



Holy Days, Holidays, and Days of Significance Calendar 2024-2025

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 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 do 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 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.


Judaism – holy days begin at sunset the day before and are indicated on the calendar.

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 Faslī 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 are encouraged to be scheduled on an alternate day. Additionally, events should not be scheduled on the evening before the indicated date if possible.

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 Quran, 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 Faslī 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 2024

-  **1** First Parkash
-  **2** Farvardegan (SC)
-  **2** Labour Day
-  **8** Samvatsari/Paryushan Parva ends/Daslakshan Parva begins 
-  **11** Nayrouz (J)
-  **15** Milad-un-Nabi
-  **17** Anant Chaturdashi
-  **18** Kshamavani/Daslakshan Parva ends 
-  **19** Powley Day
-  **22** Mabon/Fall Equinox  
-  **25** Franco-Ontarian Day
-  **30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 

OCTOBER 2024

-  **2** Eve of Rosh Hashanah 
-  **3** Sharad Navratri begins
-  **3-4** Rosh Hashanah 
-  **4** National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People 
-  **11** Durga Ashtami
-  **11** Eve of Yom Kippur 
-  **12** Yom Kippur 
-  **12-13** Vijaya Dashmi/Dussehra 
-  **14** Thanksgiving
-  **16** Eve of Sukkot
-  **17** Kathina Ceremony/Pavarana Day
-  **17-23** Sukkot
-  **20** Karva Chauth
-  **20** Installation of Guru Granth
-  **24** Eve of Simchat Torah
-  **25** Simchat Torah
-  **31** Halloween

































MARCH 2025

-  **1-19** Bahá'í Fast
-  **1** Ramadan begins 
-  **3** Clean Monday (J)
-  **5** Ash Wednesday
-  **8** International Women's Day
-  **13** Eve of Purim
-  **14** Purim
-  **14-15** Holi
-  **14-16** Hola Mohalla
-  **18** Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday
-  **20** Ostara/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
-  **26** Khordad Sal (FC) 
-  **27-28** Jumu'atul-Widaa


APRIL 2025

-  **6** Shri Ram Navami 
-  **9** International Day of Pink
-  **10** Mahavir Jayanti (Birthday) 
-  **12** Theravada New Year 
-  **12** Eve of Pesach/Passover 
-  **13** Palm Sunday
-  **13** Palm Sunday (J)
-  **13-20** Pesach/Passover (13 , 14 , 19 , 20 )
-   **14** Vaisakhi 
-  **14** Tamil New Year (Tamil Hinduism)
-  **15** Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment
-  **18** Good Friday 
-  **18** Holy Friday (J) 
-  **20** First day of Ridvan 
-  **20** Easter 
-  **20** Easter (J) 
-  **21** Easter Monday 
- **21** Easter Monday (J)
- **23** Eve of Yom HaShoah
- **24** Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
- **28** Ninth day of Ridvan

NOVEMBER 2024

-  **1** Samhain  
-  **1** All Saints Day
-  **1** Diwali 
-  **1** Bandi Chhor Divas 
-  **1** Diwali/Lord Mahavir 
-  **2** Birth of the Báb
-  **2** New Year 
-  **2** New Year/ Enlightenment day of Gautamswami 
-  **3** Birth of Bahá'u'lláh  
-  **3-9** Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario
-  **6** Gyan Panchami
-  **7** Inuit Day
-  **8** Indigenous Veterans Day
-  **10-16** Rock Your Mocs Week
-  **11** Remembrance Day
-  **15** Dev Diwali
-  **15** Birth of Guru Nanak 
-  **16** Louis Riel Day
-  **20** International Transgender Day of Remembrance
-  **24** Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur
-  **25** Day of the Covenant
-  **27** Ascension 'Abdu'l-Bahá

MAY 2025

-  **1** Twelfth day of Ridvan  
-  **1** Beltane
-  **5** National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S) 
-  **10** Jordan's Principle Day
-  **12** Wesak/Buddha Day 
-  **17** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
-  **18** Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day
-  **19** Victoria Day
-  **23** Declaration of the Báb
-  **28** Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh
-  **30** Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev

DECEMBER 2024

-  **1** First Day of Advent
-  **6** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
-  **8** Bodhi Day
-  **13** Birthday of Imam Aga Khan
-  **17** Amitabha Buddha's Birthday
-  **21** Yule/Winter Solstice  
-  **25** Christmas 
-  **25** Eve of Chanukah
-  **26-Jan 1** Kwanzaa African Canadian and American (26 )
-  **26** Boxing Day
-  **26-Jan 2** Chanukah
-  **26** Zarathosht-no-diso (FC)