***Days of Significance***

Calendar Dates May 2019 - December 2020

This calendar highlights secular and creed-based observances and holidays, significant events and celebrations, public holidays and other important dates. These should be considered when planning educational events, tests, exams and other activities.

This calendar should not be used as a list of dates for creed-based accommodations; accommodation requests must be made formally and determined on an individual case by case basis subject to the operational procedures of the Board regarding creed beliefs, practices and observances.

Note: Information contained in this document has been sourced from several dozen websites. Please see *Days of Significance Resource Guide* for further information through <http://tdsbweb/equity>.

This calendar is not meant to be comprehensive or exhaustive and every attempt has been made to ensure its accuracy. Please note this is a fluid calendar and updates and changes are made throughout the year. If you discover any errors, required updates or omissions or, have any other inquiries regarding this document, forward your correspondence via email to:

Toronto District School Board,

Employment Equity Office

Email Contact: [peter.langford@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:peter.langford@tdsb.on.ca)

Last Updated: 17 April 2019

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| **May 2019** | 1 | Beltane | Wicca/Pagan |
| **Asian Heritage Month** | 2 | Ridván (Holiday Ends: Starts on 20 April ‘19) | Baha’i |
| **Jewish Heritage Month** | 5 | International Family Equality Day (1st Sun. in May) | Family Equality Council |
| **Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month** | 5 | Nisfu Shaban\* (Holiday Ends: Starts on 06 April ‘19) | Islam |
|  | 12 | Vaisakhi Puja (Buddha’s Birthday) | Buddhism (South Korean) |
|  | 15 | International Day of Families | United Nations |
|  | May 6 - June 4 | Ramadan\* | Islam |
|  | 17 | International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia | IDAHOTB |
|  | 19 | Vesak Day | Buddhism |
|  | 20 | Queen Victoria Day | Canadian Government Public Holiday |
|  | 24 | Declaration of the Bá’b\* | Baha’i |
|  | 25 | Africa Day | Member States of the African Union |
|  | 27-31 | Bike to School Week | Ontario Active School Travel |
|  | 29 | The Ascension of Baha’u’llah\* | Baha’i |
|  | 30 | Ascension Day | Christianity - Western |
|  | 31 | Jumu’ah-tul Wida\* | Islam |
|  | 31 | Laylat al\_Qadr\* | Islam |
|  | 31 | World No Tobacco Day | World Health Organization |

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| **June 2019** | 1 | Intergenerational Day | Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse |
| **Italian Heritage Month** | Jun 1-July 1 | Pride Festival[[1]](#footnote-1) | Toronto Pride |
| **National Indigenous History Month** | 5 | Eid al Fitr\* (3 Day Festival) | Islam |
| **Portuguese Speaking Heritage Month** | 5 | World Environment Day (WED) | United Nations |
| **PRIDE Month**  **(City of Toronto)** | 6 | Ascension Day | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 9 | Pentecost | Christianity – Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 9-10 | Shavuot\* | Judaism |
|  | 12 | World Day Against Child Labour | United Nations |
|  | 16 | Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji | Sikhism |
|  | 17 | Saga Dawa Festival | Buddhism - Tibetan |
|  | 17 | World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought | United Nations |
|  | 19 | World Sickle Cell Awareness Day | United Nations |
|  | 20 | World Refugee Day | United Nations |
|  | 21 | National Aboriginal Day (Canada) | First Nations, Métis, Inuit |
|  | 21 | Litha/Summer Solstice | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 21 | World Humanist Day | International Humanist and Ethical Union |
|  | 24 | Nativity of St. John the Baptist | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| . | 24 | St. Jean Baptiste Day | Quebec and Francophone Culture |
|  | 26 | International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking | United Nations |
|  | 26 | International Day in Support of Victims of Torture | United Nations |
| **September 2018 – June 2019 School Year Ends** | | | |

