

HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

2013 - 2014 CALENDAR



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Each year the York Region District School Board welcomes students and families into our many diverse school communities. The diversity of our schools and workplaces is reflected in the *2013-14 Holidays and Observances Calendar*, which recognizes the significant faith days observed by our staff and students.

At the York Region District School Board, we respect and celebrate the various faiths, cultures and backgrounds of our schools, communities and workplaces. Through our programs, practices and people, we are able to honour our commitment to the principles of equity, inclusiveness and diversity.

These principles are reflected in the student artwork that has been created for this calendar. These works celebrate our diversity, our cultures and the talents of our young people. As you use this calendar throughout the year, remember how fortunate we are to live in York Region and why we choose to live here.

Sincerely,

Ken Thurston
Director of Education

“We unite in our purpose to inspire and prepare learners for life in our changing world community.”

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

- Tahira Azmi
Psychological Services, Community Education Centre - East
- Teresa Chan
King City Secondary School
- Vivian Chan-Simao
Richmond Hill High School
- Joan Lachhman
Inclusive School and Community Services
- Camille Logan
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
Typesetting: Joan Lachhman, Inclusive School and Community Services
Layout & Design: Stuart Gerskup/Lindsay Brown,
Learning, Design & Development Team, 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.edu.on.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 *Accommodation of Religious Requirements, Practices and Observances, A Guideline*.

HOLY DAYS BY FAITH

AUGUST 2013 - JULY 2014

BAHA'I FAITH

October	20	The Birth of the Bab
November	12	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	23	Declaration of the Bab
May	29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah
July	9	Martyrdom of the Bab

BUDDHISM

October	24	Pavarana
October	25	Kathina
January	1	Temple Day
◆ January	31	Lunar New Year
March	20	Spring Ohigon
April	13/14	Saka New Year
May	14	Wesak
July	12	Wassana

CHRISTIANITY

September	11	Coptic New Year
October	6	World Communion Sunday
November	1	All Saints' Day
December	1	First Sunday of Advent (Western)
◆ December	25	Christmas (Western)
January	6	Epiphany (Western)
◆ January	7	Christmas (Eastern)
January	19	Epiphany (Eastern)
March	5	Ash Wednesday (Western)
March	10	First Day of Lent (Eastern)
April	13	Palm Sunday (Western)
April	13	Palm Sunday (Eastern)
April	17	Maundy Thursday (Western)
◆ April	18	Good Friday (Western)
◆ April	18	Holy Friday (Eastern)
April	20	Easter Sunday (Western)
April	20	Easter Sunday (Eastern)
May	29	Ascension Day (Western)
June	8	Pentecost (Western)

HINDUISM

August	21	Raksha Bandhan
August	28	Sri Krishana Jayanti
September	9	Ganesha Chaturthi
October	5-13	Navaratri
◆ November	3	Diwali
November	3-8	Skanda Shashti Vratam
January	14	Makar Sankranti
February	4	Vasant Panchami
February	28	Mahashivaratri (Shivaratri)
March	17	Holi
April	8	Ramanavami
April	14	Vaisakhi

ISLAM

August	3	Lailat-ul-Qadr
◆ August	8	Eid-ul-Fitr
October	14	Day of Arafat (Hajj)
◆ October	15	Eid-ul-Adha
November	4	First Day of Muharram
November	13	Ashura
January	13	Mawlid-un-Nabi
May	25	Miraj-un-Nabi
June	13	Nisfu-Shaban
June	28	First day of Ramadhan
July	23	Lailat-ul-Qadr
◆ July	29	Eid-ul-Fitr

JAINISM

September	18	Ananta Chaturdasi
November	3	Mahavira Nirvana
November	8	Jnana Panchami
December	13	Maun-agiyaras
April	13	Mahavira 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

◆ September	5-6	Rosh Hashanah *
◆ September	14	Yom Kippur *
September	19-25	Sukkot
September	26	Shemini Atzeret
September	27	Simhat Torah
Nov. 28 - Dec.	5	Chanukah
March	16	Purim
April	15-22	Pesach/Passover ◆ (April 15) *
June	4-5	Shavuot

SIKHISM

September	1	First Parkash
November	17	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji
November	24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadar Ji
January	5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji
January	13	Maghi
March	14	Sikh New Year's Day
◆ April	14	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	26	Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra
Jun. 29 - Jul.	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 unavailable at the time of printing.
- ▶ These dates follow the Nanakshahi calendar. Please check our website for updated information: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
- * Please note that observances of these faith days begin on the eve of this event. The same guidelines apply to the 'Diamond Days'



Victoria P., Mazo de la Roche P.S., Gr. 2



Kira Gupta-Baltazar, Kleinburg P.S., Gr. 5



Sydney Charleson, King City S.S., Gr. 9



Saeidah Qasemi, Kettle Lakes P.S., Gr. 8



Rija Jafri, Aldergrove P.S., Gr. 5

HINDUISM

August 21

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 28

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

ISLAM

August 3

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.

August 8

◆ **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.

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.

