

LIMESTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Days of Observance & Cultural Significance : August 1, 2013-August 31, 2014

List is **not all inclusive**. Please heed following dates when planning academic calendars and school events, and accommodate accordingly. **Please ask parents/guardians and employees to submit any other faith dates requiring accommodation as soon as possible to the school or work-site supervisor.** Inform Human Rights, Equity & Inclusive Education Advisor if an important date is missing.

Faith and non-faith accommodation is an integral part of the Board's **Human Rights Education AP 214** as per...

- *Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms* (Section 15); *Ontario Human Rights Code*; *Education Act*
- *Equity & Inclusive Education in Ontario Schools: Faith Accommodation* PPM108; R.R.O 1990, Regulation 298; PPM 119 (Ministry of Education)

Dates ...

- reflect a cross-section of faith, non-faith and ethno-cultural communities in the Board and Kingston
- may vary from community to community, within faith groups & families, as do breadth & depth of observance
- may vary from year to year, based on type of calendar (Gregorian, Julian, lunar, solar, astronomical), local customs, or may even be determined by community convenience

Other areas to consider include...

- holy days and religious festivals in Bahà'i, Muslim and Jewish communities **begin at sundown the previous day & end sunset on date listed**, e.g. *Rosh Hashanah* begins Sept 4th at sundown & ends at sunset Sept 6th
- Jewish Sabbath begins at sundown the previous day & ends at sunset on the Sabbath day

Spiritual and cultural dates observed by **First Nations, Métis or Inuit** peoples also **vary in time, practice, in length or breadth, and are determined by the community and geography.** For example, length of Longhouse ceremonies depend on individuals and their community. Ceremonies may last from 4 to 10 days. First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples' dates may include...

- ceremonies and seasonal traditional celebrations
- full moon and feast dates, e.g. *Fish Feast* in April, *Strawberry Moon Festival* in June, *Harvest Festival* or *Moose Calling Moon* in the fall, *Mid-Winter Festival* January/February
- time variations depending on individual and community practices, and geography

AUGUST 2013	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Aug. 1	EMANCIPATION DAY (Aug. 1, 1834, British Imperial Act abolished slavery in Canada) www.africanholocaust.net/html_ah/holocaustspecial.htm	Descendants of people enslaved in TransAtlantic Slave Trade- <i>African Maafa (African Holocaust)</i>
Aug. 7 sundown - Aug 11 sunset	EID UL-FITR (Ramadan ends) www.islam.about.com/od/holidays/f/holidays.htm	Islam
Aug. 28	KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI - birth of Lord Krishna www.hinduism.about.com/od/basics/u/celebrations.htm	Hindu
SEPTEMBER 2013	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Sept 4 th sundown - Sept 5, 6 th sunset	ROSH HASHANAH - New Year; 10 days of prayer, self-examination, penitence culminating on last day of Yom Kippur www.ifqc.org/ten_year_calendar.pdf	Jewish

SEPTEMBER 2013	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Sept 9	GANESHA CHATURTHI: important 10 day festival in India. Lord Ganesha represents power, wisdom, brings good luck & prosperity to the family	Hindu
Sept 10 -Sept 19	PARYUSHANA PARVA: 8 day festival to purify the soul, look at own faults, ask forgiveness & vow to minimize faults	Jain
Sept 8	KINGSTON MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL(KIP, KCHC, ISKA, KACC) promoting equity & inclusion, respect for diversity: Fun, informative for all!	Kingston & Area families, communities, schools
Sept 13 sundown - 14 sunset	YOM KIPPUR: Day of Atonement. Most solemn Holy Day devoted to prayer & fasting	Jewish
Sept 18 sundown- 19, 20 sunset	SUKKOT: 7 day Harvest Festival	Jewish
Sept 22	AUTUMN EQUINOX	Traditional First Nations; Inuit; Métis
Sept 22	MABON - Equinox	Wicca
Sept 25 sundown- 26 sunset	SEMINI ATZERET: conclusion of Sukkot	Jewish
Sept 26 sundown - 27 sunset	SIMCHAT TORAH: celebrates conclusion of year long reading of the Torah (5 Books of Moses) & renewing the cycle.	Jewish
MONTH of OCTOBER 2013 HARVEST FEAST	Dates/observances vary according to specific First Nations & Métis communities, geography, traditions, etc.	Haudenosaunee; Ojibwe; Algonquin; Métis
Oct 1-31 Oct. 11	Women's History Month www.swc-cfc.gc.ca & 2nd International Year of the Girl see http://www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/	LDSB & across Canada
Oct 1-31	Islam History Month Kingston: for further information re events contact mohamed.bayoumi@queensu.ca	Kingston & communities across Canada
Oct 5-13	NAVARATRI: time to cleanse evil human characteristics e.g. hatred, jealousy, ignorance, anger, greed, violence: a 9 night festival	Hindu
Oct 13 sundown - Oct 14 sunset	HAJJ DAY: commemorates annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia	Islam
Oct 14	DASERA(Dusshera) - victory of good over evil	Hindu
Oct 14 sundown - Oct 18 sunset	EID AL ADHA: religious day commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael	Islam

