

## Diwali

<b>What is it?</b>	Religious Harvest Festival celebrated in Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Buddhism. Countries with a large concentration of these religions are India, Pakistan, and other Southeast Asia countries.
<b>When is it?</b>	Five days typically in October or November. The dates vary yearly as this holiday follows a lunar calendar.
<b>How is it Celebrated Outside the U.S?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Five days of traditions surrounding cleaning houses, attending religious services, family gatherings, fireworks, and more.</li><li>• Also known as A Festival of Lights with oil lamps, lights, and collages are made into displays in front of homes and other structures.</li><li>• Schools and businesses are often closed or have adjusted hours.</li></ul>
<b>How Does This Impact Schools?</b>	Increased absences.
<b>How are Schools Responding?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avoid scheduling family nights during Diwali.</li><li>• Allow for different appointment times for Parent Teacher Conferences</li><li>• Remove consequences due to absences</li><li>• Provide opportunities for the school community to learn about more diverse holidays (including other events surrounding lights or the harvest).</li></ul>
<b>More Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Short Video</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Picture Books about Diwali</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Student Friendly National Geographic Article</a></li><li>• <a href="#">List of worldwide celebrations involving light</a></li></ul>