

Howitt News



2023-2024 Newsletter #3

October 19th, 2023

Fall Update:

After a summer of wildfires, road closures, and heat waves, the rain is a welcome sight. Our fields have turned green again, and the puddles have returned. Students have been working cooperatively at top field to build forts and are showing great teamwork. Students and teachers continue to work on our fall assessments on reading, writing, and math so that we can plan our next steps based on where students are at in their learning. We continue to focus on kindness, showing respect, and solving problems in peaceful ways. We always encourage students to ask a Staff Member for help with solving any problems.

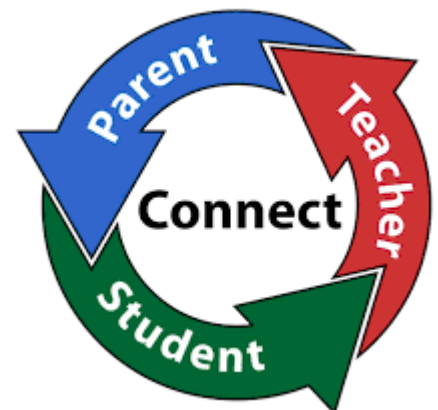
Student Learning Conferences: October 25th and 26th early dismissal.

Recently your child should have brought home a letter with a date and time for their fall learning conference. Classes will dismiss early **on October 25th and 26th for Student Learning Conferences (12:00 pm on the 2 DAYS).**

Our school bus will be leaving Howitt at approximately 12:15 pm on those two early dismissal days.

Student Learning Conferences are an opportunity to discuss the progress of your children with their teachers and plan together for the year (goal setting).

This fall we are offering a choice of either in-person meetings or Zoom (Virtual meetings). The conferences have been arranged to enable parents to speak with all their children's teachers in one afternoon. We strongly encourage students to participate in the conference with their parents.



If it is impossible for you to meet with us at the scheduled time, email the teacher or call our secretary at 250-723-7521 and we will attempt to set up a more convenient appointment.

SD 70 Pacific Rim School Bus Pass Registration: 2023- 2024 school year

- Registration for school bus service will begin on September 18th, 2023 and it is expected that all students will be registered and will have received a bus pass card prior to October 31st, 2023. It is mandatory that all students who ride a bus to and/or from school will be registered and have a bus pass card.
- To register, you will require your student's MyEdBC student number. This is the same number your student uses as a computer login. If you require assistance, please reach out (250)723-7521.
- Find more information below, and a link to the online registration form. Each child in your family will require registration form to be completed.



Read-and-Feed Breakfast Club starting on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays:

Our breakfast club will be starting up again. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 8:20 am to 8:35 am PAC volunteers will be providing healthy breakfast options for students in the gym. Thanks to Mrs. Sally Anderson and the Read-and-Feed program for supporting our school with breakfast program food items. A big thank you to our Howitt PAC for volunteering their time to offer this to our students.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FAMILIES:

Friday October 20th

Provincial Specialists Pro-D Day (no school for students)

Tuesday October 24th

Grade 6 Immunizations (AM)

Wednesday October 25th

Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)

Thursday October 26th

Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)

Thursday October 26th	PAC Meeting at 6:30 pm in the library
Tuesday October 31st	Halloween @ Howitt (Tuesday, wear your costume)
Wednesday Nov 1st	SD70 Cross Country District Event
Sunday November 5th	Daylight savings ends (clocks fall back an hour)
Tuesday November 7th	Individual Student photo re-take day (starting at 9:30 am)
Friday November 10th	Howitt Remembrance Day Assembly (wear red if possible): 11:00 am
Saturday November 11th	Remembrance Day (Saturday)
Monday November 13th	Remembrance Day observed (no school for students)
Monday November 20th	School Based Pro- D Day (no school for students)

Halloween @ Howitt: Tuesday October 31st, 2023

Many classes will be celebrating Halloween on Tuesday October 31st and students are welcome to wear their costumes.

We are going to have a parade outside around the school for all classes at 9:45 am. Photos will also be shared on Facebook.

Here are a few reminders:

- Students cannot bring baked or any food to share from home. This is part of Government safety guidelines. **However, staff members may provide a treat to students.**
- Costumes must allow for proper hand washing. No gloves or sleeves that will prevent hand washing.
- Any costume accessories such as swords or weapons need to be left at home. Costume masks can be worn during the parade, but not before school, during outside play times, or after school.
- Adults coming around the school are respectfully asked not to wear any costume masks or scary costumes. These scare our younger students and for safety reasons, we need to know who the adults are that are coming on to school grounds.
- **Please keep candy at home, and not part of student lunches on November 1st!**
- Please send your child with extra clothing in case they get tired of wearing their costume or it gets wet/dirty.



INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PHOTOS: RETAKES (Tuesday November 7th, 2023, in the morning)

Retakes for students who were away or who would like a different photo will be on **Tuesday November 7th, 2023**. We will start around 9:30 am and should be done just after recess time. All students need to have a picture taken for our student records. Families will then be able to purchase photos through Life Touch if they wish. After picture day you will receive a proof sheet and will then be able to order online your photos.



Student Smartphones at school:

We continue to have conversations and learning about the appropriate use of smartphones/cellphones at school. As a staff we strongly believe that the 300 minutes they are with us each day should be a cellphone free time for students. Below is a reminder of our school expectations.



Morning:

- Once students arrive at school (i.e., by bus, car, or walking to school) we ask that cellphones are put away. We would like to see them socialize and talk to their classmates!

During the day:

- We ask that students have their cell phones put away. There could be a time where they are needed in class, but they will be used for an educational purpose and under the direction of their teacher (this would not be a regular occurrence!)
- There is no picture or video taking at school at recess or lunch (privacy issues).
- If a student needs to contact a parent, we ask that they speak to their teacher first, we will then find a way to support them in contacting home.
- If you need to get a hold of your child for an important message, please call the school (250)723-7521. We will support them to phone you. Please do not text them.

End of the day:

- Students can have their phones out as they leave school. We understand that they may need to check texts or contact their families.

Remembrance Day Ceremony



Our Remembrance Day ceremony is scheduled for Friday, November 10th, and we will be starting around 11:00 am. Parent/Guardians are welcome to attend. Donations for poppies can be brought to classroom teachers the morning of Nov 10th. All students will get a poppy. Please send in a toonie or loonie in support of the Royal Canadian Legion.

We are creating a slideshow for our assembly. If you have a family member who has served in the Military or in any Peace Keeping Mission, we would like to honour them. Please scan and email the photo to Mr. Brown with some details (e.g., Name, When/Where they Served, relationship to student). Or you can bring in the photo to the school and we can help scan it. All photos can be emailed to Mr. Brown (sbrown@sd70.bc.ca). **If you sent us pictures in previous years, then we will be able to use those. No need to resend pictures.** Thanks for helping us with this!

A Reminder to Dress for the Weather



Just a friendly reminder to encourage your children to be prepared for colder wet weather. Boots, waterproof raincoat, and an umbrella will all be needed. We plan to go outside each day at recess and lunch!

If possible, a change of clothes left at school would be advantageous, so students won't need to phone home if their clothing accidentally gets wet or muddy. If you have questions, please contact the office.

Earthquake Comfort Kits for Students: due Monday October 30th

The last day to get your comfort kit into your child's classroom teacher is Monday October 30th. All items will be moved to our emergency supply bin and will be returned at the end of the year. Any questions please contact your child's classroom teacher or the office.



SCHOOL VISITORS and STUDENT SIGN IN & OUT

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. Anything to be delivered to a student can be taken to their outside classroom door or it can be dropped off at the office. 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. Please knock on the front door or call the main office at **(250)723-7521**.

LUNCH PROGRAM

John Howitt has a limited number of lunches available for students. 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.

HOWITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (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. The P.A.C. has worked with staff to make John Howitt a cohesive learning community dedicated to student success.



Our next meeting is Thursday October 26th, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the library. Ms. Lenormand and student leaders will be providing childcare for any family who needs this support.

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, 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.



KINDERGARTEN BUILDING: STAFF PARKING



The parking spots directly in front of the kindergarten building are staff parking spots. Please avoid parking there in the morning as our staff members use those spots each day. You are welcome to come and park at the front section (near Tebo avenue) of our main parking lot if you are dropping off your child. Thanks in advance for helping us with this!

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.



REMINDER FROM THE RCMP

The RCMP will be enforcing all motor vehicle infractions within school zones and would like to remind drivers of the following common concerns.

- Vehicle speed is 30 km/hr. within all school zones. **The school zone speed limit on Tebo changed last year and was expanded so please watch for the sign.**
- Vehicles **cannot** park within 6 meters of any traffic control device, cross walk or stop sign.
- Reminder to come to a complete stop at all stop signs.



2023-2024 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:

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



Sincerely,

Mr. S. Brown
Principal

Sincerely,

Mrs. L. Fryer
Acting Vice Principal