

THE CALENDAR OF

AWESOME

2012 DAILY  
CALENDAR

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CHRONICLE BOOKS  
SAN FRANCISCO

# So what's this all about?

When one spring night a few years ago I started jotting down a list of **awesome things**, I never imagined my thoughts on the smell of gasoline, thinking it's Thursday when it's really Friday, or wearing underwear just out of the dryer would take off the way it has. My blog **1000AwesomeThings.com** started as a reminder—in a world of rising sea levels, global conflict, and a troubled economy—of the daily joys that make life sweet: **finding money in my coat pocket**, dropping my cell phone on the ground and realizing it's totally fine, or the smell of a bakery . . .

In the years since, I've found that taking note of these little moments can really make an awesome difference in our stressed, jam-packed lives.

We all need to celebrate the awesome that surrounds us. Every day of the year. So come on into *The Calendar of Awesome* and, for just a minute each day, stop and appreciate all the tiny joys that make life

**AWESOME!**

— Neil Pasricha

# Staring ahead at a brand new year

Because anything could happen.

And maybe anything will.

**AWESOME!**

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 31

SUNDAY

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day

# When you're really tired and about to fall asleep and someone throws a blanket on you

When you start drifting on the couch you enter that blissful semi conscious **Pre-Nap World** where your thoughts float and zoom around your brain and your muscles relax and de-intensify. The sun feels warm on your face, the radio in the background fades to a comforting white noise, and you know . . . you just know . . . that you're about to fall asleep.

That's why it's great whenever someone notices you lying there and quietly grabs a blanket from the closet to

toss on your semi conscious self. When that happens, you immediately feel the warmth radiating around you, a tiny smile curls itself on the corners of your lips, and you fall deeper and deeper into a nice, relaxing rest.

**AWESOME!**

MONDAY

JANUARY 2

# When the dog's really excited you're back home

Greasy forehead, sore ankles, and a dull headache cap your traffic-jammy ride home from a long day at work. Dragging yourself to the door, your stomach rumbles and grumbles as you picture the bland frozen burrito you're gonna nuke for dinner.

Yeah, the day got you down, the day knocked you out, but suddenly you unlock the door and your mood zooms sky-high as there's a BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK!!! waiting.

Someone's happy to see you.

AWESOME!

TUESDAY

JANUARY 3

# When the person you're ordering pizza with likes the same toppings as you

Because it's always best avoiding debates about whether your **pineapple juice** will drip over to my side of the pie.

**AWESOME!**

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 4

# Sucking in your stomach just before the picture is taken

When someone whips out a camera, it's time to suck it in, baby. Eye the trigger finger and pull in when they push down. After all, maybe there's a six-pack under that stained and baggy T-shirt. I mean, we have no reason to suspect a jiggly bowl of **jelly belly** or anything.

There's just no proof.

**AWESOME!**

THURSDAY

JANUARY 5

# When you meet up with a group of friends and they stop talking to celebrate your arrival

Sometimes you're late for the date.

Stepping into the dark restaurant, shaking off your umbrella, squeezing past the bar, you don't know what you're gonna get: Who's gonna be here? Have they already ordered? Will there even be a chair?

If you're like me, baby butterflies flap in your stomach when you stumble into **Tonight's Social Scene** for the first time. Brushing rain off your eyebrows, unzipping your jacket, you smile nervously as you spot your friends and walk over to their crowded table in the back.

And if your entrance is marked by heads turning, forks dropping, fists raising, and loud cheers, it means you're hanging with a great group. So smile and accept their little **Welcome Package** of hugs and high-fives.

It's gonna be a great night.

**AWESOME!**

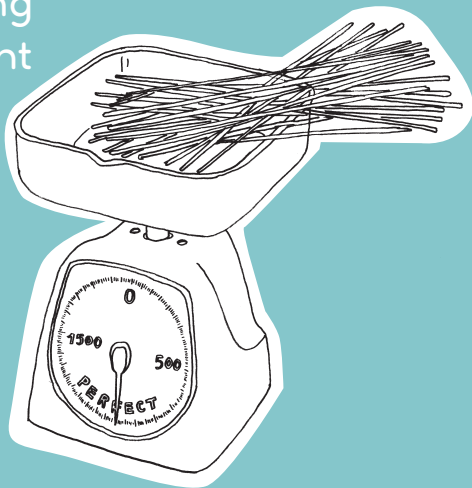
FRIDAY

JANUARY 6



Actually making  
the right amount  
of spaghetti

**AWESOME!**



SATURDAY

JANUARY 7

SUNDAY

JANUARY 8

# Taking the price tag off in one clean peel

Have you ever waged a quiet ten-minute war against a stubborn price tag?

You see it slapped on the side of a souvenir or stuck to the bottom of a vase, so you start peeling it off with your fingers. But then it tears and you hold a **sad little scrap** in your hand.

That's when it's time to roll up the sleeves and wheel out big guns like the edge of a credit card or nail polish remover. Nothing is off limits as you fight for your right to give a non-sticky action figure to your nephew on his birthday.