OCTOBER 2013 cont'd	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Oct 19 sunset - Oct. 20 sundown	BIRTH of the BAB: founder of Babi religion, forerunner to Baha'u'llah & Baha'i faith	Baha'i
Oct 20	INVESTITURE of GUKRU GRANTH: Adi Granth scriptures honored as perpetual Guru.	Sikh
Oct 18	MOON of FALLING LEAVES 10 th full moon	Traditional First Nations; Inuit; Métis
Oct 31	ALL HALLOW'S EVE	Christian
NOVEMBER 2013	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Nov 1-30	LDSB ABORIGINAL EDUCATION MONTH	Contact Kevin Reed. LDSB Aboriginal Education Consultant
Nov 1	ALL SAINTS' DAY; SAMHAIN	Christian; Wicca (North Hemisphere)
Nov 1 - 5	Deepavali: Time to get rid of different forms of darkness (sorrow, misery, lack of enthusiasm, ill health, so, on); move towards light, instal health, get over losses & failures, usher in the light of prosperity	Hindu
Nov 3	Diwali: Celebration of Lights	Hindu, Jain, Sikh
Nov 3	Jain New Year	Jain
Nov 3 sundown - Nov 4 sunset; for 29 days until Dec 3 sunset	Hijra/Muharram: New Year; emigration of Mohammad & followers to Medina (622 CE)	Islam
Sundown Nov 11- Nov. 12 sunset	Birth of BAHÁ'U'LLAH: Birth of Baha'i leader, founder and teacher. Refrain from work.	Baha'i
Nov 12 sundown - Nov 13 sunset	Ashura: optional 1-day fast. Shia observance based on martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's Grandson. Sunni observance is a recognition of Moses fasting in gratitude to Allah/God for liberation from oppression.	Islam
Nov. 13	BANDI CHHOR DIVAS: celebrates return of the 6 th Nanak from prison in Gwalior Fort; coincides with Hindu Diwali	Sikh
Nov 14	NATIVITY FAST/Winter Lent : begins until 25 th of December	Orthodox Christian
Nov 16	LOUIS RIEL DAY (Ontario) <i>Louis Riel Day Canada</i> is held Feb 18, 2014: http://civix.ca/blog/louis-riel-day/	Métis

NOVEMBER 2013	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Nov 17	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib birthday: birthday of first Sikh teacher. Sacred readings, prayers, hymns, meals together	Sikh
Nov 17	DEER DROPS HORNS - 11th full moon	Traditional First Nations; Métis
Nov 21	YULE: Christian celebration of light dawning in Jesus. Also Norse pagan celebration of the winter-born king, symbolized by the rebirth of the sun.	Christian; Norse pagan; present day Wicca event
Nov 24	GURU TEGH BAHADUR Martyrdom: Teg Bahadur executed by Moghul Emperor in India	Sikh
Nov 25 sundown - Nov 26 sunset	DAY of COVENANT: Covenant given in last will and testament of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i
Nov 27 sundown - Nov 28 sunset	ASCENSION of Abdu'l Baha	Baha'i
Nov 27 sundown- Dec 5 sunset	HANUKKAH: :Festival of Lights, commemorates Maccabean recapture & rededication of the Jerusalem Temple(165-164 b.c.e.) Special readings, praise songs focus on liberty, freedom	Judaism
DECEMBER 2013	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Dec 1 through to Dec 24	1st Sunday of ADVENT	Christian
Dec 8	BODHI DAY/ROHATSU: Day when Prince Gautama took his place under the Bodhi Tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment	Buddhist
Dec 17	BIG MOON - 12th Full Moon	Traditional Abenaki & other First Nations peoples; Métis
Dec 21	SOLSTICE; YULE: time when the earth is most inclined away from the sun	Christian; Wicca
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	Christian
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS; FEAST of the NATIVITY**	Christian; **Orthodox Christians; Accommodate Jehovah's Witnesses who do not observe Christmas
Dec 26 th - January 1st	KWANZAA: time to celebrate co-operation, community, social responsibility; founder, Dr. Rona Malauna, and African American; not all people of African ancestry celebrate Kwanzaa	Peoples of African ancestry; interfaith groups

