

InspireLearning!

## Mission

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

## Vision

To be a leader in public education by empowering all students to become engaged and caring citizens of the world.

## Values

Our School Board operates based on a set of values which guides our actions:

## Inclusivity

We demonstrate equity and inclusivity in all that we do. We demand an environment in which all students, staff, parents, and our community feel valued and have a sense of belonging. We expect empathy, mutual respect and understanding to be demonstrated in our words and actions.

## Relationships

We value positive, meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents, and our community. We value diversity of opinion, sincere dialogue and community engagement
Innovation
We continuously strive to provide the best educational programs for all students. We empower staff and students to take initiative and to be innovative leaders.

## Engagement

We encourage active participation in all learning and activities by creating an environment that engages students, staff, parents, and our community.

Responsibility
We are individually and collectively responsible for creating the best possible school community to support the achievement and well-being of all individuals. We are responsible for the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and stewardship of Board resources.

## Optimism

We approach all situations with optimism. We cultivate confidence and resiliency in all students and staff:

## InspireLearning!

## F.Y.I.

- Christian system is used for dating years.
- B.C.E. (Before the Common Era) is used in preference to B.C. (Before Christ)
- C.E. (Common Era) is used in preference to A.D. (Anno Domini)
- (pbuh) - Peace be upon Him


## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vivian Chan-Simao
Richmond Hill High School
Fatima Jessa
Randall Public School
Joan Lachhman
Inclusive School and Community Services
Paul Woods
Inclusive School and Community Services
Mounir Mounir
Information Technology Services
Suganja Sinnathamby
Maple High School

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Staff and Students of the York Region District School Board
Calendar Coordination: Joan Lachhman
Inclusive School and Community Services
Layout \& Design: Chris Jasper
Learning, Design \& Development, YRDSB
For information please call the office of Inclusive School and Community Services, (905)
8842046 ext. 252, (416) 9697170 ext. 2409
or e-mail: joan.lachhman@yrdsb.ca

This calendar is a selected representation of special days and holy days of the major faith communities in York Region and it is intended to be used primarily as a learning resource. Note that the Calendar does not contain all the dates of a particular faith. This calendar is not applicable in determining faith day/ religious holidays for employees. Please refer to the appropriate collective agreement or contact Human Resources at Ext. 2220 or 2304.

For accommodation requirements or additional information on faith, please refer to the document Program Planning for Faith Purposes.

## HOLY DAYS BY FAITH

## BAHA'I FAITH



## AUGUST 2017 - JULY 2018



Karina Kan, Milliken Mills P.S., Gr. 3


Keishini Selvaganesh, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 9


Varshini Sathiaselan, Legacy P.S., Gr. 6


Aanya Nagpal, Herbert H. Carnegie P.S., Gr. 3

Ayodhya Panagoda, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 8



Rayyan Rizwan, Ellen Fairclough P.S., Gr. 6


Megha Verma, Markham Gateway P.S., Gr. 4


Maryam Bajwa, Aldergrove P.S., Gr. 5

Akanila Ravichandran, Harry Bowes P.S., Gr. 5

HINDUISM
August 7

August 14

August 24

## ISLAM

August 3I Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat), or Pilgrimage to Mecca, is undertaken once in a lifetime for those who can afford it. Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam after the Belief in One God, daily prayers, fasting and charity. On the Islamic calendar, it falls on the 9th day in the last month of Zul-Hijjah.
JUDAISM
August I

## WICCA

August I
Lammas meaning "loaf-mass", time of first harvest and bread making. It is when the plants of spring wither and drop their fruits or seeds for our use, as well as to ensure future crops. The God symbolically loses some strength, as the Sun rises farther in the South each day and the nights grow longer.

## ZOROASTRIANISM

August 18
Naw Ruz. New Year's Day in accordance with the Shenshai calendar.