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| **July 2019** | 1 | Canada Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 6 | 14th Dalai Lama’s Birthday | Buddhism - Tibetan |
|  | 6 | Chokhor Ducchën Festival | Buddhism - Tibetan |
|  | 5-7 | Jalsa Salana (Canada) | Islam |
|  | 10 | Martyrdom of the Bá’b | Baha’i |
|  | 11 | Imamat Day | Islam |
|  | 16 | Asalha Puja Day (Dharma Day) | Buddhism |
|  | 16 | Ethiopian Constitution Day | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 16 | Guru Purnima Day | Buddhism/Jainism |
|  | 18 | Nelson Mandela International Day | United Nations |
|  | 23 | Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian Holy Day |

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| **Aug 2019** | 1 | Lughnassadh/Lammas | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 5 | Lord Simcoe Day/Founder’s Day | Toronto Municipal Government |
|  | 6 | Transfiguration of Christ | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 9 | International Day of the World’s Indigenous People | United Nations |
|  | 10-14 | Waqf al Arafa (Hajj)\* | Islam |
|  | 11 | Tishah B’av\* | Judaism |
|  | 12 | International Youth Day | United Nations |
|  | 13-15 | Obon | Buddhism - Shinto |
|  | 15 | Feast of the Dormition | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 17 | Marcus Garvey’s Birthday | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 19 | Transfiguration of Jesus | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 12-15 | Eid al Adha\* | Islam |
|  | 23 | International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition | United Nations |
|  | 15 | Raksha Bandhan | Hinduism |
|  | 15 | Ullumbana Ghost Festival | Buddhism/Taoism |
|  | 24 | Krishna Janmashtami | Hinduism |
|  | 27-Sep 3 | Paryushan Parva | Jainism |
|  | 28 | The Dormition of the Mother of God | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 31 | Al-Hijra New Year\* | Islam |

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| **September 2019 – June 2020 School Year Begins** | | | |
| **Sept 2019** | 1 | Installation of the Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib Ji | Sikhism |
|  | 2-12 | Daslakshan - Parva | Jainism |
|  | 2 | Ganesh Chaturthi | Hinduism |
|  | 2 | Labour Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 3 | Samvatsari Parva (Forgiveness Day) | Jainism |
|  | 8 | International Literacy Day | United Nations |
|  | 10 | Ashura\* | Islam |
|  | 11 | Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (also memorialized 29 August by some Christian Orthodox Denominations) | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 12 | Anant Chaturdashi | Jainism |
|  | 12 | Coptic New Year | Christianity - Coptic Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 11 | Ethiopian New Year | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 14 | Holy Cross Day (Feast of the Cross) | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 15 | International Day of Democracy | United Nations |
|  | 19 | Powley Day | First Nation, Métis |
|  | 21 | International Day of Peace | United Nations |
|  | 21 | Mabon (Autumn Equinox) | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 21 | Nativity of Mary | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 23 | Ohigan (Fall Equinox) | Japanese National Holiday |
|  | 23-27 | Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network Ally Week | GLSEN |
|  | 27 | Elevation of the Holy Cross | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 27 | Feast of the Cross | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 29 | Mahalaya (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
|  | 29-Oct 7 | Navratri (Autumn) | Hinduism |
|  | 30 | Orange Shirt Day | First Nation, Métis, Inuit |
|  | 30-Oct 1 | Rosh Hashanah\* | Judaism |

