

## 1: Celebrate Schools 5K | Foundation ESD

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Celebrating the Christmas Holiday in Public Schools While it would be inappropriate for The Rutherford Institute to provide you with legal advice under these circumstances, the Institute is pleased to provide you with the following information regarding your area of concern. Christmas is celebrated by millions of Americans as one of the most sacred and joyful holidays of the year. Unfortunately, Christmas has also become a time of controversy in public schools as teachers, school administrators, parents and students struggle to determine their legal rights and responsibilities concerning the celebration of the holiday in the schools. The most common disputes surrounding the celebration of Christmas in public schools can generally be grouped into three areas: Christmas in the Public School Curriculum: These prohibitions have been extended to action taken by state governments and state institutions such as public schools. The Constitution does not prohibit government institutions, including public schools, from recognizing and celebrating the Christmas holiday. Thus, the Establishment Clause does not forbid public schools from observing the holiday by closing schools, holding class Christmas parties or recognizing the holiday on school calendars. Moreover, public schools also do not violate the Establishment Clause by teaching students about the religious origins of the Christmas holiday, or by teaching students that it is currently celebrated by Christians around the world as the birthday of Jesus. The Supreme Court has repeatedly stated that although public schools may not encourage students to practice any religion, they may teach students about religion if they do so objectively. Schempp, the Supreme Court said: It certainly may be said that the Bible is worthy of study for its literary and historic qualities. Nothing we have said here indicates that the study of the Bible or of religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education may not be effected consistently with the First Amendment. Similarly, courts have held that schools may have a valid secular educational purpose in displaying symbols of Christmas, such as Christmas trees or creches, as an example of the cultural and religious heritage of the holiday. Cherry Hill Township Bd. Courts have also held that public schools do not violate the Establishment Clause by hosting dramatic and musical productions, including Christmas music with religious themes, if the music is chosen for a secular purpose such as its musical quality or cultural value. In Florey, a federal appeals court held that a public school district did not violate the Establishment Clause by teaching students Christmas carols, including some with religious themes, and including those carols in a school Christmas program. However, at least one federal appeals court has suggested that public schools would be required to permit students who have a religious objection to singing a particular song to opt-out of singing that song. The Constitution protects all persons, no matter what their calling, including public school teachers. Teachers do not forfeit their rights as private citizens when they accept public school employment. For instance, in Downing v. Finally, unlike teachers and school officials, students are not state actors under the Establishment Clause. As the Court wrote in Bd. School officials may not prevent students from expressing such messages merely because they fear that other students will be offended. According to the U. Despite common misconceptions to the contrary, public schools may recognize and observe the Christmas holiday and teach students about Christmas so long as they do so prudently and in a manner which does not endorse or promote Christianity. Public school teachers are also entitled to express their religious beliefs about Christmas when they are acting as private citizens and not in their role as public school teachers. Even when they are acting in their role as public school teachers, the Constitution does not require that they ignore the Christmas holiday, but merely that they not express themselves in a manner that promotes or endorses their religious beliefs about the holiday. Furthermore, public school students are entitled to freely express their religious beliefs about Christmas and its meaning to them in their personal speech and clothing or in their schoolwork without discrimination based on the religious content of their message.

### 2: Irish prepare to celebrate Catholic Schools Week – THE MEGAPHONE

*Preparing to Celebrate in Schools (Preparing for Liturgy) [Margaret Bick] on [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Here is a manual for conducting meaningful celebration in Catholic schools, dealing with such obstacles as poor environment for liturgy and crowd control.*

