

MONTH	HOLIDAY/EVENT	ADDITIONAL INFO
SEPTEMBER	First Day of School	<i>School always opens two days after Labour Day. The day after Labour Day is an administration day for all faculty and staff.</i>
	Welcome Back Coffee	<i>All families are invited for a coffee and a catch up right after drop-off on the first day of school in the school playground.</i>
	Welcome Back BBQ	<i>Join us for a hot dog BBQ in the school playground at pick-up on the first day of school. After school vendors will be present to answer questions about extra-curricular activities.</i>
	Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night (All Grades)	<i>These evenings fall on different dates in an attempt to allow parents with multiple children in different grades to attend.</i>
	New Parent Tea	<i>All new families are welcome to attend a meet and greet right after drop-off on a Friday morning to make a Shabbat challah.</i>
	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)	<i>All classes dismissed at 11:25 a.m. for Erev (evening of) Rosh Hashanah (if applicable); no classes on Day 1 and Day 2 of the New Year. Students will celebrate the New Year with apples and honey.</i>
OCTOBER	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	<i>All classes dismissed at 11:25 a.m. for Erev (evening of) Yom Kippur (if applicable); no classes on Yom Kippur. Students will participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities around the themes of atonement and forgiveness.</i>
	Sukkot (Harvest Festival)	<i>All classes dismissed at 11:25 a.m. for Erev (evening of) Sukkot; no classes on Day 1 and Day 2 of Sukkot. Depending on when the holiday falls, students will have lunch in a sukkah. Some classes will visit the sukkahs of their classmates and the major shuls.</i>
	Hoshanah Rabah, Shemini Atzeret and Simḥat Torah	<i>Classes in session on Hoshana Rabah; no classes on Shemini Atzeret and Simḥat Torah. Classes will engage in activities celebrating having read the entire Torah.</i>
	Individual Student Photos	<i>Retakes available in November. This photo will be used in the VTT yearbook.</i>
	Thanksgiving	<i>Canadian statutory holiday. All schools closed.</i>
	Provincial Professional Development Day	<i>Every October, teachers throughout the province gather for professional development at venues throughout the city. No classes scheduled at any public, private or independent schools.</i>
	Grade 7 Trip to Winnipeg	<i>A special trip to visit the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.</i>
NOVEMBER	Individual Photo Retakes	<i>Please pay attention to announced deadlines should you wish a photo retake.</i>
	Early Years Open House	<i>For families wishing to learn about our excellent Early Years and Senior Kindergarten program. Current families welcome to attend.</i>
	Professional Development Day	<i>Like the public system, VTT faculty have six scheduled Pro-D Days during the school year.</i>

MONTH	HOLIDAY/EVENT	ADDITIONAL INFO
NOVEMBER	Remembrance Day/Kristallnacht	<i>This is a statutory holiday. No classes in session. Either the day before or the day after the holiday, Grade 3 students lead a Remembrance Day assembly for the primary grades. Grade 6 students lead a Remembrance Day and Kristallnacht assembly for the intermediate grades.</i>
	Early Dismissal Fridays begin	<i>By moving the clocks “back,” Shabbat starts much earlier come November. School dismisses at 2:20 p.m. to allow families enough time to prepare for Shabbat. This lasts until March.</i>
	Parent-Teacher/Goal Setting Conferences (Wednesday and Thursday evening)	<i>Parents have the opportunity to meet with their children’s teachers. In the intermediate grades, students may participate in and set academic and personal goals for the year with teacher and parents present. There is no school on the Friday. No 4:30 p.m. pick up for Rishonim and JK those days: 3:20 p.m. dismissal.</i>
DECEMBER	Hanukkah Celebration	<i>Each class will have a designated morning to celebrate Hanukkah</i>
	Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)	<i>Hanukkah is the only Jewish holiday that is not religious in nature thus school is in session for the duration of the festival (if it’s not during winter break). Students will engage in learning and activities related to the holiday. Look for our morning “buskers.”</i>
	School Closes for Winter Break / Report Cards Issued Online	<i>VTT closes for two weeks for winter break. Report cards can be accessed on the parent portal at parents.talmudtorah.com</i>
JANUARY	Grade 7 Roots and Wings Havdallah Evening	<i>Roots and Wings is a Grade 7 identity and family history project. Students lead a special havdallah service one evening in January to showcase their incredible masterpieces.</i>
	Professional Development Day	<i>Like the public system, VTT faculty have six scheduled Pro-D Days during the school year.</i>
	Strathcona Raffle Fundraising Begins	<i>Grade 7 students spend their final week of school at VTT at Strathcona Park and Lodge near Campbell River. Students and parents hold a raffle to help offset the cost of this memorable outdoor education program. This trip has been running for 30+ years.</i>
	Tu B'Shevat (the beginning of the new year for trees)	<i>During this festival, many classrooms hold a Tu B'Shevat Seder with fruits originating from the Holy Land (the seven species). JNF often comes to VTT to do programming related to the environment.</i>
FEBRUARY	BC Family Day	<i>This is a statutory holiday. No classes in session.</i>
	Grade 2 Tefilah Breakfast	<i>Grade 2 students lead a morning prayer service for their families followed by a light breakfast--service in Hebrew!</i>
	Professional Development Day for all Jewish day school faculty	<i>Faculty from all the Jewish day schools gather for a day of professional growth and learning.</i>
	Grade 6 Shabbaton	<i>Our Grade 6 students join with students from other Jewish day schools in the Pacific Northwest/Alberta to spend a meaningful Shabbat weekend together.</i>

