

Diversity Calendar

2015/2016

Diversity Calendar Mission Statement

The purpose of this calendar is to address and support the diversity of students, staff and families in K-12 education settings and beyond. We recognize that by increasing our understanding of diverse cultures, their group experiences, traditions, values and beliefs we can enhance our relationships with one another and hence, create culturally responsive environments where everyone feels valued and respected.

How Dates Were Chosen

Due to the extensive number of cultural holidays, dates for this calendar were determined by the following four criteria:

1. Might a student or staff member be absent as a result of this day?
2. Might a student or staff member be disengaged as a result of this day (e.g., hunger or a negative association with a particular day/date such as Thanksgiving, or a day of remembrance of a tragic event)?
3. Might a student, family, or staff member not be able to participate in a school activity during or after school as a result of this day? (e.g., many of our students do not participate in Halloween or Valentine's Day. There are students, families and staff who cannot participate in district/school events that are scheduled on the evening of an important religious day observed by the Jewish and Muslim communities.)
4. Does the day provide opportunity for a teachable moment regarding ethnic or cultural diversity that might not otherwise be discussed, particularly those dates associated with a continued history of oppression, discrimination, or racism?

Work In Progress

We ask for your patience in the event that we have missed important dates that apply to the four criteria. This was an enormous task taken on by a handful of individuals of good will and intention. If you know of another date that meets the above criteria and therefore should have been included, or if there is a date listed that does not meet the criteria and therefore should not have been included, please contact Ilsa Govan at ilsa.govan@culturesconnecting.com.

Additional Information

If you know of appropriate websites, books, or other resources email [Ilsa Govan](mailto:ilsa.govan@culturesconnecting.com). Also, please inform us of any websites that were inappropriately chosen to explain a particular day.

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Acknowledgements

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Special Thanks:

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- Ilsa Govan, Equity & Race Specialist
- Rebecca Snyders, Administrative Assistant, Cultures Connecting

Diversity Calendar Committee Members:

- Caprice Hollins, Director of Equity and Race Relations
- Hung Pham, Bilingual & Community Liaison
- Shelly Rosen, SPS Parent
- Carl Shutoff, Instructional Technology Resource Teacher

Notes: *Starred (*) holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.*

Due to regional and cultural differences, the holidays listed may be celebrated on different dates by individuals of the same faith. Muslim holidays are based on actual sighting of the moon and therefore the day may vary.

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September 2015 Hispanic Heritage Month			
11	Enkutatash (New Year)	http://rastaites.com/Ethiopia/newyear.htm	Ethiopian
13-15*	Rosh Hashanah (New Year)	http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday2.htm	Jewish
16	Mexican Independence Day	http://www.presidiolabahaia.org/mex_ind.htm	Mexican
21-26	Hajj	http://www.religioustolerance.org/isla1.htm	Islamic
22-23*	Mabon	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mabon_%28Wicca%29#Mabon	Neo-Pagan
23*	Eid ul Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)	http://www.religioustolerance.org/isl_feast.htm	Islamic
27	Tet Trung Thu (Vietnam) Moon Festival (Hong Kong, China, Taiwan) ChuSok (Korea)	http://www.holidaysia.com/events/tet-trung-thu/ http://www.regit.com/hongkong/festival/mooncake.htm http://www.pbs.org/hiddenkorea/chusok.htm	Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Korea
27*-Oct 4	Sukkot	http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday5.htm	Jewish
October 2015 Cultural Diversity Month/Coming Out Month/Filipino American History Month			
4*	Shemini Atzeret	http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday6.htm	Jewish
5*	Simchat Torah	http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday6.htm	Jewish
11	National Coming Out Day	http://www.hrc.org/ncod/	LGBTQ and Allies
12	Día de la Raza	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbus_Day?	Latin America, Mexican
12	Indigenous People's Day/Columbus Day	http://www.homemadejam.org/rethinking-columbus.html	European American
13-26	Dashain	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dasain	Nepalese
14*	AlHijra/Muharram	http://www.islamicity.com/articles/Articles.asp?ref=IC0303-1877	Islamic
19*	Birth of the Báb	http://bahai-library.com/davidmerrick_holydays_childhoodofbab	Bahá'i
22*	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/holiday4.html	Jewish
23*	Ashura	http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/holidays/ashura.htm	Islamic
31	Halloween	http://www.history.com/topics/halloween <i>Keep in mind that not all families view Halloween positively.</i>	USA

