

This is Us

Supporting Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy

2025-2026

Near North
District School Board

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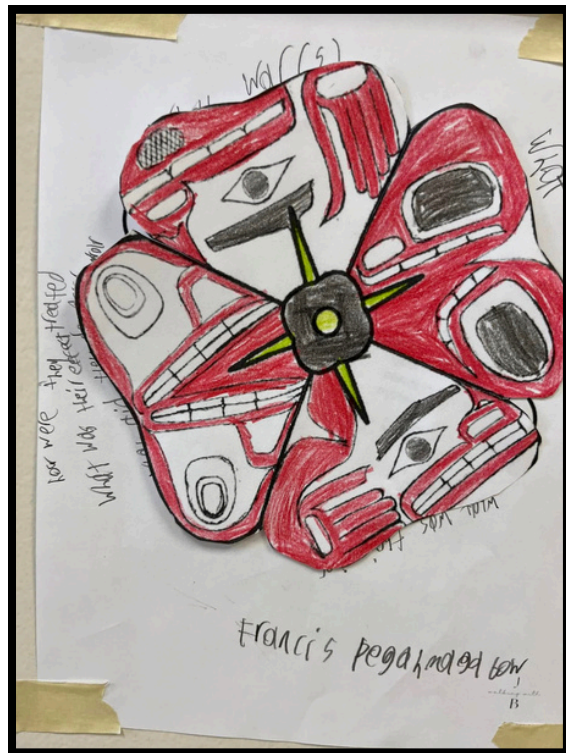


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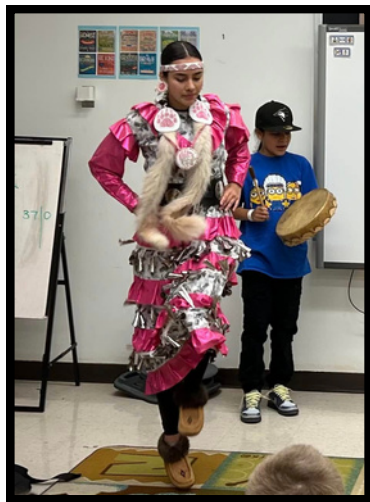
Near North
District School Board



At the Near North District School Board, we value and embrace students and employees with diverse backgrounds, identities, and personal experiences.

“Our schools should be places where students not only learn about diversity but also experience it. Students should see themselves and their classmates reflected in their studies. Students and families should expect their interactions with their school community to leave them feeling accepted for who they are. All students should believe in their potential and know that they will be supported along the way from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and beyond, no matter what pathway they choose.”
(Equity Action Plan 2017)

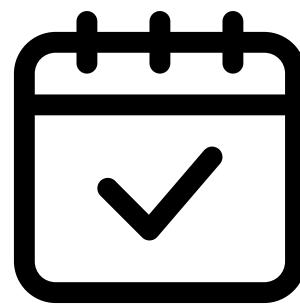




Students experience teaching and learning that is reflective of their needs and of who they are. In order to ensure that all students feel safe, accepted and inspired to succeed in a culture of high expectations for learning, schools and classrooms must be responsive to culture. “Culturally Responsive Pedagogy” or Culturally Responsive Teaching recognizes that all students learn differently and that these differences may be connected to background, language, family structure and social or cultural identity.

While this calendar is not meant to be comprehensive or exhaustive, every attempt has been made to ensure its accuracy. Information contained in this calendar have been sourced from many different websites. Islam dates are tentative as some vary based on the sighting of the moon. The dates for Christianity are based on the Gregorian calendar unless specified as Julian (J)

For a list of additional days of significance please navigate to page 28, or click on the calendar below to be redirected.



SEPTEMBER 2025



Resources:

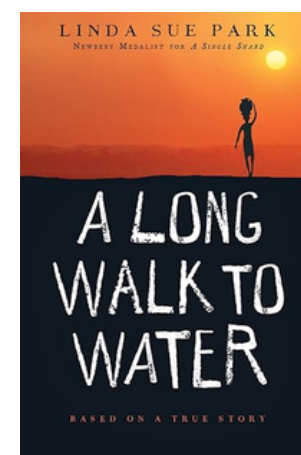


When Phyllis Webstad (nee Jack) turned six, she went to the residential school for the first time. On her first day at school, she wore a shiny orange shirt that her Granny had bought for her, but when she got to the school, it was taken away from her and never returned. This is the true story of Phyllis and her orange shirt. It is also the story of Orange Shirt Day.

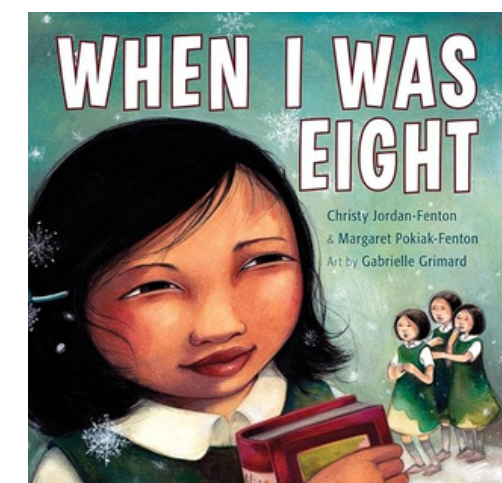
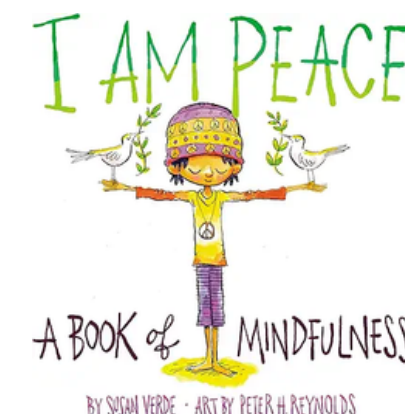
Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. . . .



A Long Walk to Water begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay.



Mindfulness means being fully in the present moment. Children can learn how to manage their emotions, make good choices, and balance their busy lives by learning to be mindful, express emotions through speech, find empathy through imagination, and wonder at the beauty of the natural world.



Olemaun is eight and knows a lot of things. But she does not know how to read. Ignoring her father's warnings, she travels far from her Arctic home to the outsiders' school to learn. The nuns at the school call her Margaret. They cut off her long hair and force her to do menial chores, but she remains undaunted. Her tenacity draws the attention of a black-cloaked nun who tries to break her spirit at every turn. But the young girl is more determined than ever to learn how to read.

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September is... Attendance Awareness Month Ukrainian Heritage Month Childhood Cancer Awareness Month FASD Awareness Month	 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				

Notes:

September 8: International Literacy Day

Aims to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies

September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day

This is an awareness day observed on 10 September every year to raise awareness that suicide can be prevented.

September 19: Powley Day

Celebrates the Supreme Court Decision which granted Metis Harvesting Rights.

September 21: International Day of Peace

This day is dedicated to World Peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence

September TBD: Terry Fox School Run

Millions of students across Canada take part in this run every year raising funds for Cancer Research. This is one of the largest fundraising events in Canadian history.

September 22-27: Gender Equality Week

To increase awareness of the significant and substantive contributions that Canadian women have made and continue to make to the growth, development, character and identity of Canada.

TBD: Truth and Reconciliation Week

This is a 5-day national event that will continue the conversations from Every Child Matters. Important conversations including the truths of the Indigenous treaties, First Nation, Metis and Inuit land claims, and the residential school system.

September 24: Rowan's Law Day

The last Wednesday of September has been designated as Rowan's Law Day in Ontario to help raise awareness about concussion safety.

September 30: Orange Shirt Day

This day is held annually and is designed to educate people and promote awareness about the Indian Residential School system and the impact the system has had on Indigenous communities.

September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

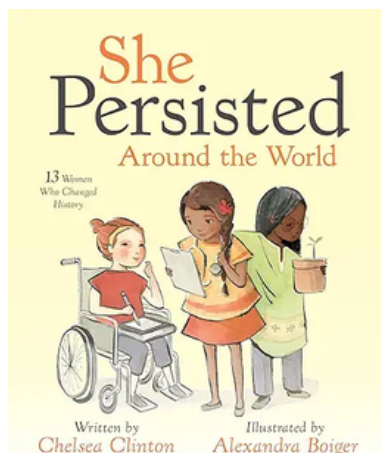
The day honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

October 2025

Dear School Library...

A Love Lettering Project by the
Ontario School Library Association

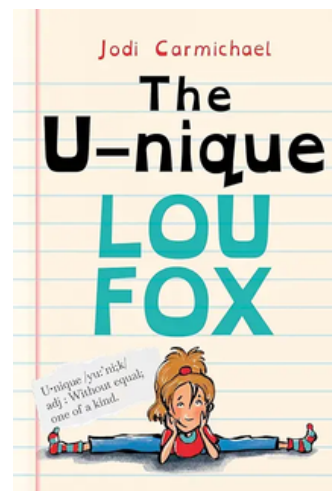
Resources:



On a wintry city street, a one-legged bird dances for crumbs to eat . . . but Ella has nothing to give. Then her father shows how a simple act of human kindness can spread joy to all.



She Persisted Around the World is a book for everyone who has ever aimed high and been told to step down, for everyone who has ever raised their voice and been told to quiet down, and for everyone who has ever felt small, unimportant or unworthy.