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

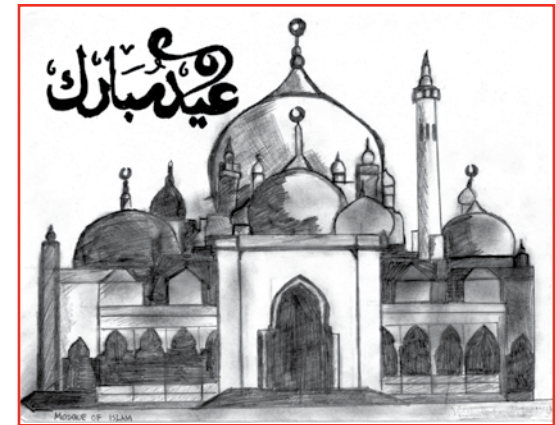
AUGUST 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Please note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslim dates are tentative and subject to the sighting of the moon each month. All Jewish Holy Days commence on the preceding evening at sunset. 			Lamas		Lailat-ul-Qadr	
			1	2	3	4
Civic Holiday	Professional Training Day Bill Crothers S.S. only		◆ Eid-ul-Fitr			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
						Naw Ruz
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Raksha Bandhan				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Sri Krishna Jayanti				
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Notes _____



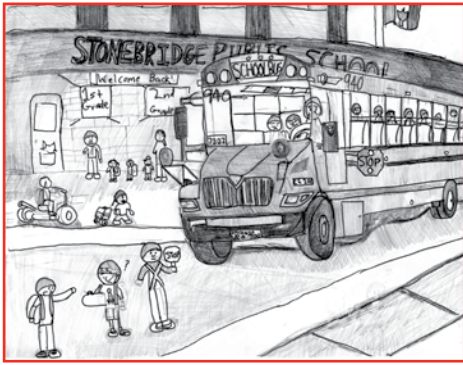
Syed Marwan, Fossil Hill P.S., Gr. 8



Kaltrina Bunjaku, Fossil Hill 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				

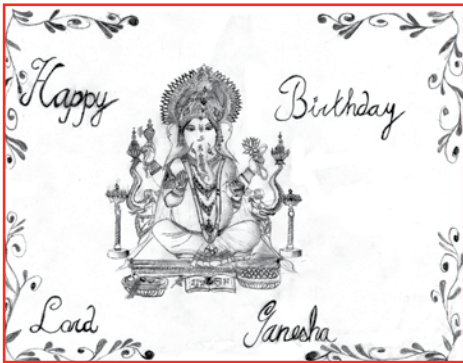
SEPTEMBER	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						



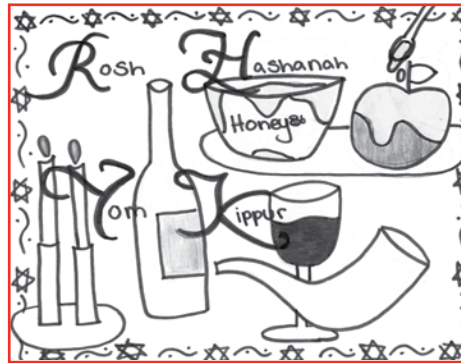
Joshua Ng, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 7



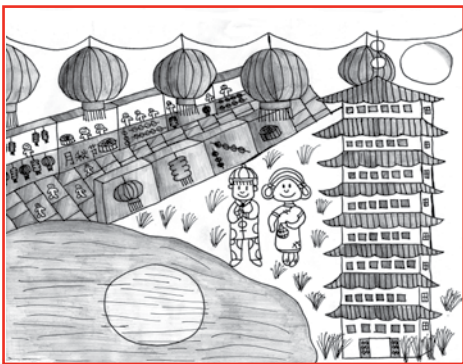
Sharon Xie, Parkview P.S., Gr. 8



Sonali Goel, Nellie McClung P.S., Gr. 6



Gabbi Gerskup, Carrville Mills P.S. Gr. 6



Anita Lam, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 7



Midusa Nadeswarathan, King City S.S., Gr. 9

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

September 9 **Ganesh 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.

JAINISM

September 18 **Ananta Chaturdasi** is regarded as the holiest period of the year. Fasting, worship, meditation and confession characterize this period.

JUDAISM

Sept. 5 - 6 * **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, 5774).

September 14 * **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.

Sept. 19 - 25 **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.

September 26 **Shemini Atzeret** is a festival marking the end of the holiday of Sukkot on which a special prayer for rain is recited.

September 27 **Simhat 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.

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 2013

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.						First Parkash
Labour Day		*	◆ Rosh Hashanah	◆ Rosh Hashanah		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ganesh Chaturthi		Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year		*	◆ Yom Kippur	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Ananta Chaturdasi	Sukkot			Mabon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Professional Training Day			Shemini Atzeret	Simhat Torah		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Notes	_____					
30	_____					



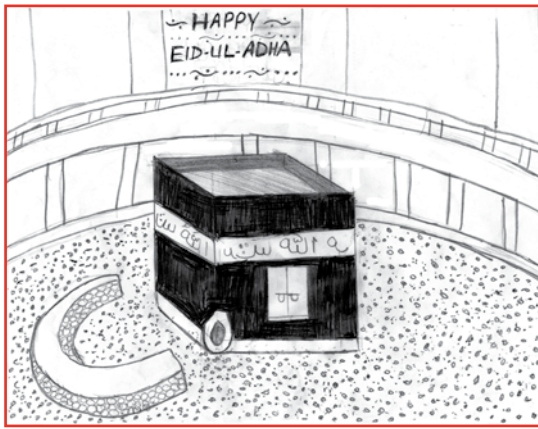
Eileen Zhao, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 3



