



DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE 2016-2017

Days of Significance 2016-2017

This calendar highlights selected secular and creed-based days of significance and is provided as a resource for schools and others when planning educational or other activities. This list includes creed-based observances and holidays, as well as, significant events and celebrations, public holidays, and other important dates that should be considered when planning events, tests or 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. This calendar is not meant to be comprehensive or exhaustive, but rather a selected representation of significant dates. Every attempt has been made to ensure its accuracy.

*Note: Information contained in this document has been sourced from several dozen websites. Please see **Days of Significance Resource Guide 2016-2017** for further information.*

Compiled by the Toronto District School Board, Human Rights Office, June 2016.

Bold

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July 2016	1	Canada Day	Public Holiday
	6	14th Dalai Lama's Birthday	Tibetan
	6	Eid al Fitr*	Islam
	9	Martyrdom of the Ba'b*	Baha'i
	11	Imamat Day	Islam
	13-15	Obon**	Buddhist Shinto
	15	Asalha Puja Day**	Buddhism
	16	Ethiopian Constitution Day	Rastafari
	18	Nelson Mandela International Day	UN
	19	Dharma Day (Termination of Rainy Observances)	Buddhism
	19	Guru Purnima	Buddism/Jain
	23	Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie	Rastafari
	August 2016	1	Lughnassadh/Lammas
1		Lord Simcoe Day	Civic Holiday
1		Emancipation Day	Rastafari
6		Chokhor Korway Duchen Festival	Tibetan/Buddhism
6		Transfiguration of Christ	Eastern Orthodox
9		International Day of the World's Indigenous People	UN
12		International Youth Day	UN
14		Tishah B'av*	Judaism
15		Feast of the Dormition	Eastern Orthodox
17		Ullumbana Festival	Buddhism/Taoist
17		Marcus Garvey's Birthday	Rastafari
18		Raksha Bandhan**	Hinduism
23		International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade & Its Abolition	UN
25		Krishna Janmashtami**	Hinduism
28		Paryushana Parva**	Jain
29		Beheading of St. John the Baptist	Christianity
Sept 2016	1	Installation of the Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	Sikhism
	5	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hinduism
	5	Labour Day	Canadian Public Holiday
	6-15	Samvatsari – Parva	Jain
	8	International Day for Literacy	UN
	9-14	Waqf al Arafa (Hajj)* **	Islam
	11	Coptic New Year	Orthodox Egyptian
	11	Ethiopian New Year	Rastafari

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	11	Eid al Adha**	Islam
	15	Anant Chaturdashi	Jain
	15	Daslakshan Parva	Jain
	15	International Day of Democracy	UN
	15	Kshamvaani (Forgiveness Day)	Jain
	18	Fall Ohigon (Japanese)	Buddhism
	19	Powley Day	First Nations, Métis
	21	Eid ul Ghadeer	Islam
	21	International Day of Peace	UN
	22	Mabon*	Wicca/Pagan
	26-30	LGBTQQI2S Ally Week	YMCA
	27	Elevation of the Cross	Orthodox Christianity
	30	Orange Shirt Day	First Nations, Métis, Inuit
Oct 2016	1	International Day of Older Persons	UN
- Women's History Month	1-10	Navaratri**	Hinduism
- Islamic Heritage Month	2	Al-Hijra New Year* **	Islam
- Somali Heritage Month	3-4	Rosh Hashanah*	Judaism
- Hispanic Heritage Month	5	International Walk/Bike to School Day (Adopted by TDSB Motion April 2015)	National Centre for Safe Routes to School (USA)
	5	World Teachers' Day (Adopted by TDSB Motion April 2015)	UN
	7-11	Durga Puja (Saptami)	Hinduism
	7-9	Jalsa Salana	Islam
	9	Durga Ashtami	Hinduism
	10	Ashura*	Islam
	10	Thanksgiving Day	Public Holiday
	10	Vijaya Dashami (10 th Day of Navaratri)	Hinduism
	10	World Mental Health Day	WHO
	10-17	Week Without Violence (TDSB Date)	YMCA
	11	Dasehra**	Hinduism
	11	International Day of the Girl	UN
	11	Maun Agiyaras (Falls on 11th Day of Magshar Calendar = Oct-Nov)	Jain
	12	Yom Kippur*	Judaism
	16	Kathina Ceremony/Pavarana Day	Buddhism
	16	World Food Day	UN
	17	International Day of the Eradication of Poverty	UN
	17-23	Sukkot*	Judaism