It isn't easy being Louisa Elizabeth Fitzhenry-O'Shaughnessy—especially with dyslexia. She prefers Lou Fox, the dream name she'll use one day as a famous Broadway playwright. In the meantime, Lou is stuck in fifth grade with Mrs. Snyder, a total Shadow Phantom of a teacher who can spot a daydream from across the room but doesn't know anything about ADHD.

Meet Ruby—a happy, curious, imaginative girl. But one day, she finds something unexpected: a Worry. It's not such a big Worry, at first. But every day, it grows a little bigger until eventually, the Worry is ENORMOUS and all she can think about. Can she ever feel happy again? But then Ruby discovers that everyone has worries, and not only that, there's a great way to get rid of them too...she just has to share her feelings. This perceptive and poignant story is the perfect springboard for talking to children about emotions and anxieties.



When Lydia was five years old, she and her family had to leave their home. They hopped from Grandma's house to Aunt Linda's house to Cousin Alice's house, but no place was permanent. Then one day, everything changed. Lydia's mom took her to a new place — not a house, but a big building with stone columns, and tall, tall steps. The library. In the library, Lydia found her special spot across from the sunny window, at a round desk. For behind that desk was her new friend, the librarian. Together, Lydia and the librarian discovered a world beyond their walls, one that sparkled with spectacular joy.

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October is... Dyslexia Awareness Month Women's History Month Canadian Library Month Islamic History Month Somali Heritage Month Latin Hispanic Heritage Month			1	2  National Custodians Day	3	4 
5  World Teacher's Day	6  Mid Autumn Festival	7  WORLD HABITAT DAY	8	9	10  WORLD HOMELESS DAY	11  International Day of the Girl Child
12	13  Happy Thanksgiving	14  Ada Lovelace Day	15	16  WORLD FOOD DAY - 16th October -	17  INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY October 17	18  Persons Day
19 National School Bus Safety Week 	20	21	22  INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS DAY	23	24  United Nations Day	25
26	27  Canadian School Library Day	28	29	30	31 	

Notes:

October 7: World Habitat Day

The Purpose of this day is to reflect on the basic right of all to have adequate shelter.

October 10: World Mental Health Day

The overall objective is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world.

October 11: International Day of the Girl Child

A day to promote girl's empowerment and highlight the challenges that girls face around the world.

October 13: Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is celebrated the second Monday of October. The original idea was a celebration of the harvest while it has become a day for gathering to give thanks in general. Indigenous peoples have a history of celebrating the fall harvest that predates the arrival of European settlers.

October 16: World Food Day

This day is dedicated to tackling global hunger.

October 16: Ontario Dress Purple Day

Children's Aid Societies across the province partner with boards of education, schools and child care to speak up for every child and youth's rights to safety and well-being.

October 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

This is an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty.

October 18: Persons Day

This commemorates the day when England's Privy Council decided that women were indeed persons and therefore entitled to all the rights of persons under the law.

October 24: United Nations Day

Highlights, celebrates and reflects on the work of the United Nations.

November 2025



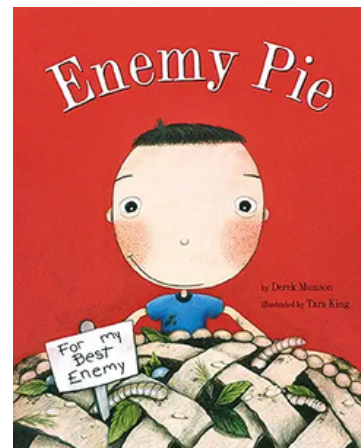
Resources:



Celles et ceux qui célèbrent le jour des Morts offrent des crânes sucrés, allument des chandelles et se souviennent de leurs proches décédés. Apprenez-en davantage sur les traditions et les coutumes qui entourent cette célébration mexicaine colorée.

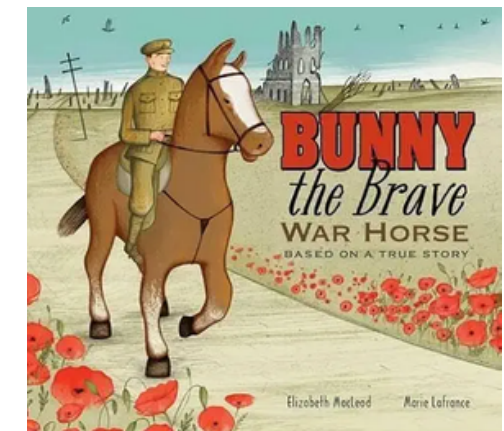
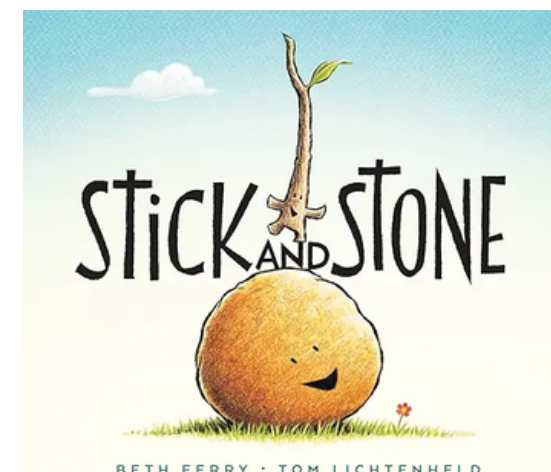


It's picture day and Faizah can't wait to wear her special red dress with matching hair ribbons, passed down from her mother and sister. Faizah's teacher starts the day by asking her students to envision the kind of world they want, inspiring Faizah and her friends to spend the day helping one another in ways large and small. But when it's time for sibling pictures, Faizah realizes that she and her older sister, Asiya, don't match like her classmates do with their siblings. With help from her classmates inspired by Asiya's hijab, Faizah finds that acts of kindness can come back to you in unexpected ways.



It was the perfect summer. That is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became neighborhood enemy number one. Luckily Dad had a surefire way to get rid of enemies: Enemy Pie. But part of the secret recipe is spending an entire day playing with the enemy! In this funny yet endearing story, one little boy learns an effective recipes for turning your best enemy into your best friend.

When Stick rescues Stone from a prickly situation with a Pinecone, the pair become fast friends. But when Stick gets stuck, can Stone return the favor?



This quietly but powerfully told tale explores many of the actual on-the-ground hardships WWI soldiers endured, including a gas attack, wounded and killed comrades, exploding bombs and episodes of severe hunger. By focusing on the tender relationship between Bunny and the brothers and showing how he was able to provide comfort to the soldiers, the author makes the grim details easier for young readers to absorb.

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November is... Hindu Heritage Month Lebanese Heritage Month Indigenous Disability Month Veterans Week 5-11						1
 2	 3 Treaties Recognition Week	4	 5	6	 7	 8 Intersex Day of Remembrance
9	10	11 	12	Noah Strong Jersey Day  13	14 	15
 16	17	18	 19	20 TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE NOVEMBER 20 National Child's Day	21	22
23/30	24	 25	26	27	28	29

Notes:

November 2-8: Treaty Recognition Week

This week honours the importance of treaties and helps people learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships.

November 2: Day of the Dead

This holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and remember friends and family members who have passed.

November 8: National Indigenous Veterans Day

Honour the important contributions made by First Nations, Inuit and Métis Veterans in service to Canada.

November 11: Remembrance Day

This day is to remember and honour the members of the armed forces who dies in the line of duty.

November 13: World Kindness Day

This is a day to bring attention to kindness and acts of kindness.

November 14: World Diabetes Day

A global awareness campaign focusing on diabetes is held on this day each year.

November TBD: Noah Strong Jersey Day

This day honours the legacy of Noah Dugas and brings awareness to organ donation.

November 16: Louis Riel Day

This is a day to celebrate Métis culture, recognize the many contributions of the Métis, and to highlight the struggles the Métis continue to face.

November 19: Pink Shirt Day

This is a day when people wear a pink shirt to symbolize a stance against bullying.

November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

This day honours the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

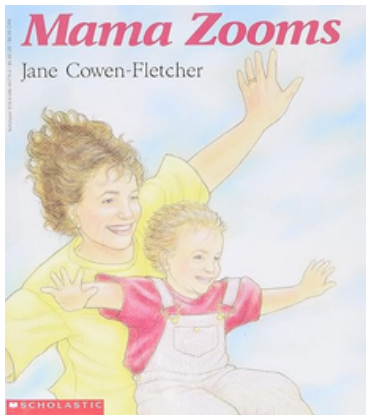
November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

This is a day to raise awareness to the fact that women around the world continue to face violence. This marks the first day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which ends on December 10, with International Human Rights Day.

