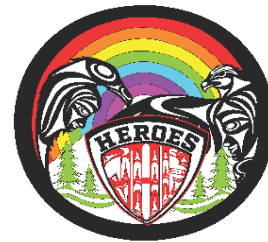


# Howitt News



2022-2023 Newsletter #2

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

With the Fall Fair over it really feels like summer is coming to an end! Hopefully we will be able to continue to have good weather for the start of fall!

Very exciting this week to welcome our Kindergarten students to Howitt full time! Their smiles and energy bring a positive boost to our school.



Please see important information about our Terry Fox Run below:

## **John Howitt Terry Fox Run: *Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>***

John Howitt will be hosting our Terry Fox Run this year on Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Students in Grades 1 to 7 will be departing the school at 8:50 am by school bus. We will be going to Blair Park and then running around the dike. We should be back to the school around 10:00 am. Please arrive to school on time so that you don't miss the bus! Any parents or family members who want to join us please meet us at Blair Park just after 9:00 am and you can join us! Strollers are welcome! We will be running rain or shine.

Kindergarten students will be running on Friday around the school as part of their Terry Fox Run.

*We are asking students to bring in a twoonie (or any donation) in support of the Terry Fox Foundation! Any questions please contact the school.*

## **John Howitt Open House:**



***Wednesday September 21,  
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm***

Come on out to meet our staff and tour the school.

Don't forget to drop by and say hello to

Mrs. Fryer in the Reset Room, Mr. Harper in the Library, or Mr. Miller in the Music Room!

**ORANGE SHIRT DAY AT JOHN HOWITT ELEMENTARY:**  
**Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Please wear orange)**

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake in May 2013. This project was the vision of Esketemc (Alkali Lake) Chief Fred Robbins, who is a former student himself. It brought together former students and their families from the Secwepemc, Tsilhqot'in, Southern Dakelh and St'at'imc Nations along with the Cariboo Regional District, the Mayors and municipalities, School Districts, and civic organizations in the Cariboo Region.

Wearing an orange shirt was designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation.

Orange Shirt Day grew out of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.



The end of September was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations.

**There will be no school on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to honour National Truth and Reconciliation Day.**

**Please consider the following start up details as we start our new school year:**

· Arrival and Departure protocol: we ask that students stay near their classrooms when they arrive in the morning and practice social distancing where they can. When leaving the school grounds our bus students will be asked to line up at our staging area and will be called to board the bus when we are ready.

· Mask wearing currently is optional and is a choice of families and students. Any student who asks for a mask will be given one. We will ask student to wash their hands or hand sanitize as they transition into class in the morning, after recess, and after lunch play time. Students will be expected to use positive respiratory etiquette and sneeze or cough into their elbow.

· *Please have your child dress appropriately for the weather. You may want to **send an extra set of clothes** that remain at school for those unpredictable weather days. **Raincoats or waterproof jackets, boots, and an umbrella will come in very handy.***



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FAMILIES:

### **Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>**

All schools are closed in British Columbia as part of the National Day of Mourning for Queen Elizabeth II. This date had previously been scheduled as our School Planning Day and there would have been no school for students. Any changes to the school district calendar will be shared later at this time we do not have an update.

### **Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>**

Howitt Open House from 5:30-6:30 pm- families are encouraged drop by your child's class to meet our staff and see where your children spend their day.

### **Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>**

Parents Advisory Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in the library. PAC executive elections for the 2022-2023 school year will take place. New members welcome!

### **Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Wear **Orange** in support of National Truth and Reconciliation Day, Residential School Survivors, and Every Child Matters

### **Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>**

National Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school)

## WHENEVER YOU VISIT THE SCHOOL

To ensure the safety of our students and to minimize the disruption to classes **please check in at the office** whenever you visit the school for whatever reason. Please come to the main office and Mrs. Behnke, Mr. Brown, or Mrs. Fryer will be able to help you. Anything to be delivered to a student can be taken can be dropped off at the office and we will deliver to the classroom. If you are picking up your child for an appointment, please make arrangements ahead of time with your child's classroom teacher. Or if it is needed, please come to the office and we will help connect you to your child. If your child is leaving early for the day, we ask that you come to the office to sign them out. Students should speak to a staff member first if they need to use their cellphone to call home.

