

Holy Days, Holidays, and Days of Significance Calendar 2023-2024

ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

The students and staff of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board represent a rich diversity of faith traditions. This calendar helps identify some of the important days of commemoration, however it isn't designed to be a complete listing of religious days. Students and staff from a particular faith background may or may not be absent from school on these special days. If they do attend, certain accommodations may be required.

Time is measured either according to:

- the sun – solar calendar – (Indigenous Worldview , Bahá'í, Christian, Sikh, Paganism and Zoroastrian calendars)
- the moon – lunar calendar (Islamic calendar)
- or in combination of both the sun and the moon – lunisolar calendar (Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Jewish calendars)

The expectation is that KPR schools and worksites not schedule events on significant holydays (as marked with a ♦ or ◊ on the calendar) that would exclude observing staff and students from participating.

Bahá'í, Judaism and Paganism – holy days in these faiths begin at sunset on the evening prior to the date shown and end at sunset on the last day shown; Christianity – dates for Christianity are based on the Gregorian calendar unless specified as Julian (J); Islam – dates are tentative as some may vary based on the sighting of the moon; Sikhism – dates for Sikhism are based on the original calendar unless specified as Revised Nanak Shahi calendar (N); Zoroastrianism – dates are based on Fasli Calendar (FC), Qadimi Calendar (QC) and Shenshahi Calendar (SC)

- ♦= Do not schedule events at any time on these days.
- ◊= Do not schedule events on the evenings of these days.
- = Events are encouraged to be scheduled on an alternate day.
- ◌= Events on the evenings of these days are encouraged to be scheduled on an alternate day.

Highlighted Canadian and Ontario holidays are recognized statutory holidays.

Indigenous Worldview
Seen as being inseparable from traditional Indigenous culture and identity, Indigenous Spirituality is a “way of life” and “way of knowing” (or worldview) that is centered on a relationship with the Creator, the land and all Indigenous relations. Indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices can vary significantly amongst First Nation, Métis and Inuit groups and individuals, and across different regions.

Bahá'í
Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892) founded the Bahá'í faith on the belief of the oneness of God, religion and humanity. Adherents value universal principles such as love, equality, social justice, honesty, kindness etc. while accepting social and scientific changes in their day-to-day lives. Followers of the faith take personal responsibility for their spiritual growth. The Bahá'í faith is governed by spiritual assemblies made up of nine or more members and does not have clergy to guide worship.

In the Bahá'í calendar, there are 19 months of 19 days each with four intercalary days (five in leap year). Each month represents an attribute of God. The first month starts with the New Year (March 21) and the last ends with 19 days fast. The Bahá'í day starts at sunset.

Buddhism
Siddhartha Gautam, the first Buddha, founded Buddhism in the 6th century BCE in Northern India. Two major forms of Buddhism evolved as Buddhism spread across Asia. The Theravada (southern) tradition is found in Burma, Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and parts of Vietnam. The Mahayana and Vajrayana (northern) traditions are found in China, India, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Tibet and Vietnam. Buddhist teachings guide followers to attain liberation from rebirth through Dharma (Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Noble Path) and Karma (action with cause and effect). Buddhist calendars vary based on the diverse traditions of the adherent's school of thought. This calendar reflects major dates in all three of the Buddhist calendars.

Christianity
Christians follow the life and teachings of Jesus, also called Christ. Christianity shares its roots and some religious texts with Judaism. Jesus was born a Jew. His followers spread Christianity after his death. It is the world's largest religion. There are many denominations, traditions and churches within Christianity. Three main branches of the faith are Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant. Both the Old and New Testaments guide followers in their spiritual quest. Christians believe in one God, the Holy Trinity and divinity of Christ. Adherents follow either the Julian or Gregorian calendars.

Hinduism
Hinduism also called Sanatana Dharma, is the world's oldest organized religion. It evolved over many centuries in the Indian subcontinent and has no single founder or scripture. Adherents believe in one omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient God. Followers refer to a number of holy texts – Vedas, Purana, Gita, Ramayana, Mahabharata – and may worship many male and female manifestations of God either in a temple or at home. Hinduism's core beliefs include:

- Dharma (righteous practices)
- Karma (action with cause and effect)
- Moksha (liberation from cycle of rebirth)
- Atman (eternal soul)
- Ahimsa (non-violence)
- Bhakti (devotion)
- Jnana (knowledge for spiritual enlightenment)

The Hindu calendar – Vikram Samvat and Panchang – uses both lunar and solar calculations.

