



## **BASKETBALL AT HOWITT:**

Thanks to Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Dyer for coaching our Grade 4&5 basketball team. They wrapped up their season on December 8<sup>th</sup> with the season ending jamboree. Lots of smiles on the court!

Grade 6&7 Basketball starts in January!



## **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.

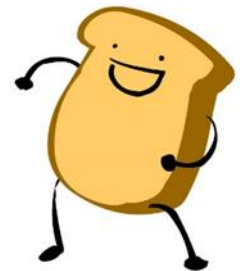
**Our next meeting is Thursday January 25th, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the library. Ms. Lenormand and student leaders will be providing childcare for any family who needs this support.**

## **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.

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

**Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Howitt Winter Concert: 1 pm and 6 pm**

**Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Winter Wonderland Skating at the Multiplex**

**Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Last day of classes before the winter break.**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Winter Break (schools closed)**

**Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**First day back from winter break.**

## **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 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**.

## 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.



## 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:

December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Concert at Howitt- 1 pm and 6 pm
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Student progress reports sent home.
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Winter Wonderland Skating at the multiplex
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



Sincerely,

Mr. S. Brown  
Principal

Sincerely,

Mrs. L. Fryer  
Vice Principal