

Dates of Significance September 2015 – June 2016

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 which begin at sundown prior to the 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

8	International Literacy Day	UNESCO
13-15	Rosh Hashanah*	Judaism
21	International Day of Peace	UN
21-26	Hajj*	Islam
22-23	Yom Kippur*	Judaism
22-23	Eid al-Adha* **	Islam
25	Franco-Ontarian Day	Ontario
27	Sukkot*	Judaism
30	Orange Shirt Day	First Nations Canada

OCTOBER

Islamic History Month

4	Sukkot* last day	
5	World Teachers Day	UNESCO
5-6	Simchat Torah*	Judaism
13-21	Navaratri**	Hinduism
14	Al-Hijra / Muharram – New Year	Islam
17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	UN
12-16	Ally Week - LGBTQA	DDSB (GLSEN Oct 12-16)
19-20	Birth of The Bab*	Bahá'í
22	Dasara/Dussehra**	Hinduism
23	Ashura*	Islam
24	United Nations Day	UN
31	Halloween	

NOVEMBER

1	All Saints Day	Christian
2	All Souls Day	Christian
11	Remembrance Day	
11	Al-Hijra / Muharram – New Year last day	Islam
11-15	Diwali	Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism
11	Bandi Chhor (Chor/Chhorh) Divas	Sikhism
12	Birth of the Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í
16	International Day of Tolerance	UN
20	Transgender Day of Remembrance	International
15-21	Bullying Awareness and Prevention	ON
23	Holodomor Memorial Day ***	Ontario
25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	UN
29	Advent – First Sunday	Christian

DECEMBER

1	World AIDS Day	UN
2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	UN
3	International Day of Disabled Persons	UN
6-14	Hanukkah*	
10	Human Rights Day	UN
23	Mawlid al-Nabi*	Islam
24	Christmas Eve	Christian
24	Last Day of Advent	Christian
25	Christmas	Christian
26	Kwanzaa*	African

JANUARY 2016

Tamil Heritage Month

Bill 111: 1st reading June 12 2012

1	New Year's Day	
1	Last Day of Kwanzaa*	African
5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji	Sikhism
6	Epiphany	Christian
6	Nativity of Christ	Orthodox Christian
15	Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.	USA / Canada
18	Martin Luther King Day	Canada / US
18-22	No Name Calling week	International/GLSEN
27	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust	UNESCO

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

8	Lunar New Year	Chinese, Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism
9	Shrove Tuesday	Christian
10	Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins	Christian
14	Valentine's Day	
15	Louis Riel Day	Canada
20	World Social Justice Day	UN
24	Pink Shirt day	Canada

MARCH

4	Women's World Day of Prayer	WDPIC
8	International Women's Day	UN
17	St. Patrick's Day	Christian
20	Palm Sunday	Christian
20-21	Naw-Ruz	Baha'i
21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	UN
23	Holi	Hinduism
23-24	Purim*	Judaism
24	Holy Thursday	Christian
25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery & the Transatlantic Slave Trade	UN
25	Good Friday	All Christian
27	Easter	All Christian

APRIL

13-14	Baisakhi/Vaisakhi	Sikhism
20	Ridvan* (1st day)	Bahá'í
22	International Earth Day	Earth Day Network
22-30	Pesach* (Passover 1st two days)	Judaism
28-29	9th Day of Ridvan	Bahá'í

MAY	Asian Heritage Month	Canada
	South Asian Heritage Month	Ontario
	1-2 Twelfth Day of Ridvan*	Bahá'í
	2 Ridvan* last day	
	4-5 Yom HaShoah* (Day of the Holocaust)	Judaism
	5 Ascension of Christ	Christian
	15 International Day of Families	UN
	15 Pentecost	All Christian
	17 International Day Against Homophobia	International
	20 Vesak/Wesak /Visakhi Puja (New Year)	Buddhism
	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	UN Canada
	22-23 Declaration of the Bab	Bahá'í
	23 Victoria Day	Canada
	25 National Missing Children's Day	
	29 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í
JUNE	National Aboriginal History Month / Italian History Month	
	7 Ramadan Begins*	Islam
	11-13 Shavuot*	Judaism
	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:

1. * Holy days usually begin at sundown before this date.

2. **Local or regional customs may use a variation of