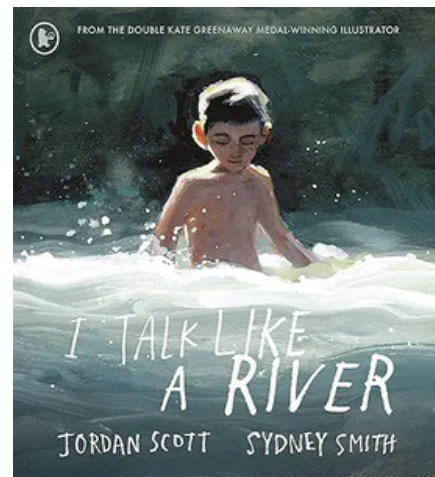
December 2025



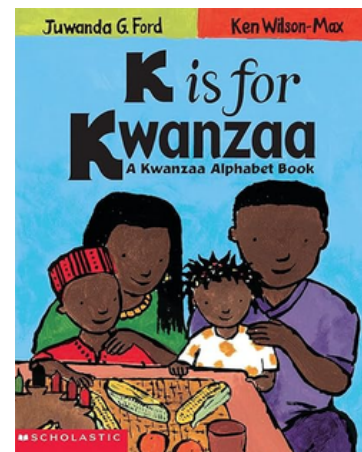
Resources:



After a day of being unable to speak when asked, and of being stared at, a boy and his father go to the river for some quiet time. "It's just a bad speech day," says Dad. But the boy can't stop thinking about all the eyes watching his lips twisting and twirling. When his father points to the river bubbling, churning, whirling and crashing, the boy finds a way to think about how he speaks. Even the river stutters. Like him. "I talk like a river," he says.



A boy's wonderful mama takes him zooming everywhere with her, because her wheelchair is a zooming machine.



K is for Kwanzaa explains different facets of the holiday, from A to Z. Each letter of the alphabet represents an English or Swahili word, accompanied by a simple definition explaining its importance or relation to Kwanzaa. An introduction describes the origin of the holiday and the Seven Kwanzaa Principles, that guide the seven-day celebration and teach positive life lessons.

Les communautés juives partout dans le monde célèbre la Hanoukka depuis des siècles. DÉcouvrez-en davantage sur les traditions de cette fête, comme l'allumage d'une menorah et la dégustation de galettes de pomme de terre.



Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 1	 2	 3	4	5	 6
7	8	9	 10	11	12	13
 14	15	16	17	 18	19	20
 21	 22 Happy Holidays!	23	24	 25	 26 Kwanzaa Dec 14- Jan 1	27
28	29	30	31			

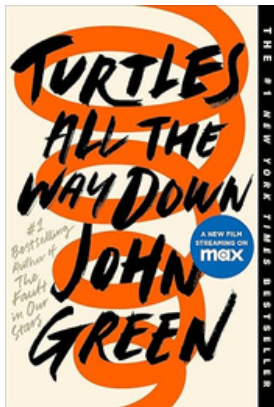
Notes:

- December 1:** World Aids Day
This is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease.
- December 2:** Giving Tuesday
This is the global movement for giving and volunteering, taking place each year after Black Friday. The “Opening day of the giving season,” it’s a time when charities, companies and individuals join together and rally for favourite causes.
- December 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
This day promotes awareness and support for issues related to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in our society.
- December 6:** National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women is about remembering victims; it is also a time to take action by creating a culture of respect.
- December 10:** International Human Rights Day
This day is meant to build awareness of the Declaration of Human Rights
- December 18:** International Migrants Day
International Migrants Day aims to raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties of international migration.
- December 21:** Winter Solstice
This is considered the first day of winter.
- December 22:** School Holidays Begin
- December 25:** Christmas Day
This is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world.

January 2026



Resources:

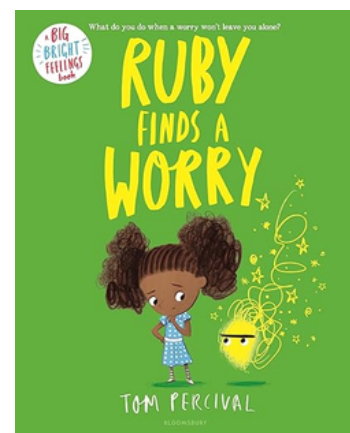


Aza Holmes never intended to pursue the disappearance of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there’s a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Pickett’s son Davis.

Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

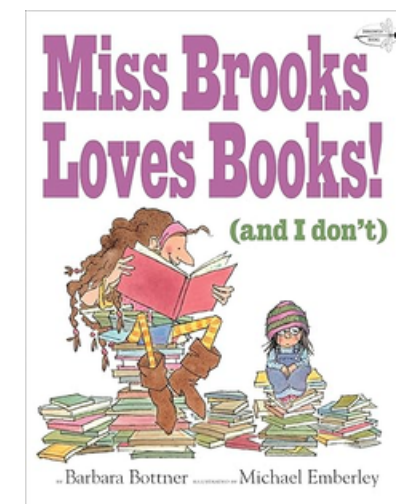
Meet Ruby—a happy, curious, imaginative girl. But one day, she finds something unexpected: a Worry. It’s not such a big Worry, at first. But every day, it grows a little bigger...and a little bigger...until eventually, the Worry is ENORMOUS and all she can think about. Can she ever feel happy again?

But then Ruby discovers that everyone has worries, and not only that, there’s a great way to get rid of them too...she just has to share her feelings. This perceptive and poignant story is the perfect springboard for talking to children about emotions and anxieties.



The night that Rachel and Toby’s parents are taken away by the Nazis, they give their young daughters three gold coins with the instructions to “use these wisely to help save your lives.” They also ask the girls to promise that they will always stay together. This compelling true story follows the sisters as they confront the daily horrors of Auschwitz, protecting one another, sharing memories, fears, and even laughter—always together. But when Rachel becomes ill and is taken away by Nazi guards, likely forever, Toby risks her own life and uses the well-hidden gold coins to rescue her little sister.

With the help of Miss Brooks, Missy’s classmates all find books they love in the library—books about fairies and dogs and trains and cowboys. But Missy dismisses them all—“Too flowery, too furry, too clickety, too yippity.” Still, Miss Brooks remains undaunted. Book Week is here and Missy will find a book to love if they have to empty the entire library. What story will finally win over this beastly, er, discriminating child? William Steig’s Shrek!—the tale of a repulsive green ogre in search of a revolting bride—of course!



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January is... Alzheimer Awareness Month Tamil Heritage Month				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

Notes:

January 1: New Years Day (Christianity and Canadian Holiday).

January 1 is the first day of a new year.

January 4: World Braille Day

This day celebrates the importance of braille as a medium of communication for people who are blind and/or visually impaired. The day aims to promote awareness of the braille language, which strives to bridge the big divide between ordinary and specially-abled people.

January 4: National Ribbon Skirt Day

This day originates with the story of Isabella Kulak, a member of Cote First Nation, who was shamed for wearing her handmade ribbon skirt to a formal wear day at her elementary school. Traditionally worn by First Nations and Métis peoples, ribbon skirts are a meaningful symbol of identity, resilience, and survival for Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, and represents a direct connection to Mother Earth.

January 19: Martin Luther King Jr Day

This day celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., an influential American Rights Leader.

January 19-23: No Name Calling Week

GLSEN's No Name Calling Week, (NNCW) is a week organized by K-12 educators and students to end name-calling and bullying in schools.

January 21: Lincoln Alexander Day

A time to honour and recognize the significant contributions of Canada's first Black Member of Parliament, Cabinet minister, and Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

January 27: Family Literacy Day

This takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy related activities as a family.

January TBD: Bell Let's Talk Day

This is an awareness campaign created by telecommunications company Bell Canada to raise awareness and combat stigma surrounding mental illness in Canada.

February 2026

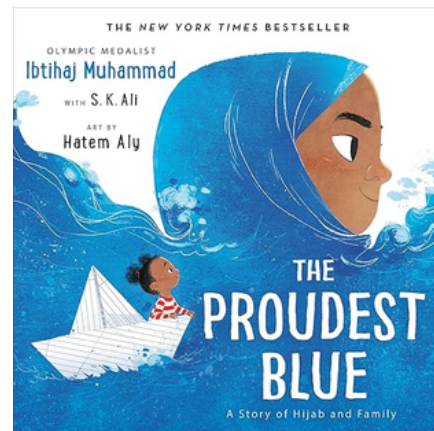


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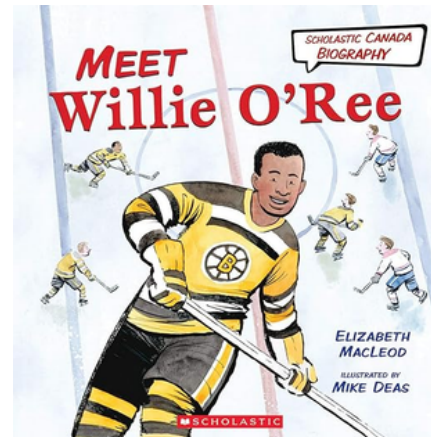


With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab--a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Le Nouvel An lunaire est célébré par des personnes de nombreuses origines asiatiques. Découvrez comment chaque pays qui célèbre le Nouvel An lunaire a ses propres traditions et comment le Nouvel An lunaire est célébré partout au Canada.



On January 18, 1958, Willie O'Ree made history as the first black player in the NHL when he suited up with the Boston Bruins against the Montreal Canadiens. O'Ree went on to play a total of 45 games with the Bruins, a remarkable achievement considering what he overcame to get there. In addition to dealing with racism, bigotry and name-calling, Willie lived with a secret disability: he was blind in one eye -- a fact he had to keep to himself, or he'd never play in the NHL. Thanks to his relentless positivity and love of the game, Willie's time with the Bruins was only one of his many achievements in hockey.



