

Harmony Day Basics (elementary)

Spirit Day: wear orange or Harmony Day t-shirts

Harmony Day Assembly (simple)

* in January, ask some staff members if their class will contribute a song, skit, slideshow, video etc. You only need 1 or 2! Good way to involve student teachers.

1. Have multicultural music playing as students enter gym. Puntamayo Kids CD's are great for this.
2. Short **introduction** about Harmony Day to be read by teacher, principal, or Leadership students. For example:

You look great in your orange and your Harmony Day t-shirts today. But did you know Harmony Day isn't about just wearing orange. It is a day where we focus on respecting how we are all the same yet all so different.

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Canada home – from the traditional owners of this land like the Okanagan People, to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Canadians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. (adapted from harmony.gov.au)

We celebrate the different languages we speak, the different foods we eat, and the different faiths we practice, and the different days we celebrate! In Canada and at _____ we all belong!

3. **Class Song/ Skit/ Choir:**

4. **Video:** different links available on the sd23 Harmony Day page
*ie. SD23 Harmony Day Song (written by Ryan Donn and students) with pictures created by Stephanie Godin; link is on the sd23 page under 'district info' and 'harmony day'.

5. **Read-aloud:** if you have a librarian, ask him/ her to scan a Harmony Day themed book to be read aloud by a principal, teacher, special guest, or student.

* possible books for this: (many of these books were gifted to schools on past Harmony Days- check your library!)

-*Woolbur*. Leslie Helakoskie

- Don't Laugh at Me* (book based on a song, included on CD): Steve Seskin
- The Crayon Box that Talked*: Shane DeRolf
- Somewhere Today*: Shelly Moore Thomas
- Whoever You Are*: Mem Fox

6. **Closing remarks:** reiterating the importance of acceptance every day