Tyra Kanter, Nellie McClung P.S., Gr. 6

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			



Zahra Baloch, Vellore Woods P.S., Gr. 4



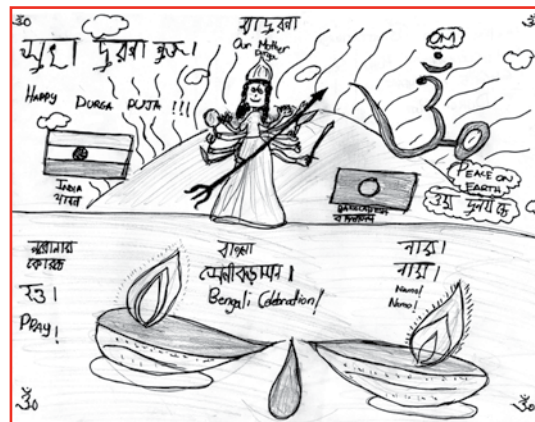
Hilla Jamal, Cedarwood P.S., Gr. 3



Jenna Zaitchik, Silver Pines P.S., Gr. 7



Janko Lam, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 7



Anindro Bhattacharya, Greensborough P.S., Gr. 5

BAHA'I FAITH

October 20

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 24

Pavarana signals the completion of the Rains of Retreat.

BUDDHISM

October 25

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

CHRISTIANITY

October 6

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

HINDUISM

October 5 - 13

Navaratri is a nine-day celebration. This festival marks the victory of good over evil.

ISLAM

October 14

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 of the last month of Zul-Hijjah.

October 15

◆ **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.

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.

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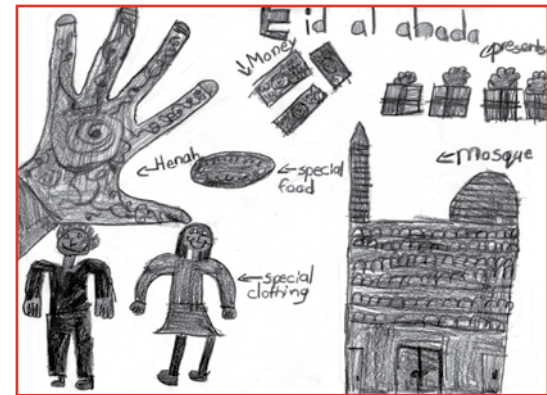
OCTOBER 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	Navaratri	World Communion Sunday
7	8	9	10	P.A. Day Elementary/Secondary	12	13
Thanksgiving Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat)	◊ Eid-ul-Adha	16	17	18	19	The Birth of the Bab
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	Pavarana	Kathina	26	27
28	29	30	31	Samhain	Please note: Midterm break for Bill Crothers S.S., Keswick H.S., Maple H.S., Markville S.S. and Sutton D.H.S. is from October 21 - October 25, 2013.	

Notes _____



Matthew Donovan, Poplar Bank P.S. Gr. 5



Navruz Demirkiran, Glen Gould P.S., Gr. 2

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

NOVEMBER	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	



Benli Raitman, Nellie McClung P.S., Gr. 6



Sarah Edgecombe, Poplar Bank P.S., Gr. 5



Vicky Tran, Ellen Fairclough P.S., Gr. 6



Jason Halliday, William Armstrong P.S., Gr. 6



Aditi Agarwal, Donald Cousens P.S., Gr. 3

BAHA'I FAITH

- November 12 **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 on this day.
- 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.

HINDUISM

- November 3 ♦ **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, November 4, New Year's Day, is also very important. Tamil Hindus may celebrate Diwali on November 2.
- Nov. 3 - 8 **Skanda Shashti Vratam** 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

- November 4 **Muharram** (New Year's Day) begins the new Islamic year. This is the year 1435.
- November 13 **Ashura** falls on the 10th day of Muharram. The 10th day commemorates the martyrdom of Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

JAINISM

- November 3 **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.
- November 8 **Jnana Panchami**, the day of knowledge, observed with Pooja (ritualistic offering) to pay homage to Saraswati Devi, the deity of knowledge and learning.

JUDISM

- Nov. 28 - Dec 5 **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 November 27, candles are lit in increasing numbers for eight nights in a "Chanukiah" which is a special candelabrum containing nine candles.

SIKHISM

- November 17 **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.