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Jabez Kim, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. IO


Jessica Kerzner, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7


Lesley Zosky, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 8


Claire Yan, Fred Varley P.S., Gr. 5


Srishti Rao, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 7

Alston Lo, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 10



Alesia Leung, Sixteenth Avenue P.S., Gr. 7


Alisha Farooq, Alexander Muir P.S., Gr. 2

## CHRISTIANITY

September II Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year. This is the day for Copts (Christians of Egyptian origin) to celebrate the New Year and the Feast of Martyrs. For members of the Ethiopian Orthodox community, the New Year is a chance to celebrate the new month as well as the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

## HINDUISM

Sept. 20-28
Navaratri (Fall) is a nine-day celebration of the Divine Goddess for good health, happiness and knowledge.

## ISLAM

September I Eid-ul-Adha is the Festival of Sacrifice. It honours Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God. In commemoration, Muslims sacrifice a sheep or goat and donate the meat or its equivalent value in cash to charity. This is the "minimum" requirement for those who can afford it.
September 21 Muharram (New Year's Day) begins the new Islamic year. This is the year 1439.

## JAINISM

September 4
Ananta Chaturdasi is regarded as the holiest period of the year. Fasting, worship, meditation and confession characterize this period.
JUDAISM
Sept. 21 - 22 Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, marks the start of a ten day

* period of spiritual self examination and repentance which ends with Yom Kippur. Families celebrate with a festive dinner at which apples dipped in honey are eaten. (New Year's Day, 5778).
September 30 Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement, is the most solemn of the
* Jewish Holy Days. At synagogue, the evening service is called Kol Nidre. People ask for forgiveness of their sins and forgive others. Jews refrain from all eating and drinking on this day.


## SIKHISM

September I First Parkash observes the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib, the first edition of the Sikh Scriptures, in the Golden Temple by the fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, in 1604 C.E.

## WICCA

September 22 Mabon Autumn Equinox and the second harvest. Wiccans take a moment to pay their respect to the impending dark. They celebrate the aging Goddess as she passes from Mother to Crone, and her consort the God as he prepares for death and rebirth.

- Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.
MONDAY
TUESDAY
The Holidays and Observances Calendar is presently being drafted for the
20I8-20I9 school year. Included again this year will be student artwork
from Elementary and Secondary Schools for the calendar cover and
for each month. Keep an eye out for the memo outlining the details.
Notes $\qquad$

|  | $\mathbf{M}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{W}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ |
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Soniya Yogalingam, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 7


Daanish Chauhan, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 7


Alanna Ntentes, Legacy P.S., Gr. 6


Becky Jiang, Sixteenth Avenue P.S., Gr. 7

## BAHA'I FAITH

October 21 The Birth of the Bab. The Bab was born Siyyid' Ali Muhammad in Shiraz in southwestern Iran in I8I9 C.E. His title, in Arabic, means "The Gate". Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.
October 22 The Birth of Baha'u'llah. Baha'u'llah was born Mizra Husayn Ali into one of the leading noble families of Persia in 1817 C.E. His name is a title in Arabic meaning "the Glory of God". He is the founder of the Baha'i faith. Work and academic studies are suspended onthis day.

## BUDDHISM

October 5
October 6

Pavarana signals the completion of the Rains of Retreat.
Kathina marks Buddha's "descent from heaven." The day is dedicated to remembering the dead and respecting elders.

## CHRISTIANITY

October I World Communion Sunday is observed worldwide. Communion is the most fundamental of all Christian rituals.
HINDUISM
October 18 Diwali (Deepavali) both names mean a row or garland of lights. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is probably the most widely celebrated Hindu festival. This festival may be celebrated over a five-day period. The diwas (clay pots filled with oil and a wick) herald the start of the new year and symbolize the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness. For many Hindus, October 19, New Year's Day, is also very important.
October 20-25 Skanda Shashti Vratham is a six-day fasting period. It commemorates the destruction of evil by the Lord Murugan (Subramanya), who is the second son of Lord Siva and is celebrated with the dramatic enactment of Soora Samhaaram.

