THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

EQUITY & DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 13, 2018
4:30 PM
Council Chambers
Followed by sub-committee meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

   We would like to begin today's meeting by acknowledging that the Town of Georgina is located over lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples and thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one that we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship with.

2. ROLL CALL

3. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEMS

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

   Pages 1 to 5

   (1) Meeting minutes from Tuesday February 13, 2018

7. DELEGATIONS/SPEAKERS

8. PRESENTATIONS

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON THE AGENDA

10. COMMUNICATIONS

    Pages 6 to 35

    (1) Holidays and Observances Calendar

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Page 36

(1) Community Response to Hate (ongoing item) - sub-committee to set meeting date.

(2) Music in the Streets 2018 (ongoing item) – Committee members to report back on actions assigned at the November 14, 2017 meeting.

(3) Georgina 200 year anniversary 2018 event, discussion - Committee members to report back on actions assigned at the November 14, 2017 meeting.

Pages 37 to 39

(4) Diversity & Inclusivity Policy

12. CLOSED SESSION, IF REQUIRED

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next meeting: April 10, 2018.

THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

EQUITY & DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
4:30 PM
Council Chambers
Followed by sub-committee meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 PM

We would like to begin today's meeting by acknowledging that the Town of Georgina is located over lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples and thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one that we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship with.

2. ROLL CALL

The following Committee members were present:
Karen McGill, Chair
Courtney Baumhard, Vice Chair
Councillor Charlene Biggerstaff (departed at 5:10 PM)
Alicia Lauzon
Berenice Ruhl
Kyle Stipanic

The following staff members were in attendance:
Phil Rose-Donahoe, Manager of Cultural Services (departed at 5:31 PM)
Cathy Tustin, Human Resources Generalist
Sandra DiPietrantonio, Administrative Assistant
Sarah Brislin, Committee Services Coordinator

3. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEMS - *None*

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved Courtney Baumhard, Seconded by Kyle Stipanic

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2018-0006

That the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee approve the February 13, 2018, meeting agenda.

Carried.

5. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF - *None*

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(1) Meeting minutes from January 9, 2018.

Moved by Kyle Stipanic, Seconded by Courtney Baumhard

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2018-0007

That the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee January 9, 2018, meeting minutes be adopted as amended.

Carried.

7. DELEGATIONS/SPEAKERS - *None*

8. PRESENTATIONS - *None*

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON THE AGENDA

(1) Updates from Councillor Biggerstaff

Councillor Biggerstaff announced that Council approved the request for $3000.00 and advised she has requested a closer look at Committees and their budgets. Councillor Biggerstaff advised the Tent is tentatively booked, she has requested the vendor check the site out and advise of permit and tent requirements. Councillor Biggerstaff offered to follow up on the possibility of incorporating art pieces from students that would be reflective of cultural performances.

Moved by Courtney Baumhard, Seconded by Berenice Ruhl

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2018-0008

That the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee proceed with confirming participation in Music in the Streets June 23rd 2018 and confirm booking the following Performers:

1. Chippewas Biindigen Healing and Arts
    - Traditional Knowledge Keeper – Opening remarks

- 4 Traditional Dancers
- Big Drum Performance with Ashunyung Singers

2. Drums et al
3. Kick up a Fuss Cloggers
4. Celtic Steps Highland Dancers
5. Scotish dancers
6. Chinese Wushu Lion
7. Dance Express Art Academy

Carried.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

(1) Defining Municipal Resolutions

(2) Ontario Supporting Francophone Communities and Culture

(3) Vernon BC. enhancing its diversity & inclusivity

Moved by Kyle Stipanic, Seconded by Courtney Baumhard

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2018-0009

That the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee receive the following Communication items:

1. Defining Municipal Resolutions
2. Ontario Supporting Francophone Communities and Culture
3. Vernon BC. enhancing its diversity & inclusivity

Carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Community Response to Hate (ongoing item).

The Committee advised the sub-committee meetings will continue to immediately follow Committee meetings.

(2) Music in the Streets 2018 (ongoing item).

Phil Rose-Donahoe offered to draft a letter targeting the top 6 real estate agents regarding a sponsorship opportunity.

(3) Georgina 200 year anniversary 2018 event, continued discussion.

The Committee was provided an overview of plans being considered for the 200 year anniversary. The Committee provided Phil Rose-Donahoe suggestions for the event.

(4) Sutton Public School, Newcomer Night on Wednesday, February 21st.

Courtney Baumhard advised the Committee Sutton Public School would be hosting an event that would target newcomer families and provide them with the opportunity to meet faces around the school. The Committee was advised community partners had also been invited to attend in order to help the families integrate into the community.

(5) Inclusivity & Diversity Policy, update.

The Committee was advised Bev Moffatt, Director of Human Resources has reviewed the policy for legislative compliance and it will be going back to Council for approval.

(6) Diversity and Food event, continued discussion.

The Committee requested the item be left on the agenda ongoing item.

(7) Communications strategy, continued discussion.

The Committee discussed the communication pieces being reflective of the multi-cultural faith days once a calendar is obtained.

(8) Multicultural multi-faith electronic calendar, update if available.

The Committee discussed using the multicultural multi faith calendar of either the Peel District School Board, York Region District School Board or York Region Police.

12. CLOSED SESSION, IF REQUIRED

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next meeting: March 13, 2018.

Moved by Kyle Stipanic, Seconded by Courtney Baumhard

RESOLUTION NO. GEDAC-2018-0010

That the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee February 13, 2018, meeting adjourn at 5:49 PM.

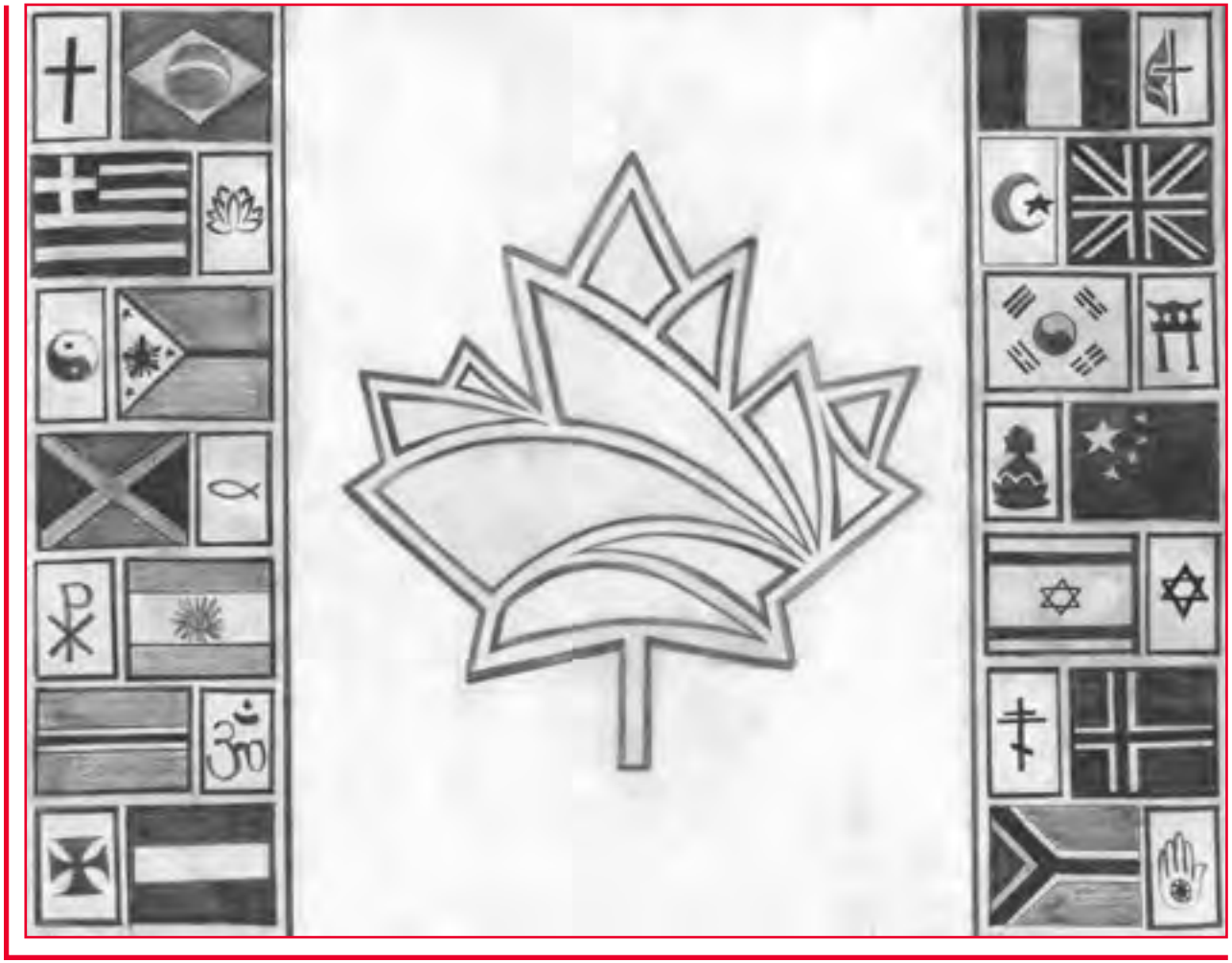
Carried.