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

NOVEMBER 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>The Holidays and Observances Calendar is presently being drafted for the 2014-2015 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.</p>				All Saints Day		<p>◆ Diwali Mahavira Nirvana Skanda Shashti Vratham</p>
Muharram				Jnana Panchami		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Remembrance Day	The Birth of the Baba'u'llah	Ashura		P.A.. Day Elementary/Secondary		Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	The Day of the Covenant		Chanukah Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha			Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadar Ji
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Notes _____



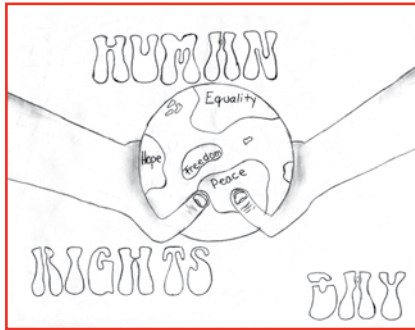
Sujanth Sriganeshan, Oscar Peterson, Gr. 8



Carlos Quintero, Woodbridge P.S., Gr. 7

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			

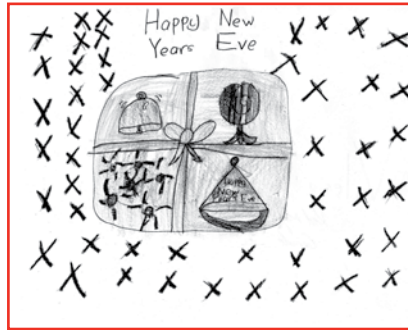
DECEMBER	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					



Sophia Kokoros, Roselawn P.S., Gr. 8



Sophie Peters, Black Walnut P.S., Gr. 7



Valeria Siplarysky, Red Maple P.S., Gr. 2



Bhanathan Perumal, Wilclay P.S., Gr. 7



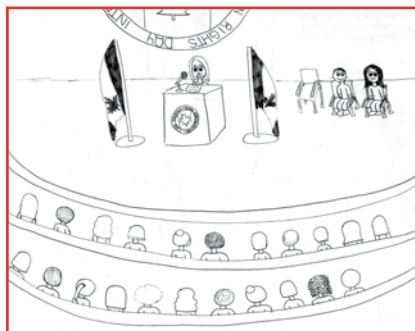
Quincy Banfield, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 8



Abby Brant, Sixteenth Ave. P.S., Gr. 8



Mary Grace, Bogart P.S., Gr. 4



Sydney Skarja, Walter Scott P.S., Gr. 6



Camilla Vargas, Bakersfield P.S., Gr. SK

CHRISTIANITY

- December 1 **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.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

- December 10 In 2013 we commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

JAINISM

- December 13 **Maun-agiyaras** is a day of fasting, silence and meditation.

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 2013

MONDAY **TUESDAY** **WEDNESDAY** **THURSDAY** **FRIDAY** **SATURDAY** **SUNDAY**

Please note:
The Religious Accommodations Guidelines document is currently being revised. Need to know more about these guidelines and corresponding resources, please visit the equity page on the BWW.

First Sunday of Advent

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	International Human Rights Day	11	12	Maun-agiyaras	14	15
16	17	18	19	P.A. Day Elementary/Secondary	21	22
23	24	Christmas	Kwanzaa Death of Prophet Zarathustra	27	28	29

WINTER BREAK

Notes _____



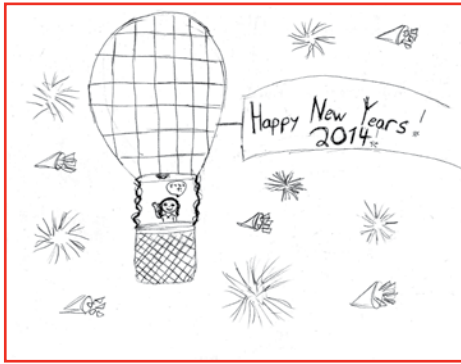
Elizabeth Glauser, Poplar Bank P.S., Gr. 6



Praimeya Srikantha, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 7

NOVEMBER	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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JANUARY	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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27	28	29	30	31			



Stephanie Abovkater, Stornaway Crescent P.S., Gr. 8



Sandy Cao, Wilclay P.S., Gr. 8

BUDDHISM

- January 1 **Temple Day** has become a day for Canadian Buddhists to attend a special service in the local temple.
- January 31 ♦ **Lunar New Year** the day after the new moon, marks the beginning of the new lunar year. It is the year of the Horse. 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 4712 in the Chinese calendar. It is a time for renewal and personal relationships, and pledges of prosperity.

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). In York Region, this is often referred to as "Ukrainian Christmas". Some Orthodox churches celebrate the birth of Jesus on this day. The Julian (Eastern) calendar is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian (Western) calendar.
- 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, Pongal and Til Sankranti. It marks the winter solstice and is primarily a rice harvest festival.

ISLAM

- January 13 **Mawlid-un-Nabi** celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

SIKHISM

- January 5 **Birth 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 Mae Bhaago.

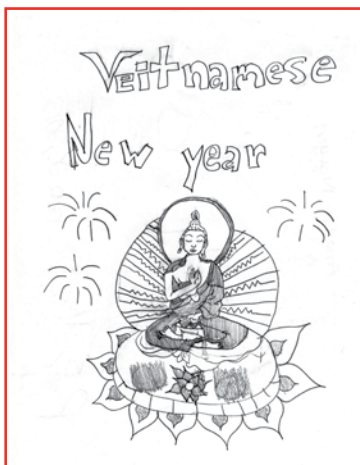
- ♦ Conferences, meetings, workshops, exams, field trips, etc. are not to be scheduled on these dates.



