

FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DIVISION Celebrations for All: Days of Significance

There are many holy days associated with various faiths and the absence of such dates on this list should not be interpreted to mean they are not significant or valued.

This list is not meant to be comprehensive or exhaustive and every attempt has been made to ensure its accuracy. This is a fluid calendar and updates and changes are made throughout the year.

JANUARY		Tamil Heritage Month	Celebrated each January to increase awareness and appreciation for all the achievements and contributions of the Tamil people. The Tamil people are an ethnic group originally from southern India and Sri Lanka.
	1	New Year's Day	Celebration of the start of calendar for most western countries
	6 – 7	Orthodox Christmas	Observance of birth of Jesus as per Julian calendar
	13	Malanka	Ukrainian and Belarusian New Year's Eve.
	27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Raise observance of the victims of the Holocaust
	January/February	Lunar New Year	Celebrated by most Asian countries

FEBRUARY		Black History Month	Events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.
	<i>Date changes</i>	Mardi Gras / Fat Tuesday Shrove Tuesday	Date marks the close of the pre-Lenten season. The French name Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday, from the custom of using all the fats in the home before Lent in preparation for fasting and abstinence.
	Third Monday	Family Day	Provides the inhabitants of Alberta to celebrate family and Community.
	Last Wednesday	Pink Shirt / Anti-Bullying Day	To build a more kind, inclusive world by raising awareness and funds for anti-bullying initiatives.
	February – April	Lent	A 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday.

FEBRUARY	11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Annual observance to promote the full and equal access and participation of females in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields.
	14	Valentine's Day	Annual celebration of romantic love, friendship, and admiration.
	21	International Mother Language Day	Worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
	28	Rare Disease Day	Rare Disease Day is an observance held on the last day of February to raise awareness for rare diseases and improve access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families.
MARCH		Francophone Heritage Month	Celebration of the French Language
	<i>Date changes</i>	Holi	Holi is a Hindu festival that celebrates spring, love, and new life.
	8	International Women's Day	A day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and apolitical achievements of women.
	17	St. Patrick's Day	A cultural and religious celebration held on the death date of St. Patrick, foremost patron saint of Ireland. A celebration of Irish culture.
	21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Observed annually, it commemorates the day police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.
	March / April	Laylat al-Qadr	The night in which the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.



APRIL		Celebrate Diversity Month	It strives to help people gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other and their differences. To celebrate April diversity celebrations, consider new ways you can integrate diversity into your life.
		Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, and Prevention Month	we remember the millions of victims who suffered and lost their lives to genocide. We honour the resilience and courage of all survivors and their descendants, as we strive to create a world where this atrocity is not only remembered but prevented.
		Sikh Heritage Month	To recognize the important contributions Sikh Canadians have made to Canada's social, economic, political, and cultural fabric.
	<i>Date changes</i>	Good Friday	Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus.
	<i>Date changes</i>	Easter	Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.
	<i>Date changes</i>	Passover	Jewish holiday celebrating the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.
	<i>Date changes</i>	Velykden -Orthodox Easter	Ukrainian Easter
	<i>Date changes</i>	Ramadan	Observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community.
	Last Week	Support Staff Appreciation Week	Opportunity to recognize our school based support teams
	Last Wednesday	Admin Professionals Day	Opportunity to thank our admin teams.
	2	World Autism Awareness Day	A day to acknowledge and advocate for the rights of individuals with autism around the world. The goal of World Autism Day is to increase awareness about Autism signs, symptoms, and information.
	4	Refugee Rights Day	A day to bring attention to the 1985 Supreme Court of Canada ruling recognizing that refugee claimants are entitled to fundamental justice.
7	Green Shirt Day	In memorial of the 2018 Humbolt Bus Crash; promotion of organ donations.	