Karen McGill
Chair

C. Sarah A. Brislin
Committee Services Coordinator

HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

2017 - 2018 CALENDAR



York Region
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

InspireLearning!

Mission

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

Vision

To be a leader in public education by empowering all students to become engaged and caring citizens of the world.

Values

Our School Board operates based on a set of values which guides our actions:

Inclusivity

We demonstrate equity and inclusivity in all that we do. We demand an environment in which all students, staff, parents, and our community feel valued and have a sense of belonging. We expect empathy, mutual respect and understanding to be demonstrated in our words and actions.

Relationships

We value positive, meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents, and our community. We value diversity of opinion, sincere dialogue and community engagement.

Innovation

We continuously strive to provide the best educational programs for all students. We empower staff and students to take initiative and to be innovative leaders.

Engagement

We encourage active participation in all learning and activities by creating an environment that engages students, staff, parents, and our community.

Responsibility

We are individually and collectively responsible for creating the best possible school community to support the achievement and well-being of all individuals. We are responsible for the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and stewardship of Board resources.

Optimism

We approach all situations with optimism. We cultivate confidence and resiliency in all students and staff.

InspireLearning!

F.Y.I.

- Christian system is used for dating years.
- B.C.E. (Before the Common Era) is used in preference to B.C. (Before Christ)
- C.E. (Common Era) is used in preference to A.D. (Anno Domini)
- (pbuh) - Peace be upon Him

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vivian Chan-Simao
Richmond Hill High School

Fatima Jessa
Randall Public School

Joan Lachhman
Inclusive School and Community Services

Paul Woods
Inclusive School and Community Services

Mounir Mounir
Information Technology Services

Suganja Sinnathamby
Maple High School

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Staff and Students of the York Region District School Board

Calendar Coordination: Joan Lachhman
Inclusive School and Community Services

Layout & Design: Chris Jasper
Learning, Design & Development, YRDSB

For information please call the office of Inclusive School and Community Services, (905) 884 2046 ext. 252, (416) 969 7170 ext. 2409
or e-mail: joan.lachhman@yrdsb.ca

This calendar is a selected representation of special days and holy days of the major faith communities in York Region and it is intended to be used primarily as a learning resource. Note that the Calendar does not contain all the dates of a particular faith. This calendar is not applicable in determining faith day/ religious holidays for employees. Please refer to the appropriate collective agreement or contact Human Resources at Ext. 2220 or 2304.

For accommodation requirements or additional information on faith, please refer to the document *Program Planning for Faith Purposes.*

HOLY DAYS BY FAITH

AUGUST 2017 - JULY 2018

BAHA'I FAITH

October	21	The Birth of the Bab
October	22	The Birth of Baba'u'llah
November	26	The Day of the Covenant
November	28	Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha
Feb. 26 - Mar.	1	Intercalary Days
March	2 - 20	The Baha'i Fast
March	21	Naw Ruz (New Year)
◆ April	21	Ridvan begins
May	24	Declaration of the Bab
May	29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah
July	10	Martyrdom of the Bab

BUDDHISM

October	5	Pavarana
October	6	Kathina
January	1	Temple Day
◆ February	16	Lunar New Year
March	20	Spring Ohigon
April	13/14	Saka New Year
May	29	Wesak
July	28	Wassana

CHRISTIANITY

September	11	Coptic New Year
October	1	World communion Sunday
November	1	All Saints' Day
December	3	First Sunday of Advent (Western)
◆ December	25	Christmas (Western)
January	6	Epiphany (Western)
◆ January	7	Christmas (Eastern)
January	19	Epiphany (Eastern)
February	14	Ash Wednesday (Western)
February	19	First Day of Lent (Eastern)
March	25	Palm Sunday (Western)
March	29	Maundy Thursday (Western)
◆ March	30	Good Friday (Western)
April	1	Easter Sunday (Western)
April	1	Palm Sunday (Eastern)
◆ April	6	Holy Friday (Eastern)
April	8	Easter Sunday (Eastern)
May	10	Ascension Day (Western)
May	20	Pentecost (Western)

HINDUISM

August	7	Raksha Bandhan
August	14	Sri Krishana Jayanti
August	24	Ganesha Jayanti/Chaturthi
September	20-28	Navaratri (Fall)
◆ October	18	Diwali
October	20 - 25	Skanda Shashti Vratham
January	14	Makar Sankranti/Pongal
January	22	Vasant Panchami
February	14	Mahashivaratri (Shivaratri)
March	2	Holi
March	18 - 26	Navaratri (Spring)
March	26	Ramanavami
April	13	Chaitra/Chithirai New Year

◗ ISLAM

August	31	Day of Arafat (Hajj) (2017)
◆ September	1	Eid-ul-Adha
September	21	First Day of Muharram
October	1	Ashura
December	1	Mawlid-un-Nabi
December	13	Birthday of Aga Khan (Ismaili)
April	13	Miraj-un-Nabi
May	1	Nisfu-Shaban
May	16	First day of Ramadhan
June	11	Lailat-ul-Qadr
◆ June	15	Eid-ul-Fitr

JAINISM

September	4	Anata Chaturdasi
October	18	Mahavira Nirvana
October	25	Jnana Panchami
November	30	Manu-agiyaras
March	29	Mahavir Jayanti

WICCA

August	1	Lammas
September	22	Mabon
October	31	Samhain
December	21	Yule
February	2	Imbolc
March	20	Ostara
May	1	Beltane
June	21	Litha

JUDAISM

August	1	Tish'a B'av (2017)
◆ September	21-22	Rosh Hashanah ❋
◆ September	30	Yom Kippur ❋
October	5-11	Sukkot
October	12	Shemini Atzeret
October	13	Simchat Torah
December	13-20	Chanukah
March	1	Purim
March	31- April 7	Pesach/Passover ◆ (March 31) ❋
May	20-21	Shavuot
July	22	Tish'a B'av (2018)

