

# CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

The diversity of our world is reflected in the observances celebrated by various cultures and populations. Awareness of holidays that acknowledge diversity can enhance our efforts to create a sense of belonging on our campus.

## JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 •New Years Day •Gantan-Sai (Shinto) •Independence Day (Sudan Haiti)	2	3	4	5 •Guru Gobind Singh's birthday
6 •Christmas (Armenia Christian) •Epiphany (western churches) •Three Kings' Day (eastern churches)	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 •Lohri (Sikh and Hindu)	14 •Seijin No Hi or Coming of Age Day (Japan)	15	16	17	18	19 •Timkat or Theophany (Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christians)
20	21 •Martin Luther King, Jr. Day •Tu B'shevat (Jewish) •Thaiposam Cavadee (Hindu)	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 •Kitchen God Celebration for T'sao Wang	29	30 •Sadeh (Zoroastrian holiday in Iran)	31		

### Jan. 1, 2019

**New Years Day** An international holiday that simply celebrates the beginning of a new calendar year.

**Gantan-Sai (Shinto)** A Japanese holiday that is celebrated by the Shinto faith. It can also be referred to as Shogatu. It is similar to New Years and on this day followers visit shrines and pray for prosperity, renewal of the heart and prosperity. Follower also visit friends and family wearing their best clothing.

**Independence Day (Sudan, Haiti)** TK, TK, TK

**St. Basil's Day (Greece)** Gifts are traditionally exchanged on this day.

### Jan. 5, 2019

**Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday (Sikh)** He was the 10th and last living Guru of the Sikh faith. He founded the Khalsa brotherhood.

### Jan. 6, 2019

**Christmas (Armenia Christian)**

**Epiphany Day (Christian)** Epiphany Day is celebrated in the western church and celebrates the three Wise Men journey to Bethlehem to offer gifts to Jesus. In Easter churches it is celebrated in conjunction with John the Baptist.

**Three Kings' Day (Christian)** Three Kings' Day is celebrated in South America and parts of Europe that celebrates the end of the Christmas season.

### Jan. 13, 2019

**Lohri (Sikh, Hindu)** Lohri is a festival that acknowledges a change from a decrease in sun to and increase. The celebration typically includes a bonfire with a gathering of family and friends.

### Jan. 14, 2019

**Seijin No Hi (Japan)** Seijin No Hi, translated as Coming of Age day, is celebrated in Japan every year on the second Monday of January.

### Jan. 19, 2019

**Timkat (Christian)** Timkat, also known as Theophany, shows reverence to the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. It is celebrated mainly by Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christians. This holiday is usually celebrated by a river and can include baptism, festival activities, songs and dancing.

### Jan. 21, 2019

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day** Today we remember the great work and strides Martin Luther King Jr. and others made for civil rights. Today we remember him and those who pushed for civil rights by being kind, loving, and helping others.

**Tu B'shevat (Jewish)** Tu B'shevat, also known as Arbor Day, translates as "The New Year for Trees". This holiday is celebrated by eating fruit from trees and marks a new start.

**Thaiposam Cavadee (Hindu)** Thaiposam Cavadee is celebrated in India and Mauritius by people who are in the Tamil community in honor of Kartikeya (Granter of wishes) and the second son of Shiva. It is common for those who celebrate to do so with piercings and dancing to the temple carrying the Cavadee, which is an arch covered with flowers and pots of milk.

### Jan. 28, 2019

**The Kitchen God Celebration (China)** This is a farewell ceremony for T'sao Wang—the prince of the oven. The ceremony is performed before he leaves on an annual trip to heaven to report on families' good behavior during the year.

### Jan. 30, 2019

**Sadeh (Iran)** Sadeh is a Zoroastrian holiday that is celebrated in Iran to commemorate the hundred days and nights that past the end of summer in ancient Persia/ Iran. It is a mid-winter festival and is celebrated with bonfires to celebrate the defeat of darkness. People fast, pray and dance around the fire to celebrate.



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## FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 •Abolition of Slavery (Mauritius)	2 •Imbolc (Wicca festival) •Setsubun-Sai (Japan)
3	4 •Independence Day in Sri Lanka	5 •Chinese New Year	6	7 •Independence Day (Grenada)	8 •Monlam or Great Prayer Festival (Tibet)	9
10 •Basant or Vasant Panchami Festival	11 •National Foundation Day (Japan)	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 •Independence Day (Gambia)	19 •Butter Lamp Festival (Tibet)	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 •Independence Day (Dominican Republic)	28		

### Feb. 1, 2019

**Abolition of Slavery (Mauritius)** Slavery was officially abolished in 1835 on this day in Mauritius, which is an island off of the coast of Madagascar.

### Feb. 2, 2019

**Imbolc (Wicca)** Imbolc is an expression that means "in the belly." This festival is celebrated in the Wicca faith and celebrates the beginning of spring.

**Setsubun-Sai (Japan)** This celebration is a festival and gathering of people who run away bad spirits and welcome good fortune. On this day, large amounts of people in masks throw beans while saying, "devil out, good fortune in."

### Feb. 4, 2019

**Independence Day (Sri Lanka)** Sri Lanka gained independence in 1972.

### Feb. 5, 2019

**New Year (Chinese)** This is a three day-holiday, and it is celebrated with the cleaning and decorating of homes with five lucky signs and new shoes and clothes are bought and worn.

### Feb. 7, 2019

**Independence Day (Grenada)** Grenada gained its independence in 1974.

### Feb. 8, 2019

**Monlam Festival (Tibet)** This is a Buddhist holiday where Monks from the three great monasteries of Tibet assemble in the Jikhang to pray. People from all over come to join.

### Feb. 10, 2019

**Basant (India)** Basant, also known as the Vasant Panchami festival, marks the beginning of spring and is celebrated by wearing the color yellow. It honors Saraswati, who is the goddess of learning, wisdom and the creative arts.

### Feb. 11, 2019

**National Foundation Day (Japan)** Emperor Jimmu Tenno ascended to the throne and founded Japan in 660 BCE.

### Feb. 18, 2019

**Independence Day (Gambia)** Gambia gained its independence in 1965.

### Feb. 19, 2019

**Butter Lamp Festival (Tibet)** The lamp-lighting festival is celebrated by Tibetan Buddhists in honor of the defeat over non-Buddhist opponents in 1409 by Lord Neu Dzong.

### Feb. 27, 2019

**Independence Day (Dominican Republic)** The Dominican Republic gained its independence in 1844.



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