As the year proceeds, you will hear reference to many events as they appear on school calendars, but you may not have a clear sense of what is involved for each event. This section offers a brief explanation of various school events to help you get acquainted with activities at the school and to help you with planning. We recognize that busy parents may like to know the timing of events in advance in order to arrange their schedules so that they can participate in them. In most instances, your presence is not required, but you are encouraged to attend and participate to whatever extent is feasible for you and your family. Please note that the timing of some events may change during the year. The Arlington Public Schools official School Calendar, which lists holidays, early release and professional days, can be found on the district website at: [The class is divided into 3 groups of children for this visit. Children have an opportunity to explore their new classroom. Kindergarten students begin the following Monday. School Pictures Near the end of the month, students will have their individual and class pictures taken. Students receive a catalog of items gift wrap, stationery, candy, and more to sell to friends and family, with a significant portion of the sales going to the school. This event happens early in the fall to ensure that gifts arrive in time for the holidays mid-November. On-going Fundraisers There are two on-going fundraisers in which you can participate any time during the year. Box Tops for Education: Products include a wide range of items, from cereals to plastic zip-lock bags. A list of eligible products will be provided early in the year. The school is registered with Target. You just need to indicate that you would like a donation sent to the Brackett when you use your card. Early Release - Please note: Traditionally once a month there is a 1:](#)

### 3: Month-by-Month Calendar of Important Events in Kindergarten | Brackett Elementary

*The school taps families in the community to host the food and craft tables. The staff sets up the tables and chairs in the cafeteria, and the families do the rest -- cooking, decorating, teaching. etc.*

Marissa Akason, first grade teacher in Chicago, suggests bringing in ingredients for a recipe that the kids can make at their desks. In kindergarten and first grade, following a simple recipe helps kids learn sequencing, processes, and following directions. Watch a Birthday Video. For example, a Green Eggs and Ham storybook video if the class is studying Dr. Pass out popcorn and juice for kids to share as they watch. Host a Game Day. Let your child choose a gift for her class. It could be a book for the library, a word game for center time, or a toy for the pretend play area. Throw a Book Party. Write a Birthday Story. Your child will get a memento of her school year, and the class will enjoy the process of seeing themselves written into a story. As you write, however, make sure that every child makes it onto a page. If your child loves math, work with her teacher to incorporate a birthday theme into math. Or, write a page of birthday-themed word problems that include the names of your child and his classmates. Oh Goody Grab Bags. Instead of cupcakes, pack goody bags with pencils, erasers, and other treats. Have each child sign the t-shirt with their name and a birthday wish. This can also be done with a white pillowcase or the cover of a notebook. Plan an End-of-Year Birthday Bonanza. Bring in mini-notebooks and have the kids exchange autographs and summer or birthday wishes. Throw a Season Mix-Up Party. Plan activities that compare winter and summer, and celebrate with summer activities color cards with a summer theme, eat popsicles or ice cream, drink lemonade.

### 4: Margaret Bick (Author of Preparing to Celebrate in Schools)

*This month at Dulles School of Excellence, the staff and City Year Chicago AmeriCorps members are collaborating to celebrate a Black History Month full of fun activities for students and their families.*

Send Email Cancel Beginning Jan. Across the nation, schools typically celebrate Mass together, hold open houses or create friendly competition from a variety of events. The NCEA hopes that schools focus on the value of Catholic education and the benefit it provides the Church, local communities and the nation. Although this is a national celebration, schools go about the week differently depending on grade level, location or previous traditions. Michigan to Indiana President Mr. Little kids do more fun things; kids in elementary get more excited. We had the funny dress-up days, we would honor priests, nuns and veterans with thank-you cards. Kids had dress-up days, snacks, cookies, balloons; each day something different, and we would always culminate it with a big mass at the end of the week with a big singing contest. We always had a singing contest, where the elementary kids would sing a song to end Mass, like we do here, and they had the hand motions and the dance. The high school kids would then try to outdo them, then everyone would kind of go crazy with the song, and the parents would cry with joy and the gym being filled with all these kids singing and praising God. Very emotional and very, very cool. Gratitude goes a long way. I would pray and hope that our students at Cathedral would know this and appreciate it and would thank their parents for continuing the great gift of Catholic schools, and that they will send their own kids to a Catholic school someday. These students get in motion a door decorating, choose a core value for each hallway and more. I always look forward to the liturgy because in the liturgy, it is truly our way of coming together to worship and coming together to the altar to receive Jesus and to thank him for the opportunity to be here. Also, we will have a series of banners and posters throughout the school that celebrate this special week. The Holy Cross Council will hang up signs that read National Catholic Schools Week to shed light to the values of Holy Cross and show appreciation and celebration for this week. This is an opportunity to recognize all of the spiritual leaders, teachers, administrators and others who contribute their gifts to make a Catholic education a reality for young people. Guerin Catholic Principal Mr. James McNeany explained why he is thankful to be a leader of a Catholic high school. It is both an honor and an overwhelming responsibility. We do have an all-school Mass one day that week. We also invite our other deanery fifth graders to attend that Mass with us and participate in the various ministries during the liturgy. High school is a little more low key, probably to the disappointment of some. He said students usually get dress down days every day during the week, but the themes always vary on what student council decides. Weisenbach explained one of the traditions that happens annually during Catholic Schools Week. My favorite, though, has been having alumni come back and speak about their experience at RHS and its impact on their life. This has been the case for Weisenbach for 36 years. I also like working with others who are committed to making the world a better place I love being able to work with young people daily, not only on helping them advance their academic skills but also grow their faith in Jesus. Teaching knowledge does not necessarily led to teaching the heart, but forming the heart makes it easier to teach the mind.