➤ SIKHISM

September	1	First Parkash
November	4	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji
November	24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Tegh Bahadar Ji
January	5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji
January	13	Maghi
March	14	Sikh New Year's Day
◆ April	13	Vaisakhi
June	16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji

ZOROASTRIANISM

August	18	Naw Ruz (Shenshai)
December	26	Death of Prophet Zarathustra
March	17	Ghambar Hamapasthmaedem
March	21	Naw Ruz (New Year's Day)
March	28	Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra
June - July	29 -3	Ghambar Maidyoshem

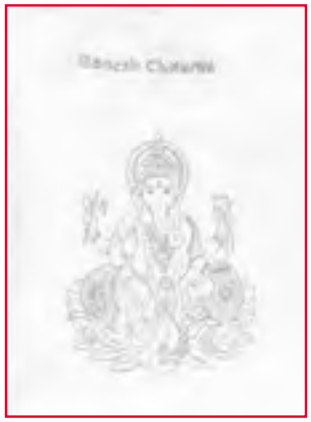
◆ This excerpt is referenced in the **Scheduling of Events on Faith Days document** – "we are committed to affirm and value equally the faith diversity in our schools and workplaces. Therefore, INTERNALLY scheduled events such as field trips, school concerts, conferences, meetings, workshops, other professional events, co-curricular activities, and exams/tests SHALL NOT be scheduled on these dates referred to as 'Diamond Days' in the YRDSB". Exceptions to the above may be considered where dates for special events are set EXTERNALLY to our Board and after consultation with superintendents who will present requests to Senior Team to determine participation. Please refer to the YRDSB Religious Accommodations Guidelines for more information.

◗ Tentative dates subject to the sighting of the new moon each month. Some Jain and Buddhist dates are tentative at the time of publishing.

➤ These dates follow the Nanakshahi calendar. Please check our website for updated information: **www.yrdsb.ca**

❋ Please note that observances of these faith days begin on the eve of this event. The same guidelines apply to the 'Diamond Days'.

Karina Kan, Milliken Mills P.S., Gr. 3



Varshini Sathiaselan, Legacy P.S., Gr. 6

Rayyan Rizwan, Ellen Fairclough P.S., Gr. 6

Keishini Selvaganesh, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 9

Aanya Nagpal, Herbert H. Carnegie P.S., Gr. 3

Megha Verma, Markham Gateway P.S., Gr. 4

Ayodhya Panagoda, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 8

Akanila Ravichandran, Harry Bowes P.S., Gr. 5

Maryam Bajwa, Aldergrove P.S., Gr. 5

HINDUISM

August 7 — **Raksha Bandhan** ("to tie protection on") is a celebration where girls and married women tie an amulet on the right wrists of their brothers to ward off evil influences.

August 14 — **Sri Krishna Jayanti** (also known as Janmashtami) celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna. According to the Hindu epics, Lord Krishna was the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. His purpose was to destroy the demon Kansa who was responsible for the increase of evil in the world.

August 24 — **Ganesh Jayanti** (Chaturthi) celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, God of success and one of the major Hindu deities. He is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings.

ISLAM

August 31 — **Day of Hajj** (Day of Arafat), or Pilgrimage to Mecca, is undertaken once in a lifetime for those who can afford it. Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam after the Belief in One God, daily prayers, fasting and charity. On the Islamic calendar, it falls on the 9th day in the last month of Zul-Hijjah.

JUDAISM

August 1 — **Tish'a B'av** marks a number of misfortunes such as the destruction of both of the ancient temples some 650 years apart. The day is marked by fasting and the reading of the Book of Lamentations.

WICCA

August 1 — **Lammas** meaning "loaf-mass", time of first harvest and bread making. It is when the plants of spring wither and drop their fruits or seeds for our use, as well as to ensure future crops. The God symbolically loses some strength, as the Sun rises farther in the South each day and the nights grow longer.

ZOROASTRIANISM

August 18 — **Naw Ruz.** New Year's Day in accordance with the Shenshai calendar.

AUGUST 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	Tish'a B'av Lammas 1	2	3	4	5	6
Raksha Bandhan Civic Holiday 7	P.A. Day Bill Crothers S.S. 8	9	10	11	12	13
Sri Krishana Jayanti 14	15	16	17	Naw Ruz 18	19	20
21	22	23	Ganesha Jayanti 24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Day of Hajj 31			

Please note:

- Islamic dates are tentative and subject to the sighting of the moon each month.
- All Jewish Holy Days commence on the preceding evening at sunset.

Notes _____

Chloe Wang, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 2

Siya Chen, Fred Varley P.S., Gr. 8

JULY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Jabez Kim, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 10

Lesley Zosky, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 8

Jessica Kerzner, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7

Claire Yan, Fred Varley P.S., Gr. 5

Srishti Rao, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 7

Alesia Leung, Sixteenth Avenue P.S., Gr. 7

Alston Lo, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 10

Alisha Farooq, Alexander Muir P.S., Gr. 2

CHRISTIANITY

September 11 — **Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year**. This is the day for Copts (Christians of Egyptian origin) to celebrate the New Year and the Feast of Martyrs. For members of the Ethiopian Orthodox community, the New Year is a chance to celebrate the new month as well as the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

HINDUISM

Sept. 20 - 28 — **Navaratri (Fall)** is a nine-day celebration of the Divine Goddess for good health, happiness and knowledge.

ISLAM

September 1 ◆ — **Eid-ul-Adha** is the Festival of Sacrifice. It honours Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God. In commemoration, Muslims sacrifice a sheep or goat and donate the meat or its equivalent value in cash to charity. This is the "minimum" requirement for those who can afford it.

September 21 — **Muharram** (New Year's Day) begins the new Islamic year. This is the year 1439.

JAINISM

September 4 — **Ananta Chaturdasi** is regarded as the holiest period of the year. Fasting, worship, meditation and confession characterize this period.

JUDAISM

Sept. 21 - 22 ◆ ❋ — **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year, marks the start of a ten day period of spiritual self examination and repentance which ends with Yom Kippur. Families celebrate with a festive dinner at which apples dipped in honey are eaten. (New Year's Day, 5778).

September 30 ◆ ❋ — **Yom Kippur**, the day of Atonement, is the most solemn of the Jewish Holy Days. At synagogue, the evening service is called Kol Nidre. People ask for forgiveness of their sins and forgive others. Jews refrain from all eating and drinking on this day.

SIKHISM

September 1 — **First Parkash** observes the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib, the first edition of the Sikh Scriptures, in the Golden Temple by the fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, in 1604 C.E.

WICCA

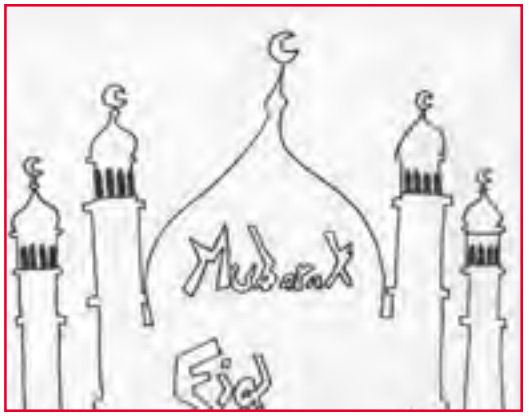
September 22 — **Mabon** Autumn Equinox and the second harvest. Wiccans take a moment to pay their respect to the impending dark. They celebrate the aging Goddess as she passes from Mother to Crone, and her consort the God as he prepares for death and rebirth.

