

CULTURES CONNECTING

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

2023-2024



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, 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 an opportunity for a teachable moment regarding ethnic or cultural diversity that might not otherwise be discussed, particularly 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 above. This was an enormous task taken on by a handful of individuals of good will and intention. If you know of additional cultural holidays that meet the above criteria, or would like to offer suggestions for appropriate websites, books, or other resources that can be used to improve this calendar, please contact: Judy Lee at judy.lee@culturesconnecting.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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SPECIAL THANKS

- Bilingual Instructional Assistants, SPS
- Willard Bill, Jr., Huchoosedah
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- Keisha Scarlett, STAR Consultant
- Mohamed Roble, Bilingual Community Liaison
- Ilsa Govan, Equity & Race Specialist
- Judy Lee, Cultures Connecting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Caprice Hollins, Cultures Connecting
- 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.
- Caret (^) indicates work restrictions.
- Due to regional and cultural differences, the holidays listed may be celebrated on different dates by individuals of the same faith.
- Many of the holidays are based on actual sighting of the moon and therefore the date may vary.
- For more information on individual holidays, click the holiday title to view its hyperlink (many are linked to Wikipedia).
- Please note that some months have two pages.



JULY 2023

Disability Pride Month



MON-SAT
26-1 *
Hajj¹
Islamic

TUE
4
Independence Day
United States

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and is the second holiest month after Ramadan.

THU
6
17th of Tammuz
Jewish

WED
19
Muharram (Al Hijrah New Year)
Islamic

WED-WED
19-16 *
Al-Hijra / Muharram²
Islamic

SUN
23
Birthday of Haile Selassie
Rastafarian



WED-THU
26-27
Tisha B'Av
Jewish



Notes:

1. Hajj is from June 26 - July 1.

2. Al-Hijra / Muharram is from July 19 - August 16.

*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.

AUGUST 2023



WED-WED
19-16 Al-Hijra /
Muharram¹*

Islamic

TUE
1 Lughnasadh
(Lammas)

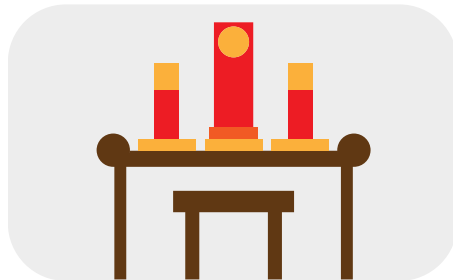
Neo-Pagan

SAT
12 International
Youth Day

International

SUN-WED
13-16 Obon

Japanese
Buddhist



WED
30 Raksha
Bandhan

Hindu

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

International Youth Day was designated by the United Nation to draw awareness to youth issues worldwide.

Notes:

1. Al-Hijra / Muharram is from July 19 - August 16.

*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Hispanic Heritage Month

MON 4 <u>Labor Day</u> United States No School	WED-THU 6-7 <u>Krishna Janmashtami</u> Hindu	HISPANIC HERITAGE 	
TUE 12 <u>Enkutatash (New Year)</u> Ethiopian	SAT 16 <u>Mexican Independence Day</u> Mexican	FRI-SUN 15-17 <u>Rosh Hashanah (New Year)</u> * ^ Jewish	THU-FRI 21-29 <u>Mabon</u> * Neo-Pagan
 <p>Rosh Hashanah kicks off several weeks of Jewish holidays in the fall. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two most-observed Jewish Holidays, called the high holy days.</p>	SUN-MON 24-25 <u>Yom Kippur</u> * Jewish Day of Fasting	FRI-FRI 29-6 <u>Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles)</u> ¹ * ^ Jewish	

Notes:

- 1. Sukkot is from September 29 - October 6.
- *Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.
- ^ Work restrictions.

OCTOBER 2023

Cultural Diversity Month | Filipino American History Month
Disability Employment Awareness Month | Coming Out Month



FRI-FRI
29-6 **Sukkot**
(Feast of Tabernacles)¹
Jewish

FRI-SUN
6-8 **Shemini Atzeret**
Jewish

SAT-SUN
7-8 **Simchat Torah**
Jewish



MON
9 **Canadian Thanksgiving**
Canada

MON
16 **Birth of the Báb**
Bahá'i

SUN-TUE
15-24 **Navaratri/Dassehra**
Hindu

MON-TUE
16-17 **Birth of Bahá'u'lláh**
Bahá'i



TUE-WED
31-1 **Samhain**²
Neo-Pagan



Notes:

1. Sukkot is from September 29 - October 6.

2. Samhain is from October 31 to November 1.

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^ Work restrictions.

