

# Howitt News



2022-2023 Newsletter #4

October 20th, 2022

## **Halloween @ Howitt: Monday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

Many classes will be celebrating Halloween on Monday 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 afterschool.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup>!**
- Please send your child with extra clothing in case they get tired of wearing their costume or it gets wet/dirty.

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

Friday October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Provincial Specialists Pro-D Day (no school for students)
Wednesday October 26 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting at 6:30 pm in the library
Monday October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween @ Howitt (wear your costume)
Wednesday Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SD70 Cross Country District Event
Sunday November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Daylight savings ends (clocks fall back an hour)
Wednesday November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wrap up Volleyball Jamboree @ ADSS
Thursday November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Howitt Remembrance Day Assembly (wear red if possible)
Friday November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day (no school for students)
Tuesday November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Individual Student photo re-take day (starting at 9:30 am)
Monday November 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Based Pro- D Day (no school for students)

## **INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PHOTOS: RETAKES** **(Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, in the morning)**



Retakes for students who were away or who would like a different photo will be on **Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. 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.

## **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 FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4TH:**

Last day to get your comfort kit into your child's classroom teacher is Friday November 4th. 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.)**

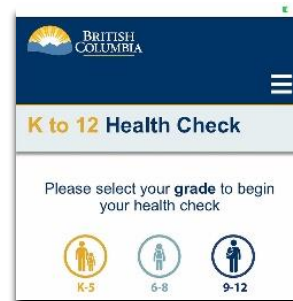


We have a long tradition of parent involvement at John Howitt Elementary with a wide variety of opportunities available for parent volunteers. For its size, our school community is very rich in resources and opportunities for our students thanks to the committed efforts of our parents over the years.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

**Our next meeting is *Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022*, at 6:30 pm in the Library. Ms. Lenormand and student volunteers 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](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.



## 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.



## BUS SAFETY

Please remind your children to stay back from the road edge while waiting for the school bus. We have had reports of children standing much too close to/almost on the road.

## 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.



## **2022-2023 IMPORTANT DATES**

October 26 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 6:30 pm in the library
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween @ Howitt (Monday)
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day at Howitt (wear red if you can)
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Remembrance Day
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Retakes (9:30 AM start)
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 6:30 pm in the library
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