◆ Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

SEPTEMBER 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
The Holidays and Observances Calendar is presently being drafted for the 2018-2019 school year. Included again this year will be student artwork from **Elementary and Secondary Schools** for the calendar cover and for each month. Keep an eye out for the memo outlining the details.				First Parkash ◆ Eid-ul-Adha 1	2	3
Anata Chaturdasi Labour Day 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	✻ Navaratri begins (Fall) 20	◆ Rosh Hashanah First day of Muharram 21	◆ Rosh Hashanah Mabon 22	23	24
P.A. Day - Elementary & Secondary 25	26	27	28	✻ 29	◆ Yom Kippur 30	

Notes _____



Aimen Virani, Doncrest P.S., Gr. 6

Scarlett Yan, William Berczy P.S., Gr. 4

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Soniya Yogalingam, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 7

Daanish Chauhan, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 7

Alanna Ntentes, Legacy P.S., Gr. 6

Becky Jiang, Sixteenth Avenue P.S., Gr. 7

BAHA'I FAITH

October 21 **The Birth of the Bab**. The Bab was born Siyyid' Ali Muhammad in Shiraz in southwestern Iran in 1819 C.E. His title, in Arabic, means "The Gate". Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

October 22 **The Birth of Baha'u'llah**. Baha'u'llah was born Mizra Husayn Ali into one of the leading noble families of Persia in 1817 C.E. His name is a title in Arabic meaning "the Glory of God". He is the founder of the Baha'i faith. Work and academic studies are suspended onthis day.

BUDDHISM

October 5 **Pavarana** signals the completion of the Rains of Retreat.

October 6 **Kathina** marks Buddha's "descent from heaven." The day is dedicated to remembering the dead and respecting elders.

CHRISTIANITY

October 1 **World Communion Sunday** is observed worldwide. Communion is the most fundamental of all Christian rituals.

HINDUISM

October 18 ◆ **Diwali** (Deepavali) both names mean a row or garland of lights. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is probably the most widely celebrated Hindu festival. This festival may be celebrated over a five-day period. The diwas (clay pots filled with oil and a wick) herald the start of the new year and symbolize the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness. For many Hindus, October 19, New Year's Day, is also very important.

October 20 - 25 **Skanda Shashti Vratham** is a six-day fasting period. It commemorates the destruction of evil by the Lord Murugan (Subramanya), who is the second son of Lord Siva and is celebrated with the dramatic enactment of Soora Samhaaram.

ISLAM

October 1 **Ashura** falls on the 10th day of Muharram. The 10th day commemorates the martyrdom of Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

JAINISM

October 18 **Mahavira Nirvana**. The Jain year begins with Moksha (attainment of final enlightenment and release) by Lord Mahavira. It is popularly known as Deepavali, festival of lamps. Lamps symbolize the light of knowledge.

October 25 **Jnana Panchami**, the day of knowledge, observed with Pooja (ritualistic offering) to pay homage to Saraswati Devi, the deity of knowledge and learning.

JUDAISM

October 5 - 11 **Sukkot** is a harvest festival or thanksgiving. Small huts are constructed in which meals are eaten, weather permitting, to commemorate the time when the Israelites dwelled in booths in the desert for 40 years.

October 12 **Shemini Atzeret** is a festival marking the end of the holiday of Sukkot on which a special prayer for rain is recited.

October 13 **Simchat Torah** is marked by singing and dancing which celebrates the end of public reading of the Torah in the synagogue and the beginning of its reading anew.

WICCA

October 31 **Samhain**. The third harvest, meaning "summer's end", when the ancestors are honoured. It is a magical interval when the mundane laws of time and space are temporarily suspended, and the thin veil between the worlds is lifted, symbolized by the Crone and her aged Consort.

◆ Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

OCTOBER 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Please refer to the Board's Scheduling of Events on Faith Days document list before scheduling Conferences, Workshops, Co-curricular activities, staff meetings, exams/test, field trips etc.						Ashura World Communion Sunday 1
2	3	4	Sukkot begins Pavarana 5	Kathina 6	7	8
Thanksgiving 9	10	11	Shemini Atzeret 12	Simchat Torah 13	14	15
16	17	Mahavira Nirvana ◆ Diwali 18	19	Skanda Shashti Vratham begins P.A. Day - Elementary & Secondary 20	The Birth of the Bab 21	The Birth of Baha'u'llah 22
23	24	Jnana Panchami 25	26	27	28	29
30	Samhain 31					

Notes _____

Jasmine Xue, Fred Varley P.S., Gr. 8

Anjali Kosuri, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 8

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

Cinzia Pilla, Mazo De La Roche P.S., Gr. 6

Mackenzie Turco, Bogart P.S., Gr. 5

Michelle Galor, Roméo Dallaire P.S.,Gr. 6

Chloe Liang, Ramer Wood P.S., Gr. 7

Ishsiga Kugathas, Harry Bowes P.S., Gr. 8

Taha Chaudhry, Sharon P.S., Gr. 2

Samuel Shulman, Red Maple P.S., Gr. 5

Gil Gusinsky, Roméo Dallaire P.S., Gr. 6

Fargol Moayeri, Walter Scott P.S., Gr. 6

BAHA'I FAITH

November 26 **The Day of the Covenant.** The eldest son and appointed successor of Baha'u'llah Abdu'l-Baha is referred to as the "Centre of the Covenant". The covenant was established by Baha'u'llah to safeguard the unity of the Baha'i community. It was Abdu'l-Baha's wish that the Covenant be celebrated rather than his own birth date.

November 28 **Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha**. After years of serving both his father and the growing Baha'i community, Abdu'l-Baha passed away in Haifa, Israel in 1921 C.E.

CHRISTIANITY

November 1 **All Saints' Day** is observed as a special day in many Christian churches.

JAINISM

November 30 **Maun-agiyaras** is a day of fasting, silence and meditation.

SIKHISM

November 4 **Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.** The founder of the Sikh faith was born in 1469 C.E.

November 24 **Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadar Ji**. The Guru was executed in 1675 C.E. by a Mughal emperor. Sikhs believe that he gave his life to save the Hindu faith and religious liberty.

NOVEMBER 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		All Saints Day 1	2	3	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji 4	5
6	7	8	9	10	Remembrance Day 11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadar Ji P.A. Day - Elementary & Secondary 24	25	The Day of the Covenant 26
27	Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha 28	29	Manu-agiyaras 30			

Please note:
Midterm break is from November 6 - November 10, 2017 for **all early start schools**.

Notes _____

Arianna Moore, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 5

Joy Zhang, Parkview P.S., Gr. 5

OCTOBER

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DECEMBER

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

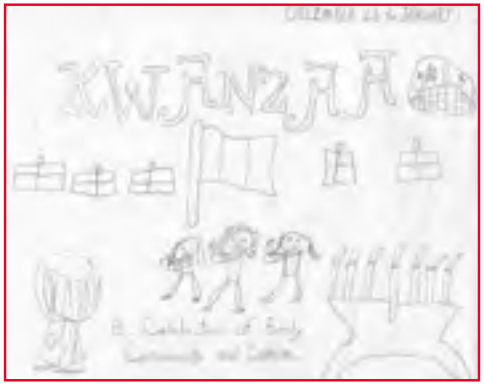
Catherine Kim, Yorkhill E.S., Gr. 8

Natalie Applebaum, MacLeod's Landing, Gr. 4

Naomi Diaz, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 3

Madeline Vaxman, Yorkhill E.S., Gr. 8

Isabelle Yam, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 10



Brianna Greig, Sharon P.S., Gr. 2

CHRISTIANITY

December 3 — **First Sunday of Advent** begins the period of preparation for Christmas. In homes and churches, Christians set out special candle holders or Advent wreaths (Western).