NOVEMBER 2023



Native American Heritage Month

TUE-WED
31-1 Samhain¹
Neo-Pagan

WED
1 All Saint's Day
Anglican &
Roman Catholic

WED-THU
1-2 Día de los Muertos³
Mexican

SAT
11 Veteran's Day
United States

Many Indigenous people today call Thanksgiving a "Day of Mourning." [Learn more](#) about the history behind this day.



SUN
12 Diwali 
Hindu, Jain,
Sikh, Buddhist

THU
23 Thanksgiving Day
United States
No School

MON
27 Birthday of Guru Nanak
Sikh

Notes:

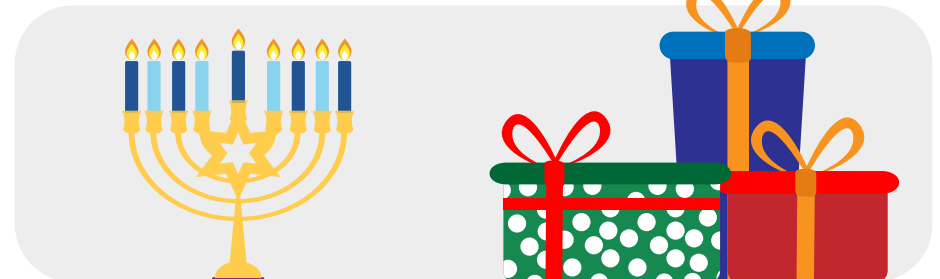
- 1. Samhain is from October 31 to November 1.
- ^ Work restrictions.

DECEMBER 2023



FRI
8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Catholic

FRI
8
Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)
Buddhist



THU-FRI
7-15 *
Hanukkah (Chanukah)
Jewish

TUE
12
Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Mexican Catholic

SAT-SUN
16-24
Las Posadas
Mexican

SAT-SUN
16-24
Simbang Gabi
Filipino Catholic



THU
21
Winter Solstice/ Yule
Neo-Pagan

MON
25
Christmas Day
Christian
No School

TUE-MON
26-1
Kwanzaa¹
African American

Notes:

1. Kwanzaa is from December 26 - January 1.

*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.


JANUARY 2024



TUE-MON
26-1 Kwanzaa¹
African American

MON
1 New Year's Day
International
No school

“ True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.




MON
1 Gantan-sai[^]
Shinto

SAT
6 Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day/Epiphany)
Mexican Christian

SUN
7 Orthodox Christmas
Christian Orthodox

MON
15 Martin Luther King Day
United States
No School



Holocaust Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camp of Auschwitz-Kirkenau in 1945.

SAT
20 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh[^]
Sikh

SAT
27 Holocaust Remembrance Day
International

Notes:

1. Kwanzaa is from December 26 - January 1.

^ Work restrictions.

FEBRUARY 2024

African American History Month



THU-FRI 1-2 <u>Imbolc</u> Neo-Pagan	SAT 3 <u>Setsubun-sai</u> Shinto	SAT 10 <u>Tết</u> Vietnam	
SAT 10 <u>Chinese New Year</u> China	SAT 10 <u>Lunar New Year</u> East Asia	WED 14 <u>Valentine's Day</u> International	WED 14 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Christian
	THU-SUN 14-31 <u>Lenten Season</u> ² Christian	MON 19 <u>Day of Remembrance (Japanese Incarceration)</u> United States	MON 19 <u>President's Day</u> United States No School

Notes:

1. Be mindful that not all students observe this holiday.
2. Lenton Season is from February 14- March 31.

MARCH 2024

Women's History Month
Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



THU-SUN
14-31 Lenten Season¹
Christian

FRI
8 Maha Shivaratri
Hindu

MON-WED
11-10 Ramadan² * ^
Islamic

SUN
17 St. Patrick's Day
Irish

TUE-WED
19-20 Naw Rúz *
Bahá'í, Persian, Kurdish, Zoroastrianism

TUE-WED
19-20 Persian New Year (Nowruz)
Iranian



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month raises awareness of the contributions of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life and the work needed to remove barriers.

