



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DAYS OF RECOGNITION

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9

Drafted

Meeting Date

March 29, 2022

April 5, 2022

Shazia Vlahos, Chief of Communications & Government Relations

INFORMATION REPORT

Vision: *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

Mission: *Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce
Associate Director of Facilities,
Business & Community Development

Ryan Putnam
Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Regular Board meeting on March 24, 2022, the Board deferred debate on a notice of motion seeking recognition of a new day to the Student Achievement and Well-Being meeting on April 5, 2022. At that time, it was also requested that staff come back with information about a process for days of recognition moving forward.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 4 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. Request at the Regular Board meeting on March 24, 2022, that staff come back with information about a process for days of recognition moving forward.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Request at the Regular Board meeting on March 24, 2022, that staff come back with information about a process for days of recognition moving forward.
2. In an effort to create more inclusive school communities and to better reflect our diversity, the Communications Department and central departments work together to determine additional days of recognition.
3. To date, TCDSB's system calendar consists of dates from the following sources including:
 - a. Ministry of Education school year calendar;
 - b. Board proclaimed days and heritage months following a Trustee motion;
 - c. Catholic/liturgical days of celebration and recognition, and other major religious holidays; and
 - d. International, [federal](#) and [provincial](#) days of celebration and commemoration.
4. Each month averages between 10-20+ days of recognition. May, June and October are the busiest months where the Board recognizes approximately 20+ month/days.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The Communications Department reached out to all Catholic DSBs and Boards in the GTA to review their calendar for recognizing days/months.

2. Responses received to date are from Toronto District School Board, York Region DSB, Ottawa Catholic, Niagara Catholic, Durham Catholic, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic, and Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic.
3. After reviewing all the responses, please note the following observations:
 - a. Calendar of dates continues to evolve and is not meant to be comprehensive of every possible day of recognition.
 - b. Days/months recognized are aligned with the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario. Most also recognize international days using the United Nations as a source.
 - c. Central staff are responsible for identifying and maintaining a calendar of dates based on above noted sources.
 - d. Heritage Months were typically motioned by Trustees, if not already recognized.
 - e. Days recognizing a person or historical event, not already recognized internationally, federally or provincially, were not apparent in the lists reviewed or a common practice.
4. There have been instances where the name for a TCDSB day of recognition has varied (ie. different in a motion than what is more commonly used) and instances where dates change annually.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. The Communications Department includes all days of recognition on the TCDSB website, weekly wrap-up, and on social media channels.
2. When applicable resources are needed, central departments prepare and share information with staff and school communities.
3. Requests for suggested additions, can be made to equity.dept@tcdsb.org and will be reviewed by central staff.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board of Trustees.

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

Major Religious Holiday

Commemorative (Provincial/National)

Dignity of the Person

This document outlines special dates and observances that are recognized by the Toronto Catholic District School Board. *indicates dates that can change each year depending on day of the week

Access the links to jump to a month:

[September](#)[December](#)[March](#)[June](#)[October](#)[January](#)[April](#)[November](#)[February](#)[May](#)

For reference, the Board celebrates a total of the following observances in a calendar year:

- 13 Board Proclaimed Heritage Months
- 11 Observed Commemorative Months
- 144 Observance Dates

BOARD PROCLAIMED HERITAGE MONTHS

September	Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month
October	Latin Hispanic Canadian Heritage Month
January	Tamil Heritage Month
February	African Canadian Heritage Month
March	Celtic Canadian Heritage Month
May	Asian Canadian Heritage Month
May	Polish Canadian Heritage Month
June	Filipino Canadian Heritage Month
June	Portuguese Canadian Heritage Month
June	Italian Canadian Heritage Month
June	Tamil Heritage Month
June	Indigenous History Month
June	Pride Month

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

Major Religious Holiday

Commemorative (Provincial/National)

