

Dates of Significance 2020-2021

Recognition of differences is one way we promote a welcoming and inclusive environment, and promote a sense of belonging for everyone who learns, works and volunteers in the Limestone District School Board.

Our students, staff and broader communities represent a rich diversity of faith and cultural traditions. We respect and celebrate the various faith, cultures and backgrounds in our school communities.

This calendar identifies some of the important days of religious, cultural or commemorative significance. It is not, however, intended to be a complete listing. Students and staff from a particular background may or may not be absent from school on these special days. If they do attend, certain accommodations may be required.

Month	Day	Date of Significance	Religious/Cultural/Commemorative
August	11	<u>Krishna Janmashtami</u> Birth of Lord Krishna: Hindu leader, hero, protector, philosopher, teacher and friend all rolled into one.	Hinduism
	16	<u>Paryushana Parva</u> (until August 23) Most sacred festival of the entire year. Time for penance, (recitation of Mantra) prayer, worship.	Jainism
	22	<u>Ganesh Chaturthi</u> Marks day when Lord Ganesha makes his presence on earth for all his devotees. May last up to 10 days (depending on where celebrated), ending on Ananta Chaturdashi. During the festivals, a household worships an idol of Shri Ganesha, and there are public celebrations of the festival. Lord Ganesha represents power, wisdom, and brings good luck and prosperity to the family.	Hinduism
September			
	7	<u>Labour Day</u> (first Monday in September) Annual holiday to celebrate the achievements of workers.	National
	13	<u>Firefighters' National Memorial Day</u> (second Sunday in September of each year) Designated in memory of firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty. On this day, the Canadian flag will be half-masted on all federal buildings and establishments.	National/flags at half-mast
	21-25	<u>Deaf Awareness Week</u> International Week of the Deaf is celebrated annually the last full week of September. The purpose of Deaf Awareness Week is to increase public awareness of deaf issues, people, and culture.	Commemorative



	18,19, 20	<p><u>Rosh Hashanah</u> (sunset Sept 18 until Sept. 20 sundown)</p> <p>The Jewish New Year, commemorating creation of the world. Marks the beginning of Days of Awe, a 10-day period of repentance culminating in the Yom Kippur holiday or Day of Atonement. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the two “High Holy Days” for Jewish people.</p>	Judaism
	27	<p><u>Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day</u> (last Sunday of September of every year)</p> <p>National Memorial Day gives Canadians an opportunity each year to formally express appreciation for the dedication of police and peace officers, which made the ultimate tragic sacrifice to keep our communities safe. On this day, the Canadian flag will be half-masted on all federal buildings and establishments to honour fallen officers.</p>	National/flags at half-mast
	27-28	<p><u>Yom Kippur</u> (sunset to sunset)</p> <p>Day of Atonement. Most solemn Holy Day devoted to prayer and fasting. Day of forgiveness, purification.</p>	Judaism
	30	<p><u>Rowan's Law Day</u></p> <p>Rowan's Law is named for Rowan Stringer, a high school rugby player from Ottawa, who died in the spring of 2013 from a condition known as second impact syndrome (swelling of the brain caused by a subsequent injury that occurred before a previous injury healed). Rowan is believed to have experienced three concussions over six days while playing rugby. She had a concussion but didn't know her brain needed time to heal. Neither did her parents, teachers or coaches. Rowan's Law and Rowan's Law Day were established to honour her memory and bring awareness to concussions and concussion safety.</p>	Ontario
	30	<p><u>Orange Shirt Day</u></p> <p>Day for Indigenous and non-Indigenous People to come together in the spirit of hope and reconciliation to honour former residential school students whose families and communities have been impacted by the policies and actions of the Government of Canada and the churches that operated the schools. The date of the annual event was</p>	Indigenous

