



# July News 2025



July 2025

Happy Birthday America!

Volume: 78

## Brentwood Academy News



**Friday July 4**  
**School Closed**

Blue Bird of Alexandria News



**Friday July 4**  
**School Closed**

Blue Bird of Vienna



**Friday July 4**  
**School Closed**

July 9, 1868 - The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The Amendment defined U.S. citizenship and prohibited individual States from abridging the rights of any American citizen without due process and equal protection under the law. The Amendment also barred individuals involved in rebellion against the U.S. from holding public office.



*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 July 4**  
**School Closed**

Blue Bird of Alexandria II News



**Friday July 4**  
**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**

## 5 Tips for July 4th Safety

As America celebrates Independence Day, here are some tips for a safe holiday.

Grill away from overhead power lines, buildings, decks and low tree branches.

Assume a downed power line is energized. Stay away and call 911 and PG&E.

Keep balloons, kites and remote-controlled toys away from power lines.

Keep fireworks away from power lines and other electric components.

Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire.

Blue Bird Dayschool News



**Friday July 4**  
**School Closed**

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### 4th Of July Fun Facts

Americans Will Enjoy 150 Million Hot Dogs During the 4th According to the National Sausage and Hot Dog Council (NHDSC), Americans are expected to eat 150 million hot dogs over the July 4th holiday. This is part of an estimated 7 billion that are expected to be eaten during the summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Only Two Men Signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, Charles Thompson and the infamous John Hancock were the only two men who actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The other 54 delegates signed over the course of the next month.

# The Story of the Fourth of July

## The Declaration of Independence

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

## So what did happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broad sides, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!

## How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

After the War of 1812, the Federalist party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years



after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

*Did You Know? "Yankee Doodle," a popular American patriotic song, was originally sung prior to the Revolution by British military officers in mockery of the unorganized and buckskin-wearing "Yankees"*





## July 16, 1969 Apollo 11 departs Earth

At 9:32 a.m. EDT, Apollo 11, the first U.S. lunar landing mission, is launched on a historic journey to the surface of the moon. After traveling 240,000 miles in 76 hours, Apollo 11 entered into a lunar orbit on July 19.

The next day, at 1:46 p.m., the lunar module Eagle, manned by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, separated from the command module, where a third astronaut, Michael Collins, remained. Two hours later, the Eagle began its descent to the lunar surface, and at 4:18 p.m. the craft touched down on the southwestern edge of the Sea of Tranquility. Armstrong immediately radioed to Mission Control in Houston a famous message, “The Eagle has landed.” At 10:39 p.m., five hours ahead of the original schedule, Armstrong opened the hatch of the lunar module. Seventeen minutes later, at 10:56 p.m., Armstrong spoke the following words to millions listening at home: “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” A moment later, he stepped off the lunar module’s ladder, becoming the first human to walk on the surface of the moon.



Aldrin joined him on the moon’s surface at 11:11 p.m., and together they took photographs of the terrain, planted a U.S. flag, ran a few simple scientific tests, and spoke with President Richard M. Nixon via Houston. By 1:11 a.m. on July 21, both astronauts were back in the lunar module, and the hatch was closed. The two men slept that night on the surface of the moon, and at 1:54 p.m. the Eagle began its ascent back to the command module. Among the items left on the surface of the moon was a plaque that read: “Here men from the planet Earth first set foot on the moon—July 1969 A.D.—We came in peace for all mankind.” At 5:35 p.m., Armstrong and Aldrin successfully docked and rejoined Collins, and at 12:56 a.m. on July 22 Apollo 11 began its journey home, safely splashing down in the Pacific Ocean at 12:51 p.m. on July 24.

There would be five more successful lunar landing missions, and one unplanned lunar swing-by, Apollo 13. The last men to walk on the moon, astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt of the Apollo 17 mission, left the lunar surface on December 14, 1972. The Apollo program was a costly and labor intensive endeavor, involving an estimated 400,000 engineers, technicians, and scientists, and costing \$24 billion (close to \$100 billion in today’s dollars). The expense was justified by President John F. Kennedy’s 1961 mandate to beat the Soviets to the moon, and after the feat was accomplished, ongoing missions lost their viability.

## Summer Safety Rules

**Sunscreen** According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, everyone should apply sunscreen if they plan on being outside for an extended period during the summer. Even on cloudy days, ultraviolet rays from the sun can burn the skin. Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before heading outside, and use a product that has an SPF of at least 15. The higher the SPF number, the more protection from the sun’s rays the product offers.

**Clothing** Always wear lighter-colored clothing in the summer. Darker clothes absorb the sun’s rays and can cause you to overheat very quickly.

**Water** Drink plenty of fluids when active in the summer heat. Drink water at least once every 20 minutes of activity. The American Association of Pediatrics recommends that you drink at least nine ounces of water whether you are thirsty or not.

**Pool Safety** Monitor younger children in the pool, and do not allow older children to be physically aggressive with younger ones while swimming. Discourage running around the edge of the pool because the area may be wet and slippery.

**Grilling** Keep small children and pets away from the grill while it is in use. If you have a gas grill and it does not light immediately, turn off the gas supply and allow the propane gas smell to dissipate completely before turning the gas back on and trying again. Avoid wearing clothing that hangs loose when grilling, and make sure you keep your face away from the grill each time you raise the lid to check on cooking progress.

**Bugs** Avoid areas of standing water or dense foliage because these are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. If you plan on being in a wooded area, apply a sufficient amount of bug repellent. If you are stung by a bee and you are allergic to bee stings, get to a hospital emergency room immediately.