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| **Oct 2019** | 1 | International Day of Older Persons | United Nations |
| **Hispanic Heritage Month (City of Toronto)** | 5 | World Teachers’ Day | United Nations |
| **Islamic Heritage Month** | 3 | Maha Panchami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| **Somali Heritage Month** | 4 | Maha Sasthi (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| **Women’s History Month** | 5 | Maha Saptami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
|  | 6 | Maha Ashtami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
|  | 7 | Maha Nabami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
|  | 8 | Bijaya Dashami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
|  | 9 | Yom Kippur\* | Judaism |
|  | 7-11 | Body Confidence Awareness Week (2nd Week Oct.) | Toronto District School Board (TDSB) |
|  | 9 | International Walk to School Day | Highway Safety Research Centre (University of North Carolina, USA) |
|  | 10 | World Mental Health Day | World Health Organization |
|  | 14-18 | Week Without Violence | YMCA |
|  | 11 | International Day of the Girl | United Nations |
|  | 14 | Thanksgiving Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 14-20 | Sukkot\* | Judaism |
|  | 16 | World Food Day | United Nations |
|  | 17 | International Day of the Eradication of Poverty | United Nations |
|  | 17 | Karva Chauth | Hinduism |
|  | 20 | Gurgadi of the Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib Ji as Guru | Sikhism |
|  | 21-22 | Shemini Atzeret\* | Judaism |
|  | 22 | Simchat Torah\* | Judaism |
|  | 27 | Bandi Chhor Divas | Sikhism |
|  | 27 | Diwali | Hinduism/Jainism/Sikhism |
|  | 27 | Kathina Ceremony/Paváraná Day | Buddhism |
|  | 28 | New Year (Enlightenment of Gautamswami) | Jainism |
|  | 29 | Birth of the Bá’b\* | Bahá’i |
|  | 30 | Birth of Bahá'u'lláh\* | Bahá’i |

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| **Nov 2019** | 1 | All Saints Day | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| **Hindu Heritage Month** | 1 | Gyana Panchami | Jainism |
|  | 1 | Samhain\* | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 2 | Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 10 | Mawlid-al-Nabi\* | Islam |
|  | 11 | Remembrance Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 14 | World Diabetes Day | United Nations |
|  | 16 | Louis Riel Day (Toronto) | First Nations, Métis |
|  | *To Be Announced* | *Lokasha Jayanti* | *Jainism* |
|  | 17-23 | Anti-Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week | Ontario Government |
|  | 19 | Buddha’s Descent from Tushita Heaven | Buddhism -Tibetan |
|  | *To Be Announced* | *Maun Agiyaras (Ekadashi)* | *Jainism* |
|  | 20 | Universal Children’s Day | United Nations |
|  | 20 | International Transgender Day of Remembrance | Gwendolyn Ann Smith, US Trans Advocate |
|  | 24 | Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikhism |
|  | 23 | National Holodomor Memorial Day[[2]](#footnote-2) | Ukrainian Canadian Congress |
|  | 25 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women | United Nations |
|  | 26 | Day of the Covenant\* | Baha’i |

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| **Dec 2019** | 1 | World AIDS Day | United Nations |
|  | 2 | International Day of the Abolition of Slavery | United Nations |
|  | 1-24 | Advent | Christianity |
|  | 3 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities | United Nations |
|  | 4 | Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 6 | National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women | Canadian Government |
|  | 8 | Bodhi Day (Buddha Enlightenment) | Buddhism |
|  | 8 | St. Clements of Ohrid Patrons Day | Christianity - Macedonian Orthodox |
|  | 10 | Human Rights Day | United Nations |
|  | 23-30 | Hanukkah\* | Judaism |
|  | 13 | Birthday of Imam Aga Khan | Islam |
|  | 18 | International Migrants Day | United Nations |
|  | 21 | Yule - Winter Solstice | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 25 | Christmas Day | Canadian Government and Christianity |
|  | 26 | Zarathosht Diso Death | Zoroastrian |
|  | 26 | Boxing Day | Canadian Government |
|  | Dec 26-Jan 1 | Kwanzaa | African Canadian and American Celebration |