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		chosen because it is the time of year that children were removed from their families and forced to attend residential schools. Orange Shirt Day inspires Canadians to initiate anti-racism and anti-bullying initiatives in schools and the workplace. At the core of The Orange Shirt Story is the message that every child matters.	
October		<u>Islamic History Month</u> Islamic History Month aims to celebrate, inform, educate and share with fellow Canadians the rich Muslim heritage and contributions to society.	Islam
	2-10	<u>Sukkot/Shmini Atzeret</u> (until October 9) Also known as Feast of Booths or Tabernacles is one of the three biblically based pilgrimage holidays. It is an agricultural festival that originally was considered a thanksgiving for the fruit harvest. Jews are commanded to build a sukkah (booth) to dwell in for the duration of the 7-day festival remembering the years of desert wandering when the Israelites lived in booths. The last day is an extra day of the festival called Shmini Atzeret.	Judaism
	5	<u>World Educators' Day</u> Today we recognize all of our educators in the classroom who make significant contributions to our students every day.	Commemorative
	10-11	<u>Simchat Torah</u> An extra day added on to the end of the Shmini Atzeret festival in the Diaspora, celebrating the completion and restarting of the Torah reading cycle.	Judaism
	10	<u>World Mental Health Day</u> Recognized by the World Health Organization, the overall objective is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.	Commemorative
	12	Thanksgiving Thanksgiving is an annual Canadian holiday, occurring on the second Monday in October, which celebrates the harvest and other blessings of the past year.	National
	19-23	Local Government Week Recognizes the leadership and contributions of school board trustees, municipal	Commemorative

		councillors and mayors. LDSB has 9 locally-elected representatives who serve as the community's advocates for public education. School board trustees are the oldest form of elected representation in Ontario. In Limestone, we also have student-elected Student Trustees who represent all students at the Board level.	
	18-19	<u>Birth Of Baha'u'llah</u> (sunset to sunset) From sunset to sunset on these two holy days followers of the Barai'i Faith celebrate the Birth of Baha'i founder & leader. Baha'u'llah means "Glory of God" in Arabic and He is the Prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith.	Baha'i
	19-23	National School Bus Safety Week (third full week of October) Designed to promote school bus safety.	Commemorative
	27	<u>Child Abuse Prevention Day</u> Every October, Children's Aid Societies raise awareness about how to identify and help prevent child abuse. One of the campaign's key goals is to educate communities and key partners about how calling a Children's Aid Society is one of the most effective ways to prevent child abuse. As part of this campaign CASs work closely with school boards, schools, and community partners on a provincial "Dress Purple Day."	Commemorative
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November		Indigenous Education Month Over the course of this month, students, staff and community members will be recognizing a number of important days to deepen knowledge and learn together about our shared history and build stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. <u>Hindu Heritage Month</u> By proclaiming the month of November as Hindu Heritage Month, the Province of Ontario recognizes the important contributions that Hindu Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.	Indigenous/Commemorative Hinduism
	1-8	<u>Holocaust Education Week</u> Holocaust Education week examines the post-Holocaust period and specific events	Judaism



		that shape our understanding of the Holocaust.	
	2-6	<u>Treaties Recognition Week</u> Introduced to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships	Indigenous
	4	<u>Take Our Kids To Work Day</u> Annual career exploration event where grade 9 students across Canada spend the day in the life of a working professional. This year, LDSB schools will be participating through virtual opportunities and activities.	Commemorative
	7	<u>International Inuit Day</u> Inuit are the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic. The word Inuit means "The People" in Inuit language of Inuktitut. The singular of Inuit is Inuk.	Inuit
	8	<u>Indigenous (Aboriginal) Veteran's Day</u> Indigenous Peoples in Canada have reason to be proud of their wartime contributions. More than 7,000 First Nations members served in the First and Second World Wars and Korean War, and an unknown number of Inuit, Métis and other Indigenous Peoples participated. One group estimates 12,000 Indigenous men and women served in the three wars.	Indigenous (National)
	11	<u>Remembrance Day</u> Remembering 'The War to End All Wars' On this day, the Canadian flag will be half-masted on all federal buildings and establishments.	National/flags at half-mast
	14	<u>Diwali</u> Diwali, which is known as the 'Festival of Lights', sees millions attend firework displays, prayers and celebratory events across the world every autumn.	Hinduism, Jainism
	14	<u>Bandi Chhor Divas</u> The name Bandi Chhor Divas means liberation of prisoners day and is celebrated with the lighting of homes and Gurdwaras, feasts, gift giving and family time	Sikhism
	15-21	<u>Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week</u> Ontario has designated week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week to help	Ontario

		promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being	
	16	<u>Jain New Year (Bhaiya Dooj Kartikadi Samvat Start)</u> Jain New Year is celebrated after Diwali and marks the beginning of the new commercial year when merchants open a fresh set of financial books	Jainism
	16	<u>Louis Riel Day</u> Métis Nation Ontario recognizes November 16 as Louis Riel Day in Ontario, while Louis Riel Day Canada is held in February. This is a day to commemorate the life of Louis Riel, representative of the Métis Nation.	Métis (Provincial)
	20	<u>Transgender Day of Remembrance</u> Honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence	National
	25-26	<u>Day of Covenant</u> (sunset to sunset) Covenant given last will and testament of Baha'u'llah.	Baha'i
	27 - 28	<u>Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha</u> The Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá is a holy day that commemorates the death of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The typical observance consists of devotional readings. Bahá'ís commemorate 11 holy days each year.	Baha'i
	30	<u>Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib</u> Founder of Sikhism; First Sikh teacher. Guru Nanak Jayanti is one of the most prominent festivals of the Sikh community that is observed as the birthday of the first of their gurus, Guru Nanak. The founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak played an important role in shaping and strengthening the Sikh community.	Sikhism
December			
	3	<u>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</u> To promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.	International



	6	<u>National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women</u> Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the murders of 14 young women at the l'Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal in 1989. On this day, the Canadian flag will be half-masted on all federal buildings and establishments.	National/flags at half-mast
	8	<u>Bodhi Day (Enlightenment of Buddha)</u> Bodhi Day commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Prince Gautama, took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain until he attained supreme enlightenment.	Buddhism
	10-18	<u>Hanukkah: Festival of Lights</u> Commemorates Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple 165-164 BCE when Jews rose up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. A chanukiah (9-branched candelabrum) is used as one additional candle is lit each night to remember the miracle of lights that occurred when oil burned for 8 days rather than the expected 1 day.	Judaism
	21	<u>Yule/Winter Solstice</u> Yule represents the return of the sun, light, and the rebirth of the Horned God who is the newborn solstice sun. Ends on January 1, 2021.	Wicca
	25	<u>Christmas</u> Many Christians in Canada mark the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25, which is known as Christmas Day. It is a day of celebration when many Canadians exchange gifts and enjoy festive meals.	Christianity
	26	Boxing Day Public holiday celebrated on the first day (strictly, the first weekday) after Christmas Day.	National
	26	<u>Kwanzaa</u> (until January 1) Secular. Celebrates family, co-operation, community, social responsibility. Founder Dr. Malauna Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 as a way to bring African-Americans together as	African Ancestry, Interfaith, Secular

		a community. not all people of African ancestry celebrate Kwanzaa.	
January			
	1	New Year's Day New Year's Day celebrates the first day of the year on the modern Gregorian calendar as well as the Julian calendar.	National
	7	Christmas/Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox) Orthodox churches celebrate the birth of Jesus on this day. The Orthodox church bases this date on the Julian calendar. The Julian (Eastern) calendar is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian (Western) calendar	Orthodox Christianity
	14	New Year's Day (Orthodox) The Orthodox New Year is widely known as the Old New Year. The Orthodox church bases this date on the Julian calendar. The Julian (Eastern) calendar is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian (Western) calendar	Orthodox Christianity
	20	Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti (also spelled Govind Singh) is a Sikh festival that commemorates the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs. It is a religious celebration in which prayers for prosperity are offered	Sikhism
	27	Family Literacy Day To raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.	Commemorative
	28	Bell Let's Talk Day Bell Let's Talk is a day to bring awareness to mental health issues	Commemorative
	28	Tu B'Shevat (9 of Av) The Jewish Arbor day, this day is observed by celebrating all of nature and recommitting to doing our part to take care of the earth.	Jewish
February		Black History Month Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present.	National
	12	Lunar New Year Lunar New Year for the year 2021 is observed on Friday, February 12 and ends February 22. This year the animal sign is the Ox. Traditionally, New Year's eve and New Year's	Buddhist; Confucian Daoist, peoples of Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Malaysian heritage

		day are reserved for family celebrations, including religious ceremonies honouring ancestors.	
	14	<u>Have a Heart Day</u> A child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the services they need to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are.	Indigenous
	15	<u>Nirvana Day (Parinirvana)</u> The day commemorates the death of the historical Buddha and his entry into final or complete Nirvana.	Buddhism
	15	<u>Family Day</u> A provincial holiday celebrating the importance of families and family life to people and their communities. Family Day was first observed in 2008.	Ontario
	25-26	<u>Purim</u> (sunset to sunset) One of the most fun Jewish holidays but is often under recognized. Purim commemorates the day Esther, Queen of Persia, saved the Jewish people from execution by Haman, the advisor to the Persian king. The holiday is observed by reading the Scroll of Esther, holding carnivals for the children, and partying.	Judaism
March			
	8	<u>International Women's Day</u> A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.	International
	27-April 4	<u>Pesach (Passover)</u> (Ends on April 3 for Reform Jews) One of the three pilgrimage festivals, a 7 or 8-day celebration of deliverance of Jews from slavery in Egypt. Story of Exodus recounted and ongoing struggles of all peoples for freedom from internal and external tyranny. A special meal, called a seder, is a central feature and Jews do not eat products made with leaven for the duration of the holiday.	Judaism
	31	<u>National Indigenous Peoples' Languages Day</u> Celebrates the work of Indigenous Language and Culture Champions to revitalize and seek ways to sustain survival of Indigenous languages.	Indigenous/National