Islam
Islam, meaning “peace” in Arabic, was revealed through the Prophet Muhammad. The message is recorded in the Qur'an, which is the holiest book for followers of Islam. Muslims believe in submission to one God (Allah), Muhammad as his messenger, angels of God, holy books revealed to mankind, other prophets (Adam to Jesus), the day of judgement and resurrection after death. Followers of the faith have five duties (Pillars of Islam) to perform.

- Declaration of faith
- Five prayers daily
- Fasting in the month of Ramadan
- Payment of Zakat (annual charity)
- Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) at least once during their lifetime

Sunni and Shia are the two main schools of Islam. All Muslims follow a code of behaviour that clearly lays out what is Halal (acceptable/ permitted) and what is Haram (prohibited/unacceptable) in their daily lives. Islam follows a lunar – Hijri – calendar.

Jainism
Jainism was founded on the teachings of 24 Tirthankaras (liberated and enlightened persons) of whom Vardhamana Mahavira was the last. The religion has its roots in the Indian subcontinent. Jain philosophy provides a way of life for adherents. Shwetamber and Digamber are the two divisions of Jainism. These two sects differ in

some of their religious beliefs, interpretations of scripture and daily and ascetic practices. Jains believe in:

- Jiva (eternal soul)
- Ahimsa (non-violence)
- Veganism
- Aparigraha (non-acquisition)
- Karma (cause and effect action)
- Samsar (cycle of transmigration, birth and death)
- Anekantvada (multiplicity of views)
- Moksha (liberation from cycle of birth)

Jains fast regularly during the course of a year and also during many festivals and holy days. Jains follow the Vir Nirvan Smavat calendar with its roots in the Hindu calendar.

Judaism
Judaism is a monotheistic faith. Followers believe that God entered into a covenant with Abraham, and it was later renewed with Moses and the Jewish people to reveal his laws and teachings through the Torah. The Jewish people practice these teachings in their worship and customs. The synagogue is their place of worship. Jews observe the Sabbath weekly, beginning at sunset on Friday and ending at sunset on Saturday. It is the time for spiritual reflection for adherents and they suspend work for the day. Followers of the faith may pray three times – morning, afternoon and night – each day. Many Jews observe kashrut (or kosher) dietary rules. The Jewish faith is divided into groups depending on adherents' religious beliefs and practices. Some of these include Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist. The Jewish calendar is a combined lunar and solar calendar. The holy days may be celebrated either for a day or over two days based on adherent's religious beliefs.

Sikhism
Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak (1469-1539). The religion was further developed and defined by nine gurus that came after him and has its roots in the Indian sub-continent. Holy scriptures called Guru Granth Sahib have guided adherents spiritually after the ten gurus. Sikhs believe in one Supreme Being. The key beliefs of Sikhism include:

- Oneness of Humanity
- the release from birth-cycles through enlightenment
- worship, meditation and service
- rejection of caste system, rituals and idol-worship

Khalsa (baptized) Sikhs are required to follow Reht Maryada (the Sikh code of conduct) at all times. Reht Maryada includes both the religious and social practices for Sikhs. The Sikh calendar was modified in 1999 and has moved from lunar to tropical solar calculations. Some groups within the faith continue to use the previous calendar and therefore some holy-day celebrations may vary based on adherent's affiliation.

Paganism
Paganism is a newly revived religion with roots in pre-Christian religious beliefs, traditions, and practices of Europe. Pagans incorporate beliefs of nature worship, including aspects of the feminine and masculine. Pagans are pan-theistic, often recognizing many deities venerated from ancient times. Earth-centred practices and harmony with nature are important beliefs of the faith. Wiccans, one of the largest groups in Paganism, practice individually or are members of local covens. Wiccans usually gather for worship in sacred circles. Most rituals of the faith relate to life-cycle and seasonal changes, held in circles outdoors when possible. Pagans celebrate eight Sabbats (seasonal celebrations) spaced 45 days apart during a year. Followers of the Pagan faith follow a yearly cycle of the sun in a fixed calendar.

Zoroastrianism
Zarathushtra also called Zoroaster founded the faith in ancient Persia (Iran). Zoroastrians believe in one Creator as a Source of all Creations and Wisdom, who is referred to as “Ahura Mazda”. Zoroastrians believe that an individual has a choice between good and evil in life. The path for perfecting oneself is through good thought, good speech and good actions. Fire is sacred to the faith and it is always kept burning in the temple and in followers' homes. Followers also believe in angels, heaven and hell, God and Satan, an immortal soul and the last judgement. Priesthood is hereditary in Zoroastrianism, and all religious ceremonies are led by priests. Both male and female followers are initiated into the faith through the Navjote ceremony. Initiated adherents have to follow dress codes of the faith. Shenshahi, Qadimi and Fasli are three major denominations and the three calendars that followers of the Zoroastrian faith use.