Cathy Ly, Wismer P.S., Gr. 3



Sakina Kushakumar, Wilclay P.S., Gr. 8



Angelina Nguyen, Fossil Hill P.S., Gr. 3



Youjia Da, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 10

JANUARY 2014

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

Notes _____



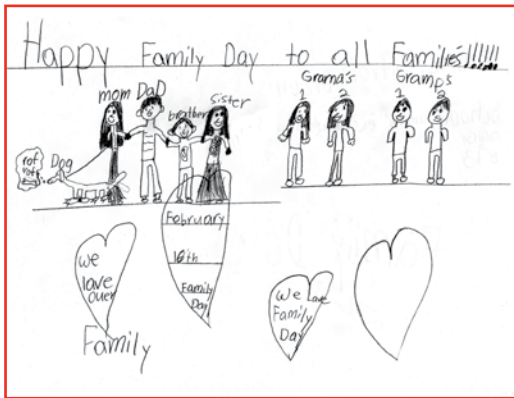
Adharsha John Sathyanath, Cedarwood P.S., Gr. 3



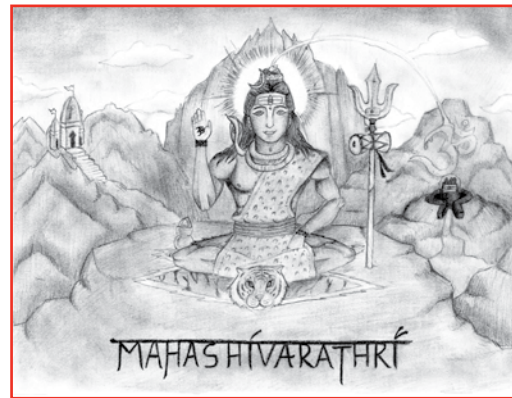
Katherine Tse, Aldergrove P.S., Gr. 5

DECEMBER	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

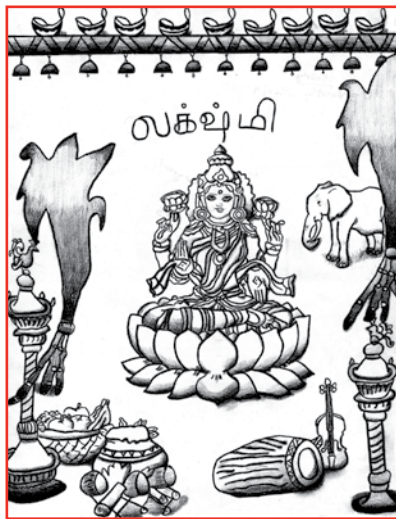
FEBRUARY	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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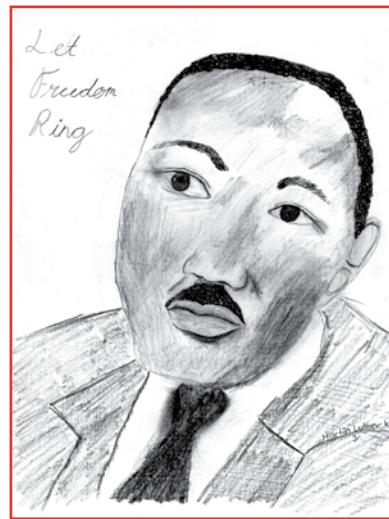
Saffron Brown, Summitview P.S., Gr. 3



Arasan Singarajah, Black Walnut P.S., Gr. 7



Shalini Murugavel, Wilclay P.S., Gr. 8



Sarah Sammut, Roselawn P.S., Gr. 8



Rishma Paskaran, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 4



Jordan Baddley, Park Avenue P.S., Gr. 5

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.

HINDUISM

February 4

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.

February 28

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

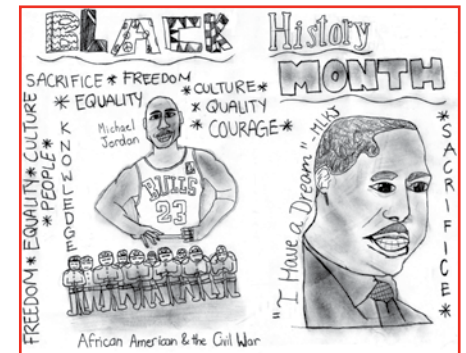
FEBRUARY 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>Please note: The deadline to submit student artwork for the Holidays & Observances Calendar is Friday, February 21, 2014. Please submit all artwork to Joan Lachhman, Inclusive School & Community Services at Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning.</p>					1	2
P.A. Day Secondary	Vasant Panchami					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Family Day						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Intercalary Days		Mahashivaratri		
24	25	26	27	28		

Notes _____



Vipushan Uthayasegaran, Wilclay P.S., Gr. 7



Sonam Tenzin, Ross Doan P.S., Gr. 4

JANUARY	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4	5
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	27	28	29	30	31		

MARCH	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						



Shirley Tang, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 8



Mansha Rani, Pierre Berton P.S., Gr. 3



Bahar Rafinejad, Roselawn P.S., Gr. 8



Nema Bavarsadeh, John McCrae 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.

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 5

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.

March 10

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 March 3.