JANUARY 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
JANUARY/FEBRUARY	MIDWINTER FEASTS -dates, length vary according to community, nation, location	Longhouse people; First Nations; Métis
Jan 1	FEAST of ST. BASIL; HOLY NAME OF JESUS	Orthodox Christian
Jan 1	GANTAN-SAI (New Year's)	Shinto
Jan 5	TWELFTH NIGHT: the close of Christmastide; prelude to Epiphany which begins the next day.	Christian
Jan 5	Birth of GURU GOBINDH SINGH	Sikh
Jan 6	EPIPHANY: season of the Christian year from the close of Christmas to beginning of Lent	Christian
Jan 6	FEAST of the THEOPHANY; *NATIVITY of CHRIST	Orthodox Christian; *Armenian Orthodox
Jan 7	NATIVITY of CHRIST/FEAST of the NATIVITY	Orthodox Christian; Rastafari
Jan 12	BAPTISM of the LORD JESUS	Christian
Jan 13	MAGHI: Commemorates battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobindh Singh Ji.	Sikh
Jan 13	MAWLID al NABI: Birthday Prophet Muhammad , founder of Islam, in about 570 c.e. Prophet's teachings are read & religious meetings are held.	Islam (Not universally observed. Shia & Sunni celebrate separate days)
Jan 15 sundown - Jan 26 sunset	TU BiSHVAT: Coming of Spring	Jewish
Jan 16	MOON of POPPING TREES: 1st Full Moon in the New Year	Traditional First Nations; Métis
Jan 16 -19	MAHAYANA: New year	Buddhist
Jan 19	TIMKAT/EPIPHANY: celebration of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Jan 31	Lunar New Year(4712 Year of the Horse	Buddhist; Confucian; Daoist
FEBRUARY 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH	www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/black/indx.asp & www.blackhistorycanada.ca (Includes video centre, virtual museum, photo gallery)	LDSB & beyond across Canada
Feb 2	CANDLEMAS: Young Jesus presented in the temple to Simeon. New beginnings recognized. Candles are lighted.	Christian

FEBRUARY 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Feb 2	IMBOLC : Pagan celebration of return of sun and lengthening of days.	Wicca
Feb 3	SETSUBUN-SAI : vernal equinox	Shinto
Feb 4	VASANT PANCHAMI : dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning	Hindu
Feb 14	BABY BEAR MOON - 2nd Full Moon	Traditional First Nations peoples; Métis
Feb 15	NIRVANA DAY :death of the Buddha	Buddhist
Feb 18	LOUIS RIEL DAY (Canada) : commemorates life of Louis Riel, representative of Métis.	Métis; day legislated by federal gov't of Canada
Feb 21	INTERNATIONAL MOTHER TONGUE DAY	LDSB, Kingston & Area
Feb 28	MAHA SHIVARATRI : marriage of Lord Shiva to Goddess Parvati. Prayers & hymns at night.	Hindu
March 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Mar 1 sundown- Mar 20 sunset	NINETEEN DAY FAST	Baha'i
Mar 3	CLEAN MONDAY - LENT begins	Orthodox Christian
Mar 4	SHROVE TUESDAY :	Christian
Mar 5	ASH WEDNESDAY : 40 days of Lent begins. Worshippers are marked with ashes as a sign of penitence	Christian
Mar 15 sundown- Mar 16 sunset	PURIM :delivery of Jewish minority in Persia from genocide. Marked by charity, sharing food with friends, vigorous merrymaking	Jewish
Mar 16	MAGHA PUJA DAY : presentation of teachings by Lord Buddha to, & assembly of holy men	Buddhist
Mar 16	MAPLE SUGAR MOON - 3rd Full Moon	Anishinabe; Traditional First Nations peoples
Mar 17	HOLI : spring festival dedicated to god of pleasure-boisterous colourful time. People shower each other with coloured water & smear red & green powder on each other.	Hindu
Mar 17	ST. PATRICK'S DAY	Christian
Mar 17	HOLA MOHALLA : day to display martial arts & engage in mock battles	Sikh

