

Dates of Significance September 2017 – June 2018

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.

SEPTEMBER		
1-5	Eid al-Adha * **	Islam
4	Last day of Hajj	Islam
8	International Literacy Day	UNESCO
20-30	Navaratri **	Hinduism
20-22	Rosh Hashanah*	Judaism
21-22	Al-Hijra/ Muharram– New Year (first day)	Islam
21	International Day of Peace	UN
25	Franco-Ontarian Day	Ontario
25-29	Ally week DDSB/ GIsen Week	DDSB/National
29	Orange Shirt Day	First Nations Canada
29-30	Yom Kippur*	Judaism
30	Dasara/Dussehra**	Hinduism
31-1	Ashura*	Islam
OCTOBER	Hispanic Heritage Month/Islamic Heritage Month/Women’s History Month	
4-11	Sukkot*	Judaism
5	World Teachers Day	UNESCO
12-13	Simchat Torah*	Judaism
17	International day for the Eradication of Poverty	UN
18-22	Diwali*	Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism
19	Al-Hijra/ Muharram– New Year (last day)	Islam
19	Bandi Chhor Divas	Sikhism
20	Birth of The Bab	Bahá’í
22	Birth of the Bahá’u’lláh	Bahá’i
24	United Nations Day	UN
31	Halloween	
NOVEMBER		
1	All Saints Day	Christian
2	All Souls Day	Christian
11	Remembrance Day	Canada
16	International Day of Tolerance	UN
16	Louis Riel Day	Ontario
19-25	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	Ontario
20	Transgender Day of Remembrance	International
25	Holodomor Memorial Day ***	Ontario
25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	UN
30-1	Mawlid al-Nabi*	Islam

DECEMBER			
	1	World AIDS Day	UN
	2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	UN
	3	International Day of Disabled Persons	UN
	3-24	Advent– First Sunday	Christian
	10	Human Rights Day	UN
	12-20	Hanukkah*	Judaism
	24	Christmas Eve	Christian
	24	Last Day of Advent	Christian
	25	Christmas	Christian
	26-1	Kwanzaa* (first day)	African
JANUARY 2018		<u>Tamil Heritage Month</u>	Bill 111: 1 st reading June 12 2012
	1	New Year's Day	
	5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji	Sikhism
	6	Epiphany	Christian
	6	Orthodox Christmas Eve	Orthodox
	7	Nativity of Christ	Orthodox Christian
	7	Orthodox Christmas Day	Orthodox
	15	Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.	USA/Canada
	15	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		<u>Black History Month</u>	
	13	Shrove Tuesday	Christian
	14	Valentine's Day	
	14	Ash Wednesday– Lent Begins	Christian
	16	Chinese New Year	Chinese, Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism
	19	Family Day	Ontario
	20	World Social Justice Day	UN
	28	Pink Shirt day	Canada
	28-1	Purim	Judasim
MARCH			
	1	Purim*	Judaism
	1-2	Holi*	
	2	Women's World Day of Prayer	WDPIC
	8	International Women's Day	UN
	17	St. Patrick's Day	Christian
	20-21	Naw-Ruz *	Baha'i
	21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	UN
	25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery & the Transatlantic Slave Trade	UN
	25	Palm Sunday	Christian
	29	Holy Thursday	Christian
	30	Good Friday	All Christian
	30-7	Pesach* (Passover 1st two days)	Judaism
APRIL			
	1	Pascha	Orthodox Christian
	1	Easter	Christian
	11-12	Yom HaShoah* (Day of the Holocaust)	Judaism
	14	Baisakhi/Vaiskhi	Sikhism
	20 –2	1 st day of Ridvan *	Bahá'í
	22	International Earth Day	Earth Day Network
	29	<u>9th Day of Ridvan</u>	Bahá'í
	29	Visakhi Puja	Buddhism

MAY		Asian Heritage Month	Canada
		South Asian Heritage Month	Ontario
	2	12 th Day of Ridvan	Bahá'í
	10	Ascension of Christ	Christian
	13	Mother's Day	Canada
	15	International Day of Families	UN
	15-14	Ramadan Begins*	Islam
	17	International Day Against Homophobia	International
	20	Pentecost	All Christian
	19-21	Shavuot*	Judaism
	21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	UN Canada
	21	Victoria Day	Canada
	23-24	Declaration of the Bab	Bahá'í
	25	National Missing Children's Day	
	29	Vesak	Buddhism
	29	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í
JUNE		National Aboriginal History Month / Italian History Month	
	12	World Day Against Child Labour Day	Islam
	17	Father's Day	Canada
	21	National Aboriginal Day	Canada
	24	La Fête National/Fête de St. Jean –Baptiste	Quebec
	27	Multiculturalism day	Canada

Calendar dates were found using the following Web sites and dates have been hyperlinked for more information:

www.interfaithcalendar.org www.when-is.com www.un.org/en/ <http://www.wincalendar.com/Chinese-New-Year>

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