Canadian Holidays
Canada, like many other countries of the world, has identified holidays that are of religious and historical significance to the nation. The nine holidays – Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday and Victoria Day – are mandated by federal legislation. These holidays celebrate and/or commemorate special events or individuals. Provincially the number of statutory holidays vary. Ontario has eight recognized holidays. Remembrance Day is not a statutory holiday in Ontario. The Civic Holiday, also known as Simcoe Day and Family Day are regionally designated holidays in Ontario.

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 🌿 **1** First Parkash
- + **3** Farvardegan (SC)
- ♣️ **4** Labour Day
- ☾ **7** Arbaeen
- † **11** Nayrouz (J)
- 🕒 **11** Samvatsari/Paryushan Parva ends/Daslakshan Parva begins•
- ★ **15-17** Rosh Hashanah♦♦
- 🕒 **20** Kshamavani/Daslakshan Parva ends•
- 🌿 **23** Harvestide/Fall Equinox••
- ★ **24-25** Yom Kippur♦♦
- ♣️ **25** Franco-Ontarian Day
- 🌿 **28** Anant Chaturdashi
- 🌿 **30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation♦♦
- ★ **30-Oct 6** Sukkot

OCTOBER 2023

- ★ **1-6** Sukkot
- 🌿 **4** National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ People•
- ☾ **4** Milad-un-Nabi
- ★ **7-8** Simchat Torah
- ♣️ **9** Thanksgiving
- 🌿 **15** Sharad Navratri begins
- 🌸 **16** Birth of the Báb
- 🌸 **17** Birth of Bahá'u'lláh••
- 🕒 **20** Installation of Guru Granth
- 🌿 **22** Durga Ashtami
- 🌿 **23-24** Vijaya Dashmi/Dassehra•
- ★ **29** Kathina Ceremony/Pavarana Day
- 🌿 **31** Karva Chauth
- ♣️ **31** Halloween

NOVEMBER 2023

- 🌿 **1** Samhain••
- † **1** All Saints Day
- 🌿 **5-11** Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario
- 🌿 **7** Inuit Day
- 🌿 **8** Indigenous Veterans Day
- ♣️ **11** Remembrance Day
- 🌿 **12** Diwali♦♦
- 🕒 **12-13** Diwali/Lord Mahavir•
- 🕒 **12** Bandi Chhor Divas•
- 🌿 **13** New Year•
- 🌿 **13-19** Rock Your Moccs Week
- 🕒 **14** New Year/ Enlightenment day of Gautamswami•
- 🌿 **16** Louis Riel Day
- 🕒 **18** Gnan Panchami
- 🕒 **24** Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur
- 🌸 **26** Day of the Covenant
- 🕒 **27** Birth of Guru Nanak•
- 🕒 **27** Dev Diwali
- 🌸 **28** Ascension 'Abdu'l-Bahá

DECEMBER 2023

- † **3** First Day of Advent
- ♣️ **6** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- 🌸 **8** Bodhi Day
- ★ **8-15** Chanukah
- ☾ **13** Birthday of Imam Aga Khan
- 🌿 **21** Yule/Winter Solstice••
- † **25** Christmas♦♦
- ♣️ **26-Jan 1** Kwanzaa African Canadian and American
- ♣️ **26** Boxing Day
- + **26** Zarathosht-no-diso (FC)
- 🌸 **29** Amitabha Buddha's Birthday

JANUARY 2024

- ♣️ **1** Kwanzaa African-Canadian and African-American
- † **1** New Year's Day•
- 🌸 **1** Temple Day
- † **6** Epiphany
- † **7** Christmas (J)♦♦
- 🌿 **13** Lohri
- 🌿 **13** Maghi
- † **14** New Year's Day (J)•
- 🌿 **15** Makar Sankranti
- ♣️ **15-18** Thai Pongal
- 🕒 **17** Birth of Guru Gobind Singh•
- † **19** Epiphany (J)
- ♣️ **21** Lincoln Alexander Day
- ♣️ **27** Holocaust Remembrance Day

