



School Calendar Reminders

Check Sports Schedules
Attend PTA Meetings
Meet and Greet the Teachers

September National Calendar

1-30, Backpack Safety America Month. Kids are straining their backs with heavy backpacks. Check www.backpacksafe.com.

2, V-J Day, 65th anniversary of the end of World War II, date of official signing of agreements.

6, Labor Day. First observed with New York parade in 1882. Movement for a labor day spread. Pres. Grover Cleveland made it a holiday in 1894.

11, Patriot Day. In honor of the thousands who died or were injured during/after the terrorist attacks. Local and state governments are asked to observe a moment of silence and display flags at half-mast.

12, National Grandparents' Day. To honor grand parents, provide opportunities to show love and for kids to appreciate their knowledge.

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What's New with BKW...

(www.buzzingkidsworld.com)

- **New pages:**
[Tracing Family History \(HowTo\)](#)
- **Updated pages:**
[Home page](#)
[Take Kids Fishing](#)
[Olympic Mini Games](#)
- **Buzz Blog — new postings:**
[Create a Family Tree](#)
- You'll find some **Labor Day lore** under Holiday Traditions in the right menu of www.buzzingkidsworld.com
- **Honoring Grandparents** (see page 2) of [September '08 BuzzLetter](#)

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September History Fact!



End summer with a safe, enjoyable Labor Day Weekend

The grand finale of summer is approaching. The calendar says summer doesn't end until Sept. 22, but North America calls it quits on Sept. 6.

In the 1880s, the originators of Labor Day made a good point. They said working people needed an extra day of rest between the 4th of July and Thanksgiving.

The idea caught on, and Labor Day became a national holiday in 1894.

At the time, people often worked a six-day week and did mostly physical labor. They used picks and shovels, drove horses, or worked long hours over a set of books. No factory equipment, front loaders or computers were there to help out.

Modern equipment and computers have made work less of a physical activity today. But it's still work.

But now we have the whole Labor Day Weekend to enjoy and even get some rest at the same time.

One thing the organization always hopes to see is everyone coming back from their adventures safe and sound.

- We hope you don't drive for long hours and get sleepy at the wheel.
- We hope you'll see the "No Diving" signs at shallow swimming pools.
- We hope you'll watch for poison ivy if you're at a picnic or in the woods.
- We hope you'll take your sun screen and insect repellent with you.

When you stop to think about it, the idea of relaxing at home and having a cookout sounds better all the time.

Whatever you do, have a good time and stay safe!



CHALK TALK

Key to future success: Learning to read well by fourth grade

Just 34 percent of fourth graders are reading at an acceptable level in grade four. Only 8 percent are "advanced" readers.

On the surface, it may appear to parents that their children have four more years of grade school in order to become acceptable readers, but new studies show the importance of reading by grade four.

Findings by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, are the first to show that kids are far more likely to drop out of high school if they can't read pretty well by fourth grade. Unless America dramatically improves the number of kids who can, a growing proportion of the them will live in poverty as adults.

The Foundation contends that the tendency to drop out of high school begins in the early grades when children don't learn to read. They say dropouts "don't just happen."

What can parents do?

- Show that education is important by getting a GED if they didn't graduate from high school themselves.
- Do all they can to assure that kids attend school every day.
- Show an interest in their children's reading beginning in first grade. Have them read to you and help them with the words.
- Provide books they like. Let them pick out books at the library or grocery store. Some kids like comic books.
- Don't let them lose reading skills over summers. Keep them in practice. Find books they will like to read.
- Make their homework area fun to be in. Get a poster like the one shown on the right from www.123posters.com



reading is fun!

For more on reading see *Catch The Reading Bug* under *Fun Ways to Learn* at www.buzzingkidsworld.com/readingbug.php

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Who knew! Shrek boosts Vidalia onion Sales

From three-year-olds on up, kids are begging their mothers to buy some Vidalia onions. It's the jolly green ogre's huge image in produce departments that is prompting kids to insist their moms buy the bag of onions, Shrek's favorite food. They like them in casseroles.

Shrek Forever After, the fourth Shrek movie, got off to a slow start before it went on to be a big money maker. It has tie-ins with many companies like the Vidalia Onion Committee, which represents growers of the sweet onion from southeastern Georgia... and has been very profitable for growers.

When the "Vidalia Forever Sweet" onion came out at the same time as the movie, kids clamored for them. DreamWorks says onions were rooted in Shrek's personality from the first movie.

