

2023-2024

Cultural Calendar and Guide



The purpose of this calendar and guide is to highlight the intersectionality of our schools and significant days of celebration in cultures in our local community and around the world. Orting School District serves a growing, diverse community, and we recognize some of our students and staff may be participating in different cultural celebrations. We aim to create an inclusive and respectful environment in our schools. We hope each student feels they belong here; are challenged in relevant and interesting coursework; and are heard, seen, loved, and supported.

Contents

- 2 2023- 24 Cultural Calendar
- 3 Cultural Calendar Guide
- 6 txʷəłšucid Month Translations
- 7 Heritage/Awareness Months



Superintendent
Ed Hatzenbeler

Board of Directors

Carrie Thibodeaux ● JoAnn Tracy
Kathy Madigan ● Melissa Kinzler ● Michael Melot

**Executive Director for Equity
and Student Outcomes**

Aaron Lee
(253)893-6500, x 4025
LeeA@orting.wednet.edu

The Orting School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Debi Christensen, Title IX Coordinator & Civil Rights Coordinator, 360-893-6500, ext. 4028, ChristensenD@orting.wednet.edu; Jennifer Westover, Section 504 Coordinator, 360-893-6500, ext. 4027 WestoverJ@orting.wednet.edu, 121 Whitesell Street NE, Orting, WA 98360.



ORTING SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-2024 Cultural Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



FEBRUARY 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		



MARCH 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

-  School/District Closed
(Federal or State Holiday)
-  **Cultural Day of Significance:**
These are high-impact dates, expect some absences and try to avoid scheduling large events on these days.

-  **Cultural Day of Recognition:** Canceling or rescheduling competitions, formal events or performances. Practices and regular meetings optional with absences excused. Normal classroom procedures.
-  **Cultural Day of Awareness:** Before and after school activities can continue, but schools will be aware that some students may be impacted and request support.

Cultural Calendar Guide

■ Holidays in red are dates where students/staff may be fasting.

SEPTEMBER

September 4: Labor Day

Labor Day has been a national holiday since 1894, when President Grover Cleveland signed into law designating the first Monday in September a holiday for workers. [Click here to learn more.](#)

September 8: yabuk'wəłdat ʔə ti sčədadxʷ - Fishing Wars Recognition Day

The Fishing Wars began in the early 1960s when the state of Washington refused to recognize Native treaty rights. When tribal members tried to exercise their rights, they were arrested. Now, tribes in Washington celebrate Fishing Wars Recognition Day to remember their elders and ancestors before them that fought for their rights. Orting resides on the Puyallup Tribe's native land, and [you can learn more about the Puyallup Tribe here.](#)

September 15-17: Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is one of Judaism's holiest days. Meaning "head of the year" or "first of the year," the festival begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar, which falls during September or October. Work is prohibited, and religious Jews spend much of the holiday attending synagogue. [Click here to learn more.](#)

September 24-25: Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith. It marks the culmination of the 10 Days of Awe, a period of introspection and repentance that follows Rosh Hashanah. Staff and students that celebrate might participate in fasting between sundown on the evening before Yom Kippur and nightfall the next day. The fast is believed to cleanse the body and spirit, not to serve as a punishment. [Click here to learn more.](#)

OCTOBER

October 6: German-American Day

On German-American Day, we celebrate our Nation's German-American heritage and recognize

the contributions both past and present of German-Americans across our country. [Click here to learn more.](#)

October 24: Navratri/Dussehra

Navratri in Hinduism, is a major festival held in honor of the divine feminine. This is a 9-day festival and usually ends of Dussehra celebration on the 10th day. This holiday is predominately celebrated at night. [Click here to learn more.](#)

October 31: Halloween

Halloween is celebrated annually on October 31 and has roots in an ancient Celtic festival. Over time, Halloween has evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats. [Click here to learn more.](#)

NOVEMBER

November 1-2: Día de los Muertos - Day of the Dead

Día de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes foods and celebration. [Click here to learn more.](#)

November 11: Veterans Day

November 11 is Veterans Day, a federal holiday that is meant to honor all veterans of the uniformed services or are still serving during times of peace as well as war. Veterans Day has its origins at the end of WWI when at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the fighting ended with the signing of an armistice. [Click here to learn more.](#)