December 25 ◆ **Christmas** (Western calendar) celebrates the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the son of God, and accept him as their Saviour and Lord. In many families, Christmas Eve is celebrated with big dinners, visiting and carol-singing, often followed by midnight church services.

ISLAM

December 1 — **Mawlid-un-Nabi** celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

December 13 — **Aga Khan (Ismaili)** December 13 marks the birthday of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam-of-the-Time descended from the progeny of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is referred to as Salgirah Khushiali and is a celebratory occasion for Ismaili Muslims to express love, loyalty and devotion to their Imam.

JUDISM

Dec. 13 - 20 — **Chanukah** (Festival of Lights) celebrates religious freedom by commemorating the victory of the Jews over Antiochus who tried to outlaw the practice of Judaism. Starting on the evening of December 12, candles are lit in increasing numbers for eight nights in a "Chanukiah" which is a special candelabrum containing nine candles.

KWANZAA

December 26 — **Kwanzaa** named after the Swahili word for "first fruits" is a seven day cultural celebration initiated by African Americans starting on December 26th. Each day a candle is lit and placed in a seven-cup candelabrum called a kinara that sits on a straw mat adorned with fruit and vegetables. The participants discuss the principles or Nguzo Saba of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. On the final night of the celebration, friends and relatives gather for a feast known as Karamu.

ZOROASTRIANISM

December 26 — **Death of Prophet Zarathustra** who was the founder of the Zoroastrian faith. His dates are uncertain but Westerners believe he lived in the first or the second millennium B.C.E.

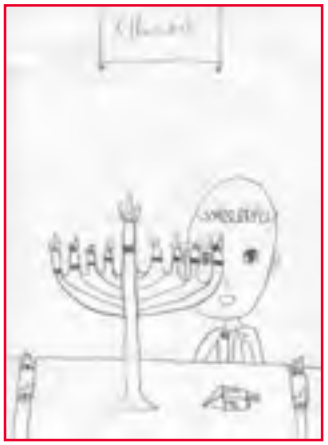
◆ Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

DECEMBER 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Looking for funds for inclusive activities? Go to the Board's Portal Site at https://bww.yrdsb.ca, Board Services, select Inclusive School and Community Services and click on Road to Inclusivity Grants.				Mawlid-un-Nabi 1	2	First Day of Advent 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	Birthday of Aga Khan Chanukah begins 13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
◆ Christmas 25	Kwanzaa Death of Prophet Zarathustra 26	WINTER BREAK 27	28	29	30	31

Notes _____

Natalie Filip, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7



Izaiah Kyle Cleofe, Kettleby P.S., Gr. 2

NOVEMBER

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JANUARY

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Imeth Illamperuma, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7

Zelal Boran, Vellore Woods P.S., Gr. 5

Ashvika Aiyathurai, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 8

Sahaar Rattansi, Willowbrook P.S., Gr. 8

Kalen Delaney, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 7

Chloe Lam, Beckett Farms P.S., Gr. 2

Sobiga Vajayarpollan, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 8

Mariane Akina, Ross Doan P.S., Gr. 3

BUDDHISM

January 1 — **Temple Day** has become a day for Canadian Buddhists to attend a special service in the local temple.

CHRISTIANITY

January 6 — **Epiphany** (Western Calendar) is the 12th day of Christmas and the end of the Christmas season. It comes from a Greek word referring to the baptism of Jesus and the arrival in Bethlehem of the Three Wise Men who came to worship Jesus. The Armenian Orthodox Church celebrates the nativity of Jesus on this day.

January 7 ◆ **Christmas** (Eastern Calendar). Some Orthodox churches celebrate the birth of Jesus on this day.
The Julian (Eastern) calendar is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian (Western) calendar. In York Region, this is often referred to as "Ukrainian Christmas".

January 19 — **Epiphany** (Eastern Calendar). The Eastern Church associates the date with the baptism of Jesus by John and the miracle of Cana in which Jesus turned water into wine. This day is also known as Theophany in Orthodox churches.

HINDUISM

January 14 — **Makar Sankranti**, is also known as Lohri, Thai Pongal and Til Sankranti. It marks the winter solstice and is primarily a rice harvest festival.

January 22 — **Vasant Panchami** is particularly celebrated in Northern India. This festival marks the advent of spring. Also known as Shri Panchami, it is a celebration commonly associated with Shri or Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth). It is also commonly linked with the Goddess of Learning, Saraswati.

SIKHISM

January 5 — **Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.** The tenth guru (1666-1708 C.E.) was the final master who created the Sikh Brotherhood, the Khalsa.

January 13 — **Maghi** commemorates the forgiveness shown by Guru Gobind Singh to forty deserters who returned to fight the Mughal army and sacrificed their lives under the leadership of a brave Khalsa woman named Maee Bhaago.

◆ Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

JANUARY 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Temple Day 1	WINTER BREAK 2	3	4	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji 5	Epiphany (Western) 6	◆ Christmas (Eastern) 7
8	9	10	11	12	Maghi 13	Makar Sankranti/ Pongal 14
15	16	17	18	Epiphany (Eastern) P.A. Day - Elementary P.A. Day - Bill Crothers S.S. 19	20	21
Vasant Panchami 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Please note: The Program Accommodations for Faith Purposes document has been posted on the BVVV. To learn more about these guidelines and corresponding resources, please visit the equity page on the BVVV.

Notes _____

Mindy Chanphakeo, Vellore Woods P.S., Gr. 5

Carys Augustyn, Summitview P.S., Gr. 2

DECEMBER

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FEBRUARY

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Leonna Ng, Fred Varley P.S., Gr. 7

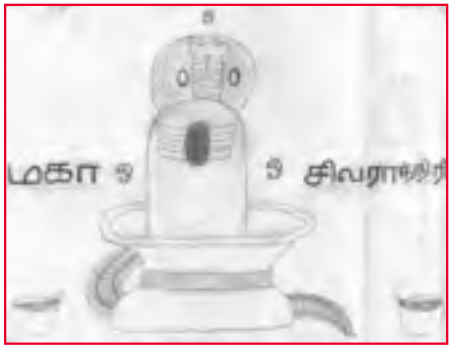
Dinusanth Surendran, Legacy P.S., Gr. 6

Sydney Ly, Lincoln Alexander P.S., Gr. 8

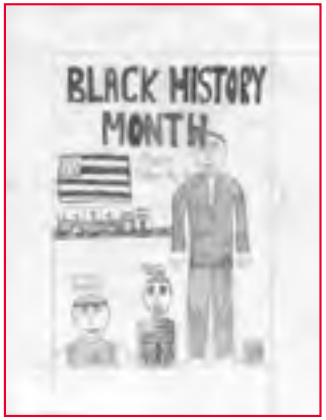
Bryce Cheung, Thornhill P.S., Gr. 7

Laxsika Perinparajah, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 7

Emma Ka Wai Liu, Donald Cousens P.S., Gr. 6



Abina Sivamohan, David Suzuki P.S., Gr. 8



Luka Cvetanovic, William Armstrong P.S., Gr. 7

Luck Xing, Charles Howitt P.S., Gr. 5

BUDDHISM

February 16 ◆ **Lunar New Year** the day after the new moon, marks the beginning of the new lunar year. It is the year of the Dog. Irrespective of their religion or country, all Chinese, Vietnamese and many Koreans celebrate the cultural aspect of this day. This is the beginning of year 4716 in the Chinese calendar. It is a time for renewal and personal relationships, and pledges of prosperity.