How long would you stand by? What do you do when your best friend is bullied? What do you do if he is a bully? Bystanders Katie and Devan see things very differently, but one thing is clear: Grade 9 life is hard. Told through the voices of Katie and Devan, and (the target) Will's poignant poems, Egghead shows how bullying affects everyone and that there is more than one side to every story.



Six-year-old Erin's favorite game is spotting animals in the clouds with her mom and dad—everything from fluffy foxes and polar bears to little rabbits. Even when Erin falls very ill and has to spend a long time in the hospital, she still manages to find joy in spying “cloud babies” through the window with her new hospital friends. When the doctor tells Erin she can go home, she is so excited! But being back at school is not at all what she expected—so much has changed, and Erin must reconcile the safe realm she's just left with a world outside that has become unfamiliar. With Mom and Dad's love and wisdom, however, and with the help of her teacher and friends, Erin comes to see that by sharing her experience she can find happiness again in just being herself.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 
						February is... Black History Month National Inclusive Education Month Heart and Stroke Awareness Month

Notes:

February 2: Ground Hog Day

Legend has it that watching a groundhog emerge from its burrow can determine the weather forecast for the coming weeks. If it is a sunny day and the groundhog sees its shadow. It will go back to sleep for six weeks of winter. If the weather is cloudy and the groundhog does not see its shadow, it stays outside, meaning that spring will soon arrive.

February 4: World Cancer Day

A day to come together to honour and remember everyone affected by cancer, and take action to change the future of cancer forever.

February 14: Have a Heart Day

Have a Heart Day is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are.

February 15: National Flag of Canada Day

This day commonly shortened to Flag Day is observed annually on February 15 to commemorate the inauguration of the Flag of Canada on that date in 1965.

February 17: Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is the beginning of a new year based on lunar calendars. 2026 is the Year of the Horse.

February 20: World Day of Social Justice

This is an international day recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections.

February 21: International Mother Language Day

This day is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.

February 25: Pink Shirt Day

This is a day celebrated on the last Wednesday in February each year. Wearing pink symbolizes that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere.

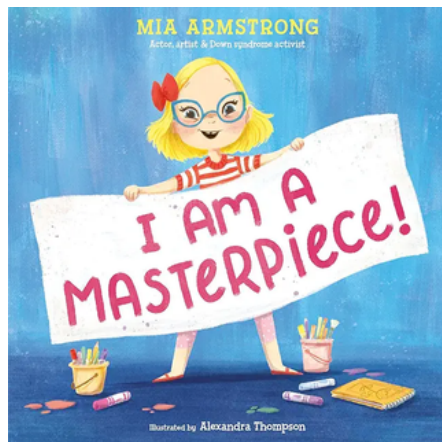
February 28: Rare Disease Day

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 2026



Resources:



Mia likes many of the things other people like--going to the beach, the color blue, drawing. But she doesn't like when strangers stare at her because she looks different from them.

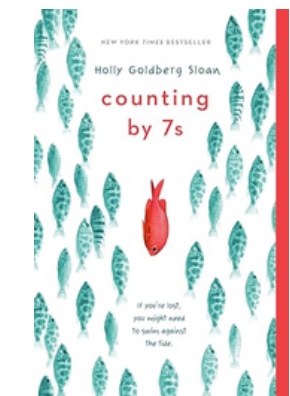
Down syndrome allows Mia to see and understand the world in a way that may not make sense to others. She considers it her superpower--and instead of it making her strange, she considers herself a masterpiece. As we all are.

Holi, the festival of colours, is a Hindu festival also celebrated in Canada. Learn about the history of Holi, Hindu traditions, and how the festival is celebrated in Canada.



Rebel Girls Awesome Entrepreneurs: 25 Tales of Women Building Businesses showcases influential CEOs, entrepreneurs, founders, and investors who have used their creativity and ingenuity to develop clever ideas, launch new products, build businesses, disrupt industries, support others, and invest in the future.













Nibi (dont le nom signifie « eau » dans la langue anishinaabe) est une jeune fille autochtone à la recherche d'eau potable. En dépit des nombreux obstacles auxquels elle fait face, elle provoque d'importants changements dans son entourage! Bientôt, grâce à sa détermination et à son énergie contagieuse, tous les membres de sa communauté ont accès à de l'eau de qualité.



Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8 	9	10	11 	12	13  world Sleep Day	14
15 	16 Neurodiversity Celebration Week 16-22	17 	18	19	20 	21 
22  World Water Day	23	24	25	26 	27	28  Earth Hour
29	30	31 				March is... Epilepsy Awareness Month Greek Heritage Month Irish Heritage Month Nutrition Month

Notes:

March 4: Holi

Holi is a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love and Spring. It celebrates the eternal and divine love of the deities Radha and Krishna.

March 8: International Women's Day

This is a worldwide event with a human rights theme, highlighting the social, economic, cultural and political achievements and contributions made by women.

March 16-22: Neurodiversity Celebration Week

This week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences.

March 20: International Day of Happiness

The philosophy behind the day is that the “pursuit of happiness” is a basic human right and goal. There is a basic assumption that, in order to promote world happiness initiatives should take place to eradicate poverty, establish equality, and protect the environment.

March 20: International Day of La Francophonie

International Francophonie Day is observed within the International Organization of La Francophonie's 77 member states every March 20 to celebrate the French language and Francophone culture.

March 21: International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

This day aims to encourage people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination.

March 21: World Down Syndrome Day

On this day, people with Down Syndrome and those who live and work with them throughout the world organize and participate in activities and events to raise public awareness and create a single global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down Syndrome.

March 26: Purple Day

This is an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about Epilepsy.

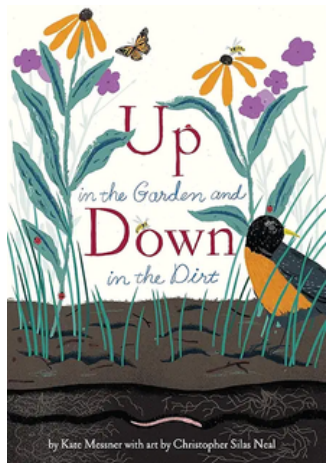
March 31: National Indigenous Languages Day

This is a day to celebrate and honor the more than 70 distinct Indigenous languages in Canada.

April 2026

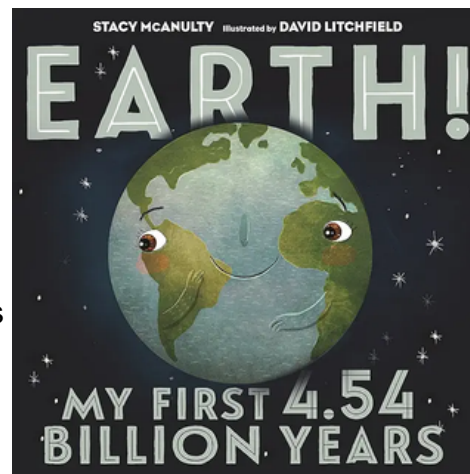


Resources:

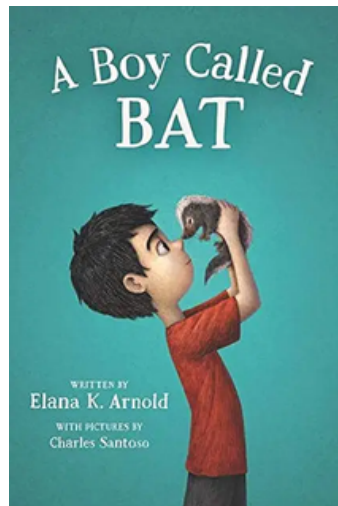


Prepare to learn all about Earth from the point-of-view of Earth herself! In this funny yet informative book, filled to the brim with kid-friendly facts, readers will discover key moments in Earth's life, from her childhood more than four billion years ago all the way up to present day.

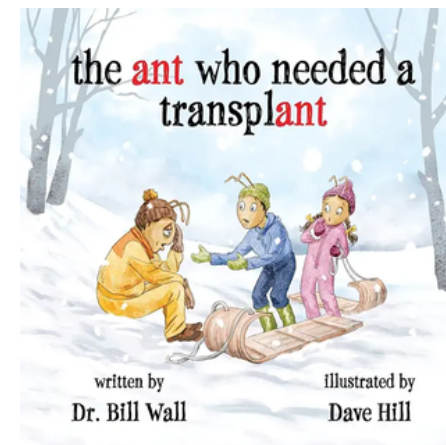
Explore the hidden world and many lives of a garden through the course of a year! Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt exists a busy world—earthworms dig, snakes hunt, skunks burrow—populated by all the animals that make a garden their home.



For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter. But the minute Bat meets the kit, he knows they belong together. And he's got one month to show his mom that a baby skunk might just make a pretty terrific pet.



Mama Ant, Papa Ant, Russell, and Sophie all live together in a thriving ant community. They love each other very much, and in the winter their favourite activity is to go tobogganing together. But one winter, Papa Ant has trouble climbing the hill. He goes to the doctor and is told that he needs a heart transplant. What will the ant family do? Will anyone be able to save their Papa?