November 12: Diwali

Diwali, or Dipawali, is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (*avali*) of clay lamps (*deepa*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects them from spiritual darkness. [Click here to learn more.](#)

November 23: Thanksgiving

The third Thursday of November is known as Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is believed to be modeled after a feast between the Native Americans and Pilgrims. However, the jury is still out on whether the feast at Plymouth really constituted the first Thanksgiving. [Click here to learn more.](#)

November 24: Native American Heritage Day

Native American Heritage Day is honored the day after Thanksgiving and during the month of November, designated as Native American Heritage Month. The day is designated to honor American Indians and Alaskan Native cultural heritage and tribal sovereignty. [Click to learn about our local Puyallup tribe.](#)

November 25-26: k'wədíḏəłḏat (Day of Thankfulness) - Potlatch Days

The potlatch tradition differs from tribe to tribe. The word “potlatch” comes from the same root as “potluck.” Common ways tribes celebrate is bringing people together to give gifts and share food. This often happened in the fall after the harvest when there was plenty to give. It was an opportunity to strengthen ties among families and neighboring tribes. [Click here to learn more about the Puyallup Tribe.](#)

DECEMBER

December 7-15: Hanukkah

The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, food, games, gifts and more. [Click here to learn more.](#)

December 24-25: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Christmas is celebrated on December 25 and is both a sacred religious Christian holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. People who celebrate typically start the day before. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church and more. [Click here to learn more.](#)

December 23-24: sləx̌il ʔə tə šx̌nanəm tliiti - Medicine Creek Treaty Days

The Medicine Creek Treaty Days recognizes the Medicine Creek Treaty being signed by delegates from Nisqually, Puyallup, Steilacoom, Squawskin, S'Homamish, Stehchass, T'Peeksin, Squi-aitl, and Sa-heh-wamish tribes and bands of Indians that occupied lands around the Puget Sound. [Click here to learn more about the Puyallup Tribe.](#)

December 26: Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga after researching African “first fruit” (harvest celebrations). This holiday is to celebrate African American culture. [Click here to learn more.](#)

JANUARY

January 1: New Year's Day

Today, most New Year's festivities begin on December 31 (New Year's Eve), the last day of the Gregorian calendar and continue into the early hours of January 1 (New Year's Day). Common traditions include attending parties, eating food, making new year resolutions, and watching firework displays. [Click here to learn more.](#)

January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Day honors the life and legacy of Martin Luther King (MLK) on his birthday, January 15. King was a fierce member of the social justice movement, a pastor, and was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35. [Click here to learn more.](#)

FEBRUARY

February 10: Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is one of the most important celebrations of the year among East and Southeast Asian cultures. The New Year celebration is usually celebrated for multiple days. [Click here to learn more.](#)

February 14: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and repentance for Christians or Catholics. The ashes represent both death and repentance. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Presidents' Day: February 19

President's Day is celebrated on the third Monday in February. Today, the holiday is popularly viewed as a day to honor all U.S. presidents, past and present. [Click here to learn more.](#)

MARCH

March 11: Beginning of Ramadan

Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, introspection, and prayer for Muslims, the followers of Islam. Fasting is one of the five fundamental principles of Islam. Each day of Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink from dawn to sunset. [Click here to learn more.](#)

March 20-21: Nowruz (Persian New Year)

The word Nowruz means new day; its spelling and pronunciation may vary by country. Nowruz marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on 21 March. Its traditions and rituals reflect the cultural and ancient customs of the civilizations of the East and West. [Click here to learn more.](#)

March 29: Good Friday

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, the day which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. From the early days of Christianity, Good Friday was observed as a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting. [Click here to learn more.](#)

March 31: Easter

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For some Christians, this holiday concludes Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice, and ends with Holy Week. [Click here to learn more.](#)

APRIL

April 10: Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)

The religious festival Eid al-Fitr, or the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," is one of two major holidays celebrated by Muslims around the world. This

holiday also commemorates the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. [Click here to learn more.](#)

April 22-30: Passover

Passover, or Pesach in Hebrew, is one of the Jewish religion's most sacred and widely observed holidays. Jews observe the week-long festival with a number of important rituals, including the traditional Passover meal known as seder. [Click here to learn more.](#)

