



Howitt News

Issue #12

APRIL 25TH, 2025



IMPORTANT SPRING DATES!

April 28 th :	Local Specialists Professional Development Day (no school for students on Monday)
April 29 th :	Growing Smiles orders due
April 30 th /May 1 st :	Early dismissal for Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at noon)
May 19 th :	Victoria Day Holiday (no school for students)
May 22 nd :	PAC Mad Hatter Fundraising Event (Cherry Creek Hall)
May 26 th :	School Based Professional Development Day (no school for students)

STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY: GRADE 4 & GRADE 7 FAMILIES:

The Pacific Rim School District, and John Howitt Elementary, is participating in the 2025 Ministry of Education Electronic Anonymous Student Learning Survey Project in cooperation with all other school districts throughout the province. Parents/Guardians/Caregivers of Grade 4 and 7 students can complete the online Anonymous Student Learning Surveys. **The deadline to complete the survey has been extended to May 9th, 2025.**



Ministry of
Education

To complete the survey:

1. Go to any computer, phone, or tablet that has an updated internet browser access at home, work, or school.
2. Go to www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm
3. Under the section *Direct Access – no logon number required* select:
 - a. District: the name of your child's district (**SD 70 Alberni**)
 - b. School: the name of your child's school (**John Howitt Elementary**)
 - c. Language: the language of your choice
4. Complete the survey by clicking on the appropriate circle to answer each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on the right arrow in the bottom right corner of the screen. Click on the left arrow to navigate backwards.
5. When you are finished with the survey, you will get a message "Thank you for sharing your views".
6. Once complete, your school will have the results immediately.

SCENT FREE SCHOOL:

We would like to remind everyone that our school is a scent-free environment. To help keep our school safe and welcoming for all, we kindly ask that students, staff, and visitors avoid wearing or bringing products with strong scents, such as perfumes, colognes, body sprays, or scented lotions. Some members of our school community have sensitivities or allergies to fragrances, which can cause serious health reactions. By keeping our school scent-free, we help ensure that everyone can learn and work in a comfortable and healthy environment. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR NEXT YEAR (2025-2026)



John Howitt Elementary is taking registrations for incoming catchment area Kindergarten students for September 2025. Those children born in 2020 are starting Kindergarten in September. Registration packages are available at the school or can be completed online. Copy of a birth certificate and proof of residence in our catchment area are also needed to complete the registration package. We will also have an "All

About Me" form for families to complete to help us get to know your child. For more information, please contact the school at (250) 723-7521. **In June 2025 we will host our Kindergarten Here We Come event for children and families to get a tour of the school, meet staff, and take part in learning centers to help welcome you to our school.**

ARE YOU MOVING? CHANGING SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025?

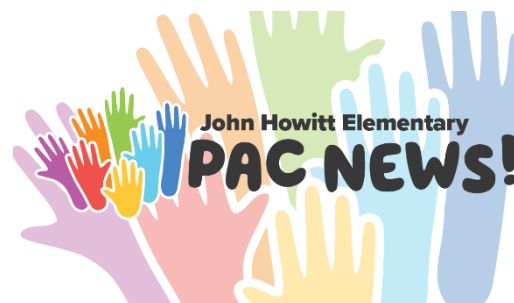
As we prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, please inform us if your family is moving or changing schools. This helps us keep our records up to date and ensures a smooth transition for your child. If you are planning a move, please let us know. We can help to make the transition as seamless as possible for your family. It also helps us to plan our staffing and classes with a clear picture of our student numbers.

- Please contact the school office at your earliest convenience if you have any updates regarding your address or school plans for next year. Thank you!



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. **PAC Movie nights are done for the year, thanks to PAC for hosting them this year, there were fun events for students and families.**



Our next meeting is **Tuesday April 29th, 2025**, at 5:30 pm in the library. Childcare is available for any family who needs this support.

All PAC fundraising will go towards building a new primary playground.

