly Sweater Contest: Host a competition for the funniest or most creative ugly sweater.
 - Sweater Selfies: Create a photo booth with props to capture everyone's hilarious outfits.
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DECEMBER 21ST: WINTER SOLSTICE

"You make our school snow much better"

Ideas to try:

- Snowflake Compliments: Provide paper snowflakes for staff to write compliments or kind words about their colleagues. Display the snowflakes on a board in the lounge or hallway to create a flurry of positivity and appreciation!
- Cozy & Comfy: Encourage staff to wear their coziest sweaters or pajamas for the day!
- Snowball Toss Game: Set up a small indoor "snowball" toss game with soft snowballs and a target for fun prizes.



PRINTABLES FOR EACH THEME

- **Pages 11 - 19:** Single sign
 - **Pages 20-26:** Individual tags (four on each page)
- 



You're one

SMART
COOKIE



Thanks for making our school so sweet!





You knock _____
OUR SOCKS OFF
_____ **every day**

Thanks for being toe-tally amazing!



YOU'RE THE RECIPE FOR COMFORT & CONNECTION!



Thanks for all you do!





YOU'RE AHEAD OF YOUR TIME

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!



You're building a
BRIGHT FUTURE
for our students

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO!

**THANKS FOR KEEPING OUR
SCHOOL WARM AND COZY**

**YOU'RE THE BEST
STAFF AROUND!**





**OUR STAFF IS THE
CHERRY ON TOP!**



**THANKS FOR MAKING
OUR SCHOOL SWEET!**



**THANKS FOR MAKING OUR SCHOOL
SEW FESTIVE AND FUN!**



—— WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO! ——

**YOU MAKE OUR SCHOOL
SNOW MUCH BETTER!**



We appreciate you!





You're one

**SMART
COOKIE**



Thanks for making our school so sweet!



You're one

**SMART
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You're one

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_____ every day

Thanks for being toe-tally amazing!



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**YOU'RE THE RECIPE FOR
COMFORT & CONNECTION!**

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Thanks for all you do!



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Thanks for all you do!



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**YOU'RE THE RECIPE FOR
COMFORT & CONNECTION!**

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**YOU'RE AHEAD
OF YOUR TIME**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!



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SCHOOL WARM AND COZY**

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SNOW MUCH BETTER!

We appreciate you!



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SNOWMAN SCRATCHERS

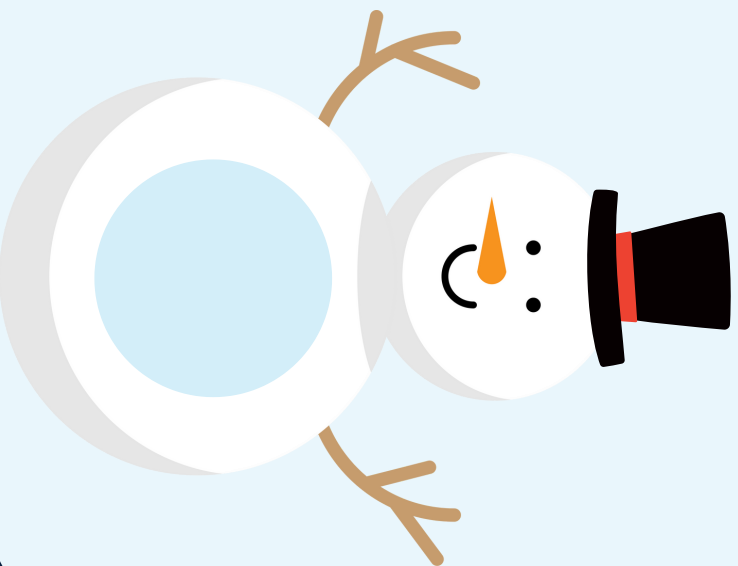
Add some fun and suspense to your next staff game or activity with these interactive, festive prizes! Simply print out the snowmen below, grab some scratch-off stickers, and write in your own prize ideas. Watch the excitement build as staff scratch to reveal their surprise rewards!



SCRATCH TO WIN!



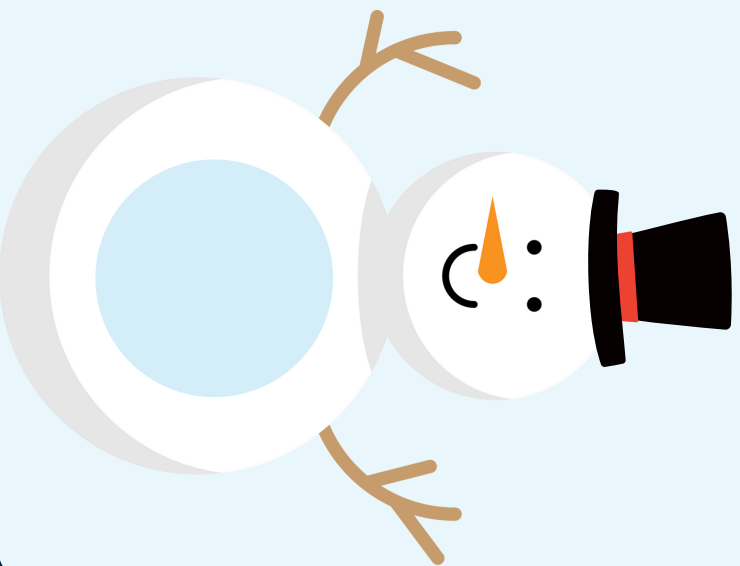
Thanks for all you do!



SCRATCH TO WIN!



Thanks for all you do!



**SCRATCH
TO WIN!**

Thanks for all **you** do!



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PRINTABLE COUPONS

Choose from over 15 options, print the ones that fit your staff best, and celebrate their efforts with meaningful breaks and perks!



WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Thanks for downloading this resource—at [Alpaca](#), we're on a mission to **make school the happiest place to work**.



Tried an activity?

Send a photo or a staff testimonial to [our team](#), and we'll send you a coffee on us!



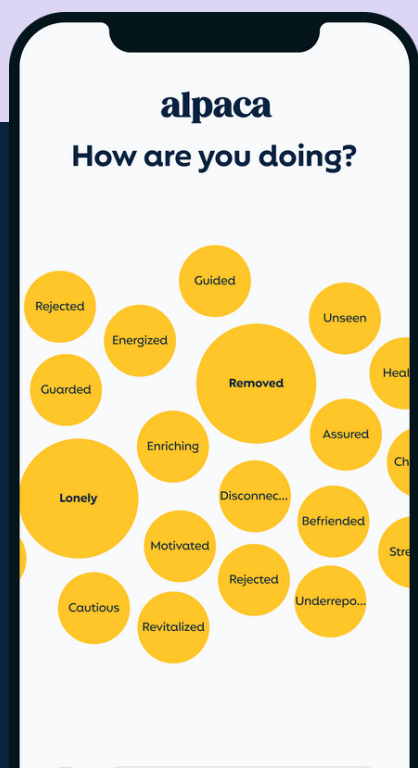
Got an idea brewing?

We love co-creating with school leaders—[drop us a line](#) with any resource ideas you'd love to see next.



Explore more!

Check out our [full resource library](#) for creative, ready-to-use tools to support you and your team.



SEE HOW ALPACA WORKS

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