## ISLAM

October I Ashura falls on the IOth day of Muharram. The IOth day commemorates the martyrdom of Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

JAINISM
October 18 Mahavira Nirvana. The Jain year begins with Moksha (attainment of final enlightenment and release) by Lord Mahavira.
October 25 Jnana Panchami, the day of knowledge, observed with Pooja (ritualistic offering) to pay homage to Saraswati Devi, the deity of knowledge and learning.

## JUDAISM

October 5-11 Sukkot is a harvest festival or thanksgiving. Small huts are constructed in which meals are eaten, weather permitting, to commemorate the time when the Israelites dwelled in booths in the desert for 40 years.
October 12 Shemini Atzeret is a festival marking the end of the holiday of Sukkot on which a special prayer for rain is recited.
October 13 Simchat Torah is marked by singing and dancing which celebrates the end of public reading of the Torah in the synagogue and the beginning of its reading anew.

## WICCA

October 31 Samhain. The third harvest, meaning "summer's end", when the ancestors are honoured. It is a magical interval when the mundane laws of time and space are temporarily suspended, and the thin veil between the worlds is lifted, symbolized by the Crone and her aged Consort.

- Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.



Cinzia Pilla, Mazo De La Roche P.S., Gr. 6


Chloe Liang, Ramer Wood P.S., Gr. 7


Samuel Shulman, Red Maple P.S., Gr. 5


Mackenzie Turco, Bogart P.S., Gr. 5


Ishsiga Kugathas, Harry Bowes P.S., Gr. 8


Gil Gusinsky, Roméo Dallaire P.S., Gr. 6


Michelle Galor, Roméo Dallaire P.S.,Gr. 6


Taha Chaudhry, Sharon P.S., Gr. 2


Fargol Moayeri, Walter Scott P.S., Gr. 6

## BAHA'I FAITH

November 26 The Day of the Covenant. The eldest son and appointed successor of Baha'u'llah Abdu'l-Baha is referred to as the "Centre of the Covenant". The covenant was established by Baha'u'llah to safeguard the unity of the Baha'i community. It was Abdu'l-Baha's wish that the Covenant be celebrated rather than his own birth date.
November 28 Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha. After years of serving both his father and the growing Baha'i community, Abdu'l-Baha passed away in Haifa, Israel in 1921 C.E.

## CHRISTIANITY

November I
All Saints' Day is observed as a special day in many Christian churches.

## JAINISM

November 30 Maun-agiyaras is a day of fasting, silence and meditation.

## SIKHISM

November 4
Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The founder of the Sikh faith was born in 1469 C.E.
November 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadar Ji. The Guru was executed in 1675 C.E. by a Mughal emperor. Sikhs believe that he gave his life to save the Hindu faith and religious liberty.



Arianna Moore, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 5



Catherine Kim, Yorkhill E.S., Gr. 8


Naomi Diaz, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 3


Isabelle Yam, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 10


Natalie Applebaum, MacLeod's Landing, Gr. 4


Madeline Vaxman, Yorkhill E.S., Gr. 8


Brianna Greig, Sharon P.S., Gr. 2

## CHRISTIANITY

December 3 First Sunday of Advent begins the period of preparation for Christmas. In homes and churches, Christians set out special candle holders or Advent wreaths (Western).
December 25 Christmas (Western calendar) celebrates the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the son of God, and accept him as their Saviour and Lord. In many families, Christmas Eve is celebrated with big dinners, visiting and carol-singing, often followed by midnight church services.

## ISLAM

December I Mawlid-un-Nabi celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
December 13 Aga Khan (Ismaili) December 13 marks the birthday of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam-of-the-Time descended from the progeny of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is referred to as Salgirah Khushiali and is a celebratory occasion for Ismaili Muslims to express love, loyalty and devotion to their Imam.

## JUDISM

Dec. 13-20
Chanukah (Festival of Lights) celebrates religious freedom by commemorating the victory of the Jews over Antiochus who tried to outlaw the practice of Judaism. Starting on the evening of December 12, candles are lit in increasing numbers for eight nights in a "Chanukiah" which is a special candelabrum containing nine candles.

