

Howitt News



2024-2025 Newsletter #2

October 8th, 2024

FALL UPDATE:

The first month has flown by, and the leaves are starting to turn colour to mark fall in the Alberni Valley. We had a powerful Truth and Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day assembly on Thursday September 26th. Thank you to Margaret Eaton for joining us to talk about the impact of residential schools. We continue to wear orange on Mondays in support of Truth and Reconciliation. Students and teachers continue to work on our fall assessments on reading, writing, and math so that we can plan our next steps based on where students are at in their learning. We continue to focus on kindness, showing respect, and solving problems in peaceful ways. We always encourage students to ask a Staff Member for help with solving any problems. Homework options for Howitt students is reading each night. Either being read to, reading a book on their own, or reading to a family member are great options.

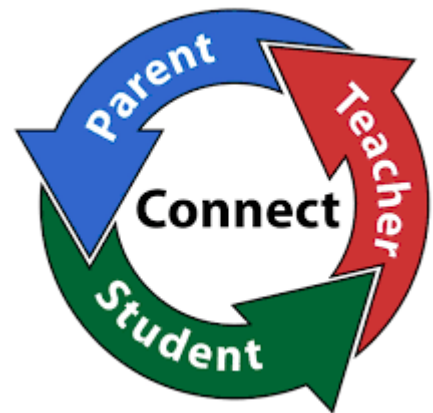
STUDENT LEARNING CONFERENCES: *October 16th and 17th* early dismissal.

Recently your child should have brought home a letter with a date and time for their fall learning conference. Classes will dismiss early **on October 16th and 17th for Student Learning Conferences (12:00 pm on the 2 DAYS).**

Our school bus will be leaving Howitt between 12:10 and 12:15 pm on those two early dismissal days.

Student Learning Conferences are an opportunity to discuss the progress of your children with their teachers and plan together for the year (goal setting).

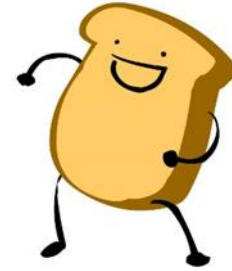
This fall we are offering a choice of either in-person meetings or Zoom (Virtual meetings). The conferences have been arranged to enable parents to speak with all their children's teachers in one afternoon. We strongly encourage students to participate in the conference with their parents.



If it is impossible for you to meet with us at the scheduled time, email the teacher or call our secretary at 250-723-7521 and we will attempt to set up a more convenient appointment.

READ-AND-FEED BREAKFAST CLUB VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING FOOD TO HOWITT STUDENTS.

Alberni Valley Read-and Feed breakfast club volunteers will be providing healthy breakfast options each morning. Food will be available for pick up in the office after the bell for any student that is hungry. Thanks to Sally Anderson, Elvyra and the Read-and-Feed program for supporting our school with breakfast program food items.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FAMILIES:

Wednesday October 9 th	PAC Popcorn Day (\$2 a bag)
Wednesday October 16 th	Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)
Thursday October 17 th	Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)
Friday October 18 th	PAC Movie Night: Scoob! (2020). The movie will be showing in the Howitt gym. Doors open at 6 pm and the movie will start at 6:30 pm.
Friday October 25 th	Provincial Specialists Pro-D Day (no school for students)
Thursday October 26 th	PAC Meeting at 5:30 pm in the library
Wednesday October 30 th	1. Grade 6 Immunizations (AM) 2. PAC Hot Lunch Day.
Thursday October 31 st	Halloween @ Howitt (Thursday, wear your costume)
Sunday November 3 rd	Daylight savings ends (clocks fall back an hour)
Wednesday Nov 6 th	SD70 Cross Country District Event
Tuesday November 7 th	Individual Student photo re-take day (starting at 9:30 am)
Friday November 8 th	Howitt Remembrance Day Assembly (wear red if possible): 11:00 am
Monday November 11 th	Remembrance Day (Monday): no school for students
Monday November 18 th	School Based Pro- D Day (no school for students)

HALLOWEEN @ HOWITT: ***Thursday October 31st, 2024***

Many classes will be celebrating Halloween on Thursday October 31st and students are welcome to wear their costumes.

We are going to have a parade outside around the school for all classes at 9:45 am. Photos will also be shared on Facebook.



Here are a few reminders:

- Students cannot bring baked or any food to share from home. This is part of Government safety guidelines. **However, staff members may provide a treat to students.**
- Costumes must allow for proper hand washing. No gloves or sleeves that will prevent hand washing.
- Any costume accessories such as swords or weapons need to be left at home. Costume masks can be worn during the parade, but not before school, during outside play times, or after school.
- Adults coming around the school are respectfully asked not to wear any costume masks or scary costumes. These scare our younger students and for safety reasons, we need to know who the adults are that are coming on to school grounds.
- **Please keep candy at home, and not part of student lunches on November 1st!**
- Please send your child with extra clothing in case they get tired of wearing their costume or it gets wet/dirty.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PHOTOS:

Friday October 18th, 2024 in the morning and until done:

Individual photos for students will be happening on **Friday October 18th, 2024**. We will start around 9:00 am and should be done by lunch time or in the early afternoon. All students need to have a picture taken for our student records. Families will then be able to purchase photos through Life Touch if they wish. After picture day you will receive a proof sheet and will then be able to order online your photos.



