



Howitt News

APRIL 9TH, 2024



Issue# 11

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- ✓ Mrs. Koszegi and Ms. Maschak's class start gymnastics on Wednesdays in April.
- ✓ April 10th (Wednesday): PAC Popcorn Day
- ✓ April 15th (Monday): Class Photo Day and **Spring Individual student photos**
- ✓ April 18th (Thursday): Howitt Talent Show (1:00 pm in the main gym)
Families are welcome to attend and watch.
- ✓ April 19th (Friday): Local Specialists Pro-D Day (no school for students)
- ✓ April 25th (Thursday): PAC Pizza Day (orders placed online through Munch-a-Lunch)
- ✓ April 25th (Thursday): PAC Meeting at 6:00 pm

STUDENT LEARNING UPDATES:



went home on *Thursday March 14th, 2024*. If you have any questions about your child's progress please reach out to their classroom teacher.

Our next learning update is through Student Learning Conferences during the afternoon of *May 1st and May 2nd*. We will be dismissing early on both days at Noon (early dismissal). More information will be coming home about appointment times by *April 18th*.

HOWITT'S GOT TALENT:

our show will be happening at 1 pm on *Thursday April 18th, 2024* in our main gym.

Thanks to Miss Chase and Howitt staff for helping to organize this showcase of student talent.

We will be dedicating our talent show to Mrs. Liz Platz!

Families are welcome to join us in the gym to watch the performance at 1:00 pm on April 18th.



Student Learning Update: Students and Families in Grades 4 and 7

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in **2024** the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

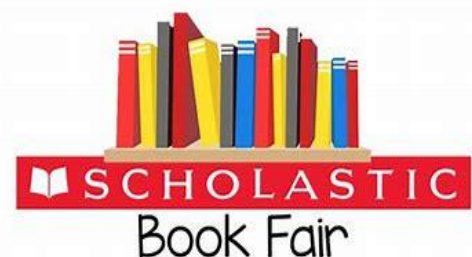
The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link with or without an anonymous logon code by selecting the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until May 3rd.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at (250) 723-7521.

HOWITT LIBRARY SPRING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: APRIL 15TH TO 18TH

It's that time again! The Scholastic Book Fair is back at John Howitt Elementary. Mark your calendars for the week of *April 15 to April 18th*. 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.



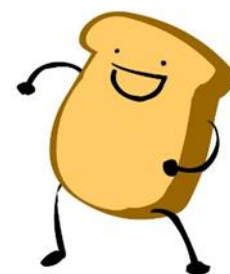
Check out the Book Fair in the library for your chance to win two \$25 gift certificates, one for you and one for your teacher. While you're here, enter a guessing game or get caught reading in class for

more chances to win awesome prizes. 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!

BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOWITT: every weekday morning in the gym!



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.



www.sd70.bc.ca

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.

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.



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.

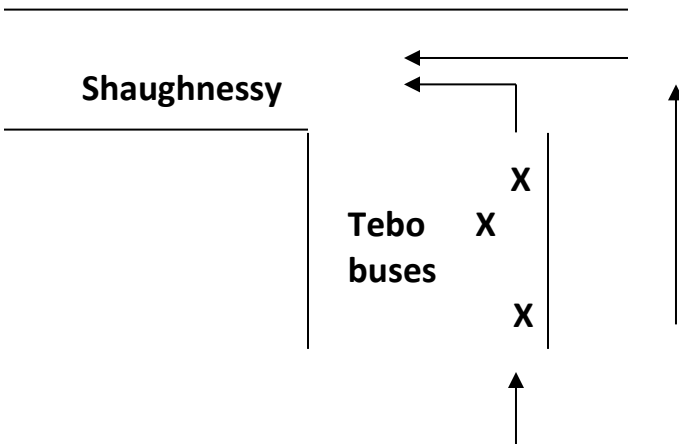
Our next meeting is Thursday April 25th, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the library. Ms. Lenormand and student leaders will be providing childcare for any family who needs this support.

SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP:

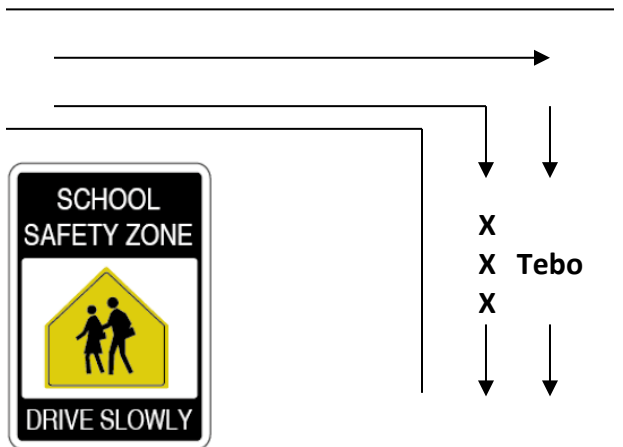
To ensure that all our students are safe at the beginning and end of the school day, we are asking you to respect the **BUS LOOP ZONE** at the paved west end of the school. **The only vehicles that have access to this area besides buses and day-care vans.**

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.



Please watch for students, children and families crossing the street. Drive with care!

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.



CLASS PHOTO DAY AND SPRING INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PHOTOS: **MONDAY APRIL 15TH**



On Monday April 15th classes at John Howitt Elementary will be having their class pictures taken. Life Touch photography will also be taking **Spring individual photos** that parents will have the option to purchase if you like. Photos will be taken through out the morning so please arrive on time!

Thank you to PAC for purchasing a class photo for each student and staff member! Any questions please contact the school.

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:

April 10 th	PAC Popcorn Day
April 15 th	Class Photo Day and Individual Student Photos
April 18 th	Howitt Talent Show (1 pm in the main gym)
April 19 th	Local Specialists Association Pro-D Day (no school for students)
April 25 th	PAC Pizza Day
April 25 th	PAC Meeting 6:00 pm
April 19 th	Local Specials Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 1 st	Grade 6 Immunizations (in the morning)
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 4 th	Howitt K Day 3:30 to 4:30 pm for Kindergarten students starting next
September.	
June 12 th	PAC Popcorn Day
June 18 th	School Wide Field Trip to Rath Trevor Provincial Park
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