Green is very lucky. They've got a supportive dad, friendly neighbors, and good friends. They've figured out a lot of things... but they can't figure out what to do about Ronnie. Ronnie's a boy who's been in Green's class for awhile. He's sweet. Funny. And lately, Green's heart has raced a little faster whenever he's around. Green is pretty sure about their own feelings. But when it comes to how Ronnie feels, they have ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA. When Green doesn't get a part in the school musical -- a very untraditional version of The Wizard of Oz -- they join the crew to work alongside Ronnie. Is this a good idea? Green's about to find out...

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April is... National Autism Awareness Month Earth Month Sikh Heritage Month Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, and Prevention Month Organ Donor Awareness Month			1	2 	3	4 Good Friday
5	6  Easter Monday	7  World Health Day	8	9  Vimy Ridge Day	10	11
12	13  Yom HaShoah April 13-14	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 	23 	24	25
26 	27	28 National Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured at Work	29 	30		

Notes:

April 2: Autism Awareness Day

A day when people come together to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

April 6: Tartan Day

Tartans of all varieties are worn on Tartan Day, which recognizes and celebrates the contributions of the Scots and their descendants in Canada.

April 7: World Health Day

A (WHO) World Health Organization observance meant to raise awareness of the need to improve global health.

April 7: Green Shirt Day for Organ Donor Awareness and Registration

In honour of the Logan Boulet Effect, in support of organ donor awareness and registration across Canada.

April 9: Vimy Ridge Day

This is a day to commemorate the deaths and casualties of members of the Canadian Corps in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which took place during the First World War.

April 9: International Day of Pink

Take a stand and wear pink - working together to prevent homophobic and transphobic bullying.

April 22: Earth Day

This is an annual event celebrated around the world to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

April 26-May 2: National Volunteer Week

This is an opportunity to recognize and thank all the thousands of volunteers across the country who keep many organizations running, communities safe and provide services that otherwise would not exist without volunteers.

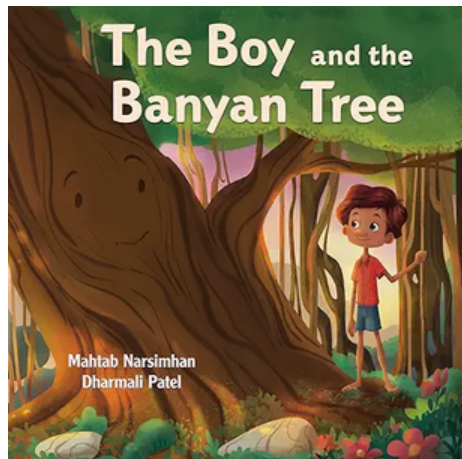
April 28: National Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured at Work

Every year on April 28 we pay our respects to, and remember, the thousands of workers who have been killed, injured or suffered illness as a result of work-related incidents.

May 2026



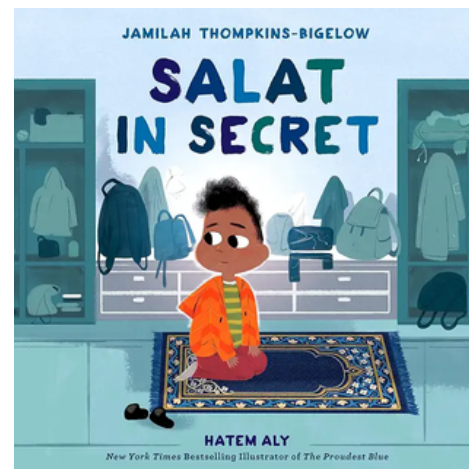
Resources:



In a small village, a little boy loves a very old banyan tree and asks her to give him the things he desires. But the banyan tree knows that granting wishes is not the answer, and that gaining skills is a greater gift, so she encourages him to learn how to do things for himself.

In this beautiful story of community, family, and acceptance, a boy named Muhammad receives a special salat rug on his seventh birthday. Seven is the age when Muslim children are encouraged to pray, and Muhammad is determined to do all five daily prayers on time. But one salat occurs during the school day--and he's worried about being seen praying at school. His father parks his truck to worship in public places, and people stare at and mock him. Will the same thing happen to Muhammad?

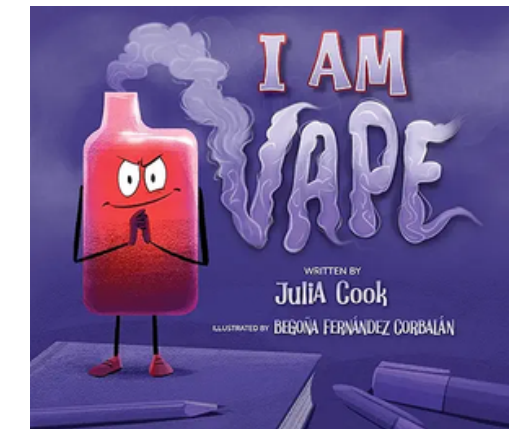
In the end, with help from his teacher, he finds the perfect place to pray.



Whether looking back to a troubled past or welcoming a hopeful future, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America resound in this book. In the same style as the best-selling Dreaming in Indian, #Not Your Princess presents an eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art that combine to express the experience of being a Native woman.



Meet Ruby-a happy, curious, imaginative girl. But one day, she finds something unexpected: a Worry. It's not such a big Worry, at first. But every day, it grows a little bigger...and a little bigger...until eventually, the Worry is ENORMOUS and all she can think about. Can she ever feel happy again? But then Ruby discovers that everyone has worries, and not only that, there's a great way to get rid of them too...she just has to share her feelings. This perceptive and poignant story is the perfect springboard for talking to children about emotions and anxieties.



In a world where "fitting in" can be confusing for children, I Am Vape unveils the truth behind a seemingly harmless trend. This powerful picture book creatively exposes the dangers of vaping to young readers in a non-scary way that they can understand.

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May is... Asian Heritage Month Dutch Heritage Month Jewish Heritage Month Mental Health Awareness Month National Speech and Hearing Month Polish Canadian Heritage Month	International Muslim History Month Asthma Awareness Month Food Allergy Awareness Month				1 National Principal's Day	2
3	4  Music Monday	5  World Asthma Day	6	7	8	9
10  BEAR WITNESS DAY May 10	11	12	13	14	15  MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN CAMPAGNE MOOSE HIDE	16  EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF DAY
17 	18  Victoria Day	19	20	21	22	23
24/31 	25	26	27 	28	29	30

Notes:

May 4: Music Monday
Music Monday brings us together to demonstrate our immense love for music and the important role it plays in the shaping of young lives.

May 5: National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Red Dress Day)
This day honours and remembers all missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two spirit people. We wear red to draw attention to the epidemic and as a call for all Canadians to remember and to take action.

May TBD: Education Week
This is an annual event celebrated by school boards and schools across Ontario. It is a time for students, teachers and parents to celebrate excellence and student achievement.

May 10: Bear Witness Day (Jordan's Principle)
Jordan's Principle is a child's first principle and legal rule named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. It ensures First Nations children receive the services and supports they need when they need them.

May 15: Moose Hide Campaign Day
Moose Hide Campaign Day is a day of ceremony where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children and to take practical steps for our collective journey of reconciliation.

May 15: International Day of Families
This is an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting them.

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
This day is to raise awareness of 2SLGBTQIA+ rights violations and to stimulate rights work in this area worldwide.

May 28: Red Shirt Day
An annual event in celebration of National AccessAbility Week. Show support for people and families living with disabilities by wearing red.

May 31: World No Tobacco Day
This day is to increase the awareness of the negative impact that tobacco has on people's lungs.

June 2026



Resources:

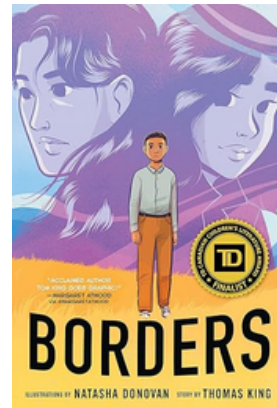


This is the story of a woman who dared to dive, defy, discover, and inspire. This is the story of Shark Lady. One of the best science picture books for children, Shark Lady is a must for both teachers and parents alike!

On a trip to visit his older sister, who has moved away from the family home on the reserve to Salt Lake City, a young boy and his mother are posed a simple question with a not-so-simple answer. Are you Canadian, the border guards ask, or American?

“Blackfoot.”

And when border guards will not accept their citizenship, mother and son wind up trapped in an all-too-real limbo between nations that do not recognize who they are.



A young girl and her family arrive in an airport in a new country. They are refugees, migrants who have travelled across the world to find safety. Strangers greet them, and one of them gives the little girl a doll. Decades later, that little girl is grown up and she has the chance to welcome a group of refugees who are newly arrived in her adopted country. To the youngest of them, a little girl, she gives a doll, knowing it will help make her feel welcome.



Phoenix loves to play with dolls and marvel at pretty fabrics. Most of all, he loves to dance—ballet, Pow Wow dancing, or just swirling and twirling around his house. Sometimes Phoenix gets picked on and he struggles with feeling different, but his mom and brother are proud of him. With their help, Phoenix learns about Two Spirit/Niizh Manidoowag people in Anishinaabe culture and just how special he is.



