



July News 2020



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Happy Birthday America!

Volume: 78

Brentwood Academy News



Friday 3
School Closed

Blue Bird of Alexandria News



Friday 3
School Closed

Blue Bird of Vienna



Friday 3
School Closed

July 7, 1898 - President [William McKinley](#) signed a resolution annexing Hawaii. In 1900, Congress made Hawaii an incorporated territory of the U.S., which it remained until becoming a state in 1959

July 21, 1898 - Guam was ceded to the United States by Spain.

*Bring it in with a bang and yell and a shout **But remember to put all those camp fires out** Happy Birthday*



Tiny Tots Playroom News



Friday 3
School Closed

Blue Bird of Alexandria II News



Friday 3
School Closed

We do not want to see your car towed. PLEASE park in the designated area ONLY. We are receiving complaints from neighbors when their spaces are occupied

Water Smarts

Many 2-year-olds are fascinated by water. How do you expose them to water activities but keep them safe? As the weather gets warmer, your toddler is apt to spend more time outdoors and near water. Water poses an especially grave menace to your child. Children this age can drown in just a few inches of water.

If your neighbor has a pool, be sure that it's fenced in and that the gate is kept securely locked. With a pool at your own or a relative's house, take extra precautions. Consider buying a floating alarm device that sounds when anything falls into the water; keep a safety ring with a rope attached to it by the pool; and, if possible, have a telephone nearby with a list of emergency numbers. Don't allow these measures to lull you into a false sense of security, however; constant supervision is essential.

And never leave water in open containers, such as the bucket you've used to wash your car or your child's plastic wading pool. Most 2-year-olds think water is more fun to play with than any item on the shelves of Toys "R" Us. Some innocent exploration could lead to a serious accident. You may want to enroll your toddler in a "water baby" class. That's okay, but view it only as a fun, shared activity with Mom or Dad. Your 2- or even 3-year-old probably won't learn to swim yet, let alone be water safe, as a result of these classes.

Blue Bird Dayschool News



Friday 3
School Closed

4th Of July Fun Facts

Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national animal but was outvoted when John Adams and Thomas Jefferson chose the bald eagle.

Over an estimated 150 million hot dogs will be consumed the Fourth of July. That's roughly one dog for every two people in the US

Over \$211 million has been spent on the importation of fireworks from China.

Oddly, the majority of the nation's flags and patriotic paraphernalia in relation to the Fourth of July is produced in China.

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1776 U.S. declares independence

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence, which proclaims the independence of the United States of America from Great Britain and its king. The declaration came 442 days after the first volleys of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts and marked an ideological expansion of the conflict that would eventually encourage France's intervention on behalf of the Patriots.

The first major American opposition to British policy came in 1765 after Parliament passed the Stamp Act, a taxation measure to raise revenues for a standing British army in America. Under the banner of "no taxation without representation," colonists convened the Stamp Act Congress in October 1765 to vocalize their opposition to the tax. With its enactment in November, most colonists called for a boycott of British goods, and some organized attacks on the customhouses and homes of tax collectors. After months of protest in the colonies, Parliament voted to repeal the Stamp Act in March 1766.

Most colonists continued to quietly accept British rule until Parliament's enactment of the Tea Act in 1773, a bill designed to save the faltering East India Company by greatly lowering its tea tax and granting it a monopoly on the American tea trade. The low tax allowed the East India Company to undercut even tea smuggled into America by Dutch traders, and many colonists viewed the act as another example of taxation tyranny. In response, militant Patriots in Massachusetts organized the "Boston Tea Party," which saw British tea valued at some 18,000 pounds dumped into Boston Harbor.

Parliament, outraged by the Boston Tea Party and other blatant acts of destruction of British property, enacted the Coercive Acts, also known as the Intolerable Acts, in 1774. The Coercive Acts closed Boston to merchant shipping, established formal British military rule in Massachusetts, made British officials immune to criminal prosecution in America, and required colonists to quarter British troops. The colonists subsequently called the first Continental Congress to consider a united American resistance to the British.

With the other colonies watching intently, Massachusetts led the resistance to the British, forming a shadow revolutionary government and establishing militias to resist the increasing British military presence across the colony. In April 1775, Thomas Gage, the British governor of Massachusetts, ordered British troops to march to Concord, Massachusetts, where a Patriot arsenal was known to be located. On April 19, 1775, the British regulars encountered a group of American militiamen at Lexington, and the first shots of the American Revolution were fired.

Initially, both the Americans and the British saw the conflict as a kind of civil war within the British Empire: To King George III it was a colonial rebellion, and to the Americans it was a struggle for their rights as British citizens. However, Parliament remained unwilling to negotiate with the American rebels and instead purchased German mercenaries to help the British army crush the rebellion. In response to Britain's continued opposition to reform, the Continental Congress began to pass measures abolishing British authority in the colonies.

In January 1776, Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, an influential political pamphlet that convincingly argued for American independence and sold more than 500,000 copies in a few months. In the spring of 1776, support for independence swept the colonies, the Continental Congress called for states to form their own governments, and a five-man committee was assigned to draft a declaration.

The Declaration of Independence was largely the work of Virginian Thomas Jefferson. In justifying American independence, Jefferson drew generously from the political philosophy of John Locke, an advocate of natural rights, and from the work of other English theorists. The first section features the famous lines, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The second part presents a long list of grievances that provided the rationale for rebellion.