So you rub in oils and lotions, dig your fingernails, and finally, **huffing and puffing**, smear it all off. But since it takes forever and stresses you out, just smile and love it lots when that tag rolls off in one smooth peel.

**AWESOME!**

MONDAY

JANUARY 9

# The moment at a concert when the crowd figures out what song they're playing

Sweaty crowds in **sticky shirts** scream and scramble for better views between songs. Drums kick boom and guitars get tuned just before the bright lights flip up and **flick on**. Everyone slides forward on the beer-slicked floor and as the first notes kick in we all catch our breath.

AWESOME!

TUESDAY

JANUARY 10

# Wearing the shoes you just bought out of the store

Sometimes those old, ratty sandals need to get buried. When sidewalk steps rattle your spine and walking to the store gives you severe **Blackfoot**, it's time to go shopping.

Next time you slide on that fresh new pair in the store, just pause for a second and look wistfully at the broken, smooth-soled flat ones in your hand. So many rainy nights, so many deck parties, so many quick trips for gas.

Fight tears and **steady your lip** as you stare the teenage cashier square in the eye and say:

“Do you guys have a garbage can?”

**AWESOME!**

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 11

# When a stranger helps you push your car out of the snow

It's just the Brotherhood of Snowy Climates.

Thanks for lending a hand.

**AWESOME!**

THURSDAY

JANUARY 12

# Waking up to the smell of sizzling bacon

As you laze around in crumpled sheets, sun streaking through the blinds, your eyes slowly blink open and your lips curl into a slow smile. You make some deep, grunting noises as you twist your back and **stretch your neck**.

Then it hits you.

Nose twitching, brain sniffing, you catch **faint fumes** of sizzling bacon drifting up from the kitchen. Can it be? Is this why you woke up? You bunny-sniff again and this time you're positive, you're certain, you're sure.

**Bacon!**

It smells like Mom's cooking breakfast. It smells like a sunny Sunday sleep-in. It smells like pajamas and a fresh newspaper. It smells like little white grease bubbles in an old black frying pan.

And it smells a lot like

**AWESOME!**

FRIDAY

JANUARY 13

Looking in your  
fridge right after  
grocery shopping  
and still choosing  
the junk food

**AWESOME!**



SATURDAY

JANUARY 14

SUNDAY

JANUARY 15

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

# Emptying the recycling bin on your computer

As old school assignments, **half-downloaded mp3s**, and duplicate photos crumple and disappear from your hard drive, you settle back into your office chair, slap your hands together, and smile at finishing up The World's Easiest Chore.

**AWESOME!**

MONDAY

JANUARY 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



# Stepping into the shower when it's already at the perfect temperature

Spin the dial to the left and you're drowning under a **frozen glacier waterfall**. Spin it to the right and you're stinging under some sharp second-degree burns.

We all know your perfect temperature lies somewhere between these dangerous extremes, so every time you **strip down to scrub up** you're playing detective.

Yes, there's one or two dials, max, that you're spinning around in your *groggy half-asleep* state to find the perfect shower temperature. When you step in that shower and it's just right, you're loving it. Bring on the Shampoo Afros, lathery bellies, and nose blowing as you get ready for ten hot minutes of

**AWESOME!**

TUESDAY

JANUARY 17

Changing the channel during a commercial break and then flipping back just as the show's coming back on

You played a risky game, friend.

But you made it.

**AWESOME!**

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 18

# Rubbing someone's newly shaved head

Feel the buzz and rub that fuzz.

AWESOME!

THURSDAY

JANUARY 19

# Sleeping with one leg on top of the covers and one leg under them

Before you flick out the lights and slip into golden slumbers, you must first guess your **Sleep Comfort Zone**. If you've ever woken up with the shivers or the sweats, then you've added too many blankets or slept **too nude**.

If you're on your own, there are ceiling fans, heating vents, and your **general sweatiness** to consider. If you're with a pet or a partner, you've got double the hot-breath factor and a lot more sweaty legs under the covers.

If you're like me, then your eyes might **blink open** in the middle of the night as you realize you're uncomfortable. And if this happens, just hook yourself up and toss one leg on top of the covers and one leg under them.

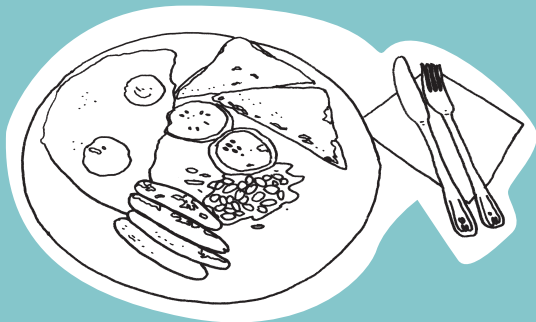
Also known as the **Toe Vent**.

**AWESOME!**

FRIDAY

JANUARY 20

Breakfast  
for dinner  
**AWESOME!**



SATURDAY

JANUARY 21

SUNDAY

JANUARY 22