



Inclusive Winter Circle

Why?

- ❑ Staff and students at the LKDSB come from diverse backgrounds, faiths, and beliefs.
- ❑ Being inclusive in holiday celebrations shows respect for people, supports full participation, and adheres to the Human Rights Code of Ontario.
- ❑ The EDIJ team has put together this slide show which highlights a variety of important celebrations. There are links to allow staff/students to learn more about these different dates.

Important Information for Staff

- ❑ This is a **living document** that will continue to be updated.
- ❑ If you find a resource you would like to share, or a holiday/important date that has been missed, please contact Brandon Biggers, Mark Reinhart or Gillian Scott
- ❑ The traditional Western “holiday” season often does not include important holidays for many groups. This is important to keep in mind.

Tips for Inclusive Celebrations

- ❑ Keep common or public areas neutral, for example, decorating in a winter theme.
- ❑ Remember that the holiday season can be difficult for some people.
- ❑ Provide education opportunities - the same symbols or traditions can have very different meanings for people.
- ❑ Use the EIDJ calendar to identify holidays and days of significance and avoid scheduling mistakes.
- ❑ Make participation in events voluntary
- ❑ Ensure food options are inclusive (vegetarian, kosher, halal).

Tips for Inclusive Celebrations

- ❑ Avoid holiday celebrations that are Christmas celebrations in disguise - keep decorations and food more general and encourage participants to bring in different foods or share different traditions