HINDUISM

March 17

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.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

March 21

Each year on March 21 people around the world mark the anniversary of the 1960 massacre in Sharpeville, South Africa. Canadian Heritage marks this day with an Antiracism campaign. (www.cic.gc.ca/march-21-mars/index-eng.asp)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8

This is the anniversary of the first protest march against working conditions for women textile and garment workers in New York City in 1857 C.E. It is a time to celebrate women's history.

JUDAISM

March 16

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

SIKHISM

March 14

Sikh New Year's Day is the first day of the new Nanakshahi solar calendar. This is the year 546 of the new era.

ZOROASTRIANISM

March 17

Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem celebrates the creation of human beings.

March 21

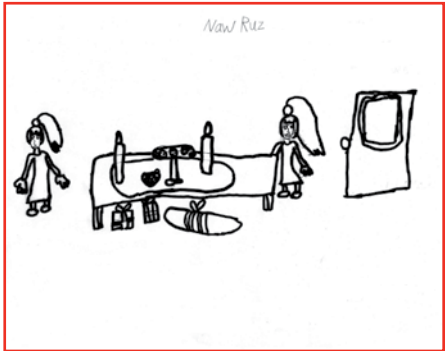
Naw Ruz (New Year's Day) in Fasli calendars. This is the first day of the Zoroastrian and Persian year. It is a time of religious observance preceded by ten days of remembrance of the dead. It symbolizes the renewal of the world after winter. Irrespective of their religion, many Iranians celebrate this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

March 26

Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra, the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.

MARCH 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Looking for funds for school Equity and Inclusivity 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.					19-Day Fast begins	
		Ash Wednesday (Western Calendar)		P.A. Day Elementary/Secondary	International Women's Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
March Break Begins First Day of Lent (Eastern)	MARCH BREAK			Sikh New Year's Day		Purim
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Holi Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem			Spring Ohigon	International Day for The Elimination of Racial Discrimination Naw Ruz		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Notes _____ _____ _____ _____					



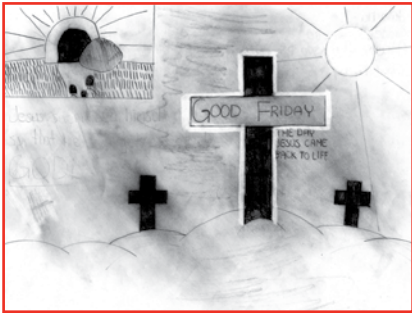
Paria Shahshahani, Henderson Ave. P.S., Gr. 1



Aryaman Goel, Willowbrook P.S., Gr. 6

FEBRUARY	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	10	11	12	13	14	16	16
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	24	25	26	27	28		

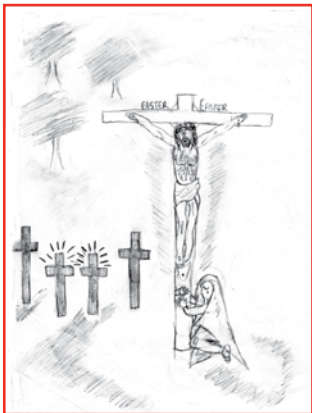
APRIL	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				



Julia Liu, Adrienne Clarkson P.S., Gr. 5



Yuvraj Bhullar, Vellore Woods P.S., Gr. 4



Kerthyga Kalanidi, Alexander Muir P.S., Gr. 6



Rose Seo, Roselawn P.S., Gr. 7

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

April 13 **Palm Sunday**, the Sunday before Easter (Eastern Calendar).

April 17 **Maundy Thursday** (Holy Thursday) is the commemoration of the institution of the Lord's Supper (Western Calendar).

April 18 ♦ **Good Friday** commemorates Jesus' death by crucifixion (Western Calendar).

April 18 ♦ **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 20 **Easter Sunday** celebrates the resurrection of Christ. It is the most important festival in the Christian year (Western Calendar).

April 20 **Easter Sunday** in the Orthodox churches. The church calendar year begins with Pascha (Eastern Calendar).

HINDUISM

April 8 **Ramanavami.** On this day Lord Rama the 7th incarnation of Lord Vishnu is said to have been born.

April 14 **Vaisakhi.** 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.

JAINISM

April 13 **Mahavira Jayanti** is the celebration of the birthday of Lord Mahavira (meaning the Great Hero) of Jina (the Conqueror).

JUDAISM

April 15 - 22
♦ (April 15)
*
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 April 14th. The second and last two days of Pesach are also observed as full holy days by Jews.

SIKHISM

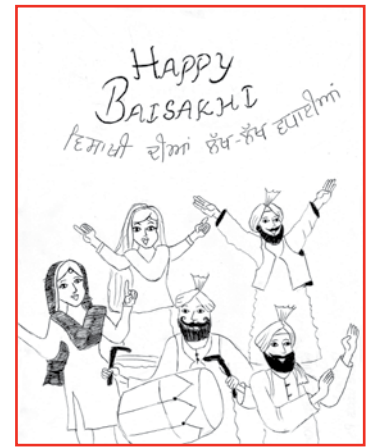
April 14 ♦ **Vaisakhi.** This day celebrates the founding of the Khalsa order (Sikh religion) in 1699 C.E. by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Many Sikhs choose to be baptized into the Khalsa Panth (Brotherhood of the Pure) on this day. Also on this day, male Khalsa Sikhs are named Singh (lion), female Khalsa Sikhs 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.