Once upon a time, in a kingdom far from here, there was a prince in line to take the throne, so his parents set out to find him a kind and worthy bride. The three of them traveled the land far and wide, but the prince didn't quite find what he was looking for in the princesses they met. While they were away, a terrible dragon threatened their land, and all the soldiers fled. The prince rushed back to save his kingdom from the beast and was met by a brave knight. Together they fought the dragon and discovered that special something the prince was looking for all along.

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June is... National Indigenous History Month Italian Heritage Month Filipino Heritage Month Pride Month Seniors Month Portuguese Heritage Month	1 	2	3	4	5 	6 D-Day Invasion
7	8  World Oceans Day	9	10	11  International Day of Play	12 	13  Albinism Awareness Day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20  World Refugee Day
21  Father's Day Summer Solstice	22	23 	24  Saint-Jean Baptiste	25	26	27  Canadian Multiculturalism Day
28	29	30				

Notes:

June 1-7: Canadian Environment Week

This is a time for grassroots action to help preserve, protect and restore the environment. This occurs during the week of June 5.

June 5: World Environment Day

This day aims to deepen public awareness of the need to preserve and enhance the environment.

June 6: D-Day Invasion

D-Day is a term used in military planning to mean the actual day a major operation or event is to begin. The most famous D-Day was the Normandy landings during Operation Overlord. This was the morning of June 6, 1944, when the largest naval attack in military history took place.

June 8: World Ocean's Day

This day is to raise awareness of the crucial role the sea plays in sources of food, oxygen and medicine.

June 12: World Day Against Child Labour

This day aims to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour.

June 20: World Refugee Day

This day is to bring public awareness to the unique challenges faced by the millions of refugees scattered across the globe.

June 21: National Indigenous People's Day

This day is to celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

June 23: National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism

This day is in memory of those who have lost their lives through acts of terror in Canada and around the world.

June 24: Saint-Jean Baptiste Day

On Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day and the National Day of Quebec, Francophones across the country show their pride by celebrating their language and their traditions.

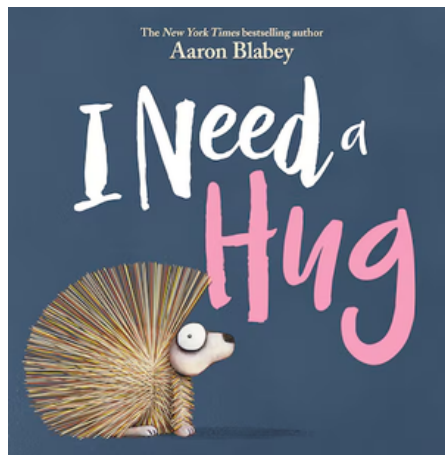
June 27: Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Multiculturalism Day is a day to set aside to celebrate the diverse communities across the country.

July 2026

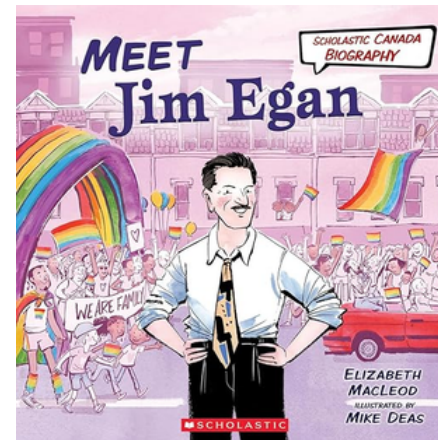


Resources:



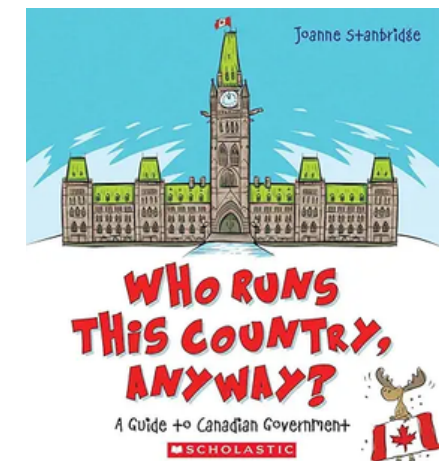
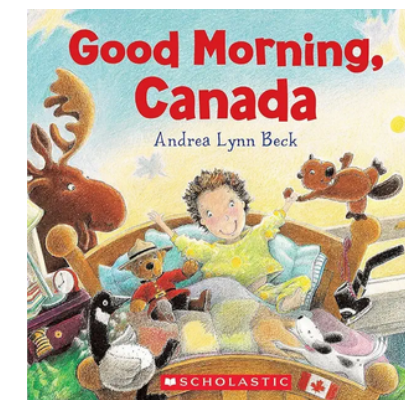
In *I Need a Hug*, a tiny porcupine just wants a cuddle. All of the other animals turn him away because of his prickly spikes. But finally the porcupine meets an animal who's happy to hug -- a snake!

Evelyn is worried about Tessa. Tessa doesn't want to play the same games they used to play together, but Evelyn is determined to find new ways to connect with her older sibling. And she is also learning to see Tessa as non-binary and using new pronouns for them. Evelyn learns quickly that it isn't hard, and helps others see that too. Through the course of this heartfelt story, Evelyn reaffirms her connection to her sibling and shows those around them how to make the effort to support Tessa — with love.



Jim was born in 1921, and he had an ordinary childhood. But as he grew up, he knew he was a little different than his friends. As a young man, Jim joined the war effort and travelled the world. He discovered there were other people like himself — he was gay. Jim hadn't even known there was a word for it when he was growing up. At that time, being identified as a member of the LGBTQ2S+ community wasn't safe. People lost their jobs, their families, got put in jail — or worse. Hiding who they were felt safer to most. But not Jim. He picked up his pen and started to fight for his rights. This battle would lead to protection for the LGBTQ2S+ community under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and open the door to further equal rights, including same-sex marriage.

As the pages turn on bright scenes and changing seasons across the country, rhyming text cheerily greets the sights and sounds of a Canadian morning. Adorable children and animals fill the pages, with scenes to pore over again and again. Each spread includes a dog, a stuffed teddy bear, and a Canadian flag for readers to find. A perfect companion to *Goodnight, Canada!*



In this easy-to-read, information-packed book, a comical duo (a keener student and her offbeat sidekick) guide readers through Canada's electoral and governing process. Nine chapters take the reader through topics like Confederation, federalism, monarchy, elections and voting, minority and majority governments, a day in the House of Commons — plus updated items on Senate Reform and new legislation like the Fair Election act.

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July is... Disability Pride Month			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  WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS International Day of Friendship	31	

Notes:

July 1: Canada Day
The National day of Canada which is a federal statutory holiday. This day celebrates the anniversary of July 1, 1867, the effective date of the constitution Act, 1867, which united the three separate colonies of the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into a single Dominion within the British Empire called Canada.

July 14: International Non-Binary People's Day
International Non-Binary People's Day is observed each year on 14 July and is aimed at raising awareness and organising around the issues faced by non-binary people around the world.

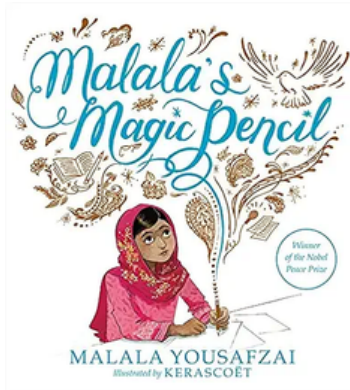
July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day
This is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact.

July 28: Day of the Commemoration of the Great Upheaval
This is a day acknowledging Britain's expulsion of the Acadian settlers from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, under a deportation order issued by King George II on 28 July 1755.

August 2026

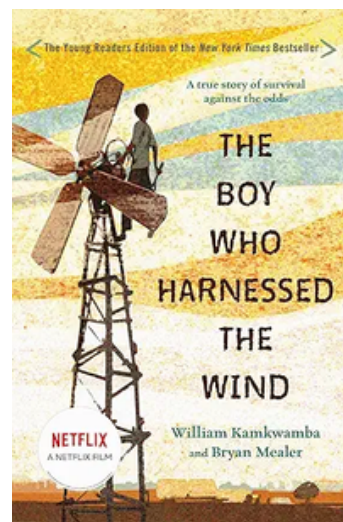


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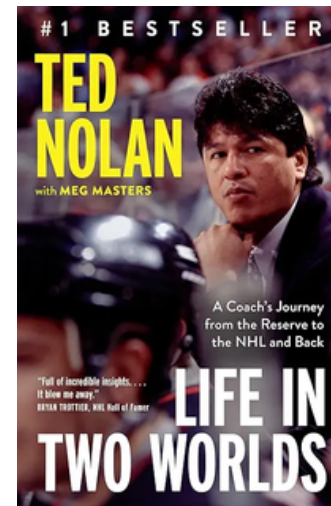


As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.

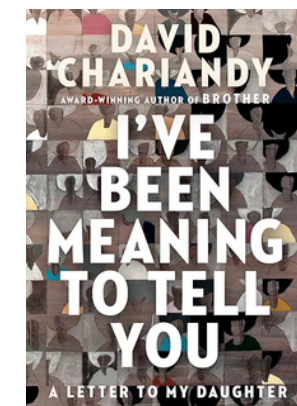
When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.