FEBRUARY 2024

- 🌿 **1** Imbolc
- ☾ **8** Isra'a and Mi'raj
- 🌸 **10** Lunar New Year/Maitreya Bodhisattva's Birthday♦♦
- † **14** Ash Wednesday
- 🌿 **14** Vasant Panchami
- 🌸 **15** Sakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana Day•
- ♣️ **19** Family Day (ON)
- 🌸 **24** Lantern Festival
- ☾ **25** Nisfu Sha'ban
- 🌸 **26-29** Intercalary Days
- ♣️ **28** Pink Shirt Day

MARCH 2024

- 🌸 **1-19** Bahá'í Fast
- 🌿 **8** Mahashivratri•
- ♣️ **8** International Women's Day
- ☾ **10** Ramadan begins*♦
- 🌸 **10** Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday
- † **18** Clean Monday (J)
- 🌿 **20** Ladyday/Spring Equinox••
- 🌸 **20** Naw Ruz (New Year)••
- ♣️ **20** Journée internationale de la Francophonie
- + **21** Navroze (New Year) (FC)•
- ☾ **21** Eid-e-Navroz
- ♣️ **21** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- ★ **23-24** Purim
- † **24** Palm Sunday
- 🌿 **24-25** Holi
- 🕒 **25-27** Hola Mohalla
- + **26** Khordad Sal (FC)•
- † **29** Good Friday♦
- † **31** Easter•
- 🌿 **31** National Indigenous Languages Day
- ♣️ **31** International Transgender Day of Visibility

APRIL 2024

- † **1** Easter Monday•
- ☾ **4-5** Jumu'atul-Widaa
- ☾ **6-7** Lailat-ul-Qadr
- ☾ **9-10** Eid ul-Fitr♦♦(Ramadan Ends)
- 🌿 **9-17** New Year/Vasant Navratri begins
- ♣️ **12** International Day of Pink
- 🌿 **13** Vaisakhi♦
- 🌿 **14** Tamil New Year (Tamil Hinduism)
- 🕒 **15** Birth of Guru Nanak•
- 🌸 **15** Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment
- 🌿 **17** Shri Ram Navami•
- 🌸 **20** First day of Ridvan♦
- 🕒 **21** Mahavir Jayanti/Janma Kalyanak)•
- ★ **22-30** Pesach/Passover (22-24, 30♦♦) (25-28••)
- + **23** Zarathosht-no-diso (QC)
- 🌸 **24** Theravada New Year•
- † **28** Palm Sunday (J)
- 🌸 **29** Ninth day of Ridvan••

MAY 2024

- 🌿 **1** Beltane
- 🌸 **2** Twelfth day of Ridvan••
- † **3** Holy Friday (J)♦♦
- 🌿 **5** National Day of Awareness and Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Peoples♦
- † **5** Easter (J)•
- 🌸 **5-6** Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
- † **6** Easter Monday (J)•
- 🌿 **10** Jordan's Principle Day
- ★ **11-13** Shavuot (May 26••)
- ♣️ **17** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- ♣️ **18** Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day
- † **19** Pentecost
- ♣️ **20** Victoria Day
- 🌸 **23** Wesak/Buddha Day•
- 🌸 **23** Declaration of the Báb
- 🌸 **28** Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh

JUNE 2024

- ☾ **16** Eid ul-Adha♦♦
- 🕒 **16** Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
- ☾ **16** Waqfatu'Arafat
- 🌿 **20** Litha/Summer Solstice••
- 🌿 **21** National Indigenous Peoples Day♦
- 🌸 **21** Poson
- † **23** Pentecost (J)
- ♣️ **27** Canadian Multiculturalism Day
- † **30** All Saints Day (J)

JULY 2024

- ♣️ **1** Canada Day
- 🌸 **3** Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday
- ☾ **7** New Year (Al-Hijra)
- 🌸 **9** Martyrdom of the Báb
- ☾ **11** Imamat Day•
- + **16** Navroze (New Year)(QC)•
- ☾ **16-17** Ashura•
- + **21** Khordad Sal•
- 🌸 **21** Asalha Puja Day
- 🌿 **21** Guru Purnima

AUGUST 2024

- 🌿 **1** Lughnasadh/Lammas
- + **4** Farvadegan (QC)
- ♣️ **5** Civic Holiday (ON)
- 🌸 **5** Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment
- ★ **12-13** Tishah B'Av
- + **15** Navroze (New Year)(CC)•
- 🌸 **18** Ullambana
- 🌿 **19** Raksha Bandhan
- + **20** Khordad Sal (SC)•