### 5: Let's Make Sure All Schools Celebrate Veterans Day! | HuffPost

*Beginning Jan. 29, the National Catholic Educational Association will sponsor the annual celebration Catholic Schools Week. Across the nation, schools typically celebrate Mass together, hold open houses or create friendly competition from a variety of events.*

We can, and should, create schools that are welcoming and supportive of the children who must frequently adapt to new schools, new peer groups and have one or both parents deployed around the globe. The Military Child Education Coalition estimates that close to four million children of veteran and military families are currently in our public schools. After 13 years of war, many deployments, multiple school transitions, and now with our troops fighting ISIS and the spread of Ebola, this type of recognition by civilians within a school is meaningful to the children of military members and veterans who attend public schools. These gestures also educate millions of civilian students, staff, and parents about the sacrifices of our troops and veterans. In the public schools where my students are completing their internships, this activity can be implemented in a variety of simple, yet straight-forward ways. It might include inviting a veteran to speak to students, sharing special announcements over the speaker system or even asking students to bring in photos of active duty service members and veterans in their families to post in the hallways--what one school described as a "pride board. Other graduate students have helped organize school-wide assemblies with music and colorful military presentations. We highlight them on our website , in our newsletters and in a collection of guidebooks we published to give schools strategies for how to create a school culture that supports military-connected children and families. So imagine how shocked I was, this year, when several civilian school principals in the Los Angeles County region not located near many bases took offense with this assignment, even though Veterans Day has been a national holiday since One principal was seriously concerned that we were violating the confidentiality of families by asking them for photos of family members or by inviting veterans to speak at school--as if being a military or veteran family is a clinical, psychological, or medical condition. Another administrator was concerned that recognizing Veterans Day would take time away from academic learning in the classroom. I argued that recognizing veterans has cultural, historic, and civic value and helps schools fulfill their mission of educating children. Another administrator argued that he did not see any reason to make Veterans Day a "big deal" since his school did not have any military or veteran children. I responded that, according to a recently released report by the Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families, the Los Angeles county region has more than , veterans and another 12, veterans return to this area each year. They and their children become invisible in large metropolitan school districts. Now they will know where these students attend school and offer the support they need. Imagine a child who has already been to five or six schools and might only see his military or veteran parent for a few months at a time. Then imagine how meaningful it would be to that child to be asked to share a photo of that parent or to see flags raised in honor of those who have served. LAUSD is only one of 81 school districts in Los Angeles County so more needs to be done by other districts in the Los Angeles area, across California, and large urban cities across the nation that have large numbers of veteran families now integrating into civilian society. As many as 10 states are already taking legislative steps to encourage military-connected families to identify themselves. This will help raise awareness, direct needed resources, create more culturally sensitive schools, and support children of veterans who unlike children from military families with Department of Defense supports, have almost no supports from the Veterans Administration. But clearly, these policy changes--and the reasons why they are important--are not filtering down to many public schools. Service members are part of our past, our present and our future. In fact, there are new reports that up to 4, troops will be helping in the battle to eradicate Ebola, and then they may be quarantined for more than three weeks after returning from West Africa. How will this affect these soldiers and their families? Why have a national Veterans Day if large numbers of urban public schools just ignore its purpose, which is to openly and unabashedly celebrate all those who served and are serving our country? Their children and families have served too! Veterans Day is for all Americans to stop and thank those who have, are or will serve to protect the freedoms we enjoy. All schools can and should

celebrate Veterans Day whether or not they have any military-connected children.