November

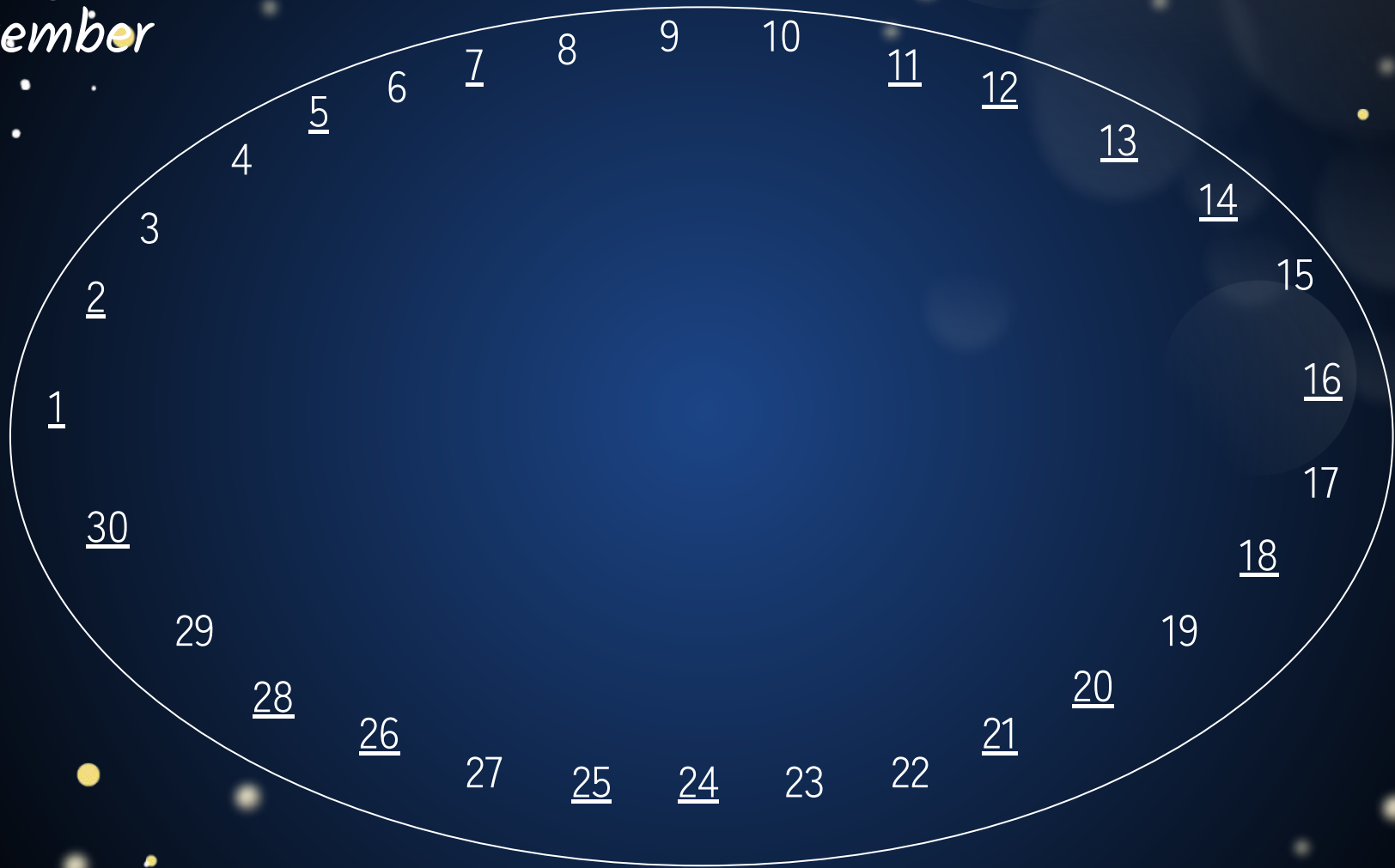
December

January

Significance of the Circle

- ❑ Sacred symbol in many cultures
- ❑ For Indigenous people, represents the interconnectedness of all forms of life
- ❑ Represents a decentering of our colonized calendar

November





November

All Saints Day

Wednesday, November 1st

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Karva Chauth

Wednesday, November 1st

[Click here to learn more about
this Hindu festival.](#)

Samhain

Wednesday, November 1st

[Click here to learn more about this
Pagan festival.](#)



Dia de los Muertos

Thursday, November 2
[Click here to learn more.](#)



Video Link Available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sSawpU81cl

Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I

Thursday, November 2
[Click here to learn more.](#)

Treaties Recognition Week

November 5-11

Inuit Day

Tuesday, November 7

Indigenous Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 8th

A field of vibrant red poppies in the foreground, with a dark, overcast sky in the background. The text is centered over the upper portion of the image.

Remembrance Day
and
National Indigenous Veterans Day

[Click here for the video link.](#)



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Diwali

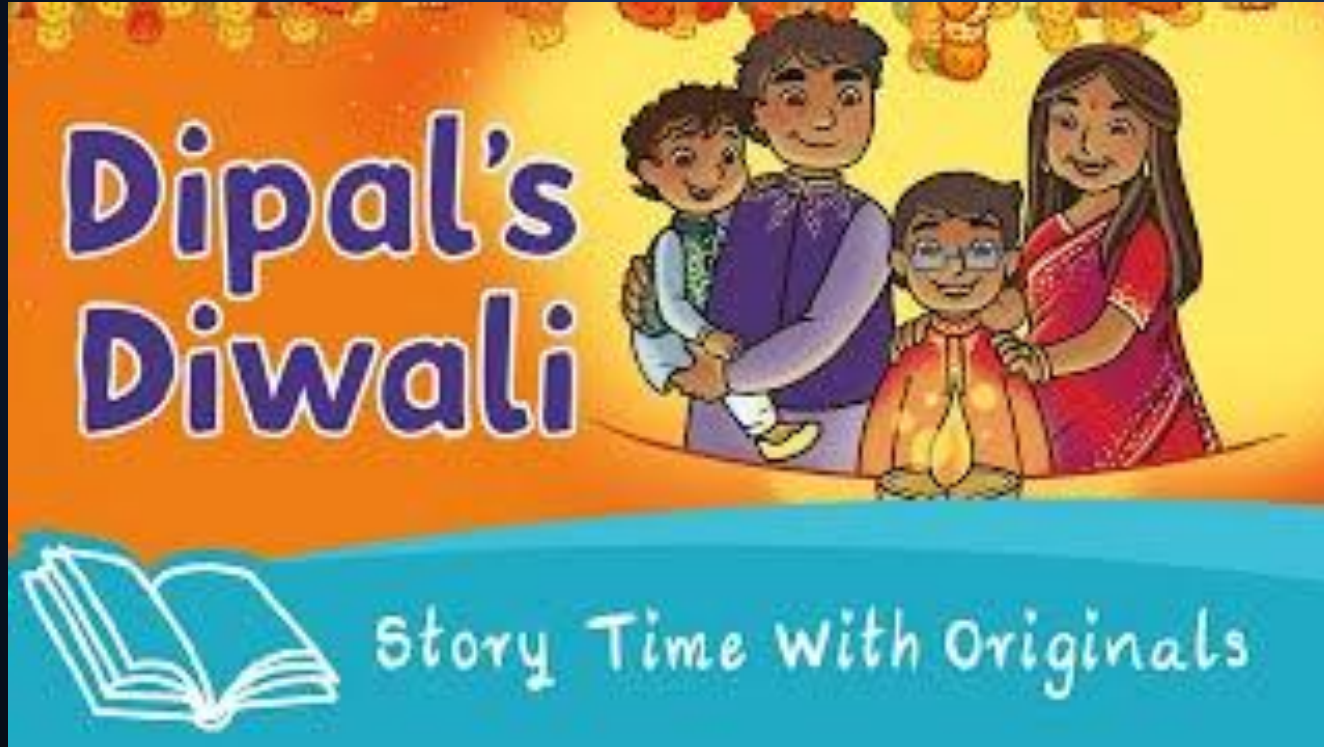
Sunday, November 12, 2023

[Click here to learn more
about Diwali.](#)