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| **Jan 2020** | 1 | Gantan-sai New Year | Buddhism - Shinto |
| **Tamil Heritage Month** | 1 | New Year’s Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 5 | Prakash Guru Gobind Singh Ji | Sikhism |
|  | 5 | Twelfth Night | Christianity |
|  | 6 | Feast of the Epiphany/Dia de los Reyes | Christianity Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 6-7 | Pasha Putrada Ekadashi | Hinduism |
|  | 7 | Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 7 | Feast of the Nativity/Orthodox Christmas | Christianity - Russian/Eastern Orthodox |
|  | ***See Footnote*** | Theravada Days of Mindfulness[[3]](#footnote-3) | Buddhism |
|  | 10 | Mehergan[[4]](#footnote-4) | Zoroastrian |
|  | 12 | Baptism of Jesus | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 14 | New Year (Gregorian Calendar) | Christianity Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 14 | Punjabi Lohri | Hinduism/Sikhism |
|  | 15 | Maghi | Sikhism |
|  | 15 | Makar Sankranti | Hinduism |
|  | 15-18 | Thai Pongal | Hinduism/Tamil |
|  | 19 | Baptism of Jesus | Christianity - Coptic Orthodox |
|  | 19 | World Religion Day | Baha’i |
|  | 20 | Buddhist New Year | Buddhism - Mahayana |
|  | 21 | Feast of the Wedding of Cana | Christianity - Ethiopian Orthodox |
|  | 21 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day | USA Federal Holiday |
|  | 20-24 | No Name Calling Week | Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) |
|  | 24-30 | Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) | Chinese Cultural |
|  | 25 | Chinese New Year | Buddhism |
|  | 26 | St. Sava Devine Service | Christianity - Serbian Orthodox |
|  | 27 | International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust | United Nations |
|  | 29 | Vasant Panchami | Hinduism |
|  | 30 | Jashn-e-Sadeh | Zoroastrian |

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| **Feb 2020** | 1 | Imbolc | Wicca/Pagan |
| **African Heritage Month** | 3 | Setsubun | Buddhism - Shinto |
| **Chinese Heritage Month**  ***See Also Asian Heritage (May)*** | 6 | Bob Marley Day | Jamaican Canadian Association |
| **Black Queering Month** | 6 | International Day of Zero Tolerance on Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation | World Health Organization |
|  | 10-14 | Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week | Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights |
|  | 15 (NOTE: Some observe this day on Feb 8th) | Buddha’s Death – (Nirvana Day) | Buddhism – Various Sects |
|  | 15 | Meeting of Our Lord | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 17 | Family Day | Ontario Government |
|  | 20 | World Day of Social Justice | United Nations |
|  | 21 | International Mother Language Day | United Nations |
|  | 21 | Maha Shivaratri | Hinduism |
|  | 25-27 | Losar New Year | Buddhism - Tibetan, Nepal, Bhutan |
|  | 26 | Ash Wednesday (1st Day of Lent) | Christianity |
|  | Feb 26-29 | Ayyám-i-Há | Baha’i |

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| **March 2020** | 2 | Clean Monday | Christianity – Eastern Orthodox |
| **Greek Heritage Month** | 8 | International Women’s and United Nations Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace | United Nations |
|  | 9-10 | Holi\* | Hinduism |
|  | 10-12 | Holla Mohalla | Sikhism |
|  | 10 | Purim\* | Judaism |
|  | 12 | Kuan Yin Birthday (Guan Yin) | Buddhism - Taiwanese |
|  | 13 | L. Ron Hubbard’s Birthday | Church of Scientology |
|  | 14 | Sikh New Year | Sikhism |
|  | 20 | Ohigan (Spring Equinox) | Japanese National Holiday |
|  | 21 | International Day for the Elimination of Racial  Discrimination | United Nations |
|  | **Does Not Occur in 2020** | Magha Puja Day/Lantern Festival | Buddhism |
|  | 20 | Persian New Year (Eid-e-Navroz) | Baha’i/Zoroastrian |
|  | 21 | Ostara (Spring Equinox) | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 21-22 | Persian New Year (National Holiday) | Iranian Government |
|  | 22 | Isra’a Wal Miraj\* | Islam |
|  | 22 | World Water Day | United Nations |
|  | 24 | Saka New Year (Nyepi) | Hinduism |
|  | 25 | Feast of the Annunciation | Christianity – Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 25 Mar - 23 April | Sha’ban\* | Islam |
| **Sikh Heritage Month** | 25 | Ugandi (New Year) | Hinduism |
|  | 26 | Prophet Asho Zartosht’s Birthday | Zoroastrian |