Growing Smiles Flowers Orders: Due April 29th

Popcorn Day: Monday May 12th

PAC Panago Pizza Lunch: Wednesday May 28th

PAC Mad Hatter Spring Fundraiser: Thursday May 22nd

at Cherry Creek Hall! Themed Basket Raffle tickets have been sent home.



AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS AT HOWITT:

Badminton: for those students in Grades 4 to 7 who have signed up. Thanks to Mrs. Davidson and Ms. Dyer for coaching. Practices will be on the following Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesday's afterschool in the Howitt gym from 2:20 pm to 3:30 pm. Students will need to arrange rides home from practice, and to the jamboree.

- Grade 4&5 wrap up Jamboree Friday April 25th
- The last practice will be Tuesday April 29th after school 2:20 pm to 3:30 pm
- Grade 6&7 wrap up Jamboree Friday May 2nd



Rugby: The Pacific Rim Elementary Sports Council in partnership with SD70, Black Sheep Rugby and the After School Sports and Arts Initiative is happy to offer youth rugby to students in Grades 4-7 this spring. Interested students need to sign up with Mr. Harper.

Training this year will be offered at two hub sites while games will be hosted at the Black Sheep Rugby Club. Students from Tsuma-as, Howitt and Alberni Elementary Schools will train at Alberni Elementary. Students from Maquinna, Wood and Dunn Elementary Schools will train at the Black Sheep Rugby Club. Although they will be training together, during games athletes will represent their own school whenever numbers allow.



Grades 4/5 – 3pm-4pm

Grades 6/7 – contact 3-4:30pm

Teams Training @ Alberni Elementary School

Alberni Elementary

Tsuma-as Elementary

Howitt Elementary

***Haahuupayak Elementary**

Training Session Dates @ Hub Site		Gamedays @ Black Sheep Rugby Club	
April 8 th Grade 6/7 Only	April 10 th Grade 6/7 Only	Grades 6/7	April 17 th
April 15 th Grades 4, 5, 6, 7	April 22nd Gr. 4-7	Grades 4/5 Touch Rugby	April 24 th
April 29 th Grades 4, 5, 6, 7	May 1 st No training	Grades 6/7	May 13th Jamboree & BBQ
May 6 th Grade 6/7 Only	May 8 th Grade 6/7 Only	Grades 4/5 Touch Rugby	May 15 th Jamboree & BBQ
Training 3:00pm - 4:30pm		Games 3:30pm to 4:45pm	

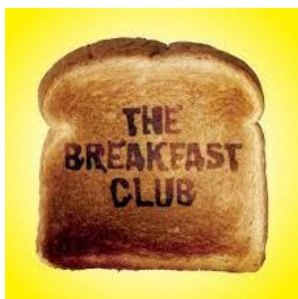
Athletes should come to training and games in athletic wear with runners or plastic cleats. No metal cleats, please! For both flag and contact rugby, athletes are asked to remove all jewelry or sharp clothing. For contact rugby, mouthguards and explicit training on how to tackle and be tackled safely will be provided.

Students in Grades 6 and 7 will be trained in how to play full-contact rugby and given the option to play contact or flag on gamedays.

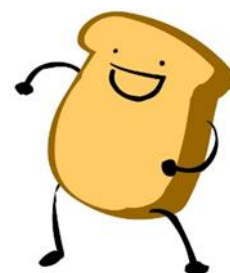
Students will need to arrange their own transportation to and from the Hub training site, and to the Black Sheep Rugby Club on game days.

Any questions please email Mr. Harper (charper@sd70.bc.ca)

READ-AND-FEED BREAKFAST:



Thanks to volunteers from the Alberni Valley Read and Feed program for volunteering their time to prepare toast, vegetables, and fruit for students. Thanks to Mrs. Sally Anderson and the Read-and-Feed program for supporting our school with breakfast program food items.