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to approve a Virginia motion calling for separation from Britain. The dramatic words of this resolution were added to the closing of the Declaration of Independence. Two days later, on July 4, the declaration was formally adopted by 12 colonies after minor revision. New York approved it on July 19. On August 2, the declaration was signed.

The American War for Independence would last for five more years. Yet to come were the Patriot triumphs at Saratoga, the bitter winter at Valley Forge, the intervention of the French, and the final victory at Yorktown in 1781. In 1783, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris with Britain, the United States formally became a free and independent nation.

1826 Death of the founding fathers

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the second and third presidents of the United States, respectively, die on this day, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Both men had been central in the drafting of the historic document; Jefferson had authored it, and Adams, who was known as the "colossus of the debate," served on the drafting committee and had argued eloquently for the declaration's passage.



Rosetta Stone found

July 19 1799, during Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign, a French soldier discovers a black basalt slab inscribed with ancient writing near the town of Rosetta, about 35 miles east of Alexandria. The irregularly shaped stone contained fragments of passages written in three different scripts: Greek, Egyptian hieroglyphics and Egyptian demotic. The ancient Greek on the Rosetta Stone told archaeologists that it was inscribed by priests honoring the king of Egypt, Ptolemy V, in the second century B.C. More startlingly, the Greek passage announced that the three scripts were all of identical meaning. The artifact thus held the key to solving the riddle of hieroglyphics, a written language that had been "dead" for nearly 2,000 years.

When Napoleon, an emperor known for his enlightened view of education, art and culture, invaded Egypt in 1798, he took along a group of scholars and told them to seize all important cultural artifacts for France. Pierre Bouchard, one of Napoleon's soldiers, was aware of this order when he found the basalt stone, which was almost four feet long and two-and-a-half feet wide, at a fort near Rosetta. When the British defeated Napoleon in 1801, they took possession of the Rosetta Stone.

Several scholars, including Englishman Thomas Young made progress with the initial hieroglyphics analysis of the Rosetta Stone. French Egyptologist Jean-Francois Champollion (1790-1832), who had taught himself ancient languages, ultimately cracked the code and deciphered the hieroglyphics using his knowledge of Greek as a guide. Hieroglyphics used pictures to represent objects, sounds and groups of sounds. Once the Rosetta Stone inscriptions were translated, the language and culture of ancient Egypt was suddenly open to scientists as never before.

Millard Fillmore sworn in as 13th U.S. president

July 10 1850, Vice President Millard Fillmore is sworn in as the 13th president of the United States. President Zachary Taylor had died the day before, five days after falling ill with a severe intestinal ailment on the Fourth of July.

Fillmore's manner of ascending to the presidency earned him the nickname His Accidency. He was only the second man to inherit the presidency after a president's death. The first was John Tyler, who had assumed the presidency in 1841 after William Henry Harrison died of pneumonia 30 days into office.

Safe Fun in the Sun

Playing outdoors poses a number of potential pitfalls for your child. We outline the offenders, from sun exposure to playground equipment.

Outdoor play-even when there's no water for miles-can pose other potential pitfalls. A sunburn or any unprotected sun exposure is chief among them, especially as the earth's protective ozone layer diminishes. The Environmental Protection Agency now predicts that the number of skin cancer cases will soar in the next four decades, causing an additional 200,000 deaths over that time.

Apply a waterproof sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 to your child's exposed skin each time she goes out to play-not just at the beach or the pool. Take special care on areas that are likely to burn, such as the nose, ears, shoulders, and around clothing or bathing suit lines. Reapply sunscreen every 90 minutes or so for maximum coverage, and limit the time spent in the sun, especially between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., when the sun's rays are most intense. And have your child wear a hat with a wide brim whenever possible. A backyard can be a safe haven for your toddler to play in, especially if it's fenced. Always supervise outdoor play; even in a fenced-in area, there can be unsuspected hazards. One often overlooked danger lurks in the leaves, berries, and flowers of certain plants, so canvass your backyard carefully for species that pose a hazard.

If you cook on the grill, treat it with the same caution as you would a stove. Have your child keep his distance, explaining that a grill is hot and is not to be touched.

In the garage, store lawn chemicals, insecticides, and lighter fluid up high and out of reach. The same rule applies to tools and sharp objects such as nails and screws. If you have an electric garage door opener, keep the controls out of your toddler's reach, and make sure the door has a functioning safety-stop mechanism to prevent accidents.

Playgrounds are another toddler paradise that, ideally, should offer fun with no threat of injury. Unfortunately, that's not always the case. For 2-year-olds especially, many traditional playgrounds can be downright dangerous-not to mention intimidating. That's because the slides and the jungle gyms tower much too high for this age group, and the swings may not be equipped with safety bars or infant seats to protect small children from spills.

Look for playgrounds designed specifically for toddlers. A lot of towns have them. If your area doesn't, find out whether your local preschool opens its playground to the public at certain times of the day, such as in the early evening during the summertime.

Once you find a playground that fits the bill for you, make sure that sand, wood chips, or soft matting has been placed under equipment such as swings and bars. Concrete or asphalt can be unforgiving in the event of a fall. Then supervise your child carefully. It's a time for him to spread his wings, test his limits, and know that Mommy or Daddy is there to help him through a few inevitable (and, hopefully, minor) tumbles!