MONTH	HOLIDAY/EVENT	ADDITIONAL INFO
MARCH	Class Photos	<i>No retakes for this one! Check the exact date so your child does not miss out!</i>
	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Wednesday and Thursday evening)	<i>Parents have the opportunity to meet with their children's teachers to discuss student progress. There is no school on the Friday.</i>
	Purim	<i>VTT holds a fun and lively Purim carnival every year. Students are expected to come to school in costume. School dismisses at 11:25 a.m.</i>
	Regular Friday Dismissal Resumes	<i>Once clocks "fall back," Shabbat ends later and VTT reverts to a regular 3:20 p.m. dismissal.</i>
	VTT Spring Musical	<i>All students in Grades 5 through 7 are welcome to audition and participate. All students are given a role. Performances take place during three evenings, with one matinee, at the JCC Norman Rothstein Theatre.</i>
APRIL	School closes for Passover Break	<i>VTT's Spring Break. School is closed for two weeks in concert with the holiday. Prior to Passover, classes learn the holiday rituals and hold classroom Seders. VTT parents prepare all the required food.</i>
	Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	<i>Grade 7 students lead an assembly for intermediate grades to mark this sombre anniversary.</i>
	Professional Development Day	<i>Like the public system, VTT faculty have six scheduled Pro-D Days during the school year.</i>
MAY	Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Remembrance Day)	<i>Grade 7 students lead an assembly for intermediate grades to remember our fallen Israeli soldiers.</i>
	Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day)	<i>This day is dedicated to celebrating the establishment of the State of Israel. Israeli-themed activities occur throughout the day.</i>
	Lag Ba'Omer (a festival commemorating the passing of the great sage and mystic, Shimon Bar Yochai, the author of the Zohar)	<i>To celebrate this festival, students enjoy time outdoors and picnics in nature. Grade 7 students often organize a 5KM run to Kits Beach to raise money for their teen philanthropy program.</i>
	Victoria Day	<i>This is a statutory holiday. No classes in session.</i>
	Professional Development Day	<i>Like the public system, VTT faculty have six scheduled Pro-D Days during the school year.</i>
	Discovery Day	<i>All incoming Senior Kindergarten students and their families are invited to a morning open house as a prelude to September.</i>

Did you know that VTT's Google calendar can be downloaded and synched to your computer or mobile device? When in doubt, rely on our web-based calendar. Go to talmudtorah.com/calendar for instructions.

MONTH	HOLIDAY/EVENT	ADDITIONAL INFO
JUNE	Shavuot (<i>celebrating the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai</i>)	No classes on Day 1 and Day 2 of Shavuot. Students engage in activities related to the Ten Commandments.
	Yom Maccabiyah (Sports Day)	Students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 7 represent their house teams and participate in an afternoon of friendly competition.
	Grade 6 Interfaith Shabbat Kiddush	After interviewing people of different faiths, Grade 6 students invite their interviewees to enjoy a Shabbat kiddush at VTT.
	Grade 7 MVP (Mitzvah of Valuing Philanthropy) Ceremony of Giving	As part of their Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) studies, students invite selected non-profits agencies to receive a monetary allocation (raised by the students) at a ceremony marking the conclusion of their first philanthropic endeavour.
	Grade 1 Siddur (Prayer) Celebration	Parents are invited to spend a morning marvelling at their children's Hebrew language skills as well as first set of learned Jewish prayers. All students given an official Siddur. This prayer book will remain with them for the duration of their years at Talmud Torah.
	Grade 2 Torah Celebration	Grade 2 students will demonstrate their knowledge of Torah--all in Hebrew--to their parents! Students receive a mini Torah as a memento.
	Senior Kindergarten Siyyum Conclusion Ceremony	Parents, relatives and friends are invited to celebrate the conclusion of Senior Kindergarten. Through song and dance, students display their growth and learning.
	Junior and Senior Band Spring Concert	An opportunity for our band students in Grade 4 to 7 to showcase their progress.
	Annual Rishonim and Junior Kindergarten Picnic	Students and their families meet at Maple Grove Park for a final gathering and goodbye.
	Grade 7 Outdoor Education Trip to Strathcona Park and Lodge	This is a much anticipated conclusion to the Talmud Torah journey for Grade 7s. For five days our students challenge themselves personally and physically and bond with their classmates for one last hurrah!
	Year End Assembly	Students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 7 gather for one last school assembly. It is here we say goodbye to retiring teachers and recognize exceptional student service, athleticism and artistic skills.
	Grade 7 Graduation	Rarely a dry eye in the house at this graduation ceremony. For many of our students they have spent a decade with us. Every student is recognized and celebrated, having the opportunity to offer a personal reflection. Graduation closes with a lovely dessert reception hosted by Grade 6 parents.