APRIL	12	International Day of Pink	The International Day of Pink is a worldwide antibullying and anti-homophobia event held annually during the second week of April.
	20 – 21	Eid al-Fitr	Marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, and is celebrated during the first three days of Shawwāl, the 10 th month of the Islamic calendar.
	22	Earth Day	To demonstrate support for environment protection.
	April/May	Yom HaShoah	Holocaust Remembrance observed by Jews in synagogues and at other Jewish community events.
MAY		Asian Heritage Month	Recognizes the contributions and influence of Asians and Pacific Islanders to the history, culture, and achievements of Canada.
		Jewish Heritage Month	Recognize the contributions of Jews in Canada's social, economic, political, and culture fabric. To remember, celebrate, and educate future generations.
	First Monday	Bus Driver Appreciation Day	An opportunity to thank our dedicated transportation team.
	Second Sunday	Mother's Day	A celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.
	Monday preceding 25th	Victoria Day	Celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday.
	5	National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S Red Dress Day Moose Hide Campaign	A day to bring awareness and a call for Canadians to speak out on violence against Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people.
	5	Cinco de Mayo	Honours Mexico's defeat of the French army. A day often used to celebrate Mexican culture.
JUNE		National Indigenous History Month	Time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples.
		Pride Month	Communities and allies gather to highlight the contributions and resilience of the 2S/LGBTQ+ communities.
	Third Sunday	Father's Day	Honouring fatherhood and paternal bonds.

JUNE	20 or 21	Summer Solstice National Indigenous Peoples Day	A day recognizing and celebrating the culture and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Solstice is a day of significance as the day with the longest light.
	27	Multiculturalism Day	Honours the many cultural communities that help build a strong and vibrant society.
	June/July	Eid al-Adha	A Muslim celebration that involves sacrifice, prayers, and family gatherings.
JULY	1	Canada Day	Celebration of the anniversary of Canadian Confederation
AUGUST	<i>last day of the Hindu lunar calendar</i>	Rakhi / Raksha Bandhan	Hindu celebration of the unique bond between a brother and his sister. The festival is observed on the full-moon day in the month of Shravan.
	<i>First Monday</i>	Heritage Day	A day to celebrate the heritage of Alberta's inhabitants.
	1	Emancipation Day	The anniversary of when Britain abolished slavery in the British Empire.
	9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's Indigenous population.
SEPTEMBER		Ukrainian Heritage Month	The celebration of the contributions, resilience, and culture of Ukrainians in Canada.
	<i>Date changes</i>	Rosh HaShanah	Jewish New Year
	<i>First Monday</i>	Labour Day	a day to celebrate the accomplishments of the labour movement and the benefits of having a union at work.
	8	International Literacy Day	Observance that promotes the importance of literacy as a fundamental right and a prerequisite for sustainable development.

SEPTEMBER	22	Treaty 7 Day	Treaty Day is also a celebration of the historic relationship between Indigenous peoples and the federal government. It promotes public awareness about Indigenous culture, history and heritage for all Canadians.
	30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day	A statutory holiday to recognize the legacy of the Canadian Indian residential school system.
	September / October	Yom Kippur	The holiest day of the year in Judaism. A chance to change fate through prayer, repentance, and charity.
OCTOBER		Latin America Heritage Month	An opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people.
	<i>Date changes</i>	Vijayadashami	Hindu festival which signifies the victory of good over evil.
	Second Monday	Thanksgiving	Holiday and harvest festival. Celebrating the harvest and blessings of the past year.
	2	Custodian and Maintenance Worker Day	Opportunity to appreciate and thank our facilities team.
	5	World Teacher Day	An opportunity to thank our incredible teachers.
	31	Halloween	Halloween's origins can be traced back to the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain, which was held on November 1 in contemporary calendars. It was believed that on that day, the souls of the dead returned to their homes, so people dressed in costumes and lit bonfires to ward off spirits. Today, it is generally costumes and candy.
	October/ November	Diwali	A festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika.

NOVEMBER	7	Inuit Day	To celebrate the Inuit People and amplify their voices.
	11	Remembrance Day	A Day observed by the Commonwealth since the end of the First World War in order to remember all those who have fought and died in the line of duty to keep Canada free.
	16	Louis Riel Day	The day is named in honour of Louis David Riel, a spiritual and political leader of one of Canada's 3 largest indigenous people, the Métis.
DECEMBER	<i>Dates Change</i>	Hanukkah	A Jewish festival honouring the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE.
	6	National Day of Remembrance of Action on Violence Against Women	A day dedicated to remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it.
	10	Human Rights Day	To honour the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
	21 or 22	Winter Solstice	The shortest day of the year. The winter solstice is an opportunity to go inward with deep intention, to care for our spiritual selves, our bodies and minds, our loved ones, and families, and to prepare for the longer days ahead.
	24	Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve is observed as a full or partial holiday in anticipation of Christmas Day.
	25	Christmas Day	Christian celebration of Jesus' birth
	26	Boxing Day	Traditionally a day on which servants, tradespeople, and the poor were presented with gifts.
	26 – January 1	Kwanzaa	A weeklong celebration honouring African heritage in African American culture.