Dignity of the Person

OBSERVED COMMEMORATIVE MONTHS

October	Women's History Month	National
October	Autism Awareness Month	National
October	National Principals Month	National
October	Child Abuse Prevention Month	National
October	Learning Disabilities Awareness Month	Provincial
February	Psychology Month	National
March	National Engineering Month	National
March	Nutrition Month	Board
April	Volunteer Appreciation Month	Board
May	Speech, Language and Hearing Month	Board
June	National Deaf Blind Month	National

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

Major Religious Holiday

Commemorative (Provincial/National)

Dignity of the Person

SEPTEMBER OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Hospitality

September	Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month	Board
September 5	International Day of Charity	International
First Monday in	Labour Day	National
September 7	Ukrainian Heritage Day	Board
September 8	UN Literacy Day	International
First Sunday after Labour Day*	Grandparents' Day	National
September 9	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day	Board/National
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	International
September 19-20*	Rosh Hashanah (Judaism - New Year)	Religious
September 25	Rowan's Law Day	Provincial
September 27-28*	Yom Kippur (Judaism - Day of Atonement)	Religious
September 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day	National

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

Major Religious Holiday

Commemorative (Provincial/National)

Dignity of the Person

OCTOBER OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Gratitude

October	Women's History Month	National
	Latin Hispanic Canadian Heritage Month	Board
	Autism Awareness Month	National
	National Principals Month	National
	Child Abuse Prevention Month	National
	Learning Disabilities Awareness Month	Provincial
October 2*	Walk to School Day	Provincial
October 2	National Custodial Workers Day	National
October 5*	World Teachers Day	International
First Friday in	Rosary Day	Board
October 10	World Mental Health Day	International
October 11	International Day of the Girl	International
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	International
Third Week in October*	Waste Reduction Week	National
	School Bus Safety Week	National
October 23*	Bus Driver Appreciation Day	Provincial
October 23*	Take Me Outside Day	National
October 24*	Early Childhood Educator and Child Care Worker Appreciation Day	Provincial
October 27	Dress Purple Day	Provincial
Last Week in	Down Syndrome Awareness Week	Board

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

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NOVEMBER OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Peace Making

November 1	All Saints Day	Religious
November 2	All Souls Day	Religious
First Week of November*	Down Syndrome Awareness Week	National
	Holocaust Education Week	National
	Treaties Recognition Week	National
	Take Our Kids to Work Day	National
November 11	Remembrance Day	National
November 14*	Diwali begins (Festival of Lights - Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism)	Religious
November 16	Louis Riel Day	National
Third Week of November*	Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week	National
	National Holodomor Awareness Week	National
November 20	National Child Day	National
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	International

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DECEMBER OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Charity

Last week of	Advent begins	Religious
First Week of	English as a Second Language Week	Board
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	International
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	International
December 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women	National
December 10	International Human Rights Day	International
December 11-18*	Hannukah (Judaism - Festival of Lights)	Religious
December 12	National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous People in Canada	National
December 24	Advent Ends	Religious
December 25	Christmas	Holiday
Dec 26 - Jan 1	Kwanzaa (Interfaith)	Religious

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

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JANUARY OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Courage

January	Tamil Heritage Month	National
January 1	World Day of Peace	International
January 6	Epiphany	Religious
January 7	Eastern Rite Christmas	Religious
January 14	Eastern Rite New Year	Religious
January 20*	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	International
January 24	International Day of Education	International
January 27	Family Literacy Day	National
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	International
January 29	Bell Let's Talk Day	National

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FEBRUARY OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Love

February	African Canadian Heritage Month	Board
	Psychology Month	National
	TCDSB Energy Conservation Month	Board
	Inclusive Education Month	National
First Week of February*	Canadian School Counselling Week	National
	Interfaith Harmony Week	International
First	Winter Walk Day	National
February 11	World Day of the Sick	International
	Safer Internet Day - Canadian Centre for Child Protection	National
	UN International Day of the Girl in Science	International
February 14	St. Valentine's Day	Religious
February 16*	Shrove Tuesday	Religious
February 17*	Ash Wednesday / Lent Begins	Religious
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	International
February 21	TCDSB International Language Instructors' Appreciation Day (International Mother Language Day)	Board
February 26	Pink Shirt Day - Antibullying	National