## LUNCH PROGRAM

John Howitt has a limited number of lunches available to students starting Monday September 12<sup>th</sup>. Students require a parent or guardian to complete and sign a lunch program envelope for each month. Envelopes are available at the office. For more information on the program please contact the school.

## PARENTS HELP HOWITT HUM! Howitt P.A.C.

We have a long tradition of parent involvement at John Howitt Elementary with a wide variety of opportunities available for parent volunteers. For its size, our school community is very rich in resources and opportunities for our students thanks to the committed efforts of our parents over the years as they have worked with staff to make John Howitt a cohesive learning community dedicated to student success.

Please watch for upcoming information about P.A.C. that will be sent out in a future newsletter and on our Facebook page. **We always welcome new members!**



PAC elections will be held this fall for executive positions. **The first PAC meeting will be Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the library.**

## **SIGN IN/OUT:**

If your child is late coming to school, please ask them to come to the office to sign in. We will then help to connect them to their class. If your child needs to leave early, please let us know ahead of time and we will work to have them ready. Any student leaving early for the day will need to be signed out by a parent or guardian, or other approved adult.

## **HOMEWORK FOR PARENTS: INFO UPDATE**

We will be sending home **Demographic Verifier forms** for all students this week. The 2-sided form shows the information we have on file for your children. Please check it over carefully, make any changes or corrections on the form and sign it in the appropriate area. Please have your child **return the signed form to their teacher even if there are no changes.**



**Student Emergency Preparedness Release Form:** This form will have very important information for us in the event of an emergency like whom can we send your child(ren) in the event we cannot reach you or you cannot get to the school.

**Comfort Kit:** Each class will have a bin stored in the large container on the back field of our school, again, in the event of an emergency. If you have not completed a comfort pack, please send it in ASAP! If you need assistance with the content, please call the school.

**Privacy Consent Form:** Initial to grant permission as indicated on form.

**Indigenous Self-Identification Form:** is a form for families to consider for their students. Following the Ministry of Education guidelines, we send this home each year. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Brown or Mrs. Fryer at the school.

**BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program:** Fruits and vegetables are supplied **free for all students** to encourage healthy eating. Please fill in the form if your child has an allergy, we need to be aware of, or if you do not want your child to participate.

## **REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENT OR LATE**

If your child will be absent or late, please contact our school at (250) 723-7521. You may also email either [lbehnke@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:lbehnke@sd70.bc.ca), or your child's teacher, to report an absence. Reminder to complete the Daily Health Check if you are not feeling well and stay home if you are sick. You can also download the **BC K-12 Daily Health Check** app for your smart phone. If you are in need of a COVID test kit, please contact the school.





[www.sd70.bc.ca](http://www.sd70.bc.ca)

## PACIFIC RIM SCHOOLS AND JOHN HOWITT ELEMENTARY APP FOR SMARTPHONES AND TABLETS:

You can now download the Pacific Rim School app to your iPhone, iPad, or android device. Search Pacific Rim Schools in the app store. Very easy to set up, and you can select multiple SD70 schools. So, if you have students at Howitt and ADSS you can set up the app to receive information from both schools. You will be able to see the school calendar, news items, and more.

## 2022-2023 Important Dates

To assist you in your long-term planning the following days are listed as important events and days that will not be in session for students at John Howitt Elementary:

September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Fox Run (morning start, please arrive on time to school, Students in Gr 1 to 7)
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	School closed for the National Day of Mourning for Queen Elizabeth II.
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Howitt Open House: 5:30-6:30 pm
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 6:30 pm in the Library
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Orange Shirt Day & Truth and Reconciliation assembly ( <b>wear orange please</b> )
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	National Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school)
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Thanksgiving
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Individual Student Photos
October 18,19,20 <sup>th</sup>	Student Led Conferences (early dismissal at noon)
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween @ Howitt (Monday)
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day at Howitt
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Remembrance Day
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Retakes (9:30 AM start)
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Student progress reports sent home
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School before Winter Break
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> to Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Winter Break
January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School Re-Opens (Tuesday)
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Family Day
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day before Spring Break
March 13 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break (two weeks)
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	School Re-Opens

April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Good Friday
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Easter Monday
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Victoria Day
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	National Aboriginal Day (school in session)
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	First day of Summer
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School

Sincerely,

Mr. S. Brown  
Principal

Sincerely,

Mrs. L. Fryer  
Acting Vice Principal