EXPECTATIONS WHEN STUDENTS ARE ON THE SCHOOL BUS:

- The bus driver is always in charge.
 - Eating or drinking are not permitted on the bus.
 - Students should take their seat promptly and sit properly, always facing forward.
 - Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion and are not permitted to face backwards or sit partially in the aisle of the bus. Students are not permitted to change seats or stand while the bus is in motion.
- A front-facing view of a yellow school bus with "SCHOOL BUS" written on the top. It has black wheels and a grey bumper.

- Students must always conduct themselves in an acceptable manner. Profanity, obscene gestures, horseplay, throwing objects, fighting, and boisterous or other improper conduct will not be tolerated.
 - The aisle and emergency exits of the bus must be always kept clear.
 - Leaving waste or other rubbish on the floor or throwing it from the windows of the bus is not permitted.
 - Extending arms or head out of the bus windows is extremely dangerous and is not permitted.
- Only eligible riders will be allowed access to their assigned school bus and will disembark at their designated school or regular bus stop only. Elementary students wishing to disembark at an undesignated bus stop (i.e. play date) must have a note signed by a parent/guardian.
 - Students should be at the bus stop five (5) minutes before the scheduled pick-up time; the bus will not wait for those who are late.
 - Students must stay in bus loading zones while waiting and will load and unload the bus in an orderly manner.
 - After getting off the bus, Students are not to walk or stand near or beside the bus. Crossing the road must be done in front of the bus and when crossing, Students need to watch for vehicles

not stopping and be prepared to avoid vehicles. Students should not use cellular phones or headphones/electronic devices during the loading or unloading process. Crossing behind the bus is not permitted.

- If the bus does not arrive within 20 minutes of the scheduled time students should return home.
- Any instances of bullying or inappropriate behavior should be reported to the bus driver.
- Damage to the bus or equipment should be reported to the driver. Deliberate damage to a school bus by a student will result in consequences (i.e. bus suspension) and costs to repair the damage (e.g. seat covers)
- Students are not allowed to sit in the driver's seat or touch any switches or controls of the bus.
- Students may not have anything in their possession that may cause injury to anyone else on the bus.
- Student cell phone use for pictures/videos, music, lighting or any other use that may distract the bus driver is not permitted on the bus. Music with inappropriate content is not permitted on the school bus.
- Bus pass cards are mandatory and must be scanned on and off the bus. A \$10 replacement fee applies to all lost or broken cards.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

April 28 th	LSA Pro-D Day: no school (Monday)
April 29 th	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm
April 30th & May 1st	Early dismissal (noon) for student learning conferences
May 11 th	Mother's Day
May 12 th	PAC Popcorn Day (Monday)
May 19 th	Victoria Day Holiday (no school)
May 20 th	Deadline to order online for May's PAC Pizza Lunch
May 21 st	PAC Fundraiser: Mad Hatter (at Cherry Creek Hall)
May 26 th	School Based Pro-D Day no school (Monday)
May 28 th	PAC Pizza Day Lunch
June 15 th	Father's Day
June 21 st	National Indigenous People's Day
June 26 th	Last day for students
June 27 th	Admin Day: schools closed

Sincerely,
Mr. S. Brown
Principal



Attention Families!



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE ENROLLING NOW!

OUR BEFORE SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM RUNS FROM 6:00 AM TO THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY
AND OUR AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM RUNS FROM THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY TO 6:30 PM;
FULL-DAY CARE IS AVAILABLE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PRO-D DAYS, EXCLUDING ILM CLOSURES

How to Register

- **Submit your child care needs by:**
 - **Completing the Waitlist Submission Request form on our website on the “How to Register” page**
- **Prepare your registration package, including:**
 - **A completed Child Care Registration Form (available on our website on the “How to Register page)**
 - **A clear, coloured photo of your child’s face for emergency identification**
- **Keep an eye out for an email offering enrollment for your child and submit your completed registration package**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: ILMEDUCATIONCENTER.COM