## KWANZAA

December 26
Kwanzaa named after the Swahili word for "first fruits" is a seven day cultural celebration initiated by African Americans starting on December 26th. Each day a candle is lit and placed in a seven-cup candelabrum called a kinara that sits on a straw mat adorned with fruit and vegetables. The participants discuss the principles or Nguzo Saba of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. On the final night of the celebration, friends and relatives gather for a feast known as Karamu.

## ZOROASTRIANISM

December 26 Death of Prophet Zarathustra who was the founder of the
Zoroastrian faith. His dates are uncertain but Westerners believe he lived in the first or the second millennium B.C.E.

- Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.
MONDAY
TUESDAY
Looking for funds for inclusive activities?
Go to the Board's Portal Site at https://bwn.yrdsb.ca, Board
Services, select Inclusive School and Community Services
and click on Road to Inclusivity Grants.


Natalie Filip, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7


Izaiah Kyle Cleofe, Kettleby P.S., Gr. 2


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Imeth Illamperuma, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7


Ashvika Aiyathurai, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 8


Kalen Delaney, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 7


Sobiga Vajayarpollan, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 8


Zelal Boran, Vellore Woods P.S., Gr. 5


Sahaar Rattansi, Willowbrook P.S., Gr. 8


Chloe Lam, Beckett Farms P.S., Gr. 2


Mariane Akina, Ross Doan P.S., Gr. 3

January I
Temple Day has become a day for Canadian Buddhists to attend a special service in the local temple.

## CHRISTIANITY

January 6 Epiphany (Western Calendar) is the 12th day of Christmas and the end of the Christmas season. It comes from a Greek word referring to the baptism of Jesus and the arrival in Bethlehem of the Three Wise Men who came to worship Jesus. The Armenian Orthodox Church celebrates the nativity of Jesus on this day.
January 7 Christmas (Eastern Calendar). Some Orthodox churches celebrate the birth of Jesus on this day.
The Julian (Eastern) calendar is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian (Western) calendar. In York Region, this is often referred to as "Ukrainian Christmas".
January 19 Epiphany (Eastern Calendar). The Eastern Church associates the date with the baptism of Jesus by John and the miracle of Cana in which Jesus turned water into wine. This day is also known as Theophany in Orthodox churches.

## HINDUISM

January 14
Makar Sankranti, is also known as Lohri, Thai Pongal and Til Sankranti. It marks the winter solstice and is primarily a rice harvest festival.
January 22
Vasant Panchami is particularly celebrated in Northern India. This festival marks the advent of spring. Also known as Shri Panchami, it is a celebration commonly associated with Shri or Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth). It is also commonly linked with the Goddess of Learning, Saraswati.

## SIKHISM

January 5

January 13
Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. The tenth guru (16661708 C.E.) was the final master who created the Sikh Brotherhood, the Khalsa.

Maghi commemorates the forgiveness shown by Guru Gobind Singh to forty deserters who returned to fight the Mughal army and sacrificed their lives under the leadership of a brave Khalsa woman named Maee Bhaago.

- Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.



Leonna Ng , Fred Varley P.S., Gr. 7


Sydney Ly, Lincoln Alexander P.S., Gr. 8

Dinusanth Surendran, Legacy P.S., Gr. 6


Emma Ka Wai Liu, Donald Cousens P.S., Gr. 6

Laxsika Perinparajah, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 7


Abina Sivamohan, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 8


BUDDHISM
February 16

- Lunar New Year the day after the new moon, marks the beginning of the new lunar year. It is the year of the Dog. Irrespective of their religion or country, all Chinese, Vietnamese and many Koreans celebrate the cultural aspect of this day. This is the beginning of year 4716 in the Chinese calendar. It is a time for renewal and personal relationships, and pledges of prosperity.


## BAHA'I FAITH

Feb. 26 - Mar. I Intercalary Days are four days (five in a leap year) that do not belong to any month. They are days of celebration, gift-giving, hospitality and charitable works.

