
2011 – 2012 Days of Significance

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Equity and Inclusive Schools, Students, Parent and Community acknowledges and values the days of significance of different faiths / creed and organizations. This is a collection of dates that are notable for either equity or educational focus, recognized by the United Nations, the Federal Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto, the Interfaith Calendar and the Multifaith Council of Ontario. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

July 2011

- 1 – Canada Day (Canada)
- 15 - Asalha Puja Day** (Buddhism)**
- 18 – Nelson Mandela International Day

August 2011

- 1 – Ramadan* ** (Islam)**
- 9 - International Day of the World's Indigenous People (UN)
- 12 – International Youth Day (UN)
- 22 – Krishan Janmashtami ** (Hinduism)**
- 31 – Eid al Fitr * ** (Islam)**

September 2011

- 2 – 10 – Paryushana Parva (Jain)**
- 8 – International Literacy Day (UNESCO)
- 6 – Labour Day (Canada)
- 15 – International Day of Democracy (UN)
- 21 – International Day of Peace (UN)
- 23 – Mabon* (Wicca)
- 28 – Navaratri** (Hinduism)**
- 29 – 30 – Rosh Hashanah* (Judaism)**

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October 2011

- 1 – International Day of Older Persons (UN)
- 2 – International Day of Non-Violence (UN)
- 5 – World Teacher’s Day (UN)
- 6 – Dasera (Hinduism)
- 8 – Yom Kippur* (Judaism)**
- 10 – World Mental Health Day (UN/WHO)
- 10 – Thanksgiving (Interfaith/Canada)**
- 13 – 19 – Sukkot* (Judaism)
- 14 – World Sight Day (UN)
- 16 – World Food Day (UN)
- 17 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (UN)
- 17-23– Week Without Violence
- 18-22 – Ally Week
- 20 – Shemini Atzeret* (Judaism)
- 21 – Simchat Torah* (Judaism)
- 26 – Diwali ** (Jain, Hinduism and Sikhism)**
- 31 – All Hallows Eve (Christianity)

November 2011

- 1 – Samhain* (Wicca)**
- 4 – 7 – Hajj* (Islam)
- 6 – Eid al Adha* ** (Islam)
- 10 – Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikhism)**
- 11 – Remembrance Day (Canada)
- 12 – Birth of Baha’u’llah* (Baha’i)
- 20 – Universal Children’s Day (UN)
- 20 – International Transgender Day of Remembrance (International)
- 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (UN)

December 2011

- 1 – World AIDS Day (UN)
- 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (UN)
- 3 - International Day for Persons with Disability (UN)
- 5 – Ashura* ** (Islam)

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- 6 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (Canada)
- 10 – Human Rights Day (UN)
- 17 – International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers (International)
- 21 – 28 – Hanukkah* (Judaism)
- 22 – Yule* (Wicca)
- 25 – Christmas* (Christianity)**
- 25 – Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christianity)**
- 26 – Kwanzaa (African Canadian / African American)**

January 2012

- 1 – Gantan-sai (Shinto)**
- 1 – New Year's Day (International)
- 5 – Twelfth Night (Christianity)
- 5 – Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikhism)
- 6 – Epiphany / Dia de los Reyes (Christianity)
- 6 – Feast of the Theophany (Orthodox Christianity)
- 7 – Feast of the Nativity** (Orthodox Christianity)**
- 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (International)
- 15 – World Religion Day* (Baha'i)
- 23 – Lunar New Year (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism)**
- 24-28 – No Name Calling Week (International)
- 27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (UN)

February 2012

- 3 – Setsubun-sai (Shinto)**
- 7 – International Day of Zero-Tolerance on Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation (International)
- 12 – Sexual and Reproductive Health Day (International)
- 15 – Nirvana Day ** (Buddhism, Jain)
- 20 – World Social Justice Day (UN)
- 20 – Family Day (Ontario)
- 21 – International Mother Language Day (UNESCO)
- 22 – Ash Wednesday (Christianity)
- 27 – Clean Monday – Great Lent (Orthodox Christian)

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March 2012

- 8 – Purim* (Judaism)
- 8 – Magha Puja Day ** (Buddhism)**
- 8 – Holi** (Hinduism)
- 8 – International Women’s Day (UN)
- 20 – Ostara* (Wicca)
- 21 – Naw Ruz / Nourouz* (Baha’i, Persian/Zoroastrian)**
- 21 - International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN)
- 23 – New Year ** (Hindu)
- 25 - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (UN)

April 2012

- 2 - World Autism Awareness Day (UN)
- 5 – Lord’s Evening Meal (Jehovah’s Witness Christians)**
- 6 – Good Friday (Christianity)**
- 6 – Mahavir Jayanti** (Jain)**
- 7 – 14 – Pesach / Passover* (Judaism)**
- 8 – Easter (Christianity)**
- 8 - International Roma Day (International)
- 11 – International Day of Pink (Canada / International)
- 13 – Holy Friday (Orthodox Christianity)**
- 14 – Baisakhi (Sikhism, Hinduism)**
- 15 – Easter / Pascha (Orthodox Christianity)**
- 19 – Yom HaShoah* (Judaism)
- 20 – International Day of Silence (Canada / International)
- 22 – Earth Day (International)
- 28 – National Day of Mourning (Canada)

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May 2012

1 – Beltane* (Wicca)

6 – Visakha Puja ** (Buddhism)

15 - International Day of Families (UN)

17 - International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (International)

21 – Victoria Day (Canada)

23 – Declaration of the Bab* (Baha'i)

27-28 – Shavuot* (Judaism)

29 – Ascension of Baha'u'llah* (Baha'i)

June 2012

4 – World Environment Day

12 - World Day Against Child Labour (UN/ILO)

20 – Litha* (Wicca)

20 – World Refugee Day (UN)

21 – National Aboriginal Day (Canada, First Nations, Metis, and Inuit)

24 – July 3 – LGBTTTQQI2S Pride (Toronto)

24 – St-Jean-Baptiste Day (Quebec)

Legend

* Means that Holy days begin at sundown the day before this date.

** Regional customs, group preference or moon sightings may cause a variation of this date.

Bold titles are primary holy days of a tradition.

UN – United Nations

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

WHO – World Health Organization

ILO – International Labour Organization