



Interfaith Insider

Happy Diwali

October Events

Interfaith Interface Week-by-Week

- Oct. 7 - "How to be thankful like a Canadian?"
- Oct. 14 - "Who is Guru Granth?"
- Oct. 21 - "What is Diwali?"
- Oct. 28 - "Religious about abortion"

Holidays & Observances

- Oct. 5 - Yom Kippur
- Oct. 10 - Thanksgiving Day
- Oct. 24 - SAIT Diwali Festival

Diwali

Diwali —is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month, Kartika. This year, Diwali is on October 24, 2022.

Diwali, meaning 'row of lights' in Sanskrit, symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". Diwali is widely associated with Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity and Ganesha, god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles, along with many other regional traditions. It is also a celebration of the day Rama returned to his kingdom in Ayodhya with his wife Sita and his brother Lakshmana after defeating the demon Ravana and serving 14 years of exile.

In the lead-up to Diwali, celebrants may prepare by cleaning, renovating, and decorating their homes and workplace with diyas (oil lamps) and rangolis (colorful art circle patterns). During Diwali, people wear their finest clothes, perform worship ceremonies for Lakshmi, light fireworks, and partake in family feasts where sweets and gifts are shared. Diwali is also a major cultural event celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains. We welcome you to celebrate Diwali in the Irene Lewis Atrium, Monday, October 24 from 11 am – 1 pm.



Interfaith Q&A



Hala Dehais

Associate Dean, School of Hospitality and Tourism

What special considerations has your school implemented to honor diversities of faith and culture?

Our School is in a unique position to bring people together through sharing food, experiences, and culture. As we fully return to campus and to in-person events, we are always looking for ways to share our spaces such as Hospitality House to bring people together and celebrate various cultures and faiths. Last Ramadan in partnership with the Interfaith Center, Learner Services, and the Muslim Student Association we were thrilled to host the first Ramadan Iftar for Students and Staff. We hope to find more ways to connect the SAIT community with one another and celebrate the diversity our community has to offer.

How has the Interfaith Centre served and influenced your school?

The Interfaith Centre is a key resource I recommend to our students. The Interfaith Centre team creates wonderful opportunities for students to connect and create a community for both local students and those feeling disconnected from home during their studies. Whether it is through insightful newsletters, events, or the Interfaith Interface conversations, these opportunities to connect and learn have made me a better leader and supporter to my faculty and students. I believe the Interfaith Centre creates a space of belonging, learning, and understanding that makes the SAIT community stronger.

What can you share about your own faith journey and how you found community and inner peace in that journey?

While I was born and raised in a predominant Muslim family and country, it wasn't until I moved to Canada that I truly found peace and connection with my faith. As an immigrant, I was regularly invited to share my culture and faith with others. Sometimes I was challenged to explain or justify perceived religious beliefs that were associated with my faith. This drove me to explore and study my own faith and other religions to achieve clarity and confidence. As I learned more about Western and Eastern religions I found beauty in how people connected with their faith and experienced peace in the commonalities that brought faiths together.

Interfaith Interface is a safe, inclusive and inspiring activity where students from different spiritual backgrounds and diverse cultures come together to engage in thought-provoking dialogue.

Join us Fridays in the Interfaith Centre, MB305 from 10– 11 am.