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31-Nov 1	Samhain	http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=usaz&c=holidays&id=12905	Neo-Pagan
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November 2015 Native American Heritage Month

1	All Saint's Day	http://www.churchyear.net/allsaints.html	Anglican & Roman Catholic
1 & 2	Día de los Muertos	http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/	Mexican
11	Diwali	http://hinduism.about.com/od/diwalifestivaloflights/a/diwali.htm	Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Buddhist
11	Veterans Day	http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/	USA
12*	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	http://bahai.org/	Bahá'i
20	Transgender Day of Remembrance	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender_Day_of_Remembrance	International
25	Birthday of Guru Nanak	http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/people/nanak.shtml	Sikh
26	Thanksgiving	http://americanindiansource.com/mourningday.html <i>Keep in mind that not all families view Thanksgiving positively.</i>	European American

December 2015

6*-14	Hanukkah	http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/default_cdo/jewish/Chanukah.htm	Jewish
8	Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodhi_Day	Buddhist
8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/beliefs/immaculateconception.shtml	Catholic
12	Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Guadalupe	Mexican Catholic
16-24	Las Posadas	http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/2816-las-posadas	Mexican
16-24	Simbang Gabi (Christmas)	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simbang_Gabi	Filipino Catholic
22	Winter Solstice/Yule	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheel_of_the_Year	Neo-Pagan
25	Christmas	http://www.history.com/minisites/christmas/	Christian
26- Jan 1	Kwanzaa	http://www.history.com/topics/kwanzaa-history	African American

January 2016

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1	New Years Day	http://www.infoplease.com/spot/newyearhistory.html	International
5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Gobind_Singh	Sikh
6	Día le los Reyes (Three Kings Day/Epiphany)	http://www.inside-mexico.com/ReyesMagos.htm	Mexican Christian
7	Christmas (Orthodox)	http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/russia/christmas-day	Orthodox Christian
18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	http://www.mlkday.gov/	USA
February 2016 African American History Month			
1	Imbolc(g)	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imbolc	Neo-Pagan
8	Lunar New Year (Year of the Monkey)	http://www.asianamericanbooks.com/lny_ch_a.htm#general	China, Taiwan, Viet Nam, Singapore, Korea
10	Ash Wednesday	http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/qt/whatisashwednes.htm	Christian
10-Mar 24	Lenten Season	http://wilstar.com/holidays/lent.htm Many Filipino families return to the Philippines during this time.	Christian
14	Valentine's Day	http://www.history.com/minisites/valentine/ Be mindful that not all of our students celebrate Valentine's Day.	International
15	President's Day Holiday	http://usparks.about.com/library/weekly/aa021499.htm	USA
19	Day of Remembrance (Japanese Incarceration)	http://www.pdxjacl.org/day-of-remembrance-annual-event/	USA
March 2016 Women's History Month/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month			
8	Internatn'l Women's Day	http://www.internationalwomensday.com/	International
17	St. Patrick's Day	http://www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksday/	Irish
20	Naw Ruz	http://www.funsocialstudies.learninghaven.com/edu/naw-ruz.html	Bahá'i
20	Ostara	http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=usma&c=holidays&id=1991	Neo-Pagan
20	Palm Sunday	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_Sunday	Christian/Orthodox
20	Persian New Year (Nowruz)	http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/03/0317_050317_nowruz.html	Iranian
20-26	Holy Week	http://www.criovoice.org/cyholyweek.html	Christian
21	Intern'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination	http://www.hrea.org/index.php?doc_id=975	International
23*	Purim	http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday9.htm	Jewish

