



# Interfaith Calendar

2006 – 2007 School Year

## Baha'i • Buddhism • Christianity • Hindu • Islam • Judaism

This interfaith calendar highlights religious, cultural, and ethnic observances of the six major religions practiced by the majority of the world's religious population. The diversity of religions and cultures constitutes one of the great strengths in our school/community society.

It is the concern of Poudre School District that students, teachers, parents, and others in the community achieve a mutual understanding and respect for the various religious and cultural groups. In the interest of achieving this goal, this interfaith calendar is for staff members to use as a tool to increase awareness and sensitivity about dates that may affect students.

### Baha'i

Baha'i holy days begin at sundown the day before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed.

### Buddhism

The Buddhist calendar is calculated differently in various parts of the world and is based on a lunar calendar. Some holy days are synchronized with the phases of the moon; thus, they vary from year to year. However, Mahayana Buddhists celebrate Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death according to the Gregorian calendar.

### Christianity

Some holy days have the same date each year; others vary from year to year.

### References

Antidefamation League Memo & Date Book  
Interfaith Calendar web site: [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org)  
PSD Board Policy IMDC, Religious Observances and Displays/Teaching and Religion  
PSD School Calendar 2005–2006

### Hindu

Certain Hindu holy days are calculated on a lunar calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar. Dates given are approximate.

### Islam

Dates on the Muslim calendar are based on actual sightings of the moon, and so dates given are approximate. Islam holy days begin at sundown the day before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed.

### Judaism

Jewish holy days begin at sundown the day before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed.

*Poudre School District will take into consideration significant religious holy days when scheduling school events.*

*If conflicts arise between students' religious observances and a school's schedule of classes or activities, students' religious obligations will take precedence.*

*Absences will be excused, and assistance will be provided in arranging for the make up of any missed schoolwork without penalty or embarrassment.*

### Key to Symbols



*Baha'i, Islam, and Jewish holy days begin at sundown the day before the date listed and end at sundown on the date listed.*



*School is suspended for practitioners of this religion.*







*A special diet is observed for practitioners of this religion (may include fasting).*












## August 2006

- August 3 *Tishah B'av* — A Jewish day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple of Solomon. (Judaism)
- August 16 *Krishna Janmashtami* (Hindu)

## September 2006

- September 23 *Autumnal Equinox* — First Day of Autumn
- September 23 – 24 *Rosh Hashanah* — the Jewish New Year and the first of the high Holy Days that mark the beginning of a 10-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal. (Judaism)  
- September 24 – October 23 *Ramadan* — the holiest period in the Islamic calendar occurring during the entire ninth lunar month. This was the time the Qura'n was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims over the age of 12 are expected to fast for 30 days from sun up to sun down. (Islam)  

## October 2006

- Month of October *Boun Ok Pansa* — Marks the end of Buddhist Lent. (Buddhism)
- October 2 *Yom Kippur* — the Day of Atonement is the most holy day in the Jewish year and is marked by fasting and prayer. (Judaism)   
- October 7 – 13 *Sukkot* — the Feast of Booths is an eight-day harvest festival to express thanksgiving for the fall harvest and to commemorate the 40-year wandering of Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land. (Judaism)  
- October 12 *Dussehra/Dasera* — a festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It is derived from early Hindu stories of struggles between a goddess and a demon. (Hindu)
- October 14 *Shemini Atzeret* — the eighth day of assembly, conclusion of Sukkot. (Judaism)  
- October 15 *Simchat Torah* — holiday marking the conclusion of the yearly cycle of Torah readings and the beginning of the new cycle. (Judaism)  
- October 20 *Birth of the Bab (The Gate)* — commemorates the birthday of the Bab who is the predecessor of Baha'u'llah (the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith). (Baha'i)  
- October 21 *Diwali (Divali, Deep Diwali)* — the Hindu New Year and Indian Festival of Lights. (Hindu)

## October 2006 (cont.)

October 21 *Eid al-Fitr/Idul-Fitr*— a three-day festival of thanksgiving marking the end of Ramadan. It is a time of rejoicing where Muslims decorate their houses and buy gifts for their relatives. (Islam)

## November 2006

November 1 *All Saints Day/All Souls Day* — celebrates the Christian saints and those who have died. (Christian)

November 5 *Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib* — Sikh honoring of the birthday of their founder. (Sikh)

November 12 *Birth of the Baha'u'llah* — commemorates the birth of the founder of the Baha'i faith in 1817. (Baha'i)



November 23 *Thanksgiving* — the fourth Thursday each November which commemorates the Pilgrims' observance of the harvest. It is also a time for giving thanks to God for blessings bestowed during the year. (Multi-Faith)



## December 2006

December 3 *First Sunday of Advent*

December 8 *Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)* — celebrates the enlightenment of founder Shakyamuni Buddha in 596 B.C.E. (Buddhism)

December 16 – 24 *Hanukkah/Chanukah* — or the Festival of Lights, lasts for eight days, is a celebration of religious freedom and commemorates the war fought and the rededication of the Temple after being recaptured from the Syrians. (Judaism)



December 21 *Winter Solstice* — First Day of Winter

December 25 *Christmas* — celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. (Christian)






December 26 –  
January 1 *Kwanzaa* — means “first fruits of the harvest” and is based on the agricultural celebrations of Africa. Kwanzaa is a seven-day cultural holiday practiced by Africans of all religious faiths celebrating family, community, and culture. (Multi-Faith)




