



Nowruz 2021

For most of us, March 20th signifies the beginning of a new season, spring and a chance to look forward to warmer weather. For many of us from countries like Iran, Afghanistan, the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Turkey and Syria, throughout Central Asia and many more - The first day of spring is a New Year's Festivity, also known as Nowruz (pronounced NO-ruz). While specific traditions vary from country to country, as different cultures add their own elements, the central theme is the same: a celebration of spring and a time for rebirth and renewal.

In recognition of Nowruz, students and parents/guardians are invited to participate in free activities during the month of March which focus on aspects of Nowruz traditions celebrated by different communities.

On-Going Events for March

Student Virtual Talent Show

When: March 19th 5:30-7:00 pm
Where: Virtual TBA
Ages: Grade 1-12

Overview: Students within our board can get an opportunity to celebrate Nowruz by showcasing their talents on a virtual platform. This event will be open to anyone who would be interested in attending.

At this stage, we are hoping to gather students Grade 1-12 who celebrate Nowruz that may be interested in showcasing their talent.

It would be for 5-10 minutes and can be individual or a group. Talents can include anything, however these are just some suggestions:

- Playing an instrument
- Poetry/Spoken word
- Singing
- Acting
- Any type of visual art

Following [Registration](#) of the Virtual Talent Show a consent form will be provided and will need to be completed in order for the student to participate.

Poster Competition

When: March 1st - March 19th – Winner announced
March 19th 2021 at Virtual Talent Show
Where: Virtual TBA
Ages: Grade 1-12

Overview: What does the first day of spring mean to you? For those who celebrate Nowruz, the first day of spring is the start of a new year and new beginnings.

We are encouraging all students who celebrate Nowruz to create a poster that illustrates any of the following:

- How do you and your family celebrate Nowruz?
- What does Nowruz mean to you?
- What do you hope for the upcoming New Year?

Get Creative! Posters can be made in any format the student is comfortable with (digital, paint, canvas, etc.)

A photo of the poster can be sent to maryam.jafari@yrdsb.ca along with the student's name, school, grade and contact information. A consent form will be provided following poster submission.

Winner will receive a \$25.00 Gift Card!

Family Virtual Workshops for March

Family Virtual Workshop Registration

Families (students and parents/guardians) can [sign up](#) for the free workshops and a Zoom link will be provided prior to the event.

Egg Decorating

When: Thursday, March 11th 2021 5:30-6:30pm
Where: Zoom link will be sent prior to event date
Ages: Grade 1-12
Materials Required: Eggs, markers [optional: stickers, paint]

Overview: A workshop designed to provide an opportunity for YRDSB families to learn more about the traditions of the Iranian community around Nowruz. Every household that celebrates Nowruz sets up a table with seven different items (known as the Haftseen) that bring specific luck to the family. Eggs represent fertility in hopes of new additions to the family. Every one of all ages gather and decorate the eggs before placing them on the Haftseen table. During this workshop, families will have the opportunity to decorate their eggs inspired by ideas from members of the community.

Haftseen it Your Way

When: Thursday, March 18th 2021 5:30-6:30pm

Where: Zoom link will be sent prior to event date

Ages: Grade 1-12

Overview: A workshop designed to provide an opportunity for YRDSB families to learn more about the traditions of the Iranian community around Nowruz. For Nowruz, the community sets up their own table with seven items that begin with the letter S. Each item represents an item that will bring good luck to the family in the New Year. In this workshop, families will get creative and pick another letter and set up a new table with items beginning with the chosen letter and share what each item represents or means to them personally.

Esme Famil (Traditional Iranian Game)

When: Thursday, March 25th 2021 5:30-6:30pm

Where: Zoom link will be sent prior to event date

Ages: Grade 1-12

Overview: A workshop designed to provide an opportunity for YRDSB families to learn more about the traditions of the Iranian community around Nowruz. This friendly online game is played among the Iranian community. It's competitive but fun! Similar to other religious and cultural celebrations, during Nowruz, families get together and celebrate the New Year by eating delicious food, giving gifts, and playing games at gatherings. With this traditional Iranian game, families will have the opportunity to play with members of the community and learn about different cultures and traditions.

For more information about the events and workshops please contact Marjan Afzaly at marjan.afzaly@yrdsb.ca