BAHA'I FAITH

Feb. 26 – Mar. 1 **Intercalary Days** are four days (five in a leap year) that do not belong to any month. They are days of celebration, gift-giving, hospitality and charitable works.

CHRISTIANITY

February 14 **Ash Wednesday** (Western Calendar) is the beginning of Lent, the forty day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, repentance and self-denial that precedes Easter. It is a reminder of the days Jesus spent alone in the wilderness.

February 19 **First day of Lent**, (Eastern Calendar), which is the great fast, is the last six weeks of a ten week period before Easter. This day is also known as Clean Monday. Some Eastern Churches may start Lent a week before on February 12.

HINDUISM

February 14 **Mahashivaratri** (or Shivaratri, "Great Shiva Night") is a special night of prayer. Devotees sing the praises of Shiva, one of the major Hindu deities.

◆ Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

FEBRUARY 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Please note: The deadline to submit student artwork for the Holidays & Observances Calendar is Friday, February 23, 2018. Please submit all artwork to Joan Lachhman, Inclusive School & Community Services at Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning.			1	P.A. Day - Elementary & Secondary 2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Ash Wednesday Mahashivaratri 14	15	◆ Lunar New Year 16	17	18
Family Day First Day of Lent 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Intercalary Days 26	27	28				

Notes _____

Artwork may include original student photography, traditional artwork and digital artwork. Artwork entries must be in **BLACK** and **WHITE** only on 8 1/2 x 11 paper. Each piece of artwork **MUST** include on the **BACK**: Student's Name/Age/Grade/School/Celebration/Holiday.
Additionally, parents must provide permission to have student's artwork publicly displayed.

Lathish Vijayasogaran, Ellen Fairclough P.S., Gr. 7

Carol Li, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 8

JANUARY

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MARCH

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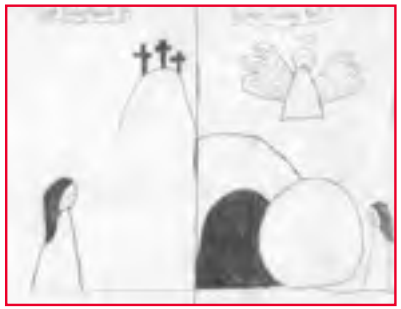
Aliyaah Cangson, Yorkhill E.S., Gr. 8

Dahlia Modarresi, Milliken Mills P.S., Gr. 3

Vaishnavi Sivanegsan, Parkland P.S., Gr. 4



Maggie Ng, Cornell Village P.S., Gr. 5

BAHA'I FAITH

March 2 - 20 **The 19-Day Fast** is observed every year from March 2 until March 20. During this time those who are physically able, abstain from food and drink from sunrise until sunset each day.

March 21 **Naw Ruz** (Baha'i New Year). Baha'is celebrate New Year on the first day of spring. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day. This date is also celebrated as a cultural event or faith day by many faith groups throughout the world.

BUDDHISM

March 20 **Spring Ohigon** is a special time to listen to the teaching of the Buddha and to meditate on the perfection of enlightenment. This day is of particular importance for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists.

CHRISTIANITY

March 25 **Palm Sunday** The Sunday before Easter, the beginning of the Holy Week celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. (Western Calendar)

March 29 **Maundy Thursday** (Holy Thursday) is the commemoration of the institution of the Lord's Supper (Western Calendar).

March 30 ◆ **Good Friday** commemorates Jesus' death by crucifixion (Western Calendar).

HINDUISM

March 2 **Holi** is a colourful spring festival observed widely in Hindu communities around the world. The myths, customs and rituals associated with Holi vary considerably from place to place.

March 18 - 26 **Navaratri (Spring)** is a nine-day celebration of the Divine Goddess for good health, happiness and knowledge.

March 26 **Ramanavami** On this day Lord Rama the 7th incarnation of Lord Vishnu is said to have been born.

JAINISM

March 29 **Mahavir Jayanti** is the celebration of the birthday of Lord Mahavira (meaning the Great Hero) of Jina (the Conqueror).

JUDAISM

March 1 **Purim** celebrates the victory over an oppressive ruler by Queen Esther and her Uncle Mordecai.

March 31-April 7 ◆ (March 31) **Pesach** (Passover) is a "Festival of Freedom" that commemorates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Symbolic foods, such as matzo, are eaten and leavened products are prohibited. First Seder is on the evening of March 30th. Although the second and last two days of Pesach are not identified as Diamond Days, they are also observed as full holy days by Jews. Staff are asked to take this into consideration when scheduling P.D. sessions, meetings, and other activities as some staff members may not be able to attend.

*

SIKHISM

March 14 **Sikh New Year's Da**y is the first day of the new Nanakshahi solar calendar. This is year 550 of the new era.

ZOROASTRIANISM

March 17 **Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem** celebrates the creation of human beings.

March 21 **Naw Ruz** (New Year's Day) in Fasli calendars. This is the first day of the Zoroastrian and Persian year. It is a time of religious observance preceded by ten days of remembrance of the dead. It symbolizes the renewal of the world after winter. Irrespective of their religion, many Iranians celebrate this day. Naw Ruz is also observed/ celebrated by many other faith and cultural groups around the world. This celebration may also fall on March 20 based on the time of sunrise.

March 28 **Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra**, the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.

MARCH 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Have a wonderful and safe March Break!			Purim 1	19-Day Fast begins Holi 2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Sikh New Year's Day 14	15	16	Ghambar Hamaspath-maedem 17	Navaratri (Spring) begins 18
19	Spring Ohigon 20	Naw Ruz 21	22	23	24	Palm Sunday (Western) 25
Ramanavani 26	27	Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra 28	Maundy Thursday Mahavir Jayanti 29	◆ Good Friday * 30	◆ Pesach 31	

MARCH BREAK

Notes _____

Mehrsa Karbasforushha, Doncrest P.S., Gr. 5

Arya Rotella, Mazo De La Roche P.S., Gr. 6

FEBRUARY

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APRIL

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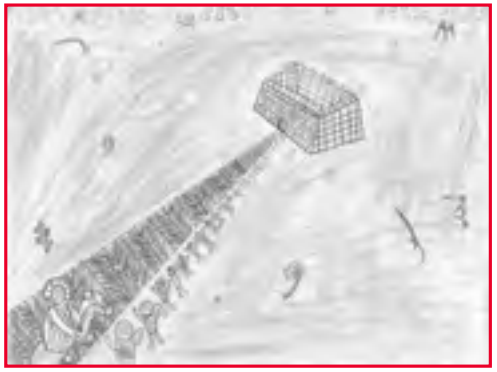
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Divnoor Kaur Masniana, Elder's Mills P.S., Gr. 4

Aidan Feinstein , Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7

Lilian Wang, Elder's Mills P.S., Gr. 4

Jake Rudolph, Thornhill Woods P.S., Gr. 7



Gabriel Homiakov, Walter Scott P.S., Gr. 6

Arielle Smith, Vellore Woods P.S., Gr. 6

BAHA'I FAITH

April 21 ◆ **Ridvan**. Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, declared his mission as the most recent messenger of God. Baha'is observe the first, ninth and twelfth days of this period. The actual event occurred in a garden, called Ridvan (Paradise) in Baghdad, Iraq in 1863 C.E. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

BUDDHISM

April 13/14 **Saka** (New Year's Day). This is New Year's Day according to the Saka calendar. This day is both a religious and cultural celebration.

