**Days of Significance and TDSB Heritage Months**

**Period from: September 2018 – May 2019 of the TDSB school year**

The following information aims to raise awareness of key cultural and religious days that should be considered when planning Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee (EPCAC) general meetings and activities.

If planned for the month, EPCAC general meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month. The information below attempts to incorporate the key cultural and religious days that may fall on the third Thursday of the month between May 2018 and May 2019. The information below has been provided to anticipate when members might choose to seek accommodations for cultural or religious observances.

Please be advised that the list is not exhaustive of all events that are celebrated. Absence of an event that falls on the third Thursday of the month should not be interpreted to mean that there should be no accommodation for members who observe those days. Please advise us if we have failed to record a possible conflict.

NOTE: While we have tried to include possible days, some observances are based on an interpretation of the lunar calendar, and may vary by one or two days depending upon the interpretation relevant to a member’s faith or cultural tradition.

**No TDSB Heritage Months are celebrated in September.**

[**September 20**](http://www.holidayscalendar.com/day/september-20/)**, 2018 -** Tassoua in Iran/Day of Achura in Algeria/First Day of Ashura in Lebanon

The day is marked by Muslims as a whole, but for Shia Muslims it is a major religious commemoration of the martyrdom at Karbala of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, who was slain in battle in 680 C.E. For 2018, Tassoua-Ashura begins in the evening of September 20, 2018.

**September 20, 2018 is the third Thursday of the month and the designated date for the EPCAC general meeting.**

**October**

TDSB Hispanic Heritage Month (City of Toronto)

TDSB Islamic Heritage Month

TDSB Somali Heritage Month

TDSB Women’s History Month

**October 18, 2018** - [Dussehra](http://www.holidayscalendar.com/event/dussehra/) Hindu Holiday - also known as Vijaya Dashami or Dashain –

Dashami Tithi begins at 05:58 on October 18, 2018 and ends at 08:27 on October 19, 2018. It celebrates the defeat of the demon king Ravana by Lord Rama. For Hindus, Dusshera is a time for re-establishing faith in the victory of good over evil.

**October 18, 2018 is the third Thursday of the month and the designated date for the EPCAC general meeting.**

**November**

TDSB Aboriginal/Indigenous Education Month

TDSB Hindu Heritage Month

[**November 15**](http://www.holidayscalendar.com/day/november-15/)**, 2018 -** 7-5-3 Day - [Japan](http://www.holidayscalendar.com/countries/japan/)

Children’s Day - Shichi-Go-San or Seven-Five-Three is a traditional rite of passage and festival day in Japan for three and seven-year-old girls and five-year-old boys, held annually on November 15 to celebrate the growth and well-being of young children.

[**November 15**](http://www.holidayscalendar.com/day/november-15/)**, 2018 is the third Thursday of the month and the designated date for the EPCAC general meeting.**

**No EPCAC General Meetings are held in December of the school year.**

**No TDSB Heritage Months are celebrated in December of the school year.**

**January**

TDSB Tamil Heritage Month

January 17, 2019 is the third Thursday of the month and the designated date for the EPCAC general meeting. **No days of significance are noted for the third Thursday of the month.**

**February**

TDSB African Heritage Month

TDSB Chinese Heritage Month

**\*\*\***due to a conflict with the PIAC Chair Appreciation Dinner scheduled on Thursday, February 21st, the February EPCAC meeting has been moved to Tuesday, February 19th.  There are no days of significance registered for Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

**March**

TDSB Greek Heritage Month

**Mar 21, 2019 -** [Purim](https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/purim)

The Jewish holiday - Purim marks the Jewish people’s deliverance from a royal death decree around the fourth century BCE, as told in the Book of Esther. Many Jewish Canadians celebrate it on the 14th day of the month of Adar in the Jewish calendar, which in the Gregorian calendar is March 21, in 2019.

**March 21, 2019 is the third Thursday of the month and the designated date for the EPCAC general meeting.**

**April**

TDSB Genocide Awareness Month

TDSB Latin America History Month

TDSB Sikh Heritage Month

**Apr 18, 2019 -** [Maundy or Holy](https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/maundy-thursday) Thursday

Christian - Holy Thursday falls on the Thursday before Good Friday which is a statutory holiday at the TDSB. Many TDSB staff and others will have early leave.

**April 18, 2019 is the third Thursday of the month and the designated date for the EPCAC general meeting.**

**May**

TDSB Asian Heritage Month

TDSB Jewish Heritage Month

TDSB Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

May 16, 2019 is the third Thursday of the month and the designated date for the EPCAC general meeting.

**No days of significance are noted for the third Thursday of the month.**

**June**

TDSB Italian Heritage Month

TDSB National Aboriginal Month

TDSB Portuguese Speaking Heritage Month

City of Toronto PRIDE Month

**No EPCAC General Meetings are held in June, July or August of the year.**

**No TDSB Heritage Months are celebrated in July or August.**