[Diwali PPT](#)



Read Aloud: Dipal's Diwali



[Click here for the video link.](#)

Transgender Awareness Week

November 13-19

[You can find more
information about this week
here.](#)

**TRANS
AWARENESS
WEEK**
NOVEMBER 13 - 19

Heritage Minute: Jackie Shane



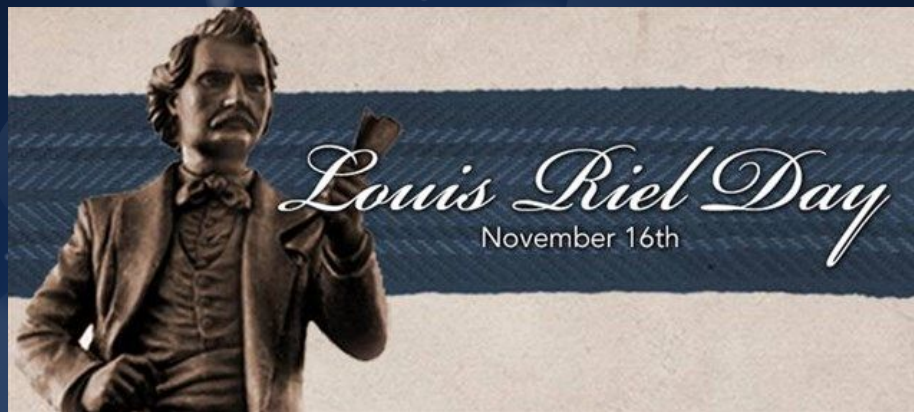
[Click here for the video.](#)



World Diabetes Day

Tuesday, November 14

[You can click here for more information.](#)



Louis Riel Day

Thursday, November 16

[Click here to find more information about this important Metis leader.](#)

A sepia-toned portrait of Louis David Riel, a man with dark, wavy hair and a prominent mustache, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The portrait is the central focus of the image.

LOUIS DAVID RIEL

October 1844 –
November 1885

[Click here for the video link.](#)

Gyan Panchami

Saturday, November 18

[Click here to learn more about this Indian festival.](#)



International Transgender Day of Remembrance

Monday, November 20

[Click here to learn more about this
important day.](#)



World Children's Day

Monday, November 20

[You can find more information about this important day by clicking here.](#)

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, November 21st

[You can find more information by clicking
here.](#)

Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Friday, November 24th

[You can find more information about this important date in Sikh history by clicking here.](#)

National Holodom Memorial Day

Saturday, November 25th

[You can find more information about this day by clicking here.](#)

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Saturday, November 25th

[You can find more information about this
day by clicking here.](#)

Day of the Covenant

Sunday, November 26th

[You can find more information about this day by clicking here.](#)

Kathina Festival

Sunday, November 26th

[You can find more information about this festival here.](#)

Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Tuesday, November 28th

[You can find more about this celebration
here.](#)

Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib

Thursday, November 30

[You can find out more about this Sikh festival by clicking here.](#)



December



World Aids Day

Friday, December 1st, 2023

[Click here for more
information!](#)

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Saturday, December 2, 2023

[Click here for a message
from the United Nations.](#)



International Day for Persons with Disabilities

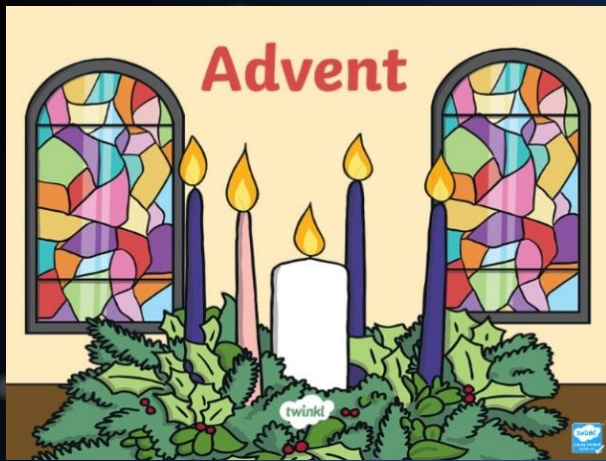
Sunday, December 3, 2023

[Click here for a message
from the United Nations.](#)

Video: Disability & Ableism



[Click here for the video link.](#)



Advent

Sunday, December 3- Sunday, December 24

[Click here for more information about this Christian celebration.](#)

