



Howitt News

2023-2024 Newsletter #6

November 28th, 2023

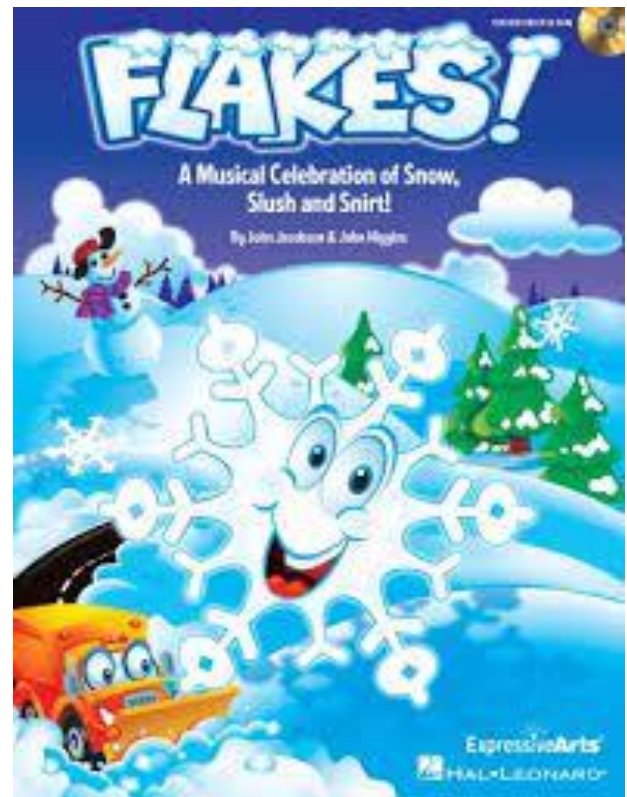
John Howitt Elementary **hosts the Pacific Rim School District School Board Meeting tonight! *Tuesday November 28th, 2023*, in our Library** from **5:00 pm to 6:30 pm**. Come out to hear what is happening at Howitt and across the School District.

HOWITT WINTER CONCERT: Save the date!

"Flakes! A musical celebration of Snow, Slush, and Snirt!"

Tuesday December 19th: 2 performances
1 pm (no tickets required for the afternoon)
6 pm (tickets required limited seating)

- Students in Mrs. Koszegi, Ms. Maschak, Mrs. Fedirchuk, Ms. Lenormand, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Bouchard, Ms. Dyer, and Mrs. Falconer's classes will be performing.
- 2 Tickets will be sent home with the oldest sibling in your family in early December. We have limited tickets for the evening concert. Please call or email the school to get on a waiting list for extra tickets. We cannot guarantee extra tickets.



No tickets required for the 1 pm show

BASKETBALL AT HOWITT:

Thanks to Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Dyer for coaching our Grade 4&5 basketball team.

Upcoming schedule:

Monday	Nov 27th	Practice afterschool
Wednesday	Nov 29th	Game afterschool
Thursday	Nov 30th	Practice afterschool
Monday	Dec 4 th	Practice afterschool
Wednesday	Dec 6th	Game afterschool
Thursday	Dec 7th	Practice afterschool
Friday	Dec 8 th	Wrap up Jamboree at ADSS from 3:15 to 5:15 pm



Basketball for Grade 6&7 students starts in January 2024. Watch for more details in our future newsletters.

HOWITT LIBRARY SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:

Happening all week! *November 27th, 2023*

Mr. Harper is hosting a Howitt book fair this week. Students will get a chance to see what books are available to purchase. Great idea to support reading at home.



Students can purchase items before school, recess, and lunch.

The book fair will also be open after school until 3:00 pm.

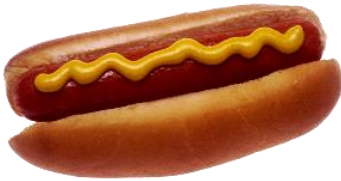
HOWITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (P.A.C.)



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 January 25th, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the library. Ms. Lenormand and student leaders will be providing childcare for any family who needs this support.

**THANKS TO OUR PAC
who will be providing a Hot Dog to each student on *Friday December 8th*
(free of charge!).**



PAC FUNDRAISERS HAPPENING AT HOWITT:

Growing Smiles Christmas Plant Fundraiser has closed:
Delivery is planned for December 7th.

Orders should be ready to pick up in the gym afterschool





GIFTS AND GIVING Is Back Again on **December 11th!**

This is an especially exciting day for the whole school. Each student can choose one gift for a 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. **You can deliver items starting this week and up until Friday December 8th.** **Check in at the office and we can help you to get them to our main gym.**



Any item that is new or gently used. All items left over will be donated to local charities.

Donations of gift bags, gift wrap, gift tags, or tissue paper would be appreciated 🙏

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.

Any Questions Please call the school (250) 723-7521.



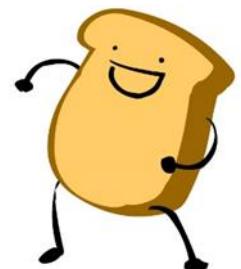
Thank you to all for making this happen for your amazing children!
John Howitt Elementary PAC

READ-AND-FEED BREAKFAST NOW 5 DAYS A WEEK (Monday to Friday)

Thanks to volunteers from the Alberni Valley Read and Feed program we are moving our breakfast club to five days a week.

Each morning 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.



SD 70 School Bus Pass Information: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As of *October 18, 2023*, bus pass use on all SD 70 school buses is mandatory. This means that **ALL** students who use a school bus to get to or from school **MUST** be registered and have obtained a School Bus Pass Card. Students are required to scan the card getting on and off the bus. Those students that do not have a bus pass card or have one, and are not using it, may be denied bus transportation after *December 15, 2023*.

Bus pass cards for all registered students have been made and distributed. If you have registered your student and they have not yet received a bus pass card, please contact Dave at 250-720-2772.

If your student has lost their bus pass card, please wait for a week (to look for the card) before contacting Dave at 250-720-2772 to obtain a replacement card. Please note that a \$10 replacement fee will be charged.

Students who have lost or forgotten their bus pass card will be required to enter their name and school on a sign in sheet, every time they board a school bus until they obtain a bus pass card.



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.

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.

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:

November 28th	Pacific Rim School Board meeting in the Howitt Library at 5 pm
December 7th	12 Days of Winter Break begins.
December 11th	PAC Gifts for Giving Event
December 19th	Winter Concert at Howitt- <i>1 pm and 6 pm</i>
December 20th	Student progress reports sent home.
December 21st	Winter Wonderland Skating at the multiplex
December 22nd	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
Vice Principal