



Interfaith Calendar

2007 – 2008 School Year

This interfaith calendar highlights religious, cultural, and ethnic observances of 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. It does not intend to include a complete listing of religions or all days of observance.

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.

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.

Wicca/Neo Pagan


Special days begin at sundown on the day before the date.


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 may 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.*

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

 *Special days are based on sighting of the moon.*

3/5/07

References

Interfaith Calendar web site: www.interfaithcalendar.org
PSD Board Policy IMDC, Religious Observances and Displays/Teaching and Religion
PSD School Calendar 2007–2008

August 2007

August 28 *Lailat al Bara'ah* (Islam)



August 28 *Raksha Bandhan* (Hindu)



September 2007

September 4 *Krishna Janmashtami* (Hindu)



September 13 – 14 *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 13 – October 13 *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)



September 21 *Fall Equinox/Ostara* (Wicca/Neo Pagan)



September 22 *Yom Kippur* — the Day of Atonement is the most holy day in the Jewish year and is marked by fasting and prayer. (Judaism)



September 27 – October 3 *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 2007

October 4 *Shemini Atzeret* — the eighth day of assembly, conclusion of Sukkot. (Judaism)



October 5 *Simchat Torah* — holiday marking the conclusion of the yearly cycle of Torah readings and the beginning of the new cycle. (Judaism)



October 12 – 20 *Navaratri* (Hindu)




October 13 *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)






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 2007 (cont.)

- October 21 *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 31 *All Hallows Eve* (Christian)

November 2007

- November 1 *All Saints Day/All Souls Day* — celebrates the Christian saints and those who have died. (Christian)
- Samhain/Beltane* (Wicca/Neo Pagan) 
- November 5 *Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib* — Sikh honoring of the birthday of their founder. (Sikh)
- November 9 *Diwali (Divali, Deep Diwali)* — the Hindu New Year and Indian Festival of Lights. (Hindu, Sikh, Jain) 
- November 12 *Birth of the Baha'u'llah* — commemorates the birth of the founder of the Baha'i faith in 1817. (Baha'i) 
- November 22 *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)
- November 24 *Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib* (Sikh)


December 2007

- December 2, 9, 16, 23 *Sundays of Advent* (Christian)
- December 5 – 12 *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 8 *Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)* — celebrates the enlightenment of founder Shakyamuni Buddha in 596 B.C.E. (Buddhism) 
- December 16 *Posadas Navidenas* — begins (Christian)
- December 18 *Hajj* — begins (Islam) 
- December 20 *Eid al-Adha/Idul-Adha* — the Festival of the Sacrifice remembers Abraham's devotion in offering his son as a sacrifice. (Islam) 



December 2007 (cont.)

- December 21 *Winter Solstice* — First Day of Winter
Yule (Christian, Wicca/Neo Pagan)
- 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 *Watch Night* (Christian)

January 2008

- January 1 *New Year's Day* — beginning of the New Year. (Christian)
Gantam-Sai (Shinto)
- January 6 *Feast of the Epiphany* — revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi at Bethlehem. (Christian)
Dia de los Reyes (Hispanic Christian)
- January 7 *Eastern Orthodox Christmas* — celebrated as “Christmas” in the Eastern Orthodox Church. (Christian)
- January 10 *Al-Hijra/Muharram* — the Muslim New Year, beginning the first of the lunar month. (Islam) 
- January 20 *World Religion Day* — to call attention to the need for religions of the world to strive to be a unifying influence for humanity. (Baha'i)

February 2008

- February 2 *Candlemas* (Christian)
Imbolc (Wicca)
- February 5 *Shrove Tuesday* (Christian)
- February 6 *Ash Wednesday/Lent* — the start of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and prayer before Easter Sunday. (Christian) 
- February 7 *Chinese New Year* (Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist)
- February 11 *Vasant Panchami* — a major celebration for devotees of Shiva (Hindu) 

February 2008 (cont.)

February 15 *Nirvana Day (Mahayana Buddhism)* — a regional observance of the death of Buddha. (Buddhism)



February 26 *Ayyam-I-Ha (Intercalary Days)* — a time when all healthy adults fast from sunrise to sunset. This fasting period ends at sunset on March 21, the beginning of the *Naw Ruz* (New Year) Celebration. (Baha'i)



March 2008

March 10 *Eastern Orthodox Lent* — the start of fasting and prayer before Eastern Orthodox Easter. (Christian)



March 16 *Palm Sunday* — beginning of Holy Week. (Christian)

March 17 *Saint Patrick's Day* (Christian)

March 20 *Holy Thursday* — 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)

Mawlut an-Nabi — birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam, in 571 C.E. (Islam)



Vernal Equinox — first day of Spring. (Wicca)



March 21 *Good Friday* — commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. (Christian)

Purim — 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)



Naw Ruz — beginning of the Baha'i New Year, a celebration of hospitality and rejoicing. (Baha'i)







Norouz — Persian/Zoroastrian new year.

March 22 *Holi* — spring festival dedicated to Krishna or Kama, the God of Pleasure. (Hindu)






March 23 *Easter* — the most holy of Christian sacred days commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion. (Christian)

April 2008

April 6	<i>New Year</i> (Hindu)	
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) <i>Ramnavami</i> — anniversary of the birth of Lord Rama. (Hindu)	
April 20 – 26	<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 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)	
April 27	<i>Eastern Orthodox Easter</i> — commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Orthodox Christian)	

May 2008

May 1	<i>Ascension Day</i> — the celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven, four days after his resurrection. (Christian)	
May 2	<i>Yom HaShoah</i> — or Holocaust Day, memorializes the six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. (Judaism)	
May 11	<i>Pentecost</i> — Birthday of the Church, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and disciples of Jesus. (Christian)	
May 20	<i>Buddha Day (Vesak, Wesak)</i> — celebrates the birth of Buddha. (Buddhism)	
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 29	<i>Ascension of Baha'u'llah</i> — anniversary of the death of Baha'u'llah. (Baha'i)	