

## APRIL – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### **1. Will Keith Kellogg**

Will Keith Kellogg was born on April 7, 1860, in Battle Creek, Michigan. He never received a formal education beyond the sixth grade but through hard work and determination built a hugely successful cereal empire. He founded the Kellogg Company at the age of 46. Kellogg started his work life as a stock boy in the hospital where his older brother, John Harvey Kellogg, was physician-in-chief. Gradually, Will was given more responsibility at the hospital. Together, he and his brother conducted extensive research aimed at improving the vegetarian diet of the hospital's patients. The wheat flake was actually discovered by accident but soon became a favorite of the patients, and many requested it be sent to them even after they were released from care. Thus, the Kellogg cereal company got its start. Though Will Kellogg amassed much wealth, he lived a modest life and gave much of his money to charitable organizations. He is probably best known for his invention of Kellogg's Cornflakes.

### **2. National Garden Month**

National Garden Month is the creation of the National Gardening Association (NGA) and is celebrated in April each year. For over 35 years, the NGA has sought to sustain and promote the essential connection between people, plants, and the environment. The organization is a non-profit leader in plant-based education and endeavors to make free materials available to schools and communities. Research has shown that nurturing plants is good for people, improving attitudes toward health and nutrition, helping kids perform better in school, and even fostering an increase in community spirit. The many and varied activities planned for National Garden Month each April offer schools the perfect opportunity to educate students about the value of plants and the beauty, fun, and health benefits of gardening.

### **3. Wilbur Wright**

Wilbur Wright was born on April 16, 1867, in Millville, Indiana. He and his brother Orville were fascinated with the idea of flight. Their interest was first sparked when they received the gift of a toy helicopter-like top from their father. Wilbur began to voraciously read everything he could about aviation. After much trial and error, the Wright brothers created their "flying machine" and made history with the first ever, heavier than air, manned, powered flight in 1903. Their initial achievement was doubted and undermined, however. The brothers persisted and persevered, in spite of opposition, and eventually were able to win over both the public and the bureaucrats. In 1908 and 1909, Wilbur became quite a celebrity, thrilling audiences abroad and at home with his fantastic flights. Wilbur Wright died of typhoid fever in 1912 at the age of 45. His life may have been relatively short, but it was filled with achievements in flight and many other things, as well. In 1965, he was selected for the *Hall of Fame for Great Americans*.