



Howitt News Update

March 3rd, 2023

Issue #9



coloringpage.eu

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ○ Grade 6&7 Basketball Jamboree | Friday March 3 rd , 2023 (3:40 to 6:35 pm at ADSS) |
| ○ PAC Popcorn Day | Wednesday March 8 th , 2023 |
| ○ Student Learning Updates go home | Thursday March 9 th , 2023. |
| ○ <i>Last day before Spring Break</i> | <i>Friday March 10th, 2023</i> |
| ○ <i>Spring Break (2 weeks)</i> | <i>March 13th to March 23rd, 2023</i> |
| ○ <i>Schools re-open after Spring Break</i> | <i>March 27th, 2023 (Monday)</i> |

MARCH UPDATE

Well, the groundhogs were correct about 6 more weeks of winter! We continue to try and head outside each day to get fresh air and to play. Only wishing there was a bit more snow to sled and play in. The weather continues to be cold and wet, so please send students with extra clothes, warm jackets, boots, and gloves.

We have also enjoyed having Faith Watts joins us as part of our Elders in School program. Faith and Iris Sanders (Nuu-chah-nulth Education Worker) have been introducing classes to how Bannock is made, learning about it through Nuu-chah-nulth culture and learning, and then getting to enjoy some freshly baked Bannock. We look forward to Faith and Angie Miller working with us as part of our Elders in school program.

As we look forward to spring it continues to be a chance for our students to set goals for the balance of the year and push to further grow and develop their reading, writing, and numeracy skills. Our Grade 7's will continue the process of transition to ADSS by completing their course selection sheets and continuing the transition process to Grade 8.

In April we really start planning for the 2023-2024 school year. We continue to take Kindergarten registrations, and we encourage anyone with a child born in 2018 to register for Kindergarten at Howitt as soon as possible. If you are planning to move in the coming months, please let us know as well, this allows us to plan our classes for next year. On March 9th a student learning update will be sent home with your child. Please read it with them and celebrate their hard work and help them to set some goals for the balance of the year. If you have any questions about your child's progress to date, please don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher.

Sincerely,
Mr. Brown

STUDENT LEARNING UPDATE

Thursday March 9th, 2023

A student learning update will be sent home on Thursday March 9th, 2023. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact their classroom teacher.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPT. 2022



- As of February 1st, 2023, we are taking registrations online or by paper format for our future Kindergarten students starting in September 2023.
- Any child born in 2018, and lives in our catchment area, is welcome to register. These students will be the Grad class of 2036 and will be at Howitt until June 2031. Please call the school for more details, (250) 723-7521.

PAC NEWS: Our next PAC meeting is April 27th, 2023, in the library.



The PAC continues to provide our Read and Feed breakfast program on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Also, their fundraising efforts support our students and staff. Thank you, PAC!

PAC Popcorn Days: *March 8th (Wednesday)*

Upcoming PAC meetings- all meetings start at 6:30 pm in our Library!
Childcare is available through student leaders as needed.

PAC MAD HATTER FUNDRAISER IS BACK!

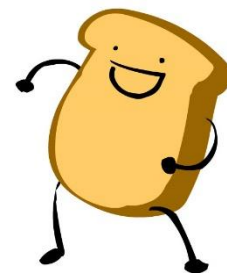
Save the date: **Thursday May 4th from 4 pm to 7 pm at Cherry Creek Hall!**

Fun, games, prizes, cakewalk, food, and back by popular demand the Pie the Principal in the Face fundraiser!



PAC Read-and-Feed Breakfast Club- Tuesdays and Thursdays mornings.

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:20 am to 8:35 am PAC volunteers are 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.



Health Education: Kindergarten to Grade 7



Health is part of the PHE (Physical and Health Education) curriculum. When people know information about their body, they are empowered to make healthy decisions. As our province has moved to a more holistic approach to health, knowing how our bodies and minds develop is vital to children keeping themselves healthy and safe. Students will be learning about their bodies as they develop both physically and emotionally. This learning will take place in a safe space. Throughout the year, students will be learning a variety of topics. Please see below for a rough guideline for the years

learning. All information shared will be from the Grade (K-7) curriculum, which you can view online at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/physical-health-education>

The expectations from the Ministry of Education is that classroom teachers are to cover the following:

- K-3 – Body Parts, Well-being, appropriate/inappropriate touch, personal safety, identity
- Gr. 4 - Emotional, physical, and social changes during puberty, and self-identity
- Gr. 5 - Puberty, self/sexual identity, ways to protect themselves.
- Gr. 6/7 – Puberty and adolescence, self/sexual identity, potentially addictive behaviours, self-protection, and knowledge of STIs as well as practices that reduce STIs

If you have questions about any of the topics covered in Health, please contact your child's teacher, Mr. Brown, or Mrs. Fryer. We look forward to all the learning we will be doing together this year.

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.
- With the large amount of rain we have had to start January our fields and school grounds are wet and muddy. Boots or extra shoes at school would be very helpful.

STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY: GRADE 4 AND 7 STUDENTS



STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY

Parents and guardians of Grade 4 and 7 students have received information on how to complete the student learning survey at home after spring break.