CHRISTIANITY

April 1 **Easter Sunday** celebrates the resurrection of Christ. It is the most important festival in the Christian year (Western Calendar).

April 1 **Palm Sunday** The Sunday before Easter (Eastern Calendar).

April 6 ◆ **Holy Friday** (Eastern) commemorates the passion of Jesus Christ, i.e. his submission to death by crucifixion. The Eastern churches focus on his burial.

April 8 **Easter Sunday** in the Orthodox churches. The church calendar year begins with Pascha (Eastern Calendar).

HINDUISM

April 13 **Chaitra/Chithirai New Year** The first day of the Solar year is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest. This day is also celebrated as the Tamil New Year, Varusha Pirappu, Vishu, Ugadi, Rongali Bihu and Naba Barsha.

ISLAM

April 13 **Miraj-un-Nabi** commemorates Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) famous night journey (al-Isra) from Mecca to Jerusalem and his subsequent ascension (al-Miraj) to paradise.

SIKHISM

April 13 ◆ **Vaisakhi**. This day celebrates the founding of the Khalsa order (Sikh religion) in 1699 C.E. by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Many Sikhs choose to be baptized into the Khalsa Panth (Brotherhood of the Pure) on this day. Also on this day, male Khalsa Sikhs are named Singh (lion), female Khalsa Sikhs are named Kaur (princess). It is the most important holy day of the year for Sikhs.

◆ Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

APRIL 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						Easter Sunday (Western) Palm Sunday (Eastern) 1
2	3	4	5	◆ Holy Friday (Eastern) 6	7	Easter Sunday (Eastern) 8
9	10	11	12	◆ Vaiskhi Chiatra/Chithirai New Year Miraj-un-Nabi Saka 13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	◆ Rivdan 21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Please note:
Second Semester break for Bill Crothers S.S, is from April 23 - April 27, 2017.

Notes _____

Yashitha Harigruprasad, Black Walnut P.S., Gr. 1

Jessica Fuh, William Armstrong P.S., Gr. 7

MARCH

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MAY

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Danniel Ahn, Bogart P.S., Gr. 5

Sarah Snitman, Cornell Village P.S., Gr. 5

Abeera Masood, Sir William Mullock S.S., Gr. 10

Iain Beattie, Holland Landing P.S., Gr. 4

Chloe Kwong, Silver Stream P.S., Gr. 6

Vashana Rameshwaran, Julliard P.S., Gr. 3

BAHA'I FAITH

May 24 — **Declaration of the Bab**. On this day in 1844 C.E., a man known as the Bab, a title which means "the Gate," announced his mission as a manifestation of God whose purpose was to prepare the world for the coming of the promised manifestation of all religions, Baha'u'llah. The Baha'i calendar is dated from this day. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

May 29 — **Ascension of Baha'u'llah**. This date marks the passing in 1892 C.E. of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, near Haifa, in the Holy Lands. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

BUDDHISM

May 29 — **Wesak** is celebrated on the full moon. It is considered the most auspicious day of the year, celebrating Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment, and Final Demise. In Canada, many Buddhist groups join together to celebrate the three festivals of Buddha's life as one event. They do this on the day of the fourth full moon after the lunar new year, or the Sunday closest to that day. This is usually around mid-May.

CHRISTIANITY

May 10 — **Ascension Day** (Western) marks Jesus' ascension into heaven and is observed through prayers and music. It occurs forty days after Easter.

May 20 — **Pentecost** (Western) celebrates the renewal of faith that Jesus' followers felt after his death. It commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus. It comes fifty days after Easter.

ISLAM

May 1 — **Nisfu-Shaban** is known as the Night of Forgiveness or repentance. Many Muslims spend the preceding night in prayer seeking God's guidance.

May 16 — **Ramadhan** is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. All Muslims who are physically able, fast during this month abstaining from food and drink each day from dawn to sunset. The beginning of Ramadhan depends on the sighting of the moon on the previous evening.

JUDAISM

May 20 - 21 — **Shavuot** celebrates the Israelites receiving the Torah.

WICCA

May 1 — **Beltane** meaning **"May",** the greening of the Earth, blossom time, when Goddess and God are reunited. Beltane has long been celebrated with feasts and rituals.

MAY 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	Beltane Nifsu-Shaban 1	2	3	P.A. Day - Secondary 4	5	6
7	8	9	Ascension Day (Western) 10	11	12	13
14	15	Ramadan 16	17	18	19	Shavout Pentecost 20
Victoria Day 21	22	23	Declaration of the Bab 24	25	26	27
28	Wesak Ascension of the Baha'u'llah 29	30	31			

Do you need a translator/interpreter? The translator/interpreter list is posted on the Portal at bww.yrdsb.ca. Select Board Services and then click on Board Documents and select the "I" tab.

Notes _____

Hailey Tai, Ramer Wood P.S., Gr. 6

Madeline McPhail, Poplar Bank, Gr. 6

APRIL

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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30						

JUNE

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Jaye Willison, William Armstrong P.S., Gr. 7

Marzuqah Liagat , Ellen Fairclough P.S., Gr. 7

Saghi Shekarsaraei, Doncrest P.S., Gr. 5

Ann Thomas, William Armstrong P.S., Gr. 7

Sahari Ketheeswaran, Harry Bowes P.S., Gr. 7

Laurel Mayhew, Mazo De La Roche P.S., Gr. 6

ISLAM

June 11 — **Lailat-ul-Qadr** (literally the Night of Power) commemorates the night in 610 C.E. on which the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) received the first revelation of the Islamic Holy scriptures (the Qur'an) from God through the Angel Gabriel. For many Muslims, any odd nights in the last ten days can be observed as Lailat-ul-Qadr.

June 15 — ◆ **Eid-ul-Fitr** is a celebration that marks the end of Ramadhan, the month of fast. It falls on the first day of the following month Shawal. The beginning of the month depends on the sighting of the new moon. It is the first day in which those who were fasting can eat and drink during the day.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

June 21 — **A day declared by the Assembly of First Nations**. All First Nations' organizations cease work during this day. This is a day where all Canadians can celebrate the contributions Aboriginal peoples have made to Canada. This day was chosen because it is also the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. For generations, many Aboriginal people have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day. For more information about the day's activities, visit the Indian & Northern Affairs Canada Website at www.inac.gc.ca and look in the "Culture and History" section. Additional resources on First Nation, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) can be found on the Equity page, as well as on: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/index.html

SIKHISM

June 16 — **Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji.** The fifth Guru (1563 - 1606 C.E.), who built the Temple of God in Amristar, was martyred on this day.

ZOROASTRIANISM

June 29 - July 3 — **Ghambar Maidyoshem** celebrates the creation of water, the sowing of the summer crop and the harvesting of grain.

◆ Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.