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

Major Religious Holiday

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MARCH OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Forgiveness

March	Celtic Canadian Heritage Month	Board
	National Engineering Month	National
	Nutrition Month	Board
March 2	Education Support Staff Appreciation Day	Board
March 2 – 8	National Social Work Week	National
March 3	World Wildlife Day	International
March 6	World Day of Prayer	International
March 8	International Women's Day	International
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day	International
	International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination	International
March 22	World Water Day	International
March 23	School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day	Provincial
March 26	Purple Day – Epilepsy Awareness	National
March 27*	Earth Hour (8:30-9:30)	International
March 28*	Palm Sunday	Religious
March 28-29*	Holi - Festival of Colours (Hinduism)	Religious
March 28 -	Pesach / Passover (Judaism)	Religious

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

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APRIL OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Justice

April	Volunteer Appreciation Month	Board
April 1-5*	Holy Week / Easter (Catholic, Protestant)	Religious
April 2	Autism Awareness Day	National
Second Week of April*	ShareLife Week	Board
	Volunteer Appreciation Week	National
April 9	Vimy Ridge Day	National
April 10	Katyń Massacre and the Smolensk Air Disaster Commemoration Day	Board
April 13*	International Day of Pink – LGBTQ Anti-bullying	International
April 12 - May 11*	Ramadan (Islam - Month of Fasting)	Religious
April 14	Sri Lankan, Sinhala, and Tamil New Year	Board
April 14*	Vaisakhi (Sikhism)	Religious
April 22	Earth Day	National
	School Clean Up Day	National
	Administrative Assistants Day	National
Last Week of April*	Angel Brigade Week	Board
April 27*	Yom Hashoah* (Judaism)	Religious
April 28	Educational Assistants Appreciation Day	National
April 30*	Easter Rite - Good Friday	Religious

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

Major Religious Holiday

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MAY OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Compassion

May	Speech, Language and Hearing Month	Board
	Asian Canadian Heritage Month	Board
	Polish Canadian Heritage Month	Board
May 1	World Principals' Day	International
May 2	Pascha / Easter (Orthodox Christian)	Religious
May 3	TCDSB Polish Heritage Day	Board
May 3	World Day of Prayer for Vocations	International
1 st Week of May*	Catholic Education Week	Provincial
	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week	National
May 9	Mother's Day*	International
2 nd Week of May*	Respect for Life Week	National
May 12	Day of Action on Litter	Provincial
May 13*	Eid-al-Fitr (Islam)	Religious
May 14	Children and Youth in Care Day	Provincial
May 15	International Day of Families	International
May 16	Newcomer Day (Toronto)	City
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia	International
May 23*	Pentecost (Roman Catholic, Protestant)	Religious
May 24*	Victoria Day	National
May 27	Brain Cancer Awareness Grey Day	Board/City
Last Week of May*	Digital Literacy Week	City
	Bike to School Week	National

TCDSB OBSERVANCES

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Commemorative (Provincial/National)

Dignity of the Person

May 29*	World Catholic Education Day	International
May 30	Trinity Sunday (Catholic, Protestant)	Religious

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TCDSB OBSERVANCES

Major Religious Holiday

Commemorative (Provincial/National)

Dignity of the Person

JUNE OBSERVANCES

Virtue: Faithfulness

June	Filipino Canadian Heritage Month	Board
	Portuguese Canadian Heritage Month	Board
	Italian Canadian Heritage Month	Board
	National Deaf Blind Month	National
	Indigenous History Month	National
	Pride Month	National
1 st Week of June*	Indigenous Education Week	National
	National Accessibility Week	National
June 3	Corpus Christi (Catholic)	International
June 5	World Environment Day	International
June 7	Filipino Heritage Day	Board
	Canadian Armed Forces Day	National
June 8	World Oceans Day	International
June 10	Ascension Day (Orthodox Christian)	Religious
June 19	World Sickle Cell Day	International
June 20	Father's Day	International
June 21	Indigenous Peoples Day	National
July*	World Youth Day (every two years)	International
	Eid al-Adha	Religious
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	International