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. It is 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.

Pacific Rim Schools

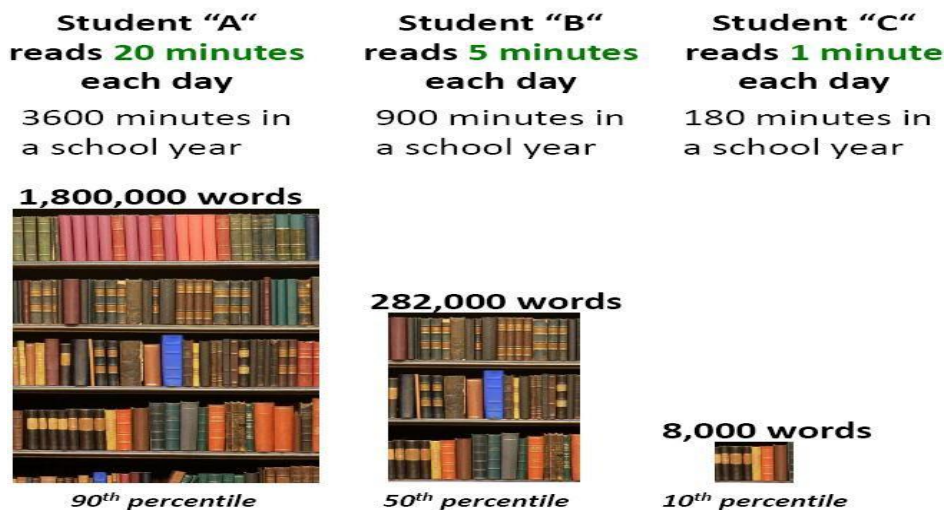
HOW TO DOWNLOAD OUR APP FOR YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

- 1 VISIT YOUR APP STORE**
Screenshots of the App Store and Google Play Store.
- 2 SEARCH AND DOWNLOAD "PACIFIC RIM SCHOOLS"**
Screenshot of the app in the search results.
- 3 ALLOW FOR NOTIFICATIONS**
Text: "After you download the app make sure you allow for notifications. In the app settings make sure you turn up to get notifications for website notifications, news, and events." Screenshot of the notification settings.
- 4 ADJUST YOUR CONTENT SOURCES**
Text: "This will allow you to determine what school websites you receive notifications from. For example if you have children at ADSS and Durn you might want to have Pacific Rim Schools, ADSS and EJ Durn selected." Screenshot of the content sources settings.
- 5 YOU ARE ALL SET**
Screenshot of the app's main interface.

www.sd70.bc.ca

How the home can support learning:
read each day with your child,

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

READING STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES!

1. When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
2. When you come to a new word, take this opportunity to talk about it in interesting ways that your child will enjoy and learn from. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
3. Read a child's favorite book over, and over again. This will provide positive reinforcement and your child will gain confidence as they are able to successfully recognize words.
4. Choose stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts.
5. Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
6. Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.
7. Set aside special reading time (and a special reading place). Setting a designated reading time helps in several ways. First, it allows a parent to plan their day more effectively and make time for reading. It also helps the child, especially reluctant readers, to think of reading as a normal scheduled daily activity.
8. Read with emotion. Reading with emotion draws a child into the story in a way that is much more memorable and enjoyable. It also helps them to better understand how words can describe something sad, happy, or exciting.
9. Let your child turn the pages. Besides, being enjoyable, this activity helps more active children stay focused on the book.
10. Take your child to the library to check out books. Most popular Children's books are available at the local library. This is an affordable way to give your child access to a wide range of books. Taking your child to the library also turns reading into a special occasion.
11. Ask older students to put down their device and read!
- 12.

HELPING WITH MATH AT HOME

1. Encourage children to play math puzzles and games. Puzzles and games or anything with a dice or a deck of cards will help kids enjoy math and develop numeracy and logic skills.
2. Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on math problems. Instead, try to find the logic in their thinking. For example, if your child multiplies three by four and gets seven, say "Oh I see what you're thinking; you're using what you know about addition to add three and four. When we multiply, we have four groups of three"?



3. Never associate math with speed. It is not important to work quickly, particularly in the younger years. We need to follow the First Peoples Principles and provide students with Time and Patience when developing mathematical fluency. We all know that forcing kids to work fast on math is the best way to start math anxiety for children, especially girls (Boaler, 2012)
4. Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at math at school, or you dislike it.
5. Encourage number sense. Kids need to have an idea of the size of numbers and be able to separate and put numbers together flexibly.
6. Encourage a growth mindset. A growth mindset is the idea that ability and smartness changes as you work more and learn more. The opposite is a fixed mindset, where the idea is that ability is fixed, and you can either do math or you can't. According to Carol Dweck, children who have a growth mindset take on challenges with persistence and determination.

STUDENT SMARTPHONES AT SCHOOL:

As we start 2023, we often find that students receive new electronic devices at Christmas time. We like remind students and parents of cellphone expectations 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. **One new reminder is that we ask that students not have air pods or headphones in while outside before school, at recess, or at lunch playtime.** 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 when 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.

UPCOMING 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:

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. Brown
Principal

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fryer
Vice Principal