MARCH 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Mar 20	EQUINOX; OSTARA: Wicca welcoming of spring and the goddess-as-maiden	Wicca; Pagan
Mar 20 sundown - Mar 21 sunset	NAW RUZ (New Year)	Baha'i
Mar 21	NOROUZ (New Year)	Persian/Zoroastrian
Mar 28	KHORDAD SAL: birth of Prophet Zaranhushtra	Zoroastrian
Mar 31	Hindu New Year	Hindu
Mar 31 - April 8	RAMAYANA: Begins the reading & retelling of religious epic poem, <i>The Ramayana</i>	Hindu
Mar 29	GOOD FRIDAY: crucifixion of Jesus & related events.	Christian
Mar 31	EASTER: most holy of Christian sacred days. Commemorates resurrection of Jesus from his death by crucifixion.	Christian
Mar 31	Hindu New Year	Hindu
Mar 31	NATIONAL ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES DAY	First Nations, Inuit, Métis
APRIL 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Apr 8	RAMANAVANI: celebrates birth of Lord Rama, hero of the religious epic <i>The Ramayana</i>	Hindu
Apr 13	PALM SUNDAY/ORTHODOX SUNDAY: entry of Jesus into Jerusalem - begins Holy Week	Christian Orthodox Christian
Apr 13	MAHAVIR JAYANTI: birthday of founder Lord Mahavir	Jain
April 13 sundown - April 14, sunset (8 days observed) First two & last two days are observed as HOLY DAYS)	PESACH/PASSOVER: Festival of freedom, recounting delivery from slavery. Includes special dietary rules, strict cleaning of the whole household.	Judaism: Accommodation may be required; depends on the form of Judaism practised
Apr 14, 15 & 16	PESACH/PASSOVER: cont'd	Judaism: Accommodation may be required; depends on the form of Judaism practised
Apr 14	BAISAKHI: <i>New Year</i> & founding of Khalsa, Sikh brotherhood	Sikh

APRIL 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Apr 15	THE LORD'S EVENING MEAL: primary annual celebration taking place in the evening.	Jehovah's Witnesses (Christian)
April 14 sundown, 15 & 16 sunset (First two & last two days are observed as HOLY DAYS)	PESACH/PASSOVER Cont'd: Festival of freedom, recounting delivery from slavery. Includes special dietary rules, strict cleaning of the whole household.	Jewish: (Accommodate; depends on form of Judaism practised)
Apr 15	FROG MOON - 4th Full Moon GOOD FRIDAY: .	Cree; traditional First Nations; Métis
Apr 18	GOOD (HOLY) FRIDAY	Christian
Apr 19 sundown - Apr 20, 21, 22 sunset	PESACH cont'd: see April 13,14,15,16	Jewish
April 20 sundown - Apr 21 sunset	First day of RIDVAN: commemorates 12 day period in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared he was God's messenger for this age. Work is to be suspended on days 1, 9, and 12 of the festival	Baha'i
Apr 20	EASTER	Christian
Apr 26 sundown - Apr 27 sunset	YOM HaSHOAH: Holocaust Memorial Day	Jewish
Apr 28 sundown -Apr 29 sunset	Ninth Day of RIDVAN: celebrates arrival of Baha'u'llah at a sacred garden	Baha'i
MAY 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Asian Heritage Month	www.c.c.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/asian/index.asp (Official gov't declared month)	LDSB & across Canada
May 1	BELTANE	Northern Wicca
May 1 sundown -May 2 sunset	12th DAY of RIDVAN: last day of festival	Baha'i(work suspended)
May 14	VISAKHA PUJA - Budda Day marks birth, enlightenment & death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha	Buddhist
May 15-18	THERAVADIN New Year	Buddhist
May 17 sundown - May 18 sunset	LAG B'OMER: celebrates break in a plague that occurred in the days of Rabbi Akiva; in modern day holiday has come to symbolize resilience of Jewish spirit	Jewish

