April Showers Bring May Flowers

Celebrating Star Wars Day on May 4th, Cinco de Mayo on May 5th, thanking teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week (5/5-5/11) including Teachers Day on the 7th, Mother’s Day on the 12th, and Memorial Day on May 27th. This beautiful month of May, take time to appreciate everything. From cultural celebration, to mothers/mother figures, teachers, and the Star Wars franchise, Holmstead, along with the rest of the world has many things to be grateful for.

Including allergies.
Star Wars Day

Premiered in 1977, Star Wars was an instant success, remaining one of the most financially successful film of all time almost 40 years later, with over 2.5 billion dollars in earnings since the release. A game-changer in special effects, adventure and and imagination appeared to audiences of all ages. The Reagan Administration’s Strategic Defense Program was mockingly nicknamed “Star Wars”. “May the Fourth be with you” was first used to celebrate the election of Margaret Thatcher on May 4th, 1979. The saying caught on quickly and is used to this day all around the world. In 2001, at the Toronto Underground Cinema, the first Star Wars Day was celebrated on May 4th. Movie marathons, fans’ parodies and costume contests were included in the festivities of Star Wars Day. Since then, popularity for Star Wars and its franchise has grown to be loved by fans worldwide.

Star Wars films were labeled as episodes that were released out of order.

Star Wars films by release date:
1. Episode 4: Star Wars (1977)
2. Episode 5: The Empire Strikes Back (1980)
5. Episode 8: The Last Jedi (2016)
-Prequel trilogy-
Cinco De Mayo

On the fifth of May, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in Mexico and the United States. This holiday recognizes the victory of the Mexican army over French troops at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War in 1862. Benito Juárez, a lawyer and member of the indigenous Zapotec tribe was elected in 1861 as the president of Mexico. With the devastating financial status at the time, the new president was forced to default European government debt payments. France, Britain and Spain demanded repayment, sending naval forces to Veracruz, Mexico. Britain and Spain were able to negotiate with Mexico, withdrawing their forces. Napoleon III, the ruler of France decided to seize the opportunity, and Mexico, and use the territory to carve an empire. Late in 1861, President Juárez and his government were driven into retreat by a well-armed French fleet in Veracruz. President Juárez rounded up 2,000 loyal men and sent them to Puebla de Los Ángeles, a small town in east-central Mexico, to fight against 6,000 French troops under General Charles Latrille de Lorencez. Outnumbered, with little supplies, the Mexican army, led by General Ignacio Zaragoza, had scarce hope. May 5th, 1862, Lorencez led an assault on Puebla with his heavily armed forces. The battle lasted from daybreak to early evening, seeing that the French had more casualties than the Mexicans, Lorencez withdrew his army and the Mexican army had won. Nearly 500 French men were lost. Fewer than 100 Mexican men had been killed. Zaragoza’s success in Battle of Puebla on May 5 was a great symbolic victory for the government and reinforced the resistance movement. Primarily celebrated in the state of Puebla, Cinco de Mayo is also observed in other parts of the country. Military parades and recreations of the Battle of Puebla are traditional festive events. Not everyone takes part in the festivities. Many Mexicans see May 5th as just another day: Since it is not a federal holiday, banks, stores and offices still operate. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is illuminated as an acknowledgement of Mexican heritage and culture, mainly in areas with Mexican-American populations. Today, parades, music, dancing and traditional food are included in the celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Houston, Chicago and Los Angeles hold the largest festivals.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who risked their lives serving in the United States military. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day, officially becoming a federal holiday in 1971, even though it originated in the years after the Civil War. Those who observe Memorial Day usually visit
cemeteries, memorials, hold parades and family gatherings to honor the brave soldiers who fought for our country.

**Mothers Day**

On Sunday, May 12th, 2019, the United States honored motherhood by gifting flowers, cards, and other gifts. Motherhood and mothers have been celebrated since ancient Greeks and Romans, honoring goddesses, such as Rhea and Cybele. In the mid-19th century, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped institute “Mothers’ Day Work Clubs” to educate women on proper care for their children. With the country still divided over the Civil War, these clubs became a unifying force. “Mothers’ Friendship Day” was arranged by Jarvis in 1868; mothers of former Union and Confederate soldiers gathered to urge reconciliation. After the death of Ann Reeves Jarvis in 1905, her daughter, Anna Jarvis formulated Mother’s Day to honor mothers and all that they have sacrificed for their children. The first official Mother’s Day celebration was held in a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia, organized by Anna Jarvis and financially backed by a Philadelphia store owner, John Wanamaker, in May 1908. Thousand of people also attended a Mother’s Day event at one of Wanamaker’s stores in Philadelphia. Arguing that American holidays were biased towards achievements of males, Jarvis organized a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and politicians urging a day honoring motherhood. By 1912, Jarvis established the Mother’s Day International Association to encourage her cause and many churches, towns and states adopted Mother’s Day as an annual holiday. In 1914, Jarvis had been awarded for her persistence when the second Sunday in May was announced Mother’s Day officially becoming a national holiday. Mother’s Day is not limited to the United States with countries around the world with their own versions and traditions. Due to the high demand for flowers, chocolate, and gifts for Mother’s Day, consumer spending has reached heights of over $20 billion.

**Teacher Appreciation Week/ Teacher Day**

Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated each year on the first full week in May. Teacher Day is the Tuesday of the first full week in May. 3.5 million teachers work full time, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, 3.1 million in public schools and 0.4 million in private. First introduced by Congress on March 7th, 1980, National Teacher Day was observed by The National Education
Association on the first Tuesday in March until the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week to be the first full week of May in 1985.

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Nick Scott– WCBB

Holmstead had a visitor on May 15, 2019 that had a powerful message and an incredible story of being your own person and finding the sun in a sky full of clouds. At 16 years old, Nick Scott was living a normal teenage life with interests in athletics, when a severe car crash changed his life forever. The crash left him paraplegic and depressed. His life started spiraling, he started gaining weight and losing hope. With determination, and a strong mindset, Nick Scott started turning his disability into a possibility. Nick Scott achieved great things after that. He became a IFBB Professional Wheelchair Bodybuilder, Champion Wheelchair Ballroom Dancer and the Founder/CEO/President of Wheelchair Bodybuilding, Inc. amongst other things. Nick Scott began visiting High Schools, Universities, Corporations, Business Groups as well as the fitness world, reaching 48 states and 8 countries, so far, using his personal examples to reach out to, speaking about his path to success and how being unique and different is okay. With engagement with the crowd and telling a story more than a lecture, Nick Scott certainly touched the hearts of Holmstead.
Holmstead had a blast on Thursday, May 23rd at Portobello Banquets, dancing, eating and most importantly enjoying the night with each other. Everyone who attended had a fantastic time. If you don’t believe it, the pictures show it all.
Graduateses

This year, even though it was a small group, we commend the graduates of 2019, for sticking through the tough years of high school, and kicking butt while doing it. Congratulations go out to: Meredith, Holly, Matt, Colton and Gabe for finishing out a great year and closing a chapter, preparing for a new one. Good luck!