

Howitt News



2022-2023 Newsletter #5

November 4th, 2022

FALL UPDATE:

As we welcome the rain back to the Alberni Valley, we are starting to finally see the season change. Our warm fall has turned to more seasonably cold and rain weather. We will be going outside as much as possible at recess and lunch. Please plan to pack an extra set of clothes for younger students, and we encourage all to wear boots, raincoats, and carry an umbrella.

We are into our routines and the school year is rolling along. If looking to support your child at home, please encourage them to read each night or read to them. Older students reading to a younger sibling works great as well! Writing a journal about weekend activities or family traditions is great for writing practice. Breaking apart numbers and adding them back together, or practicing multiplication, is a good way to reinforce flexibility with numbers.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY



Our Remembrance Day ceremony is scheduled for *Thursday, November 10th*, and we will be starting around 10:55 am. Parent/Guardians are welcome to attend.

Donations for poppies will be collected from 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!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FAMILIES:

Sunday November 6th
Wednesday November 9th
Thursday November 10th
Friday November 11th
Tuesday November 15th
Monday November 21st
Thursday November 24th

Daylight savings ends (clocks fall back an hour)
Wrap up Volleyball Jamboree @ ADSS
Howitt Remembrance Day Assembly (wear red if possible)
Remembrance Day (no school for students)
Individual Student Photo Retake Day (starting at 9:30 am)
School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
Grade 6 Immunizations (AM)

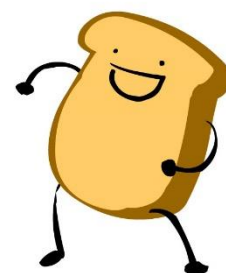
AFTERSCHOOL LEARNING CLUB:



Thanks to Ms. Lenormand for offering an afterschool learning club for students in Grades 4-7. It happens each *Thursday from 2:26 pm to 3:30 pm*. For more information, please contact Ms. Lenormand via email (jlenormand@sd70.bc.ca). The program will run in its current format until December 1st. Focus of the learning club and grade level may change in the new year.

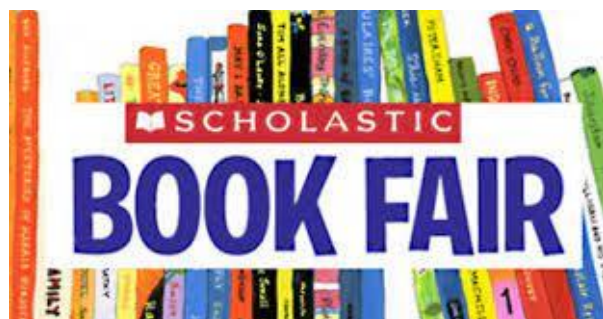
READ-AND-FEED BREAKFAST Club starting on *Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on November 8th:*

Our breakfast club will be starting up again. On *Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:20 am to 8:35 am* PAC volunteers will be providing healthy breakfast options for students in the main 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.



SCHOLASTIC VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR at Howitt: *November 28th to December 2nd*

After three long years, the Scholastic Book Fair is back at John Howitt Elementary. Mark your calendars for the week of November 28 to December 2. A variety of Book Fair favorites including posters, pencils, bookmarks, and more will be available. And of course, the latest editions of the most popular titles will also be on hand.



Check out the **Book Fair in the library** for your chance to win two \$25 gift certificates, one for you and one for your teacher. While you're here, enter a guessing game or get caught reading in class for more chances to win awesome prizes. If you won't be able to make it in person, you can still support us online through our virtual extension.

Visit our school's [Virtual Book Fair](#) to explore featured books and watch new and exciting book trailers.

Volunteers are essential to the Book Fair's success and are greatly appreciated. To get involved, please contact Mr. Harper through the school or email charper@sd70.bc.ca. See you at the Fair!