Through June 14, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said farmers had shipped eight million more pounds of Vidalias than by the same date last year, even though the season which lasts through September, started two weeks later than last year.

Shrek says, "*Ogres are like onions. It's not that both might make you stinky, make you cry or get all brown in the sun. Rather, it's because we both have layers.*"

 **Buzz Tip:** Get your Shrek Forever After: The Final Chapter Video Game at www.amazon.com.



September Project

Make a Sport Magnet

Supplies needed:

Round, flat beads
Paint
Ribbon
Pony beads
Magnet
Craft Glue
Paint Brushes
Scissors



Steps:

1. Paint the round, flat bead white. Let dry.
2. For baseball, paint red threads on white bead... gray threads for softball.
3. Cut a piece of ribbon 12 to 15 inches long.
4. Fold ribbon in half; tie knot to form small loop near the folded end.
5. Slide baseball/softball bead onto ribbon, pushing it all of the way up towards the knot. Tie another knot just below the bead so it does not slide.
6. Slide about 3 pony beads matching your schools colors (if possible) onto each ribbon end. Push them up until they sit about an inch below the baseball/softball bead. Tie a knot below each set of beads to hold in place.
7. Trim excess ribbon, about a half to one inch below the knots you tied.
8. Finally glue a magnet to the back of baseball/softball bead. Let glue dry.
9. Place on locker, fridge, hang it up, or give as a gift.



~ www.familycrafts.about.com

Getting Technical

Microsoft upgrades Xbox 360

The new Xbox 360 game system (\$299) has 250 gigabytes of hard drive space, twice that of the previous model. It includes built-in Wi-Fi capability and is said to be "whisper quiet."

The system is designed to use Microsoft's hands-free Kinect controller adapter, which is **due out Nov. 4**. The controller enables users to play video games using their bodies and voices instead of standard video game controllers.

The system will compete with Nintendo Wii, which has sold 28 million units.

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POETRY FUN

. . . and more fun!

I Finished My Homework

I finished my homework.
It took me all night.
I tried to make sure
I got everything right.

I read every chapter
the teacher assigned.
My eyes grew so bleary
I nearly went blind.

I studied each problem
until my eyes burned.
Researched each detail,
leaving no stone unturned.

I finished my reading
and got out my pen
and pulled up a chair
at my desk in the den.

I answered each question.
I checked every one.
I wrote out my essays.
At last I was done.

By eight in the morning
I'd run out of fuel.

I packed up my backpack
and headed to school.

I handed the teacher
my homework, and then
I noticed, embarrassed,
I'd used the wrong pen.

The teacher looked puzzled.
I felt my heart sink.
I'd used my trick pen
with invisible ink.

~Kenn Nesbitt
www.Poetry4Kids.com

Skateboarding goes prime time

Competitive skateboarding moves to prime time on Sept. 15. ESPN has signed a multiyear agreement to televise pro skateboarder Rob Dyrdek's Street League competition. The prime-time midweek broadcast will be seen at the same time each week.

Street League is a three-stop, street-style competition series combining:

- Top athletes
- \$1.2 million in prize money
- Real-time scoring format.

In all previous skateboarding contests, the winner was decided by an ending score. In this series, viewers will see the score received by a skateboarder for each trick.

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Sharpen your vocabulary skills!

'What's up, Doc?' crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6
7			8		9	
10					11	
	12			13		
		14				
	15	16			17	18
19				20		21
22				23		
24					25	

Across

1. Thwack
4. Kind of rule
7. Chinese dollar
9. "The Last of the Mohicans" girl
10. Descartes's "therefore"
11. "That hurt!"
12. Seeds used in cooking
14. "Chicago" lyricist
15. Demagnetize
19. Opera star
20. Fly in the ointment
22. Squirrel's nest
23. ___ sandwich
24. Big ___ Conference
25. Ottoman governor

Down

1. "See ya!"
2. Couple's pronoun
3. Summon by beeper
4. Pout
5. Tolkien creatures
6. "___ humbug!"
8. Corsage
9. Burn
13. Attorneys' org.
15. Acute
16. All square
17. Give the cold shoulder
18. Not crazy
19. "Silent Spring" subject
21. In high spirits

The title is a clue to the word in the diagonal.

A	E	B		N	E	I
V	I	N	S	A	I	D
O	V	I	N	S	V	A
S	I	N	V	E	I	D
S	E	E				
W	O	O		O	O	E
Y	R	O		N	I	A
B	O	W				E