April		<u>Sikh Heritage Month</u> Canada is officially the first country in the world to adopt formal legislation to recognize April as Sikh Heritage Month. This month recognizes the important contributions that Sikh Canadians have made to the country	Sikhism
	2	<u>World Autism Awareness Day</u> A day to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) throughout the world	Commemorative
	2	<u>Good Friday</u> Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.	Christianity
	4	<u>Easter</u> Most holy of Christian sacred days. Resurrection of Jesus Christ after his death by crucifixion. Worship services, special music, feasting and parades	Christianity
	5	Easter Monday	National
	8-9	<u>Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah)</u> Observed as Israel's day of commemoration for the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust as a result of the actions carried out by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, and for the Jewish resistance in that period.	Judaism
	12	<u>Ramadan</u> (until May 11 sundown) Holy month of fasting begins to purify body and soul, time to develop compassion and greater sense of humility, spirituality and community.	Islam
	14	<u>International Day of Pink</u> A day for awareness and prevention against homophobia and transphobia.	International
	14	<u>Vaisakhi</u> Vaisakhi originated as a harvest festival, but is so much more than that. It serves as a reminder to the Sikh community of the creation of the Khalsa order which promotes justice and equality for the creation of a more equal and just society, commits to wearing the five articles of faith and practices daily meditation.	Sikhism, Hinduism
	15	<u>Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day)</u>	Judaism

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		communication health and highlighting the importance of early detection and intervention in the treatment of communication disorders.	
	2	<u>Easter (Orthodox)</u> Orthodox Easter, also called Greek Easter is the principal festival of the Orthodox Church. It is the most significant religious holiday for the world's roughly 300 million Orthodox Christians.	Orthodox Christianity
	3-7	<u>Mental Health Week</u> A week to raise awareness and reduce stigma around mental health.	Commemorative
	4-8	<u>Education Week</u> Annual event celebrated by school boards and schools across the province. It is a time for students, teachers and parents to celebrate teaching excellence and student achievement	Commemorative
	5	<u>National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls</u> Also known as Red Dress Day in Canada, Canadians are encouraged to wear red to draw attention to the more than 1,000 missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.	National/Indigenous
	12	<u>Eid al-Fitr</u> Festival of Breaking the Fast: 3-day celebration to mark the end of Ramadan – the holy month of fasting.	Islam
	16-18	<u>Shavuot</u> (sunset to sunset) Begins at sundown on the 16 th , one of the 3 pilgrimage festivals, Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Observed with prayer and all-night study.	Judaism
	17	<u>International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia</u> Created in 2004 to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexuals, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.	International
	28	<u>Ascension Of Abdu'l-Baha</u> Baha'i celebration of the rising of the spirit of Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'u'llah's son and chosen successor, to the heavenly dwelling.	Baha'i
June		<u>Pride Month</u>	National



		Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.	
	TBD	<u>Kingston Pride Week</u>	Local
	6	<u>Canadian Armed Forces Day</u> A celebration of Canada's armed services, their heritage, and their personnel	Commemorative
	20	<u>World Refugee Day</u> World Refugee Day aims to remind the world that everyone, including refugees, can contribute to society and Every Action Counts in the effort to create a more just, inclusive, and equal world.	International
	21	<u>National Indigenous Peoples Day</u> An occasion to reflect, acknowledge, celebrate and learn about the rich contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the building, development & progress of Canada. A day for First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Peoples to showcase their cultures and achievements throughout Canada on this day.	National/Indigenous
	23	<u>National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism</u> Marked every year on June 23 in Canada on the anniversary of the bombing of Air India Flight 182 off the coast of Ireland. On this day, flags across Canada are flown at half-mast to honour the victims of the bombing, as well as other acts of terrorist violence that have taken the lives of Canadians.	National/Flags at half-mast