

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Beginning on September 15 and concluding on October 15, this month is a celebration of the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Rosh Hashanah, the first of the High Holy Days, marks the beginning of a 10-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal. Yom Kippur, the "Day of Atonement," marks the 10th day.

## Suicide Prevention Month

All month each September, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness. Learn more at [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](https://988lifeline.org).  
Community Partner,

Suicide Prevention Month	Hispanic Heritage Month				1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5 First Day of School	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Hispanic Heritage Month Begins	16 Rosh Hashanah*
National Suicide Prevention Week						
17 Constitution Day and Citizenship Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Yom Kippur*	26	27	28	29	30

\*All Jewish holidays begin at sunset the evening before the full day of observance.

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# OCTOBER 2023

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

Hispanic Heritage Month Continues	National Bullying Prevention Month					1
2 International Day of Non-Violence	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day <u>Indigenous Peoples Day</u>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

## DID YOU KNOW?

Columbus Day is a federal holiday that recognizes the historic voyage and arrival of Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus, who sailed to the Americas on October 12, 1492. Michigan is one of 14 states and the District of Columbia that no longer celebrate Columbus Day while recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day. Read more at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

## International Day of Non-Violence

Marked on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence, this United Nations commemoration promotes the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding.

\*All Jewish holidays begin at sunset the evening before the full day of observance.

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Native American Heritage Month	National Diabetes Month		1 Día de los Muertos	2 Día de los Muertos	3	4
5	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10 Veterans Day	11
12 Diwali	13	14	15 International Day for Tolerance	16	17	18
<b>Hunger &amp; Homelessness Awareness Week</b>						
19	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance	21	22 Thanksgiving Break	23 Thanksgiving	24 Native American Heritage Day	25
26	27	28	29	30		
<b>NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH</b> Native American Heritage Month takes place each November and is an opportunity to recognize the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans. Learn more at <a href="http://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov">www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov</a> .						

## DID YOU KNOW?

Diwali, the festival of lights, is India's most prominent holiday and is celebrated in grand fashion by more than one billion Hindus, Sikhs and Jains globally. The holiday is recognized with five days of prayer, feasts, fireworks and more as celebrants rejoice about the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil.

### Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (November 13-21)

This week is an annual program where people come together across the country to draw attention to the problems of hunger and homelessness.

**ARE YOU AWARE** that in GPPSS we have students who face hunger and homelessness each year? Our mission is to support these students by connecting them with social workers, counselors and school psychologists and support their families by connecting them to resources to apply for work, grants for housing and state benefits. Reach out to [info@gpschools.org](mailto:info@gpschools.org) if you or someone you know is facing hunger or homelessness.

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# DECEMBER 2023

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## BODHI DAY

Bodhi Day is the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni Buddha) is said to have attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. In Japan, Mahayana Buddhists commemorate this day by meditating, studying, chanting Buddhist texts (sutras), and performing kind acts towards others.

## HANUKKAH

Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its defilement by an oppressive regime in 164 BCE. During this Jewish holiday, celebrants light candles successively, commemorating the miracle of eight nights of light supplied by only one evening's worth of oil found on the historic recovery of the Temple.

## MORE ABOUT KWANZAA

Founded in 1966, Kwanzaa is a week long holiday celebrating African-American heritage. Observed with candle lighting ceremonies, feasts, and reflections on past struggles and future hopes, Kwanzaa is derived from the word "first" in Swahili and takes inspiration from the start of the harvest season in Africa.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 International Day for Persons with Disabilities	4	5	6	7	8 Bodhi Day Hanukkah begins at sunset	9
10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14	15 Bill of Rights Day Last night of Hanukkah	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					Winter Break begins	
24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa begins (ends Jan. 1, 2024)	27	28	29	30
				Winter Break		
31 New Year's Eve					<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> The U.N. General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10, 1948. Bill of Rights Day commemorates the signing into law of the 10 original amendments of the U.S. Constitution in 1791.	

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# JANUARY 2024

## EPIPHANY

This Christian holiday marks the amount of time it took after the birth of Jesus for the wise men to train to Bethlehem.

## ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS

Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas Day according to the Julian calendar.

## PONGAL

This four-day Hindu harvest festival celebrates the changing of the seasons. Families throw useless items into a bonfire, cook a dish in a clay pot called pongal (which means "to boil,") and fly kites.

## WORLD BRAILLE DAY

World Braille Day on January 4 honors the birth of Braille's inventor, Louis Braille. Braille's gift to the world has brightened the lives of millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired, and they benefit from his work every day.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 World Braille Day	5	6 Epiphany
	Winter Break ends					
7 Orthodox Christmas	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 MLK Jr. Day* (No School) Pongal Begins	16	17	18 Pongal Ends	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
28	29	30	31			

\*While Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is Jan. 15, it is celebrated as a federal holiday on the third Monday of January.

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## LUNAR NEW YEAR

Lunar New Year is a 15-day celebration when friends and family gather for feasts and festivities in China, Korea, Vietnam, Japan, and countries across the world. It begins on the first new moon between January and February. Friends and family set off firecrackers, share envelopes containing coins, and talk about happy things to attract good and protect against bad fortune.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

For Western Christian churches, Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter that includes prayer, doing good deeds, and fasting. During mass on this day, a priest places the ashes on a worshiper's forehead in the shape of a cross.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Phillis Wheatley** was the first published African American writer at 14 years old in 1767.

**Ida B. Wells** was a journalist who risked her life to speak out against segregated schools and other forms of discrimination in the southern states.