Life in Two Worlds chronicles Ted Nolan's controversial years as head coach for the Buffalo Sabres—and recounts how being shut out from the NHL left Ted frustrated, angry, and so vulnerable he almost destroyed his own life. It also tells of Ted's inspiring recovery and his eventual return to a job he loved. But Life in Two Worlds is more than a story of succeeding against the odds. It's an exploration of how a beloved sport can harbour subtle but devastating racism, of how a person can find purpose when opportunity and choice are stripped away, and of how focusing on what really matters can bring two worlds together.



When a moment of quietly ignored bigotry prompted his three-year-old daughter to ask "what happened?" David Chariandy began wondering how to discuss with his children the politics of race. A decade later, in a newly heated era of both struggle and divisions, he writes a letter to his now thirteen-year-old daughter. David is the son of Black and South Asian migrants from Trinidad, and he draws upon his personal and ancestral past, including the legacies of slavery, indenture, and immigration, as well as the experiences of growing up a visible minority within the land of one's birth. In sharing with his daughter his own story, he hopes to help cultivate within her a sense of identity and responsibility that balances the painful truths of the past and present with hopeful possibilities for the future.



August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						 1
2	 3	4	5	6	7	8
 9	10	11	 12	13	14	 15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

Notes:

August 1: Emancipation Day

This day marks the actual day in 1834 that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire. Each August 1, Canadians are invited to reflect, educate and engage in the ongoing fight against both anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination. Emancipation Day celebrates the strength and perseverance of Black communities in Canada.

August 4: Civic Holiday

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous People is observed on August 9 each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.

August 12: International Youth Day

The United Nations' International Youth Day is celebrated August 12 each year to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities.

August 15: National Acadian Day

August 15 marks National Acadian Day, a vibrant cultural celebration for the Acadian people throughout Canada. It commemorates the rich heritage and history of Acadian communities, descendants of French settlers who arrived in the 17th century.

Days of Significance 2025

Please note that dates may vary depending on the type of calendar a community is following. Please also note that communities are diverse and will observe days differently.

September

August 28 - September 6	Dashlakshan Parv - Jainism In these 10 days, people focus on the 10 virtues of Jain teachings and reflect on the self including thoughts, actions, and speech.
September 4 - 5	Mawlid al-Nabiy - Islam Mawlid al-Nabiy is celebrated in Muslim communities as the birthday of their prophet Mohammad.
September 22	Mabon (Fall Equinox) - Wiccan Mabon, celebrated at the fall equinox, marks the transition to the approaching darkness of the coming winter months. Mabon celebrations involve giving thanks for the harvest, making offerings of fruits and vegetables, and performing ceremonies.
September 22 - 24	Rosh Hashanah - Judaism Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement.
September 22 - October 1	Sharad Navaratri begins (9- night festival) - Hinduism Navaratri celebrates the victory of good and divine feminine power. Hindu communities globally celebrate this holiday in unique cultural and regional ways.
September 29	Ashwina Navapada - Ayambil Oli - Jainism This is a 9-day festival occurring twice a year, in which Jains revere the Nav-pads, the nine supreme posts in the universe.

2025

October

October 1 - 2	Yom Kippur - Judaism Yom Kippur marks the culmination of the 10 Days of Awe. According to tradition, it is on Yom Kippur that God decides each person's fate, so Jews are encouraged to make amends and ask forgiveness for sins committed during the past year. Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah are known as Judaism's "High Holy Days."
October 6 - 13	Sukkot - Judaism Feast of Tabernacles/Shelters. Commemorates the years Jews survived in the desert with God's protection. It is traditionally celebrated by building a Sukkah, a temporary hut, where meals and other rituals are held. It is a holiday of Joy and thanksgiving.
October 13 - 15	Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah - Judaism Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah celebrate the conclusion of the Jewish festival of Sukkot and the reading of the Torah. This joyous time is spent with family and community.
October 13 - 15	Sharad Navaratri begins (9- night festival) - Hinduism Navaratri celebrates the victory of good and divine feminine power. Hindu communities globally celebrate this holiday in unique cultural and regional ways.
October 2	Dussehra - Hinduism Dussehra honours the battle between Lord Rama and Ravana symbolizing the victory of good over evil. This festival is celebrated in many ways among hindu communities.
October 20	Inaugural installation of the Adi Granth, the first rendition of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab in 1604 - Sikhism Each year, the Sikh community commemorates the inaugural installation of the Adi Granth, the first rendition of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab in 1604. Today, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib is considered the primary scripture of the Sikh community and is regarded as the final, sovereign and eternal Guru.

2025

October

October 20	Bandi Chhor Divas - Sikhism A Sikh celebration for the release of Guru Hargobind and other innocent followers from prison in the 1600s. Falling on the same day as Diwali, this day is also celebrated with lights and fireworks.
October 20	Diwali - Hinduism Diwali, Deepvali, or the Festival of Lights is a major holiday observed ny Hindu, Jain, Sikh, and some Buddhist communities. It is celebrated with lights, gifts, feasts, and fireworks to celebrate knowledge over ignorance and good over evil.
October 21	Mahavir Nirvan - Jainism A significant day that commemorates the 24th Jain Tirthankar (spiritual teacher0 attaining Nirvana. This is a joyful day filled with festivities and homes decorated with lights to symbolize knowledge and bliss.
October 31 (evening) - November 1	Samhain - Wiccan/Pagan Samhain (pronounced SAH-win or SOW-in) marks the end of the harvest, the start of the Pagan/Wiccan New Year, and the honoring of our ancestors and the dead. Samhain celebrations include lighting candles, setting up altars, and modern activities like costume parties, trick-or-treating, and jack-o'-lanterns.

2026

November

November 1	All Saints Day - Christian All Saints Day also known as the Feast of all Saints is a day for Christian and Roman Catholic believers to honour Saints in their history. This day is observed and celebrated in different cultural ways around the world.
November 5	Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurburab - Sikhism Guru Nanak Jayanti, also known as Gurburab or Prakash Utsav, is the day the Sikh community commemorates the birth if the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanek Dev. It is a day of reflection on the teachings of Sikhism.

2025

December

December 14-22	Hanukkah - Judaism In Hebrew, Hanukkah means “dedication,” and the holiday marks the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BC, after a small group of Jewish fighters liberated it from occupying foreign forces.
December 21	Yalda - Zoroastrian A celebration of the winter solstice, gradual lengthening of day and good over evil.
December 21	Yule - Wiccan Yule, celebrated at the winter solstice, marks the day on which the “sun is reborn.” Yule celebrations include the burning of the Yule log, kissing under the mistletoe, decorating homes with holly and evergreen branches, and performing rituals to welcome the return of the sun’s warmth and light to the world.
December 23	Human Light Day - Humanist HumanLight is a Humanist holiday celebrated annually on December 23. HumanLight was first celebrated in 200, and was created to provide a specifically Humanist celebration during the western world’s holiday season.
December 25	Christmas - Christian A religious and cultural holiday. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the birthday of Jesus with gift giving and other festivities.
December 26 - January 1	Kwanzaa - Interfaith Kwanzaa is a 7 day holiday celebrating African heritage, culture, and community through communal feasts, drumming and dance.
December 26	Zartosht no deeso - Zoroastrian Death of Prophet Zarathustra, the founder of the Zoroastrian faith is observed by attending the temple or spent in remembrance of the teachings of the faith.

2026

January

January 1 - 2	Hazarat Ali's Birthday - Islam Ali ibn Ali Talib was the son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad and is an important historical figure in Islam. His birthday is celebrated by Shias, who regard him as their first Imam and refer to him as Imam Ali or Hazrat Ali.
January 3	Mahayana New Year - Buddhism For Mahayana Buddhists, the new year is a time for meditation and self reflection. The goal is to find ways to improve and learn from past mistakes.
January 6	Epiphany/Orthodox Christianity Theophany - Christian Celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world, the visiting of the wise men whi acknowledged Jesus as the son of God.
January 7	Orthodox Christmas A 3-day celebration of the birth of Jesus. Can include fasting on Christmas Eve and Holy Night Supper at the appearance of the firt star.
January 13	Lohri - Sikhism Mostly celebrated in Northern India, this day marks the end of the short days of winter and the onset of longer days and spring. It is also a time to pray for prosperity and be thankful for harvest, food, and joy.
January 14	Orthodox Christian New Year - Orthodox Christian This New Year is based on the Julian calendar and can include New Year Day's liturgies at churches. Celebrations include social gatherings.

2026

January

January 14	Makar Sankranti - Hinduism This day follows the solar calendar and the transitioning of the sun that marks the end of the winter. Generally this day includes expressions of gratitude and prayers for a prosperous year; however, it is celebrated in unique ways among the various cultures found in South Asia.
January 16	Laylat al-Miraj - Islam Observance to commemorate the miraculous journey of Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Al Quds and to the heavens.
January 20	Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti - Sikhism This day honours Sikh leader Guru Gobind Singh and marks his birthday. It is a day of reflection on his teachings.
January 23	Vasant Panchami - Hinduism This festival is celebrated by various Dharmic faiths in preparation for the arrival of spring. This festival also includes the worship of Saraswati, goddess of knowledge.

