

Dates of Significance September 2018 – June 2019

The Durham District School Board and the Equity and Inclusive Education Department recognize and value all dimensions of diversity. As we continue to implement equitable principles and practices, it is important to acknowledge dates of significance that recognize groups that have historically been marginalized, diverse faith groups, creeds and organizations. The following dates highlight observances that are notable as we continue to polish the equity lens and broaden our educational focus; recognizing information from the United Nations (UN), the Federal Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, the Interfaith Calendar and the Multifaith Council of Ontario.

***Observances begin at sundown on the first date listed**

Please note: This is not meant to be an exhaustive list and there may be other celebrations and religious dates that are not addressed. This online calendar may be frequently updated.

SEPTEMBER			
	8	International Literacy Day	UNESCO
	10	Rosh Hashanah	Judaism
	10	Al-Hijra /Muharram First day	Islam
	19	Yom Kippur	Judaism
	21	International Day of Peace	UN
	21	Ashura	Islam
	25	Franco-Ontarian Day	Ontario
	24-28	Ally week DDSB/ Glsen Week	DDSB/National
	28	Orange Shirt Day	First Nations Canada
OCTOBER			Hispanic Heritage Month/Islamic Heritage Month/Women's History Month
	2	Simchat Torah	Judaism
	5	World Teachers Day	UNESCO
	9-17	Navaratri (fall)	Hinduism
	17	International day for the Eradication of Poverty	UN
	19	Dussehra/Dasara	Hinduism
	24-30	Sukkot	Judaism
	24	United Nations Day	UN
	31	Halloween	
NOVEMBER			Albanian Heritage Month/Hindu Heritage Month
	1	All Saints' Day	Christianity
	6	Diwali	Hinduism
	7	Bandi Chhor Divas	Sikhism
	9	Birth of the Bab	Baha'í Faith
	10	Birth of Baba'u'llah	Baha'í Faith
	11	Remembrance Day	Canada
	16	International Day of Tolerance	UN
	16	Louis Riel Day	Ontario
	19-23	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	Ontario
	20	Transgender Day of Remembrance	International
	21	Mawlid-al-Nabi	Islam
	23	Holodomor Memorial Day ***	Ontario
	25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	UN

DECEMBER			
	1	World AIDS Day	UN
	2-10	Hanukkah	Judaism
	2	First Sunday of Advent	Christian
	2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	UN
	3	International Day of Disabled Persons	UN
	10	Human Rights Day	UN
	25	Christmas Day	Christian
	26-1	Kwanzaa* (first day)	African
JANUARY 2019		Tamil Heritage Month	
	5	Birthday Of Guru Gobind Singh Ji	Sikhism
	6	Epiphany	Christian
	7	Christmas	Orthodox
	15	Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.	USA/Canada
	19	Epiphany	Orthodox
	21	Martin Luther King Day	USA/Canada
	21	Lincoln Alexander Day	Canada
	27	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust	UNESCO
FEBRUARY		Black History Month	
	5	Lunar New Year	Chinese, Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism
	14	Valentine's Day	
	18	Family Day	Ontario
	20	World Social Justice Day	UN
	27	Pink Shirt day	Canada
MARCH		Bangladeshi Heritage Month	
	1	Women's World Day of Prayer	WDPIC
	6	Ash Wednesday/ Lent begins	Christian
	8	International Women's Day	UN
	11	First day of Lent	Orthodox
	17	St. Patrick's Day	Christian
	21	Purim	Judasim
	21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	UN
	21	Holi	Hinduism
	21	Naw Ruz (New Year)	Baha' I Faith
	25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery & the Transatlantic Slave Trade	UN
APRIL			
	5-13	Navaratri (Spring)	Hinduism
	11	First Day of Lent	Orthodox
	14	Palm Sunday	Christian
	14	Baisakhi/Vaisakhi	Sikhism
	18	Visakhi Puja	Buddhism
	19	Good Friday	Christian
	20-27	Pesach/Passover	Judasim
	21	Ridvan begins	Baha' I Faith
	21	Easter Sunday	Christian
	21	Palm Sunday	Orthodox
	22	International Earth Day	Earth Day Network
	26	Good Friday	Orthodox
	28	Pascha—Easter	Orthodox

MAY		Asian /South Asian Heritage Jewish Heritage/Dutch Heritage Month	
			Ontario
	6	Ramadhan Begins	Islam
	12	Mother's Day	Canada
	15	International Day of Families	UN
	17	International Day Against Homophobia	International
	18	Visakhi Puja	Buddhism
	20	Victoria Day	UN Canada
	21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	Canada
	23	Declaration of the Bab	Baha'I Faith
	25	National Missing Children's Day	International
	29	Vesak	Buddhism
	29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'I Faith
JUNE		National Indigenous History Month / Italian History Month	
	5	Eid-ul-Fitr	Islam
	9-10	Shavuot	Judaism
	9	Pentecost	Christian
	12	World Day Against Child Labour Day	International
	16	Father's Day	Canada
	21	National Indigenous Peoples Day	Canada
	24	La Fête National/Fête de St. Jean –Baptiste	Quebec
	27	Multiculturalism day	Canada

1.* Holy days usually begin at sundown starting on this date. 2. **Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date 3. ***The Durham District School Board recognizes Holodomar Memorial Day on November 25 • UN – United Nations • UNESCO – United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization