



**National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of New Zealand**

Te Rūnanga Wairua Tapu o nga Bahá'í o Aotearoa

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To whom it may concern:

Among your student population are one or more members of the Bahá'í Faith, on whose behalf we respectfully request permission for them to be excused from school on the Bahá'í Holy Days which fall on a school day. These special nine days are associated with significant events in the lives of Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, and the Báb, its Herald.

March 20 (Wednesday)	Naw-Rúz (Bahá'í New Year)
April 20 (Saturday)	First Day of the Riḍván Festival
April 28 (Sunday)	Ninth Day of the Riḍván Festival
May 1 (Wednesday)	Twelfth Day of the Riḍván Festival
May 23 (Thursday)	Declaration of the Báb
May 28 (Tuesday)	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh
July 9 (Tuesday)	Martyrdom of the Báb
November 2 (Saturday)	Birth of the Báb
November 3 (Sunday)	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh

These Holy Days are actually observed beginning at sunset on the evening before the dates listed above, and end on these dates at sunset, since days begin and end at sunset in the Bahá'í calendar. Please note that as the Bahá'í Holy Days are fixed considering characteristics of both the lunar and solar calendars, the dates provided above will vary slightly each calendar year.

It may interest you to know that the essential message of Bahá'u'lláh is that of unity. Bahá'ís can be found around the globe in nearly every country. Young and old, throughout New Zealand, are currently taking part in a process of community-building based on concepts enshrined in the Bahá'í Teachings—joining with others to learn and act for the betterment of neighbourhoods and communities, and to cultivate hope for the future. Should you wish to know more about the Bahá'í Faith, information is available at bahai.org.nz, the official website of the Bahá'í Faith in Aotearoa, or www.bahai.org.

We hope that favourable consideration will be given to this request.

Warmest greetings,
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of New Zealand

Suzanne Mahon
Chief Executive Officer