## CHRISTIANITY

February 14 Ash Wednesday (Western Calendar) is the beginning of Lent, the forty day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, repentance and self-denial that precedes Easter. It is a reminder of the days Jesus spent alone in the wilderness.
February 19 First day of Lent, (Eastern Calendar), which is the great fast, is the last six weeks of a ten week period before Easter. This day is also known as Clean Monday. Some Eastern Churches may start Lent a week before on February 12.

## HINDUISM

February 14
Mahashivaratri (or Shivaratri, "Great Shiva Night") is a special night of prayer. Devotees sing the praises of Shiva, one of the major Hindu deities.

- Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.


Lathish Viijayasogaran, Ellen Fairclough P.S., Gr. 7


Carol Li, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 8

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Aliyaah Cangson, Yorkhill E.S., Gr. 8


Dahlia Modarresi, Milliken Mills P.S., Gr. 3


Vaishnavi Sivanegsan, Parkland P.S., Gr. 4


Maggie Ng, Cornell Village P.S., Gr. 5

## BAHA'I FAITH

March 2-20 The I9-Day Fast is observed every year from March 2 until March 20. During this time those who are physically able, abstain from food and drink from sunrise until sunset each day.
March 21 Naw Ruz (Baha'i New Year). Baha'is celebrate New Year on the first day of spring. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day. This date is also celebrated as a cultural event or faith day by many faith groups throughout the world.

## BUDDHISM

March 20
Spring Ohigon is a special time to listen to the teaching of the Buddha and to meditate on the perfection of enlightenment. This day is of particular importance for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists.

## CHRISTIANITY

March 25 Palm Sunday The Sunday before Easter, the beginning of the Holy Week celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. (Western Calendar
March 29 Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) is the commemoration of the institution of the Lord's Supper (Western Calendar).
March 30 Good Friday commemorates Jesus' death by crucifixion (Western Calendar).

## HINDUISM

March 2
Holi is a colourful spring festival observed widely in Hindu communities around the world. The myths, customs and rituals associated with Holi vary considerably from place to place.
March 18-26 Navaratri (Spring) is a nine-day celebration of the Divine Goddess for good health, happiness and knowledge.
March 26 Ramanavami On this day Lord Rama the 7th incarnation of Lord Vishnu is said to have been born.

## JAINISM

March 29 Mahavir Jayanti is the celebration of the birthday of Lord Mahavira (meaning the Great Hero) of Jina (the Conqueror).

## JUDAISM

March I Purim celebrates the victory over an oppressive ruler by Queen Esther and her Uncle Mordecai.
March 3I-April 7 Pesach (Passover) is a "Festival of Freedom" that commemorates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

- (March 3I) Symbolic foods, such as matzo, are eaten and leavened products are prohibited. First Seder is on the evening of March 30th. Although the second and last two days of Pesach are not identified as Diamond Days, they are also observed as full holy days by Jews. Staff are asked to take this into consideration when scheduling P.D. sessions, meetings, and other activities as some staff members may not be able to attend.


## SIKHISM

March 14 Sikh New Year's Day is the first day of the new Nanakshahi solar calendar. This is year 550 of the new era.

## ZOROASTRIANISM

March 17
Naw Ruz (New Year's Day) in Fasli calendars. This is the first day of the Zoroastrian and Persian year. It is a time of religious observance preceded by ten days of remembrance of the dead. It symbolizes the renewal of the world after winter. Irrespective of their religion, many Iranians celebrate this day. Naw Ruz is also observed/ celebrated by many other faith and cultural groups around the world. This celebration may also fall on March 20 based on the time of sunrise.
March 28 Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra, the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.