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25	Good Friday	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_Friday	Christian/Orthodox
27	Easter Sunday	http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/holidays/easter.htm	Christian
31	César Chávez Day	http://www.ufw.org/page.php?menu=research&inc=history/07.html	USA

April 2016

Holocaust Remembrance Month

6	National Tartan Day	http://www.tartanday.org/	Scottish American
13-16	Bun Pi Mai (New Year)	http://goseasia.about.com/od/laos/a/bun_pi_mai.htm <i>Begins on the first full moon of April</i>	Laotian
13	Vaisakhi	http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php?title=Vaisakhi	Sikh
15	National Day of Silence	http://www.dayofsilence.org/	LGBTQ and Allies
20*- 21	First Day of Ridván	http://bahai-library.com/walbridge_encyclopedia_ridvan	Bahá'i
22*-30	Pesach/Passover	http://www.jewfaq.org/holidaya.htm	Jewish
28*	Ninth Day of Ridván	http://bahai-library.com/walbridge_encyclopedia_ridvan	Bahá'i
30*	Beltane	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beltane	Neo-Pagan

May 2016

Asian American and South Pacific Islander Heritage Month

1	May Day (International Worker's Day)	http://www.iww.org/projects/mayday/origins.shtml	International
1	Orthodox Easter/Pascha	http://www.factmonster.com/spot/easter1.html	Eastern Orthodox
1*	Twelfth Day of Ridván	http://bahai-library.com/walbridge_encyclopedia_ridvan	Bahá'i
4*	Holocaust Remembrance Day	http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/yomhashoah.html	International
5	Cinco de Mayo	http://www.mexonline.com/cinco.htm	USA/Mexican
8	Mother's Day	http://www.bajainsider.com/baja-life/holidays/mothersdaymexico.html <i>Mother's Day (always May 10th in Mexico) is very important for Mexican Families.</i>	Mexican
15	Pentecost	http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/holydays/pentecost.shtml	Christian
20	Vesak	http://www.buddhanet.net/vesak.htm	Buddhist
22*	Declaration of the Báb	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bah%C3%A1%27%C3%AD_calendar	Bahá'i
28*	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	http://info.bahai.org/bahaullah.html	Bahá'i
30	Memorial Day Holiday	http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyseneca/memorial.htm	USA

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June 2016 Gay & Lesbian Pride Month			
6-July 5	Ramadan	http://www.colostate.edu/orgs/MSA/events/Ramadan.html	Islamic
11-13*	Shavuot	http://www.holidays.net/shavuot/	Jewish
12	Loving Day	http://www.lovingday.org/	USA
12	Philippine Independence Day	http://www.msc.edu.ph/centennial/independence.html	Filipino
19	Juneteenth	http://www.juneteenth.com/	African American
21	Summer Solstice/Litha	http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/lithathesummersolstice/a/AllAboutLitha.htm	Neo-Pagan
27-28	Pride	http://seattlepride.org/	LGBTQ and Allies
July 2016			
7	Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)	http://www.islamicity.com/ramadan/Eid_default.shtml	Islamic
13*	Tisha B'Av	http://www.jewfaq.org/holidayd.htm	Jewish
15	Dharma Day	http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Buddhism/Dharma-Day-A-Universal-Celebration-of-The-Buddhas-Teachings.aspx	Buddhist
23	17th of Tammuz	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventeenth_of_Tammuz	Jewish
23	Birthday of Haile Selassie	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haile_Selassie_I	Rastafarian
August 2016			
1	Lughnasadh (Lammas)	http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/paganism/holydays/lughnasadh.shtml	Neo-Pagan
12	International Youth Day	http://social.un.org/index/Youth/InternationalYouthDay.aspx	International
13-15	Obon	http://www.buddhistchurch.com/events/Obon.htm	Japanese Buddhist

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