

Eid Holiday and the Eid Holiday Coalition

By Sara Siddiqui

Assalam Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You and Greetings Everyone),

We are currently at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan where over 1.2 billion Muslims across the globe fast from dawn until dusk daily for 30 days. There are exemptions, like being sick, elderly, young, and others. Ramadan is also notable for the spiritual gains one makes by sacrificing food and water, prayers at the mosque, while also donating to charity, and helping those around you. Most Muslims take this opportunity to abundantly gather good deeds. The Islamic calendar follows the lunar months which moves approximately 10 days earlier every year.

The end of the month is signified by a feast and celebration called Eid-Al-Fitr, in which families gather with loved ones at the local mosque in their finest clothing and perform prayers followed by celebrations, and plenty of food. It is the mark of the end of Ramadan and the beginning of a new month.

Eid Holiday Coalition was formed by a group of parents that wanted to have Eid Holidays off on the school calendar. Many Muslim students every year would have to choose between attending school or celebrate with families.

The Eid Holiday Coalition has successfully petitioned multiple schools on Long Island to mark Eid and other holidays as days off so that students can celebrate with their families. Parents and students alike would present to school boards to explain the benefits for all students. The addition of these holidays increases awareness of the many different celebrations and observations in our schools. It shows our similarities and differences, bringing us together.

Cultural awareness is imperative in understanding others in ways beyond common courtesy. It will help to turn our schools into communities and our neighborhoods into families.

For further information and to meet our advisory team, please visit our Webpage at <http://eidholidaycoalition.com/our-team/> or e-mail EidHolidayCoalition@gmail.com

Currently there is also legislation in NYS senate and federal legislation in support of adding Eid and other holidays to the school calendars. Please feel free to support and contact your legislator. <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1082634>

Thank you everyone and Eid Mubarak!

Sincerely, Sara Siddiqui MD, FAAP
Advisory Board,
Eid Holiday Coalition