MAY

May 27: Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. [Click here to learn more.](#)

May 6: sčədadx^wəłdat - Salmon Peoples Day

Salmon Peoples Day recognizes the return of the salmon to the local rivers. The Puyallup Tribe has held "first salmon" ceremonies to thank the wide-range of fish for coming home after years at sea. [Click here to learn more about the Puyallup Tribe.](#)

JUNE

June 17: Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)

Eid al-Adha marks the culmination of hajj (pilgrimage) rites at Minā, Saudi Arabia, near Mecca, but it is celebrated by Muslims throughout the world. [Click here to learn more.](#)

June 19: Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated each year on June 19 to commemorate the day that news of emancipation reached the deepest parts of the Confederacy in Galveston, Texas. Today, Juneteenth is about celebrating Black history, freedom, and achievement. [Click here to learn more.](#)

■ *Some holiday dates are not set and change year to year.*

txʷəlšucid Month Translations

In collaboration with the Puyallup Tribal Language Program, txʷəlšucid (Twulshootseed), we have created a guide in recognizing what each month symbolizes since time immemorial. [Click here to learn more about Twulshootseed.](#)



pədkʷəxʷic - September

"Time of Silver Salmon"
The silver salmon are running.



pədxʷič'ib - October

"Time of Elk Mating Call"
The male elk makes their mating call.



pədł'xʷay? - November

"Time of Dog Salmon/Chum"
The dog salmon/chum are running.



səxʷšic'əlwaʔs - December

"Sheath Your Paddles"
The waters are generally too rough to travel for traveling. Therefore, the paddles are sheathed, i.e., put away.



słali - January

"Good Month"
Translated by Arthur Ballard



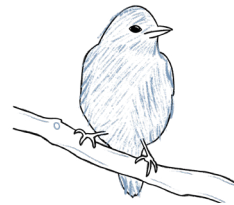
swaq'waq' - February

"Frog"
The frogs croak during this month.



pupuhigʷəd - March

"Gusts of Blowing Wind"
March is commonly a windy month in Western Washington.



pədxʷiwaac - April

"Time of Whistling"
The birds whistle.



pədč'aʔab - May

"Time of Digging"
This is when camas was commonly dug.



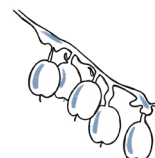
pədstəgʷəd - June

"Time of Salmonberries"
The salmonberries are ready to harvest.



pədgʷədbixʷ - July

"Time of Blackberries"
The blackberries are ready to harvest.



pədt'aqa - August

"Time of Salalberries"
The salalberries are ready to harvest.

Heritage/Awareness Months

SEPTEMBER

National Hispanic Heritage Month
Attendance Awareness Month
Deaf Awareness Month
Library Card Sign-Up Month
10-16 National Suicide Prevention Week
10-16 Arts in Education

OCTOBER

Filipino American History Month
Italian American Heritage Month
LGBT History Month
National Disability Awareness Month
Bullying Prevention Month
School Principals Month
2 National Grounds and Custodian Appreciation Day
6 German American Heritage Day
9-13 School Lunch Week
16-20 School Bus Safety Week

NOVEMBER

Native America Heritage Month
Homeless Youth Awareness Month
Military Family Appreciation Month
15 Education Support Professionals Day

DECEMBER

2 Special Education Day
4-10 Computer Science Education Week

JANUARY

Poverty Awareness Month
National Thank You Month
School Board Appreciation Month

FEBRUARY

Black History Month
Luna New Year
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month
5-9 School Counseling Week
23 School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

MARCH

Irish-American Heritage Month
Women's History Month
Music in Our Schools Month
13-17 Education Support Professionals Week

APRIL

Arab American Heritage Month
Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month
Month of the Military Child
National Volunteer Month
Poetry Month
School Library Month
7-13 School Library Week
22-26 Public School Volunteer Week
24 Administrative Professionals Day

MAY

Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month
Jewish American Heritage Month
Haitian Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
3 School Lunch Hero Day
6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
12 School Nurse Day

JUNE

National Caribbean American Heritage Month
LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

Visit our website to learn more about
our equity work and stay up to date
on upcoming events on our calendar:
OrtingSchools.org

Follow us on
social media!



@OrtingSchoolDistrict



@OrtingSchools