JUNE 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Looking for **Additional Classroom Resources?** Go to the Board's Portal Site at https://bww.yrdsb.ca, Board Services, select Equity and Inclusive Education and click on Resources.				1	2	3
P.A. Day - Elementary 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lailat-ul-Qadr 11	12	13	14	◆ Eid-al-Fitr 15	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji 16	17
18	19	20	National Aboriginal Day P.A. Day - Bill Crothers S.S. 21	P.A. Day - Bill Crothers S.S. 22	23	24
25	26	27	P.A. Day - Secondary 28	Ghambar Maidyoshem P.A. Day - Elementary & Secondary 29	30	

Notes _____

Yana Shamis, Yorkhill E.S., Gr. 8

Nick Sutherland-Stewart, Park Avenue P.S., Gr. 6

MAY

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28	29	30	31			

JULY

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Ava Makrehchi, Bayview Glen P.S., Gr. 2

Annie Tumanyan, Roméo Dallaire P.S., Gr. 4

Zachary Taniguchi, Cornell Village P.S., Gr. 5

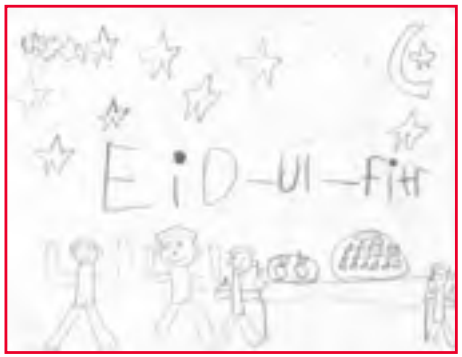
Aaiden Butalia, Glen Gould P.S., Gr. 2

Anisa Persaud, Wismer P.S., Gr. 6

Asmeha Puvanasritha, Oscar Peterson P.S., Gr. 2

Mana Hazelton, Walter Scott P.S., Gr. 6

Diana Zhao, Roy H. Crosby P.S., Gr. 6



Taheem Chaudhry, Sharon P.S., Gr. 2

BAHA'I FAITH

July 10 — **Martyrdom of the Bab.** The Bab was put to death at the age of 31, by a firing squad in the market square of Tabriz (Persia), in 1850 C.E. The event is observed at noon. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

BUDDHISM

July 28 — **Wassana** is celebrated on the full moon. It marks the beginning of the three month Rains Retreat for monks and nuns.

Canada Day

July 1 — **151st anniversary** of Confederation.

JUDAISM

July 22 — **Tish'a B'av** marks a number of misfortunes such as the destruction of both of the ancient temples some 650 years apart. The day is marked by fasting and the reading of the Book of Lamentations.

JULY 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						Canada Day 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	Matyrdom of the Bab 10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	Tish'a B'av 22
23	24	25	26	27	Wassana 28	29
30	31					

If you haven't received a copy of the 2016-2017 Holidays & Observances calendar please call Joan Lachhman at Inclusive School and Community Services at 905-884-2046 ext. 252, 416-969-7170 ext. 2409 or email joan.lachhman@yrdsb.ca

Notes _____

Grace Yan, Wismer P.S., Gr. 6

Nietya Mayavanshi, James Robinson P.S., Gr. 3

JUNE

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AUGUST

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

CALENDAR 2017 - 2018

Julia Gheorghe, MacLeod's Landing P.S., Gr. 4

Allison Tao, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr.10

Adrianne Tang, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 9

Kealin Taylor-Martin, Highgate P.S., Gr. 8

Alina Bhallo, MacLeod's Landing P.S., Gr. 4

Front Cover Illustration by
Grace Luong, Highgate P.S., Gr. 8

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The Town of Georgina Resolution on against hate

The Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee recommends Council adopt the following stance against hate:

That the Town of Georgina Town Council:

1. Is committed to the preservation of democratic freedoms, human rights and individual dignity, and;
2. Acknowledges that all members of society deserve to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity, and;
3. Acknowledges that it is the duty of members of Council to work diligently in support of Canadian democratic values that are enshrined in the Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and;
4. Operates within an Ethical Framework is based upon the values of justice and the rule of law, ethical behavior and democratic principles, and;
5. Recognizes that employing a broad range of strategies to advance the preservation of human rights and individual dignity is integral to promoting an environment free from discrimination, prejudice bullying and hate, and;
6. Will resolve to demonstrate leadership by initiating or strengthening programs and strategies that are bias-free, giving particular attention to public accountability, policy-making, management, supervision, equitable human resource practices, education, community outreach and partnerships.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY POLICY

PURPOSE:

Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee (GEDAC) and the Town believe that being a diverse and inclusive organization improves business outcomes. Our purpose is “to consult with the Community and to provide information, advice and assistance to the Community and Town Council relating to enhancement of community relations and promotion of equity in the Town of Georgina”. Specifically, it helps us to:

- Make better decisions about how we organize and optimise resources by working to eliminate barriers to working together effectively
- Respect and take into account, the needs and interests of diverse stakeholders in our decision making
- Deliver strong performance and growth by being able to attract, engage and retain diverse talent
- Innovate by drawing on the diverse perspectives, skills and experience of our employees and other stakeholders
- Adapt and respond effectively to changing demographics and societal expectations
- Ensure that all staff, residents, guests, visitors and stakeholders feel welcomed and included in our community

POLICY STATEMENT:

At the Town of Georgina, we strive to create an inclusive culture in which difference is recognized and valued. By bringing together people from diverse backgrounds and giving each person the opportunity to contribute their skills, experience and perspectives. We believe that we are able to deliver the best solutions to challenges and deliver quality municipal government services to our community.

WHAT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MEANS FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA:

- Embracing workforce diversity and inclusion. We will strive to ensure that Georgina is a welcoming and inclusive environment for employees of all ages, gender, gender identity, race, national or ethnic origin, religion/creed, language, political beliefs, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities.

- Including and valuing diversity of perspective. We will strive to leverage the diverse thinking, skills, experience and working styles of our employees and other stakeholders.
- Building a flexible organization. We will provide opportunities for work arrangements that accommodate the diverse needs of individuals at different career and life stages.
- Respecting stakeholder diversity. We will develop strong and sustainable relationships with diverse members of the public, employees, volunteers, customers and suppliers.

GEORGINA EQUITY & DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GEDAC):

Our commitment to diversity and inclusion aligns with our values of accountability, respect, teamwork and integrity.

The Town of Georgina has established this policy and, together with the GEDAC, will guide the development of the diversity and inclusion strategy and review progress against measurable objectives and key programmes of work. The GEDAC membership includes one (1) Member of Council; One (1) representative from the York Regional Police Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Bureau; One (1) representative from the Chippewas of Georgina Island, to be appointed by the Band Council; and Four (4) citizen appointments. One (1) Senior Staff Liaison representative will be appointed as non-voting member by the CAO, for resource purposes.

LEADERS RESPONSIBILITIES:

Leaders across the Town of Georgina are expected to build inclusive practices into their teams and to demonstrate, through their behaviours and actions, commitment to fostering workplaces where people feel included, valued and able to contribute their best. In accordance with our values and our Respectful Workplace and Code of Conduct policies and procedures, all of our employees are expected to demonstrate respect for their colleagues and all other stakeholders.

We work to educate employees about the benefits that diversity and inclusion bring to our organization and we will participate in research that aims to further the understanding of and improve inclusivity in the workplace.

We are an equal opportunity employer. We employ on the basis of role requirements and in keeping with Human Rights legislation, we select people to roles based on their qualifications, skills and experience. We do not discriminate unfairly on grounds of age, gender, gender identity, race, national or ethnic origin, language, religion/creed, political beliefs, sexual orientation or physical or mental ability.

Our recruitment, deployment, reward and development practices, and our approach to working arrangements, are designed to attract and retain diverse talent and to accommodate individual needs at different career development and life stages.

We are committed to developing productive, mutually beneficial and long-term relationships with diverse groups of stakeholders. We work to accommodate the different cultures, lifestyles, heritage and preferences of our local community.

Reference Policies, Guidelines and Procedures
Policy No. 1 – Recruitment Practices
Policy No. 2 – Respectful Workplace Policy & Procedures
Policy No. 29 – Code of Conduct
Policy No. 42 – Violence and Harassment Free Workplace
Policy No. CORP-ACC-01 Accessibility Policy