



Issue# 10

Howitt News

MARCH 15TH, 2024



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- ✓ **March 18th to March 28th (2 weeks) ^h- Spring Break and Spring Closure: No School for students.**
- ✓ **March 29th Good Friday: (Holiday)- No School**
- ✓ **April 1st Easter Monday: (Holiday)- No School**
- ✓ **April 2ⁿ (Tuesday) We re-open. 8:37 am to 2:20 pm**
- ✓ **April 3rd Mrs. Koszegi and Ms. Maschak's class start gymnastics on *Wednesdays* in April. *Please make sure to get your waivers and permission forms in after Spring Break.**
- ✓ **April 10th (Wednesday) PAC Popcorn Day**
- ✓ **April 18th (Thursday) Howitt Talent Show**
- ✓ **April 19th (Friday) Local Specialists Pro-D Day (no school for students)**
- ✓ **April 25th (Thursday) PAC Pizza Day (orders will be done online through Munch-a-Lunch)**
- ✓ **April 25th (Thursday) PAC Meeting at 6:00 pm**

SPRING UPDATE:

It has been a busy term two at Howitt and time seems to be flying by. The school has been busy with great afterschool clubs (Art Club, Afterschool Learning Club, and Afterschool Games and Sports Club). Thanks to Mrs. Mayes for coaching our Grade 6&7 basketball team. They wrapped up their season on March 8th at the ADSS Basketball Jamboree. Student learning updates went home on March 14th (Thursday), please contact your child's teacher after Spring Break if you have questions or concerns. May 1st and 2nd will be our Spring Learning Conferences in the afternoon (early dismissal at Noon) so that students and families can set goals for the balance of the year. As the weather gets warmer, we look forward to going outside to learn and play. After school sports will continue with Badminton and Rugby starting up. More information about other Afterschool Clubs will be sent home after Spring Break.

April is always an important time of year for our primary students. It is a time where we can see great leaps in reading, writing, and math. Home support in these areas can really help set students up for a positive end to the school year! We hope that you have a restful and relaxing Spring Break!

Student Learning update: went home on Thursday March 14th, 2024. If you have any questions about your child's progress please reach out to their classroom teacher after Spring Break.

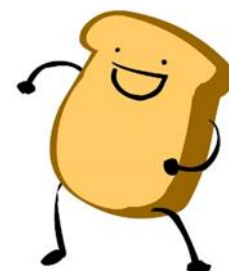


BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOWITT:



Our breakfast club will start up after Spring Break and will re-open on Wednesday April 3rd, 2024!

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.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE PILOT PROJECT AT JOHN HOWITT: an Update



This year Howitt ran a pilot program with School Staff providing before and after school care and being supported by School District staff. For a variety of reasons, we will not be continuing with the pilot project. However, the School District will be putting out a request for proposals for outside service providers interested in operating before and after school care at Howitt for 2024-2025. As we get more information, we will be sure to pass it along to families.

We would like to thank Mrs. Swalwell, Mrs. Sattar, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Schulze, Ms. Vigneaux, and Mrs. Charbonneau for all their work this year supporting our students. Staff and students in our afterschool care program brought energy and laughter to the school after the bell!

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.



PACIFIC RIM SCHOOLS AND JOHN HOWITT ELEMENTARY APP FOR SMARTPHONES AND TABLETS:



Now you can 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.

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.

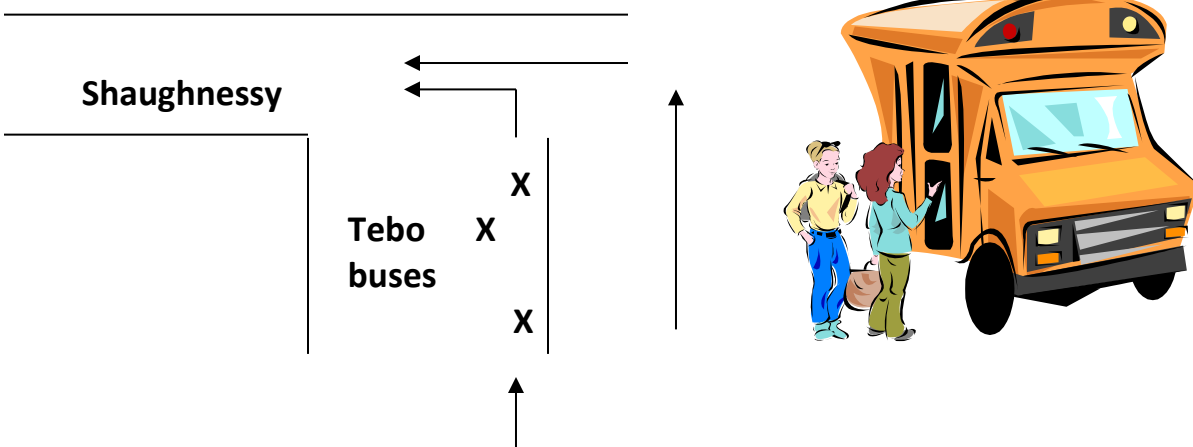
Our next meeting is Thursday April 25th, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the library. Ms. Lenormand and student leaders will be providing childcare for any family who needs this support.

SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP:

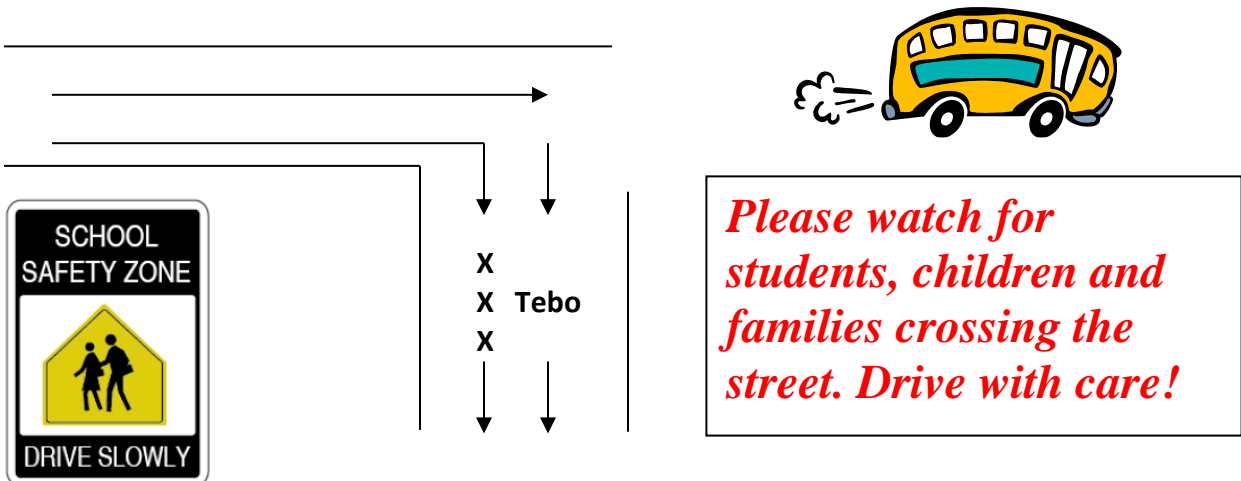
To ensure that all our students are safe at the beginning and end of the school day, we are asking you to respect the **BUS LOOP ZONE** at the paved west end of the school. **The only vehicles that have access to this area besides buses and day-care vans.**

To ensure student safety at the beginning and end of the day, we ask that those of you who are approaching the school from the South on Tebo continue along Shaughnessy after you have dropped off or picked up your child. Similarly, if you are approaching the school from Shaughnessy, we ask that you continue along Tebo for a block before turning for your return home. These plans avoid the need for turning around at the end of Tebo, a practice that has caused congestion in the past and threatened the safety of our children. **Simply put - PLEASE, NO 'U' TURNS near the school.**

Parents follow the route our buses take, Tebo – Shaughnessy, preventing the second trip through the crossing area.



Parents parked on the opposite side of the street, please approach via Shaughnessy.



This prevents turning at the end and doubling back through the crossing.

In addition: Kindergarten parents are asked to back into the kindergarten parking spaces prior to dismissal time so that you can leave facing front to allow you maximum visibility of arriving and departing older students.

Similarly, we ask that any parent using the main staff parking lot, please **back in** to maximize visibility and safety of students.

We thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter as we all work together for the safety of our students.



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 location of the school zone 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.



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.

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

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

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)

How the home can support learning: read each day with your child, or make sure they do some reading!

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!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

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 15 th	Art Starts Performance: Frog Belly Rat Bone
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 10 th	PAC Popcorn Day
April 18 th	Howitt Talent Show
April 25 th	PAC Pizza Day
April 25 th	PAC Meeting 6:00 pm
April 19 th	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 1st and 2nd	Spring Student Learning conferences (early dismissal at noon)
May 8 th	PAC Popcorn Day
May 13 th	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 20 th	Statutory Holiday: Victoria Day
May 23 rd	PAC Pizza Day
May 30 th	PAC Meeting 6:00 pm
June 21 st	National Indigenous Peoples Day (school in session)
June 27 ^h	Last Day of School for students

Sincerely,
Mr. S. Brown
Principal

Sincerely,
Mrs. L. Fryer
Vice Principal