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	19	Karva Chauth	Hinduism
	20	Birth of the Ba'b*	Baha'i
	20	Installation of Guru Granth <u>as Guru</u>	Sikhism
	24	Shemini Atzeret*	Judaism
	25	Simchat Torah*	Judaism
	29	Diwali Kali Puja	Hinduism
	30	Bandi Chhor Divas	Sikhism
	30	Deepavali	Hinduism
	30	Diwali**	Jain, Hinduism, Sikhism
	31	All Hallow's Eve (Hallowe'en)	
	31	New Year (Enlightenment of Gautam Swami)	Jain
Nov 2016	1	All Saints Day	Eastern Orthodox & Roman Catholic
- Aboriginal Education Month	1	Samhain*	Wicca/Pagan
	2	Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I	Rastafari
	4	Gyana Panchami	Jain
	11	Remembrance Day	Canada
	12	Birth of Baha'hu'llah*	Baha'i
	14	Birthday of Guru Nanak	Sikhism
	14	Lokashaha Jayanti	Jain
	14	Prakash	Sikhism
	14	World Diabetes Day	WHO
	16	Louis Riel Day (Toronto)	First Nations, Métis
	20	Universal Children's Day	UN
	20	International Transgender Day of Remembrance	Gwendolyn Ann Smith, US Trans Advocate
	20-26	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	Government of Ontario
	21	Presentation of the Virgin Mary	Russian Orthodox Church
	24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	Sikhism
	25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	UN
	26	Day of the Covenant*	Baha'i
	26	National Holodomor Memorial Day	Ukrainian Canadian Association
	Nov 27- Dec 24	Advent	Christianity
Dec 2016	1	World AIDS Day	UN

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2	International Day of the Abolition of Slavery	UN
3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	UN
TBA	Buddha's Descent from Tushita Heaven	Tibetan Buddhism
6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	Canada
8	Bodhi Day (Buddha Enlightenment)	Buddhism
8	St. Clements or Ohrid Patrons Day	Orthodox Macedonian
10	Human Rights Day	UN
12	Mawlid-al-Nabi	Islam
13	Birthday of Imam Agakhan	Islam
18	International Migrants Day	UN
21	Winter Solstice – Yule*	Wicca/Pagan
Dec 24 - Jan 1	Hanukkah*	Judaism
25	Christmas	Christianity and Public Holiday
26	Ashu Zarathosht's Death	Zoroastrianism
26	Boxing Day	Public Holiday
Dec 26- Jan 01	Kwanzaa	African Canadian & American
Jan 2017	1 Gantan-sai New Year	Shinto
- Tamil Heritage Month	1 New Year's Day	International Public Holiday
	5 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	Sikhism
	5 Twelfth Night	Christianity
	6 Feast of the Epiphany/Dia de los Reyes	Orthodox & Western Christianity
	7 Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) (Julian Calendar)	Orthodox Christianity
	7 Ethiopian Christmas	Rastafari
	8 Baptism of Jesus	Orthodox Egyptian
	8 Pausha Putrada Ekadashi	Hinduism
	8 - 15 Theravada Days of Mindfulness	Buddhism
	12-15 Mahayana New Year**	Buddhism
	13 Punjabi Lohri	Hinduism (Punjabi)
	13 Maghi	Sikhism
	14 Makara Sankranti	Hinduism
	14 New Year	Eastern Orthodox
	15 World Religion Day	Baha'i
	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	U.S.A. Fed. Holiday

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	16-20	No Name Calling Week	Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network
	21	Feast of the Wedding of Cana at Galilee	Orthodox Ethiopian
	TBA	Birthday of Lord Zoroaster (Khordad Sal) in Pakistan	Zoroastrianism
	27	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust	UN
	27	St. Sava Devine Service	Orthodox Serbian
	28	Mehergan (1st Full Moon)	Zoroastrianism
	28	Lunar New Year (Spring Festival)	Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist
	29	Jashan-e-Sadeh	Zoroastrian
Feb 2017	1	Imbolc*	Wicca/Pagan
- African Heritage Month	1	Vasant Panchami**	Hinduism
- Black Queering Month	3	Setsubun-sai**	Shinto
- Chinese Heritage Month	6	International Day of Zero Tolerance on Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation	WHO
	6	Bob Marley's Earth Day	Rastafari
	12-17	Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week	Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights
	14	Day Promoting Rights to Sexual Health Education and Sexual Health Care for Youth Rights	International
	15	Buddha's Death –Nirvana/Day of Miracles)**	Buddhism
	15	Meeting of Our Lord	Orthodox Russian
	20	Family Day	Ontario Public Holiday
	20	World Day of Social Justice	UN
	21	International Mother Language Day	UN
	24	Maha Shivaratri	Hinduism
	25-27	Intercalary Days	Baha'i
	27	Clean Monday	Eastern Orthodox Christianity
	27	Losar - Tibetan New Year	Tibetan
March 2017	1	Ash Wednesday	Christianity
- Greek Heritage Month	8	International Women's Day	UN
	12	Purim*	Judaism
	12	Magha Puja Day/Lantern Festival**	Buddhism
	13	Holi*	Hinduism