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| **April 2020** | 2 | Sri Rama Navami | Hinduism |
| **Genocide Awareness Month** | 7 | Laudation of the Mother of God | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
| **Latin American History Month (see also October Hispanic Heritage Month)** | 7 | Memorial to Christ’s Death | Jehovah’s Witness |
| Sikh Heritage Month | 7 | Rwanda (Tutsi) Genocide Memorial Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 7 | World Health Day | World Health Organization |
|  | 8 | International Day of Pink (2nd Wed. in April) | Nova Scotia, High School (Unnamed) |
|  | 9-16 | Pesach/Passover\* | Judaism |
|  | 10 | Good Friday | Canadian Government Holiday and Christianity - Western |
|  | 12 | Easter Sunday | Canadian Government Holiday and Christianity - Western |
|  | 13 | Easter Monday | Canadian Government Holiday and Christianity - Western |
|  | 13 | Vaisakhi | Sikhism |
|  | 14 | Puthandu (Tamil New Year) | Buddhism/Taoism |
|  | 13 | Solar New Year (Mesha Sankranta) | Hinduism |
|  | 15 | Birthday of Guru Nanak (1st Guru) | Sikhism |
|  | *To Be Announced* | *International Day of Silence* | *GLSEN* |
|  | 19 | Easter (Pascha) | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 21 | Groundation Day | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 22 | Earth Day (International Mother Earth Day) | United Nations |
|  | 23 | Day of Remembrance – Toronto Van Attack[[5]](#footnote-5) | Toronto District School Board |
|  | 24 | Armenian Genocide Memorial Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 24 Apr – 23 May | Ramadan\* | Islam |
|  | 17 | Holy Friday | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 19 | Easter (Pascha) | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 21 | Yom HaShoah\* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) | Judaism |
|  | 25 | Feast of St. Mark | Christianity – East Orthodox and Western |
|  | 26 | Akshaya Tritya | Hinduism |
|  | 28 | National Day of Mourning | Canadian Government |
|  | 30 | Vaisakhi Puja: (Buddha’s Birthday) | Buddhism |

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| **May 2020** | 1 | Beltane | Wicca/Pagan |
| **Asian Heritage Month** | 1 | Ridván (Holiday Ends: Holiday Begins 19 April ‘20) | Baha’i |
| **Jewish Heritage Month** | 3 | International Family Equality Day (1st Sun. in May) | Family Equality Council |
| **Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month** | 7 | Vesak Day | Buddhism |
|  | 15 | International Day of Families | United Nations |
|  | 17 | International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia | IDAHOTB |
|  | 18 | Queen Victoria Day | Canadian Government Public Holiday |
|  | 19 | Jumu’ah-tul Wida\* | Islam |
|  | 19 | Laylat al-Qadr\* | Islam |
|  | 21 | Ascension Day | Christianity - Western |
|  | 23 | Declaration of the Bá’b\* | Baha’i |
|  | 24 | Eid al Fitr\* (3 Day Holy Day) | Islam |
|  | 25 | Africa Day | Member States of the African Union |
|  | 25-29 | Bike to School Week | Ontario Active School Travel |
|  | 28 | Ascension Day | Christianity – Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 29-30 | Shavuot\* | Judaism |
|  | 29 | Ascension of Baha’u’llah\* | Baha’i |
|  | 31 | Pentacost | Judaism, Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 31 | World No Tobacco Day | World Health Organization |

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| **June 2020** | 1 | Intergenerational Day | Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse |
| **Italian Heritage Month** | *To Be Announced* | *Pride Festival* | *Toronto Pride* |
| **National Indigenousl History Month** | 5 | World Environment Day (WED) | United Nations |
| **Portuguese Speaking Heritage Month** | 12 | World Day Against Child Labour | United Nations |
| **PRIDE Month (Toronto)** | *To Be Announced* | *Saga Dawa Festival* | *Buddhism -Tibetan* |
|  | 16 | Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji | Sikhism |
|  | 17 | World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought | United Nations |
|  | 19 | World Sickle Cell Awareness Day | TDSB |
|  | 20 | World Refugee Day | United Nations |
|  | 21 | Litha/Summer Solstice | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 21 | National Aboriginal Day (Canada) | First Nations, Métis, Inuit |
|  | 21 | World Humanist Day | International Humanist and Ethical Union |
|  | 24 | Nativity of St. John the Baptist | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 24 | St. Jean Baptiste Day | Quebec and Francophone Culture |
|  | 26 | International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking | United Nations |
|  | 26 | International Day in Support of Victims of Torture | United Nations |
| **September 2019 - June 2020 School Year Ends** | | | |