### 6: 11 Ways to Celebrate Your Child's Birthday at School | [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)

*Schools across the country are preparing to celebrate the fifth annual Every Kid Healthy Week, April , to mark their accomplishments in creating healthier school environments for students.*

The occasion is celebrated on 14th November every year with great splendor and grandeur. The day is celebrated to pay tribute to this legendary freedom fighter for his long struggle to achieve independence from the British. To add on, Nehru was extremely fond of young children. This occasion is commemorated on a national level with celebrations in all schools. Not only an eminent figure and national leader, Nehru loved children and spend quite a lot of time with them. Hence, Nehru was also known as Chacha Nehru out of respect and admiration. Schools and educational institutions all over India mark the occasion as a grand fiesta. Schools are not closed on this day. Moreover, children attend school not to study but to get involved in numerous activities and events awaiting them out there. Teachers organize different cultural programs and events for students. Children participate in various activities, such as singing, dancing, painting, drawing, quizzes, story telling, elocutions, fancy dress, debates, speeches, and so on. The winning students are rewarded generously. The competitions are not only organized by schools, but also by social and corporate institutions. Instead, they put on colorful and their best dresses. They are treated with sweets and luxurious delicacies as lunch. Excitement and enjoyment lies ahead for kids at school. Teachers disguise themselves as children and present dramas and dances for their beloved students. Picnics and tours are also planned for them. Numerous movies targeting the young generation are telecasted on television. [Comment On This Article.](#)

### 7: St. Mary's School Preparing To Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

*Margaret Bick is the author of Alive in the Spirit! ( avg rating, 0 ratings, 0 reviews), Preparing to Celebrate in Schools ( avg rating, 1 rating.*

To honor your teachers and show your sincere gratitude to them, you may arrange a number of interesting activities, on the day. To celebrate the day, make a plan that includes all the necessary details, including the duties assigned to each student. Teachers have been the light bearers to the students since ages. They have been managed to mold the life of innumerable people, in a positive way. Writing a letter to the teacher is something that is purely inconceivable to a large number of people out there. However, when it comes to shy students, letter forms the best mode of communication with the teacher. They not only educate children, but also help turn them into responsible adults. Without them, none of us would have been able to reach the place in our life as well as career, which we hold today. It is a time when students show their affection to them. They are future makers. None of the achievers in this world has attained a feat without the guidance of a teacher. On this day, students organize cultural programs and celebrate the event with mirth and gusto. This is a special day to show your gratitude and reverence to your teachers. Teachers dedicate their entire life mentoring countless children and such people are undoubtedly worth honoring. Right from kindergarten to college, they teach us and enlighten us on all aspects of learning. They guide and inspire us to have a sense of purpose in life and goad us to pursue the right career path. They mold us to become better human beings and social citizens of the world. It is impossible to measure the immense contribution that teachers have made in our lives. If yes, it is commendable but if no, you should think about it. There are many ways to celebrate this occasion but the question is how organized

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### 8: The Hartford Courant - We are currently unavailable in your region

*READER SUBMITTED: Mercy High School Preparing To Celebrate 50 Years Of Tradition Marie Kalita-Leary, Mercy High School Mercy High School in Middletown turned 50 years old this year.*

### 9: Celebrating Christmas in Public Schools (Education)

*School birthday celebrations can be fun, academic, and still leave your child beaming with birthday bliss! In the weeks leading up to your child's big day, check in with her teacher to create a celebration that fits in with the school day while making your child feel special.*

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