WED
20 Ostara
Neo-Pagan

Notes:

- 1. Lenten Season is from February 14- March 31.
- 2. Ramadan is from March 11 - April 10.
- *Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.
- ^ Work restrictions.

MARCH 2024

Women's History Month

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



THU
21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
International

SAT-SUN
23-24 Purim *
Jewish

SAT
24 Magha Puja Day
Buddhist



SUN
24 Palm Sunday
Christian / Orthodox

SUN-MON
24-25 Holi *
Hindu

THU
28 Maundy Thursday
Christian

FRI
29 Good Friday
Christian



SUN
31 Easter
Christian

SUN
31 César Chávez Day
United States

SUN
31 International Transgender Day of Visibility
International, LGBTQ+ and Allies

Notes:

*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.

APRIL 2024

Autism Acceptance Month | Arab American Heritage Month
Holocaust Remembrance Month



MON-WED
11-10 * ^
Ramadan¹
Islamic

TUE
2
World Autism Awareness Day
United States



SAT
6
National Tartan Day
Scottish American

SAT
6
Laylat al-Qadr
Islamic

TUE-WED
9-10 * ^
Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)
Islamic

FRI
12
National Day of Silence
LGBTQ+ and Allies



SAT
13
Vaisakhi
Sikh



Notes:

1. Ramadan is from March 11 - April 10.

*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.

^ Work restrictions.

APRIL 2024

Autism Acceptance Month | Arab American Heritage Month
Holocaust Remembrance Month



SUN-TUE
14-16 Bun Pi Mai (New Year) *

Laotian

SUN-TUE
14-16 Cambodian New Year *

Cambodian



WED
17 Ramanavami *

Hindu

SAT-SUN
20-21 First Day of Ridván *

Bahá'i

MON-TUE
22-30 Passover (Pesach) * ^

Jewish

WED-TUE
24-30 Holy Week

Christian

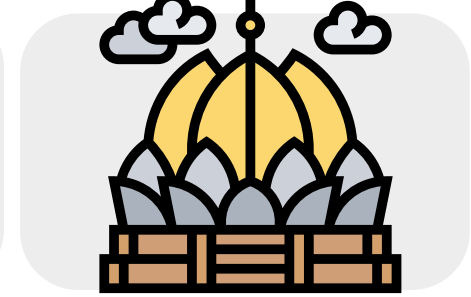


MON
29 Ninth Day of Ridván *

Bahá'i

TUE
30 Día de los Niños

Mexican



Notes:

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^ Work restrictions.

MAY 2024

Asian American and South Pacific Islander Heritage Month



WED
1

Beltane *

Neo-Pagan

WED
1

May Day
(International Worker's Day)

International



THU
2

Twelfth Day of Ridván *

Bahá'i

FRI
3

Orthodox Good Friday

Christian Orthodox

SUN
5

Cinco de Mayo

United States / Mexican

SUN
5

Orthodox Easter

Christian Orthodox



SUN-MON
5-6

Yom HaSho'ah

Jewish

FRI
10

Mexican Mother's Day

Mexico

Notes:

*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.