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PHOTOS: RETAKES

Tuesday November 15th, 2022, in the morning

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



GRADE 6 IMMUNIZATIONS



On *November 24th* VIHA staff will be here to provide Grade 6 immunizations. These are the annual immunizations for Grade 6 students. They are not COVID related. More information and parent permission forms have already gone home this month. *Please return them completed forms to the school.*

BIG BUDDIES FUNDRAISERS BY MS. LENORMAND:

[John Howitt Elementary – Sipology Fundraisers](#)

Two of the fundraisers Ms. Lenormand is leading to raise money for big buddy activities at school and field trips.

- Epicure bundles, \$25 for 5 meals and 1 dessert.
- Sipology: tea, tea ware and dairy free, low sugar hot chocolate, \$15 each item.

Both close on Nov. 10th and will arrive in time for Christmas. The school gets a 40% return on funds raised for both. Thank you for the support. Ms. Lenormand

The logo for Epicure, featuring the word "EPICURE" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a dark purple rectangular background.

EPICURE™



GIFTS AND GIVING Is Back Again on *December 9th*!

This is an especially exciting day for the whole school. Each student can choose one gift for their loved one and have it wrapped up to bring home. They love this day – their faces just light up!

We are counting on the generosity of parents to donate gently used or new items. We ask that you deliver the items between *December 1st* and *Dec 8th*. Check in at the office and we can help get the items delivered to the gym stage.



Examples of Items We are looking for:

- * kitchen items * toys * jewelry * tools *
- * Christmas décor * recreation tickets
- * grooming products * pet supplies *

anything else you think would be appropriate

Kids are asked to bring a **non-perishable food item – no money is required**. All items left over will be donated to Kuu-us Crisis Centre for their Christmas shopping day.

Donations of gift bags or tissue paper would be appreciated 🙏

Any Questions Please contact the school.



Thank you to all for making this happen for your amazing children ❤️

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: LAST CALL MONDAY NOVEMBER 7TH

Last day to get your comfort kit into your child's classroom teacher is Monday November 7th. 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 *Monday November 28th*, at 6:30 pm in the library. Students 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 visit <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>.



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!


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.

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.



THANK YOU FROM HOWITT:

- Thank you to all our cross-country runners for taking part in the Howitt Cross country event. Congratulations to Jace Tilley, Michael Fong, Theo Val, and Jamie Espinoza for taking part in the SD70 Cross Country event.
- Thank you to Ms. Lenormand and Mr. Harper for leading our SAFE Club at Howitt.
- Thank you to Miss Jeffery (Volleyball) and Mrs. Mayes (Grade 4&5 Basketball) for coaching our teams.
- Thank you to Mr. Miller for starting up our Choir at Howitt.



2022-2023 IMPORTANT DATES

November 6 th	Daylight Savings ends (clocks roll back one hour)
November 10 th	Remembrance Day at Howitt (wear red if you can)
November 11 th	Statutory Holiday: Remembrance Day (no school)
November 15 th	Photo Retakes (9:30 AM start)
November 24 th	Grade 6 Immunizations
November 21 st	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
November 28 th	PAC Meeting 6:30 pm in the library
<u>November 28th to Dec 2nd Virtual Scholastic Book Fair at Howitt</u>	
December 14 th	Student progress reports sent home
December 16 th	Last Day of School before Winter Break
Dec 19 th to Jan 2 nd	Winter Break
January 3 rd	School Re-Opens (Tuesday)
January 16 th	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 17 th	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 20 th	Statutory Holiday: Family Day
March 10 th	Last Day before Spring Break
March 13 th – 24 th	Spring Break (two weeks)
March 27 th	School Re-Opens
April 7 th	Statutory Holiday: Good Friday
April 10 th	Statutory Holiday: Easter Monday
April 21 st	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 15 th	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 22 nd	Statutory Holiday: Victoria Day
June 21 st	National Aboriginal Day (school in session)
June 21 st	First day of Summer
June 29 th	Last Day of School

Sincerely,

Mr. S. Brown
Principal

Sincerely,

Mrs. L. Fryer
Acting Vice Principal