Divnoor Kaur Masniana, Elder's Mills P.S., Gr. 4


Lilian Wang, Elder's Mills P.S., Gr. 4


Gabriel Homiakov, Walter Scott P.S., Gr. 6


Aidan Feinstein ,Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7


Jake Rudolph, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7


Arielle Smith, Vellore Woods P.S., Gr. 6

## BAHA'I FAITH

April $21 \leqslant$ Ridvan. Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, declared his mission as the most recent messenger of God. Baha'is observe the first, ninth and twelfth days of this period. The actual event occurred in a garden, called Ridvan (Paradise) in Baghdad, Iraq in 1863 C.E. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

BUDDHISM
April $13 / 14$
Saka (New Year's Day). This is New Year's Day according to the Saka calendar. This day is both a religious and cultural celebration.

## CHRISTIANITY

April I
Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ. It is the most important festival in the Christian year (Western Calendar).
April I Palm Sunday The Sunday before Easter (Eastern Calendar).
April $6 \bullet$ Holy Friday (Eastern) commemorates the passion of Jesus Christ, i.e. his submission to death by crucifixion. The Eastern churches focus on his burial.
April 8 Easter Sunday in the Orthodox churches. The church calendar year begins with Pascha (Eastern Calendar).

## HINDUISM

April 13

ISLAM
April 13
Miraj-un-Nabi commemorates Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) famous night journey (al-Isra) from Mecca to Jerusalem and his subsequent ascension (al-Miraj) to paradise.

SIKHISM
April 13

- Vaisakhi.This day celebrates the founding of the Khalsa order (Sikh religion) in 1699 C.E. by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Many Sikhs choose to be baptized into the Khalsa Panth (Brotherhood of the Pure) on this day. Also on this day, male Khalsa Sikhs are named Singh (lion), female Khalsa Sikhs are named Kaur (princess). It is the most important holy day of the year for Sikhs.
- Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Please note: |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Easter } \\ \text { Sunday } \\ \text { (Western) } \end{gathered}$ |
| Second Semester break for Bill Crothers S.S, is from |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Palm } \\ \text { Sunday } \\ \text { (Eastern) } \end{gathered}$ |
| April 23 - April 27, 2017. |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  | 7 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |  | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | $21$ | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

Notes $\qquad$

$\mathbf{Z} \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{M}$| $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{W}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |



Danniel Ahn, Bogart P.S., Gr. 5


Abeera Masood, Sir William Mullock S.S., Gr. IO


Chloe Kwong, Silver Stream P.S., Gr. 6


Sarah Snitman, Cornell Village P.S., Gr. 5

lain Beattie, Holland Landing P.S., Gr. 4


Vashana Rameshwaran, Julliard P.S., Gr. 3

## BAHA'I FAITH

May 24 Declaration of the Bab. On this day in 1844 C.E., a man known as the Bab, a title which means "the Gate," announced his mission as a manifestation of God whose purpose was to prepare the world for the coming of the promised manifestation of all religions, Baha'u'llah. The Baha'i calendar is dated from this day. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.
May 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah. This date marks the passing in 1892 C.E. of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, near Haifa, in the Holy Lands. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

## BUDDHISM

May 29
Wesak is celebrated on the full moon. It is considered the most auspicious day of the year, celebrating Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment, and Final Demise. In Canada, many Buddhist groups join together to celebrate the three festivals of Buddha's life as one event. They do this on the day of the fourth full moon after the lunar new year, or the Sunday closest to that day. This is usually around mid-May.

## CHRISTIANITY

May 10

May 20

ISLAM
May I

May 16

JUDAISM

WICCA
May I

May 20-21 Shavuot celebrates the Israelites receiving the Torah.
Ascension Day (Western) marks Jesus' ascension into heaven and is observed through prayers and music. It occurs forty days after Easter.
Pentecost (Western) celebrates the renewal of faith that Jesus followers felt after his death. It commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus. It comes fifty days after Easter.

Nisfu-Shaban is known as the Night of Forgiveness or repentance. Many Muslims spend the preceding night in prayer seeking God's guidance.
Ramadhan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. All Muslims who are physically able, fast during this month abstaining from food and drink each day from dawn to sunset. The beginning of Ramadhan depends on the sighting of the moon on the previous evening.