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	13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday	Church of Scientology
	14	Sikh New Year	Sikhism
	15	Holla Mohalla	Sikhism
	16	Kuan Yin Birthday (Guan Yin)	Taiwanese
	19	Holy Cross Day	Orthodox Greek
	20	Spring Ohigan	Buddhism (Japanese)
	20	Eid-e Navroz (New Year)	Parsi
	20	Ostara*/Lady Day (Spring Equinox)	Wicca/Pagan
	21	Naw-Ruz/Narooz (New Year)*	Baha'i/Zoroastrian
	21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	UN
	22	World Water Day	UN
	26	Prophet Asho Zartosht Birthday	Zoroastrian
	28	Saka New Year (Nyepi)	Buddhism
	29	Hinduism New Year (Ugandi)	Hinduism
April 2017	1	Laudation of the Mother of God	Orthodox Russian
- Hispanic Heritage Month	5	Shri Rama Navami	Hinduism
- Latin-America History Month	7	Annunciation	Orthodox & Western Christianity
- Genocide Awareness Month	7	World Health Day	WHO
- Sikh Heritage Month	9	Mahavir Jayanti**	Jain
	10-18	Pesach/Passover*	Judaism
	11	Memorial to Christ's Death	Jehovah's Witness
	12	International Day of Pink	Nova Scotia, Canada, High School (unnamed)
	13	Solar New Year (Mesha Sankranta)	Hinduism
	13	Vaisakhi	Sikhism
	14	Vaisahki (Tamil New Year)	Taoist
	14	Good Friday	Christianity, Public Holiday
	14	Holy Friday	Orthodox Eastern Christianity
	16	Easter	Christianity
	16	Easter (Pascha)	Eastern Orthodox Churches
	17	Easter Monday	Christianity
	18	International Day of Silence	International
	20	First Day of Ridvan	Baha'i
	21	Groundation Day	Rastafari
	22	Earth Day	UN
	23-24	Yom HaShoah*	Judaism

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	24	Isra'a and Miraj	Islam
	25	The Recognition of the True Puh	Muslim
	Apr 27–		
	May 26	Nisfu Shaban	Islam
	28	Akshaya Tritya	Hindu
	28	National Day of Mourning	Canada
	29	Ninth Day of Ridvan*	Baha'i
May 2017	1	Beltane*	Wicca/Pagan
- Asian Heritage Month	2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan	Baha'i
- Jewish Heritage Month	3	Sukyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment	Buddism
- Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month	8	Feast of St. Mark	Orthodox Egyptian
	10	Visakha Puja (Buddha's Birthday)	Buddhism
	10	Wesak or Vesak (Buddha's Birthday)	Tibetan Buddhism
	15	International Day of Families	UN
	17	International Day Against Homophobia And Transphobia	Grassroots LGBTQ
	17	International Family Visibility Day	Grass Roots LGBTQ
	22	Queen Victoria Day	Public Holiday
	23	Declaration of the Ba'b*	Baha'i
	25	Ascension Day	Eastern Orthodox & Western Christian
	25	African Liberation Day	Rastafari
	May 26- Jun 24	Tibetan Buddha's Enlightenment (Saga Dawa)	Buddhism
	May 27- Jun 26	Ramadan**	Islam
	29	The Ascension of Baha'u'llah*	Baha'i
	May 31–		
	Jun 1	Shavuot*	Judaism
	31	World No Tobacco Day	WHO
June 2017	1	Intergenerational Day	Toronto Intergenerational Partnerships (TIGP)
- Italian Heritage Month			
- Portuguese Speaking Heritage Month			
- PRIDE Month	1 Jun–		
	2 July	LGBTQQI2S Pride Month (Toronto)	Toronto Pride
	4	Pentecost	Judaism, Eastern Orthodox & Western

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	5	World Environment Day	Christian UN
	12	World Day Against Child Labour Day	UN
	16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji	Sikhism
	17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	UN
	20	World Refugee Day	UN
	21	National Aboriginal Day (Canada)	First Nations, Métis, Inuit
	21	Lailat al Qadr	Islam
	21	Litha/Summer Solstice*	Wicca/Pagan
	23	Jumu'ahtul Wida	Islam
	24	St. Jean Baptiste Day	Quebec and Francophone Culture
	25	Eid al Fitr* **	Islam
	26	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	UN
	26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	UN
July 2017	1	Canada Day	Public Holiday
	6	14th Dalai Lama's Birthday	Tibetan
	9	Guru Purnima	Buddhism/Jain
	9	Martyrdom of the Ba'b*	Baha'i
	11	Imamat Day	Islam
	13-15	Obon**	Shinto
	15	Asalha Puja Day**	Buddhism
	18	Nelson Mandela International Day	UN
	19	Dharma Day (Termination of Rainy Observances)	Buddhism
	27	Chokor Korway Ducchen Festival	Tibetan
	July 31- Aug 1	Tishah B'av	Judaism
August 2017			
	1	Lughnassadh/Lammas	Wicca/Pagan
	1	Emancipation Day	Rastafari
	6	Transfiguration of Christ	Eastern Orthodox
	7	Lord Simcoe Day/Founder's Day	Civic Holiday
	7	Raksha Bandhan**	Hinduism
	7	Ullumbana Festival Day (Mayahana)	Buddhism, Taoists
	9	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	UN
	12	International Youth Day	UN
	14	Krishna Janmashtami**	Hinduism

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15	Feast of the Dormition	Eastern Orthodox
18	Paryushana Parvan	Jain
23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition	UN
25	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hinduism
29	Beheading of St. John the Baptist	Christianity
Aug 29 -		
Sep 5	Daslakshan Parva	Jain
Aug 30 -		
Sept 4	Waqf al Arafa (Hajj)* **	Islam

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