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Geneviève Bergeron
Hélène Colgan
Nathalie Croteau
Barbara Daigneault
Anne-Marie Edward
Maud Haviarnick
Maryse Laganière
Maryse Leclair
Anne-Marie Lemay
Sonia Pelletier
Michèle Richard
Annie St-Arneault
Annie Turcotte
Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz



National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Wednesday, December 6th

[Click here for more information.](#)

Bodhi Day

Buddha's Enlightenment

Friday, December 8, 2023

[Click here to find out more about this Buddhist celebration.](#)

St. Clements of Ohrid Patrons' holy day

Friday, December 8

[You can find out more about this celebration by clicking here.](#)



Hanukkah

Friday, December 8- Friday, December 15th
[You can find out more about this celebration by clicking here.](#)



[Click here for the video link.](#)

Human Rights Day

Sunday, December 10

[You can find out more about this celebration by clicking here.](#)

Birthday of Imàm Aga Khan

Wednesday, December 13

[You can find out more about this celebration by clicking here.](#)

International Migrants Day

Wednesday, December 13

[You can find out more about this day by clicking here.](#)



Winter Solstice

Thursday, December 21

[You can find out more about the shortest day of year by clicking here.](#)



[Click here for the video link.](#)

Yule

Thursday, December 21 to Monday, January 4th

[You can find out more about this Winter Solstice celebration by clicking here.](#)

Fast of Tevet

Friday, December 22

[You can find out more about this Jewish celebration by clicking here.](#)

Christmas Day

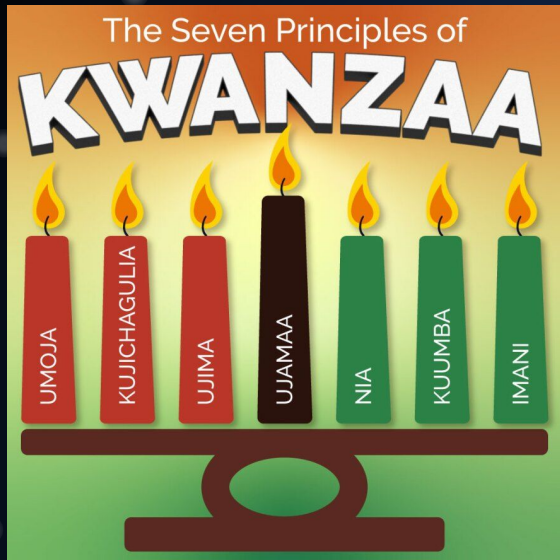
Monday, December 25

[Find more out about this important celebration here.](#)

Boxing Day

Tuesday, December 26

[Find out more about why this day is observed here.](#)



Kwanzaa

Tuesday, December 26 to Monday, January 1

[You can find more about this celebration by clicking here.](#)



[Click here for the video link.](#)

January

Gantan-sai

Monday, January 1

[You can find more about the Japanese New Year here!](#)

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1

Twelfth Night

Friday, January 5

[You can find more about this Christian celebration here.](#)

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 6

[You can find more about this Christian celebration here.](#)

Orthodox Christmas

Sunday, January 7

[You can find more about Christmas in January
by clicking here.](#)

Baptism of Jesus Christ

Sunday, January 7

[You can find more about this celebration here.](#)

HAPPY LOHRI



Lohri

Saturday, January 13

[You can find more about this Hindu/Sikh celebration here.](#)



All About Lohri

for kids!

[Click here for the video link.](#)

Maghi

Saturday, January 13

[You can find more about this celebration by clicking here. here.](#)

Orthodox New Year's Day

Sunday, January 14

[You can find more about this celebration by clicking here. here.](#)



Makar Sankranti

Monday, January 15

[You can find more about this very important festival by clicking here.](#)



Pongal

Monday, January 15- Thursday, January 18
[You can find more about this very important festival by clicking here.](#)

Guru Gobind Singh Ji Birthday

Saturday, January 20

[You can find more about this very important festival by clicking here.](#)



Feast of the Wedding of Cana

Sunday, January 21

[You can find more about this celebration by clicking here.](#)

Pasha Putrada Ekadashi

Sunday, January 21

[You can find more about this celebration here.](#)

World Religion Day

Saturday, January 21

[You can find more about this celebration here.](#)

International Day of Education

Wednesday, January 24

[You can find more about this United Nations celebration by clicking here.](#)



[Click here for the video link.](#)

Mahayana New Year

Thursday, January 25

[You can find more about this celebration by clicking here.](#)

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Saturday, January 27

[You can find more about this important
memorial by clicking here.](#)

St. Sava

The Divine Day

Saturday, January 27

[You can find more about this important festival
by clicking here.](#)

Jashan-e-Sadeh

Tuesday, January 30

[You can find more about this important festival
by clicking here.](#)

Additional Resources

National Geographic Kids:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/pages/topic/winter-celebrations>

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