MAY 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
May 22 sundown - May 23 sunset	DECLARATION of the Bab: recognizes Ali Muhammed is the anticipated <i>"Coming One"</i> of all religions	Baha'i(work suspended)
May 26 sunset- May 27 sundown	LAILAT al MIRAJ: commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent into heaven	Islam
May 28 sundown -29 sunset	ASCENSION/DEATH of BAHA'U'LLAH	Baha'i(work suspended)
May 29	ASCENSION of Jesus	Christians
JUNE 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
MONTH of JUNE	ABORIGINAL HISTORY MONTH KINGSTON	First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Kingston & Area
June 3 sundown, 4 - June 5 sunset	SHAVUOT: Festival of Weeks. Marks giving Jewish law (Torah) on Mount Sinai	Jewish
Jun 8	PENTECOST	Christians
June 13	STRAWBERRY MOON - 6th Full Moon	First Nations peoples, Métis
Jun 16	GURU ARJAN DEV's martyrdom; Guru Arjan Dev inspired selflessness & courage; kept tradition of free kitchen where worshippers sat side by side regardless of caste or rank	Sikh
June 21	SOLSTICE: <i>"sacred marriage in which energy of the gods is poured into the service of life."</i>	Wicca
Jun 21	SUMMER SOLSTICE: day with the longest daylight of the year;	First Nations, Métis, Inuit & people of Scandanavian heritage
Jun 21	National Aboriginal Day: occasion for all Canadians to celebrate the rich contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada www.aadnc-aadnc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013322/	First Nations, Métis, Inuit & all people in Canada
June 27 sundown - 28 sunset	RAMADAN: month of fasting to purify body & soul, time to develop compassion & greater sense of humility, spirituality & community	Islam

JULY 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Jul 12	WHEN ACORNS APPEAR - 7 th Full Moon	First Nations; Métis
July 13-15	OBON: festival to honour deceased ancestors	Buddhist; Shinto
July 28 sundown - 31 sunset	EID al FITR: month of fasting ends	Islam
AUGUST 2014	DAY of OBSERVANCE	COMMUNITY
Aug 1	EMANCIPATION DAY (Aug. 1, 1834, British Imperial Act abolished slavery in Canada); end of <i>African Maafa (Holocaust)</i>	Descendants of people enslaved in Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
Aug 10	WILD RICE MOON - 8 th Full Moon	Menominee First Nations

SOURCES:

www.interfaithcalendar.org/2013.htm & www.interfaithcalendar.org/2014.htm

www.ryerson.ca/equity/calendar/2014.html

www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0908270 & www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0908270

www.sikh.org/dates.htm; www.allaboutsikhs.com/sikh-calendar/nanakshahi-calendar

www.sikhnet.com/pages/sikhcalendar

www.theholidayspot.com/diwali/calendar.htm

www.whenisdate.com/category/hindu-holidays/

www.sathyasai.org/calendar/diwali.html

www.ifqc.org/ten_year_calendar.pdf

Ontario Multi-faith Council/Ontario Multi-faith Resource Book sent to each school in 2011. Information about diverse faith groups & practices. **N.B. In some faith communities, the dates vary from year to year.**

Significant date information gathered in consultation with LDSB staffs & following faith community members:

Baha'i - Diane Mensch

Buddhism - Marie Myers

First Nations & Métis Spiritualities & World Views - Danka Brewer; Jane Chartrand; Elaine Jefferies; Rocky Landon; Bonnie Jane Maracle; Dionne Nolan; Kevin Reed (LDSB Aboriginal Education Consultant); Cathy Seguin (Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre)

Hindu - Somnath Sinha; Gaitree Oogarah

Islam - Amal Mahmoud; Professor Hafiz Rahman; Dr. Mona Rahman; Dr. Maha Elbatarny

Jehovah's Witnesses - Tania Gillespie

Judaism - Rabbi L. Shalom Plotkin; Hillary Tenenhouse; Ruth Winchell-Moyes

Researched June, August 2013 & Revised September 2013

by Meri Marja-terttu MacLeod, LDSB Human Rights, Equity & Inclusive Education Advisor

macleodm@limestone.on.ca