



# Howitt News



2023-2024 Newsletter #2

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

John Howitt is having several events this week as part of our commitment to truth and reconciliation and learning about the impact of residential schools, in our community and across Canada. The Alberni Indian Residential School was located not far from John Howitt Elementary and only closed in 1973. Learning about the Residential Schools Survivors Flag, Orange Shirt Day, and Truth and Reconciliation has been happening throughout September. We will be having a **Residential School Survivors Flag unveiling** on *Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023*, and we will continue our learning on Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to honour Truth and Reconciliation Day (Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023). Orange Shirt Day is a day to honour the experiences and healing journey of residential school survivors and their families, and to commit to an ongoing process of truth and reconciliation.

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, a former student of St. Joseph Mission Residential School (1891-1981) shared her story for the first time in 2013 as part of a commemorative event and reunion held in Williams Lake. During this event, Phyllis shared when she turned six and her granny took her to town where she bought a shiny new orange shirt with a string laced up the front to wear on her first day of school. When she arrived at St. Joseph's, the shirt was taken away from her along with her culture, her language and identity. Phyllis showed incredible courage stepping forward and began a movement that brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together in a spirit of reconciliation.

Orange Shirt Day has provided a way to raise awareness of the legacy of residential schools and celebrate the resiliency of Indigenous Peoples. Wearing an orange shirt on September 30<sup>th</sup> is one way to honour Survivors and their families. Please join us in wearing orange on Thursday and Friday of this week to mark National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FAMILIES:**

**Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Flag raising ceremony of the Residential School Survivors Flag at 9:30 am outside near our main gym. Residential school survivors, their families, and community members are welcome to join us. Please wear **orange**.**

**Friday September 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Wear **Orange** in support of National Truth and Reconciliation Day and Every Child Matters**

**Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Many events happening around the Alberni Valley. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the closing of the Alberni Indian Residential School.**

**Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**No school in honour of National Truth and Reconciliation Day.**

**In recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day, School District 70 Pacific Rim would like to extend an invitation to survivors of residential schools and their families to attend our flag raising ceremonies at our schools throughout the district.**

**We understand that many survivors may have attended Tsuma-as Elementary and Alberni District Secondary School and may wish to attend the ceremonies at these schools but are welcome to attend at any school site that they are comfortable joining.**

**Monday  
September 25th**

School Board Office:  
11:30 AM

**Tuesday  
September 26th**

Bamfield Community  
School: 3:00 PM

**Wednesday  
September 27th**

Wickaninnish Community  
School: 11:15 AM

Ucluelet Elementary: 12:00 PM

Ucluelet Secondary School:  
1:15 PM

**Thursday  
September 28th**

Howitt Elementary: 9:30 AM

Tsuma-as Elementary : 10:45 AM

École Alberni Elementary: 11:00 AM

Eighth Avenue Learning Centre: 11:00 AM

Wood Elementary: 11:15 AM

Maquinna Elementary: 11:30 AM

E J Dunn Elementary: 1:00 PM

ADSS: 1:45 PM

**Due to limited parking at Tsuma-as we will run a shuttle from the Alberni Valley Multiplex to Tsuma-as Elementary School starting at 10:15 am and will do return runs after the ceremony.**



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

Now you can 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. **Having the app will be the best place to stay updated on the events at Howitt.**

**2023-2024 Important Dates**

September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Residential School Survivors Flag unveiling ceremony 9:30 am ( <b>wear orange please</b> )
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
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	No school to mark National Truth and Reconciliation Day
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Thanksgiving
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Individual Student Photos
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
October 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Student Learning Conferences (early dismissal at noon)
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween @ Howitt (Tuesday)
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Retakes (9:30 AM start)
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day at Howitt
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Remembrance Day (Saturday)
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	No school to mark Remembrance Day (Monday)
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Student progress reports sent home.
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Last Day of School before winter break
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> to Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Break
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	School Re-Opens (Monday)
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Family Day
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day before Spring Break
March 18 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break (two weeks)
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Good Friday
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Easter Monday
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School Re-Opens after spring break and Easter
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Victoria Day
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	National Aboriginal Day (school in session)
June 27 <sup>h</sup>	Last Day of School for students



*If you have any questions please contact the school, or touch base with your child's Teacher!*

Sincerely,  
Mr. S. Brown  
Principal

Sincerely,  
Mrs. L. Fryer  
Vice Principal