

MULTI-CULTURAL AND DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

May 2024

Santa Cruzan Day (Philippines)

May 1- Filipinos consider this the first day of spring. It commemorates the corresponding day in the 4th century A.D. when St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine of Rome found the holy cross on which Jesus was crucified.



Cinco De Mayo (Mexico)

May 5- It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the 'Batalla de Puebla' in 1862. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, it came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. It is celebrated on a much larger scale in the United States than it is in Mexico. People of Mexican descent (Chicanos) in the United States celebrate this significant day by having parades, mariachi music, folkloric dancing and other festive activities.

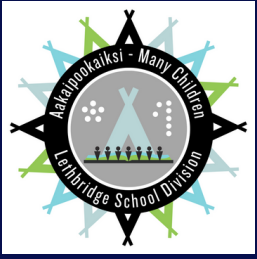
Kodomo No Hi (Japan)

May 5-Childrens' Day promotes family unity in Japan celebrating the relationship of parents with their sons and daughters.



Mother's Day (Canada and USA)

May 12-In 1914, the 2nd Sunday in May was officially declared Mother's Day by President Wilson. Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia first suggested a day on which to honour mothers and motherhood.



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Wesak (Buddhist)

May 23- The most important Buddhist festival, Wesak celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha as one event. Different cultures observe this day with different customs, for example, Sri Lankans light lanterns, Vietnamese purchase captive animals and release them, and Koreans host a lantern parade.



Declaration of Báb (Bahá'í)

May 23-The Bahá'í faith began in Persia (now Iran) on this day in 1844, by the prophet Báb who announced his mission as the founder. The event is celebrated about two hours after sunset.



Asian Heritage Month (Canada)-The Senate of Canada passed a motion in December 2001, designating May as Asian Heritage month. Canadians take part in festivities commemorating the legacy of Asian Canadians and their many contributions which have helped Canada become the multicultural and diverse nation it is today.

Jewish Heritage Month (Jewish)-May is declared Jewish Heritage Month in Canada and USA. It provides an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the incredible contributions that Jewish people have made to the country and in communities across North America.

Reference

Khanna, A., Mody, P., Powers, S., Raza. R. (2024. Multicultural Calendar 2024.

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