



Susan Heim *On Parenting*

Susan M. Heim, parenting author and "Chicken Soup for the Soul" editor, shares her personal and professional thoughts and experiences about raising children in today's world.

Happy National Punctuation Day!

NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY[®]

“A celebration of the lowly comma, correctly used quotes, and other proper uses of periods, semicolons, and the ever-mysterious ellipsis.”

Featured in Chase's Calendar of Events

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I make my living as an editor and writer, so I have to admit that I'm a real stickler for proper punctuation and grammar. I drive myself crazy finding mistakes in magazines and newspapers. So, you can imagine my enthusiasm in finding out that there's actually a National Punctuation Day! It's been going on for six years, and I never knew it!

The holiday, celebrated every September 24th, was founded by Jeff



Rubin, a journalist who also became frustrated by all the errors he encountered while working. The holiday, though, is really aimed at schoolchildren in an effort to encourage good grammar and punctuation. Every year, teachers and students create various games and activities to celebrate National Punctuation Day, and Rubin is even holding a contest this year to discover the best punctuation-themed baked goods!



Now that kids and adults are using their own version of shorthand to send text messages, emails and tweets, the art

of proper punctuation and spelling is being lost. I encourage you to visit www.nationalpunctuationday.com/ to learn more about this terrific holiday. If you hurry, there's still time to enter the baking contest before it ends on September 30th! The website also has other ideas for celebrating National Punctuation Day, information on using correct punctuation, punctuation-related products you can purchase, a newsletter, and much more.

Thanks, Jeff Rubin, for creating my new favorite holiday! And you, dear reader, can celebrate at your house by making the official Punctuation Day Meat Loaf recipe found on the National Punctuation Day website. Happy punctuating!