

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 & staff.</i>
	Welcome Back Coffee	<i>All families are invited for a coffee and a catch up right after drop off on 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.</i>
	Meet the Teacher/ Curriculum Night for all grades	<i>These evenings fall on different dates in an attempt to allow parents with multiple children in different grades to attend.</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 & Day 2 of the New Year. Students will celebrate the New Year with apples & honey.</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>
OCTOBER	Thanksgiving	<i>Canadian statutory holiday. All schools closed.</i>
	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	<i>All classes dismissed at 11:25 a.m. for Erev (evening of) Yom Kippour (if applicable); no classes on Yom Kippour. 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 & 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>
	Individual Student Photos	<i>Retakes available in November. This photo will be used in the VTT yearbook.</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>
	Hoshanah Rabah, Shemini Atzeret & Simhat Torah	<i>Classes in session on Hoshana Rabah; no classes on Shemini Atzeret and Simhat Torah. Classes will engage in activities celebrating the conclusion of reading the entire Torah.</i>
	Grade 7 Trip to Winnipeg	<i>A special trip to visit the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.</i>
	Individual Photo Retakes	<i>Please pay attention to announced deadlines should you wish for 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>

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NOVEMBER	Professional Development Day	<i>Like the public system, VTT faculty have six scheduled Pro-D Days during the school year.</i>
	Remembrance Day/ Kristallnacht	<i>This is a statutory holiday so no classes in session. Either the day before or the day after the holiday, Grade 3 students lead Remembrance Day assembly for the primary grades. Grade 6 students lead a Remembrance Day and Kristallnacht assembly for the intermediate students.</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>
	RAC (Random Acts of Chesed/Kindness) Week	<i>The entire school makes a conscientious and concerted effort to honour Torah values of kindness, justice, fairness & charity.</i>
	Parent-Teacher/Goal Setting Conferences (Wednesday & Thursday evening)	<i>Parents have the opportunity to meet with their children’s teachers. In the intermediate grades, students participate and set academic and personal goals for the year with teacher and parent present. There is no school on the Friday. No 4:30 pick up for Preschool & JK those days: 3:20 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 & 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 & Lodge in 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 day that marks 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>
	BC Family Day	<i>This is a statutory holiday. No classes in session.</i>

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FEBRUARY	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 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>
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 & 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 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 given a role. Performances take place during three evenings (and one matinee) at the JCC Norman Rothstein Theatre.</i>
	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>
APRIL	Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	<i>Grade 7 students lead an assembly for intermediate students to mark these 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>
	Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Remembrance Day)	<i>Grade 7 students lead an assembly for intermediate students to remember our Israeli fallen 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>

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MAY	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>
	Cookies in the Classrooms	<i>All incoming Senior Kindergarten students and their families are invited to a morning open house as a prelude to September.</i>
	Shavuot (Celebrating the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai)	<i>School is closed for both Day 1 and Day 2 of Shavuot. Students engage in activities related to the Ten Commandments.</i>
JUNE	Yom Maccabiyah (Sports Day)	<i>Students in SK to Grade 7 represent their house teams and participate in an afternoon of friendly competition.</i>
	Grade 6 Interfaith Shabbat Kiddush	<i>After interviewing people of different faiths, sixth grade students invite their interviewees to enjoy a Shabbat kiddush at VTT.</i>
	Grade 7 MVP (Mitzvah of Valuing Philanthropy) Ceremony of Giving	<i>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.</i>
	Grade 1 Siddur (Prayer) Celebration	<i>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.</i>
	Grade 2 Torah Celebration	<i>Second grade students will demonstrate their knowledge of Torah--all in Hebrew--to their parents! Students receive a mini Torah as a memento.</i>
	Senior Kindergarten Siyyum (conclusion) Ceremony	<i>Parents, relatives and friends are invited to celebrate the conclusion of Senior Kindergarten. Through song and dance, students display their growth and learning throughout the year.</i>
	Jr. & Sr. Band Spring Concert	<i>An opportunity for our band students in Grades 4-7 to showcase their progress throughout the year.</i>
	Annual Preschool & Junior Kindergarten Picnic	<i>Students and their families meet at Maple Grove Park for a final gathering and goodbye.</i>

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	Grade 7 Outdoor Education Trip to Strathcona Park & Lodge	<i>This is a much anticipated conclusion to our seventh graders' Talmud Torah journey. For five days our students challenge themselves in personally and physically and bond with their classmates for one last hurrah.</i>
	Year End Assembly	<i>Students in K to Grade 7 gather for one last school assembly. It is here where we say goodbye to retiring teachers and recognize exceptional student service, athleticism and artistic skills.</i>
	Grade 7 Graduation	<i>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 by having the opportunity to offer a personal reflection. Graduation closes with a lovely dessert reception hosted by Grade 6 parents.</i>