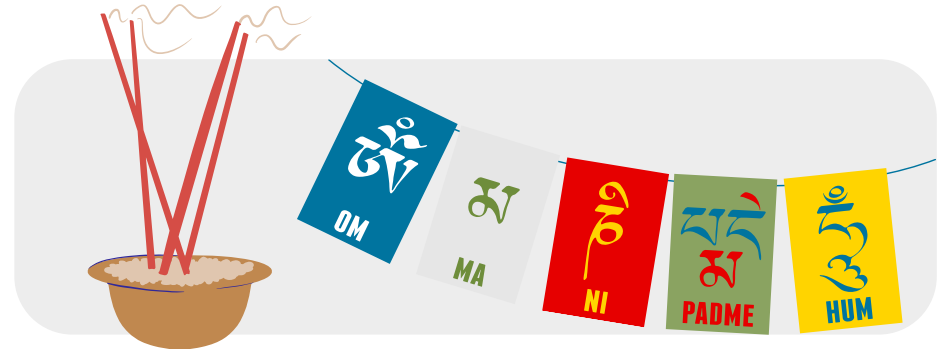
MAY 2024

Asian American and South Pacific Islander Heritage Month



SUN
12 Mother's Day
United States

SUN
19 Pentecost
Christian



WED-THU
22-23 Declaration of the Báb *
Bahá'i

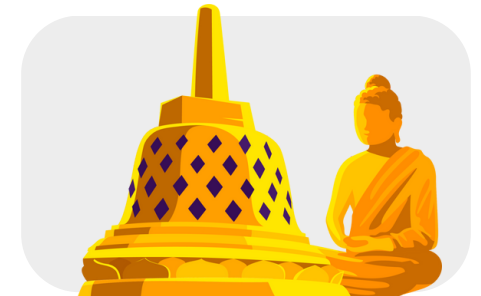
THU
23 Buddha Day / Visakha Puja / Vesek
Buddhist

SUN
26 Haitian Mother's Day
Haiti

MON-TUE
27-28 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh *
Bahá'i



MON
27 Memorial Day
United States / Mexican
No School



Notes:

*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.

JUNE 2024

LGBTQ+ Pride Month



TUE-THU
11-13 * ^
Shavuot
Jewish

WED
12
Loving Day
United States

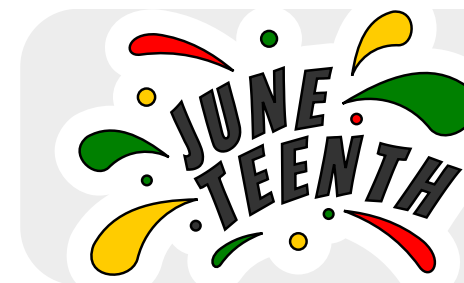


WED
12
Philippine Independence Day
Filipino

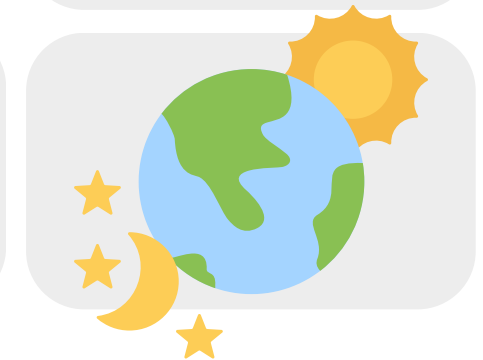
FRI-WED
14-19 *
Hajj
Islamic

SUN-MON
16-17 *
Eid-ul-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)
Islamic

WED
19
Juneteenth
African American



THU
20
Summer Solstice/ Litha
Neo-Pagan



Notes:

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^ Work restrictions.

JULY 2024

Disability Pride Month



THU 4 Independence Day
United States

SUN 7 Muharram (Al Hijrah New Year)
Islamic

Disability Pride Month commemorates the passing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act in July 1990.

SUN-SUN 7-4 Al-Hijra / Muharram¹
Islamic

SUN 21 Dharma Day
Buddhist



TUE 23 Birthday of Haile Selassie
Rastafarian

TUE 23 17th of Tammuz
Jewish

Happy (New) Hijri Year

Notes:

1. Al-Hijra / Muharram is from July 7 - August 4.

*Holy days begin at sunset of the date listed and go to sunset of the following day.

AUGUST 2024



SUN-SUN
7-4 Al-Hijra /
Muharram¹ *

Islamic

THU
1 Lughnasadh
(Lammas)

Neo-Pagan

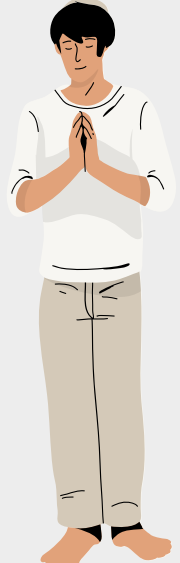
MON
12 International
Youth Day

International

MON-TUE
12-13 Tisha B'Av *

Jewish

Tisha B'Av is the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. It is the culmination of the Three Weeks, a period of time during which the destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem is marked.



TUE-THU
13-15 Obon

Japanese Buddhist

MON
19 Raksha
Bandhan

Hindu

SUN-MON
25-26 Krishna
Janmashtami

Hindu

Notes:

1. Al-Hijra / Muharram is from July 7 - August 4.

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