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| **July 2020** | 1 | Canada Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 5 | Asalha Puja Day (Dharma Day) | Buddhism |
|  | 5 | Guru Purnima Day | Buddhism/Jainism |
|  | 6 | Guru Purnima Day | Buddhism - Tibetan |
|  | 10 | Martyrdom of the Bá’b\* | Baha’i |
|  | 11 | Imamat Day | Islam |
|  | 16 | Ethiopian Constitution Day | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 18 | Nelson Mandela International Day | United Nations |
|  | 23 | Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 24 | Chokhor Ducchën Festival | Buddhism - Tibetan |
|  | July 29-Aug 2 | Waqf al Arafa (Hajj)\* | Islam |
|  | July 31-Aug 3 | Eid al Adha\* | Islam |
|  | 30 | Tishah B’av\* | Judaism |
|  | *To Be Announced* | *Jalsa Salana\** | *Islam* |

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| **Aug 2020** | 1 | Lughnassadh/Lammas | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 3 | Raksha Bandhan | Hinduism |
|  | 6 | Lord Simcoe Day/Founder’s Day | Toronto Municipal Government |
|  | 6 | Transfiguration of Christ | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 9 | International Day of the World’s Indigenous People | United Nations |
|  | 11 | Krishna Janmashtami | Hinduism |
|  | 12 | International Youth Day | United Nations |
|  | 13-15 | Obon Festival | Buddhism - Shinto |
|  | 15 | The Dormition of the Mother of God | Christianity – Russian Orthodox |
|  | 15 | Feast of the Dormition | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 16-23 | Paryushan Parva | Jainism |
|  | 17 | Marcus Garvey’s Birthday | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 19 | The Transfiguration of Jesus | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 20 | Al-Hijra New Year\* | Islam |
|  | 22 | Ganesh Chaturthi | Hinduism |
|  | Aug 23 – Sep 1 | Daslakshan - Parva | Hinduism |
|  | 23 | International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition | United Nations |
|  | 23 | Samvatsari Parva (Forgiveness Day) | Jainism |
|  | 29 | Ashura\* | Islam |

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| **September 2020 – June 2021 School Year Begins** | | | |
|  | 1 | Anant Chaturdashi | Jainism |
| **Sept 2020** | 1 | Installation of the Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib Ji | Sikhism |
|  | 7 | Labour Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 8 | International Literacy Day | United Nations |
|  | 8 | Nativity of Mary | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
|  | 11 | Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (also memorialized 29 August by some Christian Orthodox Denominations) | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 11 | Coptic New Year | Christianity - Coptic Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 11 | Ethiopian New Year | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 14 | Holy Cross Day (Feast of the Cross) | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
|  | 15 | International Day of Democracy | United Nations |
|  | 17-25 | Navratri (Autumn) | Hinduism |
|  | 19-20 | Rosh Hashanah\* | Judaism |
|  | 19 | Powley Day | First Nation, Métis |
|  | 21 | International Day of Peace | United Nations |
|  | 21-29 | Mabon (Autumn Equinox) | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 22 | Ohigan (Fall Equinox) | Japanese National Holiday |
|  | *To Be Announced* | Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network Ally Week | GLSEN |
|  | 27 | Elevation of the Holy Cross | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
|  | 30 | Orange Shirt Day | First Nation, Métis, Inuit |