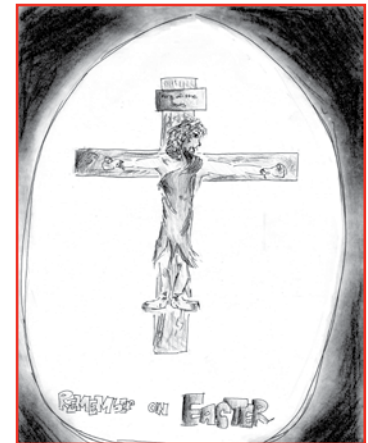
APRIL 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Ramanavami					Palm Sunday (Western/Eastern) Saka Mahavira Jayanti
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
* Vaisakhi ♦ Vaisakhi	♦ Pesach		Maundy Thursday	♦ Good Friday ♦ Holy Friday		Easter Sunday (Western/Eastern)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
♦ Ridvan	Earth Day					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<p>Please note: Second Semester break for Bill Crothers S.S, is from April 22 - April 25, 2013.</p>			

Notes _____



Rabab Bhullar, Vellore Woods P.S., Gr. 7



Calli Lung, Parkview P.S., Gr. 8

MARCH	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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MAY	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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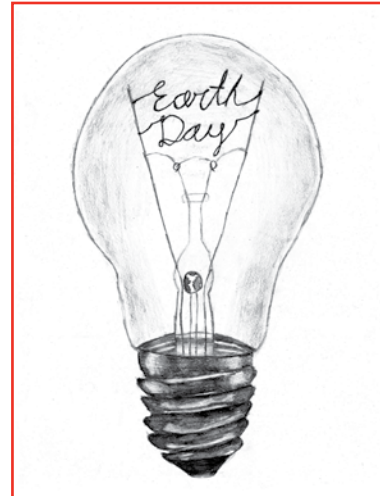
Nirushi De Silva, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 4



Komalpreet Kaur Jeor, Greensborough P.S., Gr. 5



Tania Bulobini, Sixteenth Avenue P.S., Gr. 8



Edward Huang, Wilclay P.S., Gr. 8



Connor Hung, Sir John A. MacDonald P.S., Gr. SK

BAHA'I FAITH

May 23

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 14

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 29

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

ISLAM

May 25

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.

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 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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 the Inclusive School and Community Services page.			Beltane 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Wesak 14	15	16	17	18
Victoria Day 19	20	21	22	Declaration of the Bab 23	24	Miraj-un-Nabi 25
26	27	28	Ascension Day Ascension of Baha'u'llah 29	30	31	

Notes _____



Amanda Illeperuma, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 4



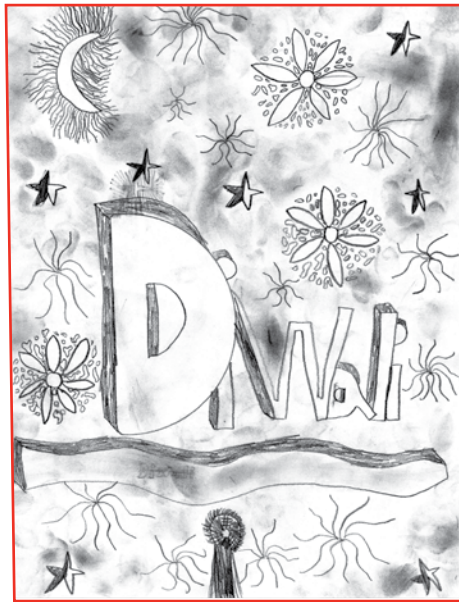
Tsomo Tenzin, Roselawn P.S., Gr. 8

APRIL	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	28	29	30				

JUNE	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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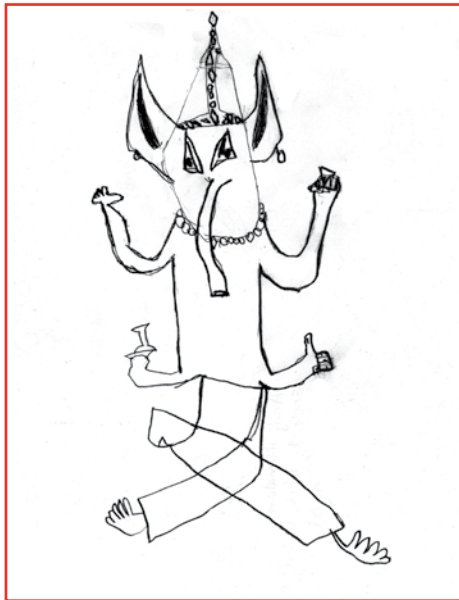
Elaine Zhou, Unionville Meadows P.S., Gr. 5



Ben Espey, Summitview P.S., Gr. 4



Skylar Wu, Ashton Meadows P.S., Gr. 5



Aniij Nimalan, Black Walnut P.S., Gr. 1

CHRISTIANITY

June 8

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

June 13

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

June 28

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

June 4 - 5

Shavuot celebrates the Israelites receiving the Torah.

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.