2026

February

February 1	Imbolc - Wiccan/Pagan Celebration of the midpoint between winter solstice and spring equinox. It is also a time to celebrate and thank St. Brigid and her promise to bring life back to the land after winter.
February 12	Darwin Day - Humanist Darwin Day is held annually on February 12, the birthday of Charles Darwin. The holiday honours the life and work of English naturalist Charles Darwin. Also known as International Darwin Day, the day is a celebration of science and humanity.
February 15	Nirvan Day - Buddhism Commemorating the day of Buddha's passing and attaining Nirvana. People meditate and visit places of worship. Families and friends also gather for food and the exchanging of gifts.
February 15	Mahashivratri - Hinduism Maha Shivratri is a major Hindu observance and worship of Lord Shiva. It is a more solemn holiday that includes chanting of prayers and mantras, meditating, and self reflection or virtues like non-violence and honesty.
February 17 - March 19	Ramadan - Islam Ramadan is celebrated worldwide as a month of fasting from sunrise to sunset, prayer, reflection, and community. Ramadan is a time of contemplation, devotion and practice of self-restraint.
February 18	Ash Wednesday - Christianity Ash Wednesday is the first day of lent that Christians can observe by praying, fasting, abstaining from meat, and/or using ashes from burned palm leaves to mark ones head.

2026

March

March 2-3	Purim - Judaism Purim is a day of celebration commemorating a story from the Hebrew Bible of the survival of Jewish people from Haman. A day of public celebrations, parades and wearing of costumes and masks.
March 3	Magha Puja Day - Buddhism This day refers to the worship that takes place on the full moon day of the third lunar month. The celebration is held to commemorate the day on which Lord buddha gave “Ovadha Patimokkha” (The Fundamental Teachings) to the assembly of Buddhist monks.
March 4	Holi - Hinduism Festival of Spring or Festival of Colours, this Hindu festival is commonly celebrated with throwing colourful powders, dancing and sharing sweets.
March 4 - 6	Hola Mohalla - Sikhism Mohalla conveys the message of courage and defense preparation, concepts dear to the Tenth Guru, who defended the Sikhs against the threats of the Mughal Empire and the Hill Kings.
March 19 - 20	Eid al-Fitr - Islam Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is a time of official receptions and private visits, when friends greet one another, presents are given, new clothes are worn, and the graves of relatives are visited.
March 19 - 27	Chaitra Navratri - Hinduism The spring festival is devoted to goddess Durga, whose nine forms are worshipped on nine days.
March 20	Ostara (Spring Equinox) - Wiccan A solar holiday that celebrates the life-giving strength of the sun and the return of spring. It is celebrated on the longest day of the year when the sun is at its strongest.

2026

March

March 20	Norooz/Nowruz - Zoroastrian, Baha'i, Iranian Nowruz is the Iranian New Year, also known as the Persian New Year, which begins on the spring equinox, marking the first day of Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian solar calendar.
March 25 - April 2	Chaitra Navapada - Ayambil Oil - Jainism This is a nine-day festival occurring twice a year. It is a day of reverence of the nine supreme posts in the universe. This observance involves fasting during which only boiled grains can be consumed.
March 26	Ram Navami - Hinduism Ram Navami celebrates the birth of Lord Rama - the seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu by reciting/re-enacting stories of Lord Rama, visiting temples, offering prayers and participating in puja ceremonies.
March 29	Palm Sunday - Christian Celebrates the day Christ entered Jerusalem where he was greeted by people waving palm branches. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Holy Week.
March 31	Mahavir Jayanti - Jainism An important Jain festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Mahavir, a spiritual guide and the founder of Jainism. Celebrations include various rituals and beautiful chariot processions.

2026

April

April 1	Hanuman Jayanti - Hinduism A festival celebrating the birth of Hanuman, and ardent devotee of Lord Rama. It is celebrated differently in different parts of India and amongst the Indian diaspora around the world by offering prayers, distributing sweets and chanting devotional hymns.
April 1 - 9	Passover - Judaism Passover, Pesach or the Festival of Liberation is a major Jewish holiday that celebrates the Exodus from ancient Egypt. This week long celebration includes story telling, lighting candles, and a ritual feast.
April 2	Maundy Thursday - Christian Commemorates the Last Supper with Christ and his disciples. This day is part of the Christian Holy Week
April 3	Good Friday - Christian Commemorates the crucifixion of Christ. Can include fasting and prayer as part of the Holy Week.
April 5	Easter - Christian Celebrates the resurrection of Christ. It is a joyful day with prayer, and gathering of family and friends for games and festivities.
April 10	Good Friday - Orthodox Christianity A solemn day of mourning marking the crucifixion of Christ. Can include fasting and prayer and the Passion of Christ in Church.
April 12	Pascha (Easter) - Orthodox Christianity Day of Easter for Orthodox Christians that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

2026

April

April 13	Theravada New Year - Baha’i Theravāda New Year, also known as Songkran, is the water-splashing festival celebration in the traditional new year for the Theravada Buddhist calendar.
April 14	Vaisakhi - Sikhism This holiday celebrates the solar new year and spring harvest festival.Also commemorates the establishment of the khalsa under Guru Gobind Singh.
April 21 - May 2	Festival of Ridvan - Baha’i The Festival of Ridvan meaning “The King of Festivals” runs for 12 days to commemorate the 12 days of Baha’u’llah spent in the garden of Ridvan outside Baghdad. The 1st, 9th, and 12th days are holy days on which work is suspended.

2026

May

May 1	Beltane - Wiccan Celebrates the peak of spring, also called May Day. Fire is involved in the celebrations and celebrates the coming of summer and fertility for the upcoming year.
May 1	Vesak - Buddhism On Vesak, devout Buddhists and followers alike assemble in their various temples before dawn for the ceremonial and honorable hoisting of the Buddhist flag and the singing of hymns in praise of the holy triple gem: The Buddha, The Dharma (his teachings), and The Sangha (his disciples).
May 21 - 23	Shavuot - Judaism Feast of Weeks commemorating the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai.
May 24 - 29	Hajj - Islam Hajj is a sacred pilgrimage that is required of every Muslim at least once in their lifetime – it is one of the five pillars of Islam.
May 25	Pentacost - Christian Celebrates the birth of the Christian church and descent of the Holy Spirit among the Apostles of Christ.
May 25 - 26	Day of Arafah - Islam The Day of Arafah is a significant event in the Islamic calendar, marking the completion of the message of Islam and the bestowal of Allah’s favor upon Prophet Muhammad. It is a day of supplication, devotion, and seeking forgiveness from Allah.
May 26 - 27	Eid al-Adha - Islam Holiday celebrated at the conclusion of Hajj. It is a 3 day event that involves a specific Eid prayer, sharing of food, meeting with family and parties.

2026

May

May 29

Ascension of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i

This holiday commemorates the anniversary of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder of the baha'i faith. Baha'u'llah was seventy-five years old when he passed away on May 29, 1892.

2026

June

June 3 - 4	Eid al-Ghadir - Islam Eid Al-Ghadeer is a day celebrated by Shia Muslims. It commemorates the day that Ali ibn Ali Talib, the cousin of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), was appointed as the religious leader to come after the death of the Prophet.
June 16 - 17	Islamic New Year - Islam Also called the Hijri New Year, follows the lunar calendar that starts from day of migration of Muhammad from Mecca to Madina (approx 622 CE).
June 20	Litha (Summer Solstice) - Wiccan A solar holiday that celebrates the life-giving strength of the sun. It is celebrated on the longest day when the sun is at its strongest.
June 21	World Humanist Day - Humanist Originating in 1980, this day is celebrated annually by Humanist chapters around the world in a variety of ways. On this day, people focus on raising awareness of Humanist values and the philosophy behind the movement.
June 25 - 26	Ashura - Islam Sunni Muslims may fast this day to commemorate Moses and the freeing of Jews from Pharoah. For Shia and other Muslim Communities, this marks the day that Muhammad's grandsons were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in Iraq. Many make pilgrimage to Karbala and mark this day with public ceremonies and mourning rituals.

2026

July

July 22 - 23	Tisha V'av - Judaism Tisha B'Av is an annual fast day in Judaism. A commemoration of a number of disasters in Jewish history, primarily the destruction of both Solomon's Temple by the Neo-Babylonian Empire and the Second Temple by the Roman Empire in Jerusalem.
July 29	Guru Poornima - Jainism/Buddhism/Hinduism A day to celebrate and give thanks to spiritual teachers, Gurus, past and present in Dharmic faiths.

2026

August

August 1	Lammas - Wiccan Lammas, also known as Loafmas or Lughnasadh, commemorates the harvest of the first grains, primarily for breadmaking. Lughnasadh itself is named after Lugh, a Celtic deity associated with grain. Lammas celebrations include feasting, crafting corn dollies, and participating in games and contests as a way to honor Lugh and the bounty of the season.
August 4 - 5	Arbaeen - Islam Arbaeen signifies the end of a 40-day mourning period for Hussein and others killed at Karbala.
August 26	Mawlid al-Nabiy - Islam Mawlid al-Nabiy is celebrated in Muslim communities as the birthday of their prophet, Muhammad.
August 28	Raksha Bandhan - Hinduism This popular Hindu and South Asian ceremony celebrates the bond between siblings during which sisters tie a rakhi (amulet) around the wrists of their brothers symbolically for their protection and brothers give gifts to their sisters.