December 31 *Eid al-Adha/Idul-Adha* — the Festival of the Sacrifice remembers Abraham's devotion in offering his son as a sacrifice. (Islam)




## January 2007

January 1	<i>New Year's Day</i> — beginning of the New Year. (Christian)	
January 6	<i>Feast of the Epiphany</i> — revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi at Bethlehem. (Christian)	
January 7	<i>Eastern Orthodox Christmas</i> — celebrated as “Christmas” in the Eastern Orthodox Church. (Christian)	
January 20	<i>Al-Hijra/Muharram</i> — the Muslim New Year, beginning the first of the lunar month. (Islam)	
January 21	<i>World Religion Day</i> — to call attention to the need for religions of the world to strive to be a unifying influence for humanity.	
January 23	<i>Vasant Panchami</i> — a major celebration for devotees of Shiva (Hindu)	




## February 2007

February 15	<i>Nirvana Day (Mahayana Buddhism)</i> — a regional observance of the death of Buddha. (Buddhism)	
February 18	<i>Chinese New Year</i> (Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist)	
February 19	<i>Eastern Orthodox Lent</i> — the start of fasting and prayer before Eastern Orthodox Easter. (Christian)	
February 21 – March 1	<i>Baha'i Fast</i> — a time when all healthy adults fast from sunrise to sunset. This fasting period ends at sunset on March 20, the beginning of the Naw Ruz (New Year) Celebration. (Baha'i)	
February 21 – April 8	<i>Ash Wednesday / Lent</i> — the start of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and prayer before Easter Sunday. (Christian)	
February 25 – March 1	<i>Ayyam-I-Ha (Intercalary Days)</i> — days of hospitality, gift giving, and service. (Baha'i)	







## March 2007

March 3	<i>Magha Puja Day</i> — Buddhist celebration of the presentation of teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men. (Buddhist)	
March 4	<i>Purim</i> — a celebration that commemorates the victory of the Jews over their tyrannical enemy, where they changed the day marked for their destruction into a day of victory. (Judaism)	
March 19	<i>Hindu New Year</i> (Hindu)	








## March 2007 (cont.)

March 21	<i>Vernal Equinox</i> — first day of Spring	
March 21	<i>Naw Ruz</i> — beginning of the Baha'i New Year, a celebration of hospitality and rejoicing. (Baha'i)	 
March 21	<i>Norouz</i> — Persian/Zoroastrian new year.	
March 25	<i>Holi</i> — spring festival dedicated to Krishna or Kama, the God of Pleasure. (Hindu)	
March 27	<i>Ramnavami</i> — anniversary of the birth of Lord Rama. (Hindu)	
March 31	<i>Mawlud an-Nabi</i> — birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam, in 571 C.E. (Islam)	

## April 2007

April 1	<i>Palm Sunday</i> — beginning of Holy Week. (Christian)	
April 3–10	<i>Passover (Pesach)</i> — eight-day spring festival celebrating Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. No bread or leavened food is eaten during the festival. (Judaism)	  
April 5	<i>Holy Thursday</i> — commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus and the Disciples were together for the last time before the crucifixion. The sacrament of the Eucharist was instituted. (Christian)	
April 6	<i>Good Friday</i> — commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. (Christian)	
April 8	<i>Easter</i> — the most holy of Christian sacred days commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion. (Christian)	
April 8	<i>Eastern Orthodox Easter</i> — commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Christian)	
April 14	<i>Baisakhi/Vaisakhi</i> — Hindu start of the New Years. In Sikhi the day commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood. (Hindu, Sikh)	
April 15	<i>Yom HaShoah</i> — or Holocaust Day, memorializes the six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. (Judaism)	
April 21	<i>Ridvan, 1st Day</i> — festival commemorating the 12-day period in 1863 when Baha'u'llah declared that he was God's messenger for this age. The 1st, 9th and 12th days are holidays. (Baha'i)	 




## May 2007

May 2	<i>Buddha Day (Vesak, Wesak)</i> — celebrates the birth of Buddha. (Buddhism)	
May 17	<i>Ascension Day</i> — the celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven, four days after his resurrection. (Christian)	
May 22–23	<i>Shavuot</i> — celebrates the covenant established at Mt. Sinai between God and Israel and the revelation of the Ten Commandments. (Judaism)	 
May 23	<i>Declaration of the Bab</i> — the day Baha'u'llah revealed His Mission to his disciples in 1844. Marks the beginning of the Baha'i faith, the Baha'i era (B.E.), and the Baha'i calendar. (Baha'i)	 
May 27	<i>Pentecost</i> — Birthday of the Church, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and disciples of Jesus. (Christian)	
May 29	<i>Ascension of Baha'u'llah</i> — anniversary of the death of Baha'u'llah. (Baha'i)	 

## June 2007

June 21      *Summer Solstice* — First day of summer

## July 2007

Month of July	<i>Khao Pansa</i> — marks the beginning of the Buddhist Lent. (Buddhism)	
July 9	<i>Martyrdom of the Bab</i> — anniversary of the execution of the Bab in 1850. (Baha'i)	 
July 13	<i>Oban</i> — (Ulambana Buddhism)	
July 24	<i>Pioneer Day</i> — observation of arrival of first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA, on July 24, 1847. (Mormon Christian)	