

## Title I Calendar *Connecting Home and School*

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### Celebrate “International Day of Families” – May 15<sup>th</sup>

Since 1993, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed May 15 as International Day of Families. Every year this annual observance focuses on the importance of issues relating to families. A different theme is highlighted each year. This day calls attention to the importance of the family unit but also to the many issues afflicting families throughout the world such as poverty, hunger and lack of educational opportunities.

The dictionary defines “family” as a simple concept, but it is difficult to find a simple definition of “Family.” Today, the definition of family is constantly evolving. You hear terms of blended family/extended family/nuclear family.

The pbskids.org website asked children to define family. One child, identified only as “Be Happy,” describes a family “as a group of people who love each other, even if they argue. Sometimes they can be related by blood, but don’t have to be. They just have to love each other.”

The theme for 2017 is “Families, education and well-being”. The emphasis being on celebrating the role of families and family-oriented policies in promoting early childhood education and lifelong learning opportunities for children and youth. It celebrates families being their child’s first teacher and how all the caregivers in a family are responsible for the welfare of children.

Some activities on how families can celebrate this day:

- 1) Explain the significance of the day and then set aside time to have each family member write a letter to every other member in the family. Tell everyone how important they are to you.
- 2) Read aloud to your children – no matter what the age, children love to be read to and listen to a story.
- 3) Talk to your child and tell them stories of your childhood. If English is not your first language, relay the story in your native language. Children love to hear stories of when their parents/guardians were young.
- 4) Turn off the video games and television and play a board game such as Scrabble or Monopoly. Playing games together encourages conversation.
- 5) If the weather is warm, travel to your nearby park and have a picnic. Remember to pack a healthy snack and relax in the sunshine.
- 6) Exercise with your child – ride a bike, play ball, jump rope, throw a Frisbee.

International Family Day emphasizes the importance of families – not just on this day but every day and how important it is to make memories with your children that can last a lifetime.

Sources: pbskids.org.

<https://www.surfexcel.in/home.html> “International Family Day: A Day for Family Games and Activities

[www.un.org/en/events/family\\_day](http://www.un.org/en/events/family_day)

The Cambridge Public Schools encourages families to become aware of what their child is learning and to support and monitor their child’s education. May 2017.