SIKHISM

June 16

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

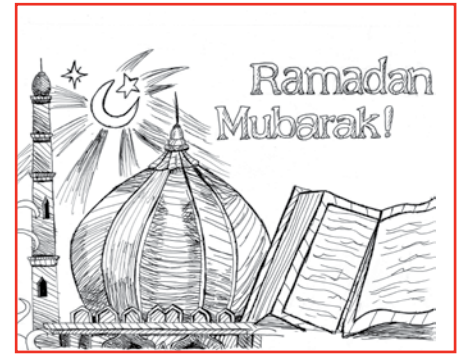
ZOROASTRIANISM

June 29 - July 3

Ghambar Maidyoshem celebrates the creation of water; the sowing of the summer crop and the harvesting of grain.

JUNE 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>If you haven't received a copy of the 2013-2014 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.edu.on.ca</p>						1
		Shavuot		P.A. Day Elementary		Pentecost
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Nisfu-Shaban		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji			P.A. Day Bill Crothers S.S.	Professional Training Day Bill Crothers S.S.	National Aboriginal Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			P.A. Day Secondary	Professional Training Day	Ramadhan	Ghambar Maidyoshem
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<p>Notes _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>					



Winnie Pan, Parkview P.S., Gr. 8



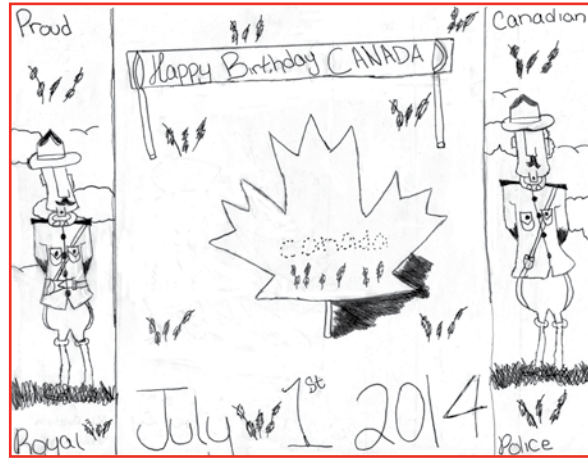
Kaltrina Bunjaku, Fossil Hill P.S., Gr. 8

MAY	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	

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			



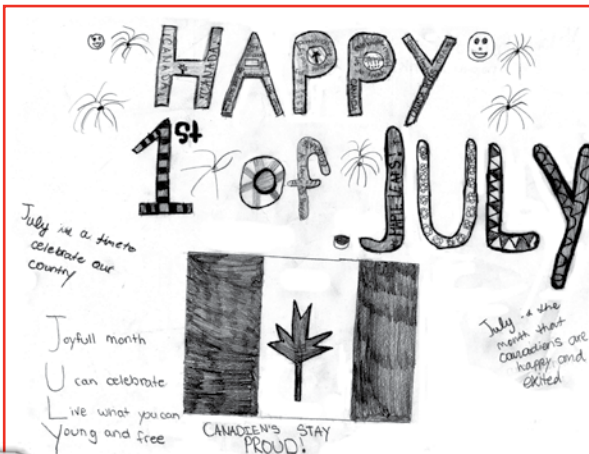
Wardah Mirza, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 7



Lisa-Marie Seeley, R.L. Graham P.S., Gr. 5



Matusa Mathanarajan, Mount Joy P.S., Gr. 8



Victoria Balliro, Poplar Bank P.S., Gr. 5



Sandy Chung, Coppard Glen P.S., Gr. 7

BAHA'I FAITH

July 9

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 12

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

147th anniversary of Confederation.

ISLAM

July 23

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:

July 29

- ◆ **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.

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

JULY 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	Canada Day 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	Martyrdom of the Bab 9	10	11	Wassana 12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	Lailat-ul-Qadr 23	24	25	26	27
28	Eid-ul-Fitr 29	30	31			

Notes _____



Amy Larabie, Keswick P.S. Gr. 8



Amal Shams, Parkland P.S., Gr. 2

JUNE	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						

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

CALENDAR 2013 - 2014



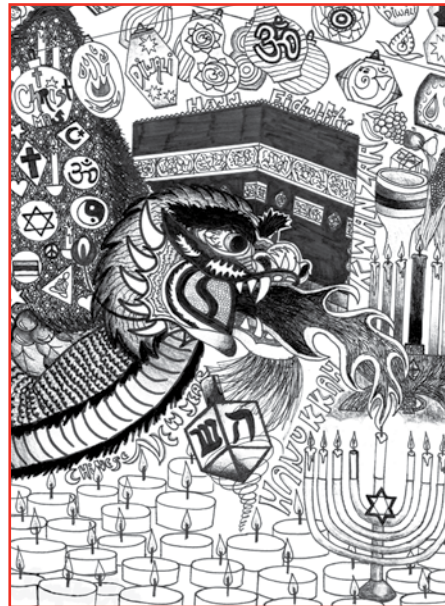
Ushna Ali, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 7



Christie Ma, Stonebridge P.S., Gr. 8



Tatiana Ermakova, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 10



Angela Oliver, King City S.S., Gr. 9



Gina Kim, Richmond Hill H.S., Gr. 9

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Ronald Cheung, Stonebridge P.S., Grade 8

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