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| **Oct 2020** | 1 | International Day of Older Persons | United Nations |
| **Hispanic Heritage Month (City of Toronto)** | 5 | World Teachers’ Day | United Nations |
| **Islamic Heritage Month** | 3-9 | Sukkot\* | Judaism |
| **Somali Heritage Month** | 4-10 | Body Confidence Awareness Week (2nd Week Oct.) | Toronto District School Board (TDSB) |
| **Women’s History Month** | 7 | International Walk to School Day | Highway Safety Research Centre  (University of North Carolina, USA) |
|  | 10-11 | Shemini Atzeret\* | Judaism |
|  | 10 | World Mental Health Day | World Health Organization |
|  | *To Be Announced* | Week Without Violence | YMCA |
|  | 11 | International Day of the Girl | United Nations |
|  | 11 | Simchat Torah\* | Judaism |
|  | 12 | Thanksgiving Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 16 | World Food Day | United Nations |
|  | 17 | International Day of the Eradication of Poverty | United Nations |
|  | 18 | Birth of Bahá'u'lláh\* | Bahá’i |
|  | 18 | Birth of the Bá’b\* | Bahá’i |
|  | 20 | Gurgadi of the Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib Ji as Guru | Sikhism |
|  | 22-26 | Mahalaya (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
|  | *To Be Announced* | Kathina Ceremony/Paváraná Day | Buddhism |
|  | *To Be Announced* | New Year (Enlightenment of Gautamswami) | Jainism |
|  | 28 | Yom Kippur\* | Judaism |
|  | 29 | Mawlid-al-Nabi\* | Islam |

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| **Nov 2020** | 1 | All Saints Day | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| **Hindu Heritage Month** | 1 | Samhain\* | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 2 | Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I | Rastafarian Holy Day |
|  | 4 | Karva Chauth | Hinduism |
|  | 7 | Buddha’s Descent from Tushita Heaven | Buddhism -Tibetan |
|  | 11 | Remembrance Day | Canadian Government |
|  | 14 | Bandi Chhor Divas | Sikhism |
|  | 14 | Diwali | Hinduism/Jainism/Sikhism |
|  | 14 | World Diabetes Day | World Health Organization |
|  | *To Be Announced* | Louis Riel Day (Toronto) | First Nations, Métis |
|  | *To Be Announced* | *Lokasha Jayanti* | *Jainism* |
|  | 15-21 | Anti-Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week | Ontario Government |
|  | 19 | Gyana Panchami | Jainism |
|  | *To Be Announced* | *Maun Agiyaras (Ekadashi)* | *Jainism* |
|  | 20 | Universal Children’s Day | United Nations |
|  | 20 | International Transgender Day of Remembrance | Gwendolyn Ann Smith, US Trans Advocate |
|  | 21 | Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christianity – Russian Orthodox |
|  | 24 | Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikhism |
|  | 25 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women | United Nations |
|  | 26 | Day of the Covenant\* | Baha’i |
|  | 28 | National Holodomor Memorial Day[[6]](#footnote-6) | Ukrainian Canadian Congress |
|  | Nov 29-Dec 24 | Advent | Christianity |

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| **Dec 2020** | 1 | World AIDS Day | United Nations |
|  | 2 | International Day of the Abolition of Slavery | United Nations |
|  | 3 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities | United Nations |
|  | 6 | National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women | Canadian Government |
|  | 8 | St. Clements of Ohrid Patrons Day | Christianity - Macedonian Orthodox |
|  | 10 | Human Rights Day | United Nations |
|  | 11-18 | Hanukkah\* | Judaism |
|  | 13 | Birthday of Imam Aga Khan | Islam |
|  | 18 | International Migrants Day | United Nations |
|  | 21 | Yule - Winter Solstice | Wicca/Pagan |
|  | 25 | Christmas Day | Canadian Government and Christianity |
|  | *To Be Announced* | Zarathosht Diso Death | Zoroastrian |
|  | 26 | Boxing Day | Canadian Government |
|  | Dec 26-Jan 1 | Kwanzaa | African Canadian and American Celebration |

1. Toronto Pride Parade will take place on 23 June 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Recognized on the 4th Saturday each November – TDSB recognition is on the preceding Friday [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. There are several Buddhist ***Days of Mindfulness*** throughout the year – (consult a Buddhist website for further information) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Mehergan is celebrated on the 1st Full Moon of the year. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. This remembrance will take place on the 23rd of April each year (or closest weekday to this date) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Recognized on the 4th Saturday each November - TDSB recognition is on the preceding Friday [↑](#footnote-ref-6)