**Thurgood Marshall** was the first African American justice to serve on the Supreme Court in 1967.

Black History Month	American Heart Month		1 National Freedom Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Nirvana Day	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day	21 Shrove Tuesday	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
<b>Mid-Winter Break</b>						
26	27	28	<b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b> Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Dating back to 1915, a half century after the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the U.S., the event was the brainchild of noted Harvard trained historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated February as Black History Month.			

## DID YOU KNOW?

On Nirvana Day, Buddhists remember friends or relations who have recently died. The idea that nothing stays the same is important to Buddhism. Buddhists believe that loss and change are things to be accepted rather than causes of sadness.

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# MARCH 2024

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

First celebrated on March 8, 1914, this global push for equality has become an annual staple for global awareness around women's issues.

## RAMADAN

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. It ends at sundown on April 9.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Celebrated as a national holiday in India and commemorated by Hindus all over the world, Holi is a joyous celebration of the first spring harvest. Its tradition of throwing vibrantly colored powders has led to its recognition all over the world as the Festival of Colors. Various legends are connected to its origin and all their messages focus on goodness, renewal and love.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Women's History Month				World Teen Mental Health Awareness Day	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					International Women's Day	
10	11 Ramadan Begins	12	13	14 Anniversary of MLK visit to Grosse Pointe	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21 World Down Syndrome Day	22	23
24 Purim*	25 Holi	26	27	28	29	30
	<b>Spring Break</b>					
31 Easter		<b>PURIM</b> A joyous celebration of the bravery of Queen Esther who saved the Jews from annihilation by an anti-semitic Persian prime minister in about 357 BC. On Purim, Jewish people revisit the story, do good deeds and, especially, provide for those who need support.				

\*All Jewish holidays begin at sunset the evening before the full day of observance.

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# APRIL 2024

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

<u>Stress Awareness Month</u>	1	2 World Autism Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Eid Al-Fitr*	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Pascha (Easter) (Eastern Orthodox Christian)	22 Earth Day	23 Passover Begins**	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Passover Ends				

**EID AL-FITR**  
The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.

**PASSOVER**  
One of the most sacred and widely observed Jewish holidays, Passover commemorates the Israelites' exodus from ancient Egypt and freedom following 400 years of slavery. Commonly observed rituals include the removal of leavened products from the home, substitution of matzo for bread, and retelling of the exodus story through two seders — meals featuring foods symbolic of slavery and freedom.

<b>DID YOU KNOW?</b> National Poetry Month was introduced in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry.	<b>ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH</b> Celebrates the Arab American heritage and culture and pays tribute to the contributions of Arab Americans and Arab-speaking Americans.
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\*Ramadan began on March 11. See March calendar for more information. \*\*From sundown on April 22 to sundown on April 30



# ARE YOU AWARE?

# MAY 2024

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Jewish American Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month

### BUDDHA DAY (WESAK)

On this most important holiday in Buddhism, Buddhists clean and decorate the temples. In Theravada countries, this day is known as Wesak and marks the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death.

### PENTECOST

Pentecost celebrates the birthday of the Christian church, when God's Spirit descended upon the Apostles and followers of Jesus Christ.

			1	2	3 Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)	4
5 Pascha (Easter) (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Cinco de Mayo	6 Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	7	8	9	10	11
12 <u>Mother's Day</u>	13	14	15	16 Buddha Day	17	18
19 Pentecost	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day (No School)	28	29	30	31	

## NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS MONTH

The #MoveinMay campaign shines a spotlight on healthy living. Adopting a healthier lifestyle reduces stress and the risk of chronic diseases. Exercise can make us less anxious and depressed. It can also help teens develop leadership and relationship-building skills early on.

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# JUNE 2024

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the U.S.

## SHAVUOT

During this two-day religious observance, Jewish people remember the covenant made with God at Mount Sinai and renew their dedication to the Torah.

## JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth was made a federal holiday in 2021. June 19th marks the day that federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to ensure that the enslaved people were freed after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed two years prior.

## EID AL-ADHA

Commemoration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. This Muslim holiday marks the end of the annual Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month						1
2 Pentecost (Orthodox)	3 North Graduation	4 North Graduation (Rain Date)	5 South Graduation	6 South Graduation (Rain Date)	7 North & South Graduation (alternate rain date)	8
9	10	11	12 Shavuot* Loving Day	13	14 Last Day of School  Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day Eid al-Adha	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20 World Refugee Day	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are two historic U.S. Supreme Court rulings in June. Loving Day on June 12 observes the anniversary of the 1967 Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down the miscegenation laws barring interracial marriage. June 26 marks the anniversary of the 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* Supreme Court ruling that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples.

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# JULY 2024

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain.

## ASHURA (ISLAMIC)

This day of fasting is observed on the 10th day of Muharram (July 19-Aug. 16), which commemorates Moses' exodus from Egypt.

## DID YOU KNOW?

ADA Day commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Ashura	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 International Day of Friendship	31 ADA Day			

# ARE YOU AWARE?

# AUGUST 2024

## WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

This global celebration of the world's indigenous peoples recognizes their achievements and contributions to improving world issues such as environmental protection.

## TISHA B'AV (JEWISH)

Considered a day of mourning, Tisha B'Av is an annual fast day for Jewish observers recalling several tragic events in Jewish history.

## RAKSHA BANDHAN (HINDU)

This Hindu festival embodies the family value of filial responsibility. This is the time of year when families strengthen the bonds between them.

## WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

This observance, commemorating the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10
11	12 International Youth Day	13 Tisha B'Av*	14	15	16	17
18	19 Raksha Bandhan World Humanitarian Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Women's Equality Day	27	28	29	30	31

\*All Jewish holidays begin at sunset the evening before the full day of observance.