



# John Howitt Elementary School Growth Plan 2023-2024



Mr. S. Brown (Principal) and Mrs. L. Fryer (Vice Principal)

## Land Statement

John Howitt Elementary is situated on the ha-houlthees of the c̓šaaʔath and hupačasath First Nations and acknowledge that we work alongside all Nuu-chah-nulth nations as well as the Métis Nation of British Columbia to serve the children and youth of the Alberni-Clayoquot region.

School District 70 and John Howitt Elementary strives to increase awareness, understanding and integration of Nuu-chah-nulth culture, history, and language in all SD70 schools. It is part of our ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

School Logo Mural Project June 2023



Kindergarten students gifted painted drums.





## Our School Story

### John Howitt Elementary Characteristics

#### **What are the unique, positive characteristics that we celebrate in our school/community?**

At John Howitt Elementary School, we believe that students are at the heart of the choices and decisions that we make daily. We strive to ensure that our students are safe, respected, and happy members of our school community. When our students feel a positive connection to their school, school staff, and their peers, they are ready to learn and achieve to the best of their ability. Our mission statement is to create a caring, joyful school environment that inspires respectful interactions, recognizes individual strengths and needs, and encourages lifelong learning.

Our student's follow the HEROES code HONEST, ENCOURAGING, RESPECTFUL, ON TIME & READY, EMPATHY and SAFETY. This code continually provides direction for our school; "At John Howitt Elementary School, our focus is on the students. Our challenge is to help mold students to become life-long, responsible, independent learners. It is also our goal to create a safe, supportive and cooperative place of learning; where we celebrate our diversity and develop a climate of respect; encouraging students to continuously strive for their personal best."

### John Howitt Elementary Demographics

#### **What are the important demographics of our school and community?**

John Howitt Elementary is a small urban school, on the edge of the beautiful rural area of Cherry Creek, and in the shadow of the Beaufort Mountains. Our school draws from the rural Cherry Creek area and from the city of Port Alberni (North Port). We currently enroll 203 students in kindergarten to Grade 7. We have 37 Indigenous students, which makes up 21% of our student population. We have 12 Teachers and 6 Educational Assistants on our staff. We also have the support of an Elementary Counsellor. We are one of 8 Elementary Schools that are part of SD 70 Pacific Rim. For the 2023-2024 school year will be the first year of a pilot project for a Before and After-School Care Program staffed by employees from the Pacific Rim School District.

John Howitt Elementary has an active and supportive Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and the school has always enjoyed the benefit of active parents and family members who support our students and staff.

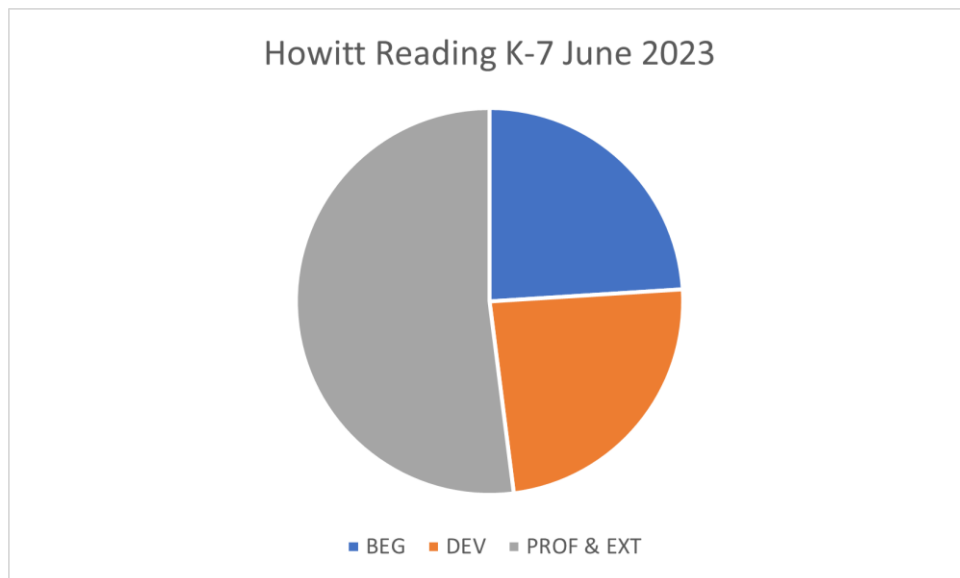
We continue to build on the work of our students and staff around growth mindset, self-regulation, solving problems peacefully, and asking for help when needed. Our goal each day is for our students to lead with kindness and show ?iisaak (respect)

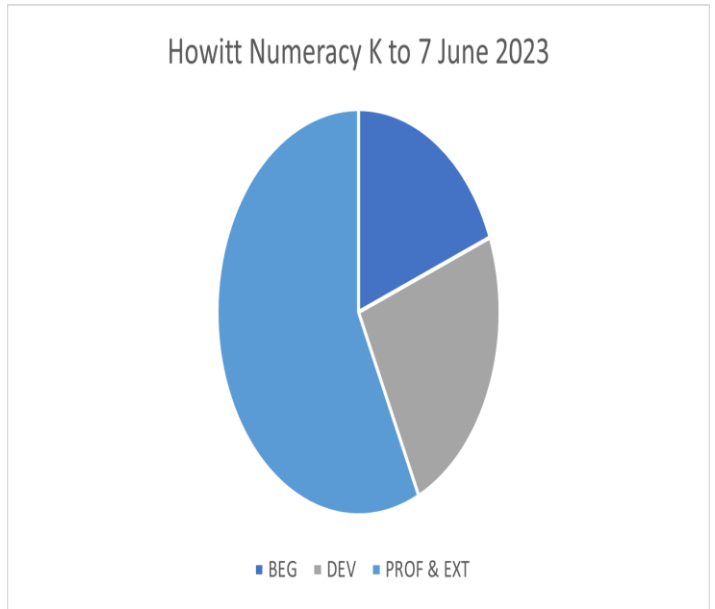
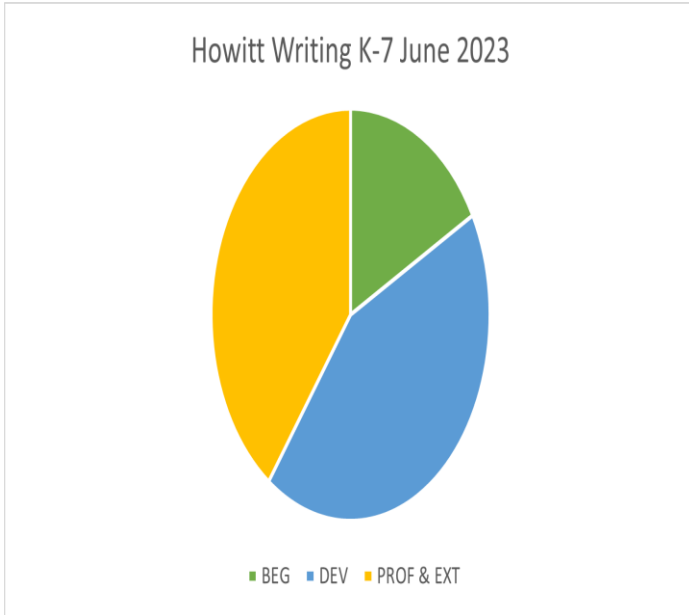


## Our School Goals- **John Howitt Elementary School Goals for 2023-2024**

- **Increase the number of students at a proficient or extending level in reading and writing (literacy).**
  - Our school goal aligns with the Board of Education Strategic Plan that is focused on Indigenous learner success, student achievement, and achievement for all.
- **Increase the number of students at a proficient or extending level in numeracy.**
  - Our school goal aligns with the Board of Education Strategic Plan that is focused on Indigenous learner success, student achievement, and achievement for all.
- **Increase the percentage of Grade 4 and 7 Students reporting two or more important adults at John Howitt Elementary.**
  - This school goal aligns with the Board of Education Strategic Plan that is focused on mental health and social emotional well-being, and safe, welcoming, and modern learning environments.

## Data/Evidence

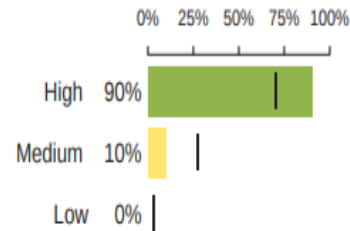




## Grade 4 Students 2022-2023

### ADULTS AT SCHOOL

Assesses the quality of relationships children have with the adults they interact with at school. e.g., "At my school there is an adult who believes I will be a success."



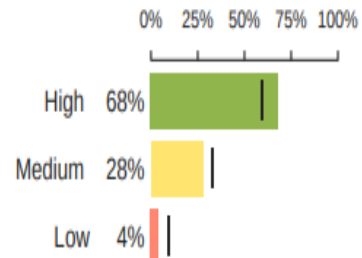
### NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ADULTS AT SCHOOL



## Grade 7 Students 2022-2023

### ADULTS AT SCHOOL

Assesses the quality of relationships children have with the adults they interact with at school. e.g., "At my school there is an adult who believes I will be a success."





### NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ADULTS AT SCHOOL



## Our School Celebration Story

We continue to celebrate our students and teachers getting out and learning together. Students and teachers are engaging in learning activities through field trips, buddy classes, and guest speakers coming into the school. Staff are exploring different ways to connect with students with after-school arts, sports, and other “fun” activities to engage with students and build relationships. As a staff we believe that building relationships and a sense of belongingness and connectedness with students and families is a key component to student achievement. We are also looking at ways to include more engaging activities at school so that students feel happy about coming to school. We are seeing our parents and families continue to support our school in a volunteer capacity for morning reading, our Parent Advisory Council events such as popcorn and hot lunch program and joining classes on field trips. Our focus academically will continue to be on reading, writing, and numeracy. Student growth in these academic areas will support them successfully making grade to grade transitions, transition to high school, and eventually helping them get to graduation with dignity, purpose, and options.

### Other areas of celebration:

- 57% of our students are at a proficient or extending level in numeracy.
- 52% of our Indigenous students are at a proficient or extending level in numeracy.
- 52% of our students are at a proficient or extending level in reading.
- 52% of our Indigenous students are at a proficient or extending level in reading.
- 55% of our students are at a proficient or extending level in writing.
- 95% of our current Grade 5 students have two or more important adults at school (above the district average)
- 90% of our Grade 5 students believe there is a staff member at our school who believes they will be a success (above the provincial average)
- Strong attendance at PAC meetings reflects our strong parent engagement at Howitt.