Beltane meaning "May", the greening of the Earth, blossom time, when Goddess and God are reunited. Beltane has long been celebrated with feasts and rituals.

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| 7 | 8 | 9 | $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { acesemen on } \\ & 10 \\ & 10 \\ & 10 \end{aligned}\right.$ | \||| | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | $\begin{aligned} & 16 \\ & 16 \text { emanan } \end{aligned}$ | 17 | 18 | 19 | (somem |
| 14 21 verana bor 21 | 22 | 23 |  | $25$ | 26 | 27 |
| 28 |  | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |

Notes $\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$


| $\mathbf{M}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{W}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{F}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ | $\mathbf{S}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| $\mathbf{1 1}$ | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |  |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |  |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |  |  |



Jaye Willison, William Armstrong P.S., Gr. 7


Saghi Shekarsaraei, Doncrest P.S., Gr. 5


Sahari Ketheeswaran, Harry Bowes P.S., Gr. 7


Marzuqah Liagat , Ellen Fairclough P.S., Gr. 7


Ann Thomas, William Armstrong P.S., Gr. 7


Laurel Mayhew, Mazo De La Roche P.S., Gr. 6

ISLAM
June II

June 15
Lailat-ul-Qadr (literally the Night of Power) commemorates the night in 610 C.E. on which the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received the first revelation of the Islamic Holy scriptures (the Qur'an) from God through the Angel Gabriel. For many Muslims, any odd nights in the last ten days can be observed as Lailat-ul-Qadr.

- Eid-ul-Fitr is a celebration that marks the end of Ramadhan, the month of fast. It falls on the first day of the following month Shawal. The beginning of the month depends on the sighting of the new moon. It is the first day in which those who were fasting can eat and drink during the day.


## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

June 21
A day declared by the Assembly of First Nations. All First Nations' organizations cease work during this day. This is a day where all Canadians can celebrate the contributions Aboriginal peoples have made to Canada. This day was chosen because it is also the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. For generations, many Aboriginal people have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day. For more information about the day's activities, visit the Indian \& Northern Affairs Canada Website at www. inac.gc.ca and look in the "Culture and History" section. Additional resources on First Nation, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) can be found on the Equity page, as well as on:
http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/index.html

## SIKHISM

June 16
Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji. The fifth Guru (I563 1606 C.E.), who built the Temple of God in Amristar, was martyred on this day.

## ZOROASTRIANISM

June 29 - July 3 Ghambar Maidyoshem celebrates the creation of water, the sowing of the summer crop and the harvesting of grain.

[^0]


Ava Makrehchi, Bayview Glen P.S., Gr. 2


Aaiden Butalia, Glen Gould P.S., Gr. 2


Mana Hazelton, Walter Scott P.S., Gr. 6


Annie Tumanyan, Roméo Dallaire P.S., Gr. 4


Anisa Persaud,Wismer P.S., Gr. 6


Diana Zhao, Roy H. Crosby P.S., Gr. 6


Zachary Taniguchi, Cornell Village P.S., Gr. 5


Asmeha Puvanasritha, Oscar Peterson P.S., Gr. 2


Taheem Chaudhry, Sharon P.S., Gr. 2

## BAHA'I FAITH

## July 10

Martyrdom of the Bab.
The Bab was put to death at the age of 31 , by a firing squad in the market square of Tabriz (Persia), in 1850 C.E.
The event is observed at noon. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

## BUDDHISM

July 28

## Canada Day

July I

## JUDAISM

July 22
Wassana is celebrated on the full moon. It marks the beginning of the three month Rains Retreat for monks and nuns.

I5 Ist anniversary of Confederation.

Tish'a B'av marks a number of misfortunes such as the destruction of both of the ancient temples some 650 years apart. The day is marked by fasting and the reading of the Book of Lamentations.


## CALENDAR 2017-2018



Julia Gheorghe, MacLeod's Landing P.S., Gr. 4


Kealin Taylor-Martin, Highgate P.S., Gr. 8

Front Cover Illustration by
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[^0]:    - Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