STUDENT CELLPHONE EXPECTATIONS CHANGING:

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 students are with us each day should be a cellphone free time for students. Below is the proposed update to our cellphone expectations. This will bring us in line with expectations around cellphones from the Ministry of Education and Pacific Rim School District.

Morning:

- Once students arrive at school (i.e., by bus, car, or walking to school). They should not be brought out until the end of the day. 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. Again, there should be no pictures or videos being taken on school grounds, or the school bus, at the end of the day.

2024-2025 Cellphones at school expectations for Howitt:

- Cellphones away in backpacks as soon as students come onto school grounds. Cellphones should not be on a student at any time.
- Phones are silent or turned off and stored in a student's backpack. Not on them, and not on their desks or in their binders. Cellphones should not be in a student cross body bag.
- A student who has their cellphone out may be confiscated by staff. Any cellphone taken by a staff member will be stored securely in the office. Phones will be locked for safety, and returned by the end of the day. A Howitt staff member will contact families if a phone is confiscated.
- Phones can be used in class under the direction of a teacher.
- Students have been good at buying into our updated cellphone expectations. If you would like to provide feedback for us on these expectations, please email Mr. Brown (sbrown@sd70.bc.ca)

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY



Our Remembrance Day ceremony is scheduled for Friday, November 8th, and we will be starting around 10:55 am. Parent/Guardians and family members are welcome to attend.

Donations for poppies can be brought to classroom teachers the morning of Nov 10th. All students will get a poppy. Please send in a toonie or loonie in support of the Royal Canadian Legion.

We are creating a slideshow for our assembly. If you have a family member who has served in the Military or in any Peace Keeping Mission, we would like to honour them. Please scan and email the photo to Mr. Brown with some details (e.g., Name, When/Where they Served, relationship to student). Or you can bring in the photo to the school and we can help scan it. All photos can be emailed to Mr. Brown (sbrown@sd70.bc.ca). **If you sent us pictures in previous years, then we will be able to use those. No need to resend pictures. Or if you would like to provide more pictures then we would be happy to add them to our slideshow.** Thanks for helping us with this!

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.

EARTHQUAKE COMFORT KITS FOR STUDENTS: ***due Wednesday October 23rd***

The last day to get your comfort kit into your child's classroom teacher is Wednesday October 23rd. All items will be moved to our emergency supply bin and will be returned at the end of the year. Any questions please contact your child's classroom teacher or 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 plan 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**.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

John Howitt has a limited number of lunches available for students. Students require a parent or guardian to sign up. Envelopes are available at the office. For more information on the program please contact the school.

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 October 29th, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the library.

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 behnke@sd70.bc.ca, or your child's teacher, to report an absence.



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.

Pacific Rim Schools
HOW TO DOWNLOAD OUR APP FOR YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

- 1 VISIT YOUR APP STORE
- 2 SEARCH AND DOWNLOAD "PACIFIC RIM SCHOOLS"
- 3 ALLOW FOR NOTIFICATIONS
After you download the app make sure you allow for notifications. In the app settings make sure you set up to get notifications for website notifications, news, and events.
- 4 ADJUST YOUR CONTENT SOURCES
This will allow you to determine what school websites you receive notifications from. For example if you have children at ADSS and Dunn you might want to have Pacific Rim Schools, ADSS and EJ Dunn selected.
- 5 YOU ARE ALL SET

www.sd70.bc.ca

Afterschool Sports and Clubs at Howitt: October 2024

- VOLLEYBALL: GRADE 6&7 STUDENTS COMBINED TEAM WITH ECOLE GRAND CEDARS. PRACTICES ON TUESDAY (AT E.G.C.) AND GAME DAYS ON WEDNESDAYS.
- WRESTLING: PRACTICE AT HOWITT ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. INTERSCHOOL PLAYDAYS ON OCTOBER 17TH AND 24TH. WRAP UP JAMBOREE AT ADSS ON NOVEMBER 8TH.
- CROSS COUNTRY AFTERSCHOOL PRACTICES FROM 2:35 TO 3:15 PM ON OCT 9TH, 18TH, AND 23RD. NOVEMBER 6TH IS THE DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY EVENT.
- SAFE CLUB WITH MS. LENORMAND STARTING NEXT WEEK.
- WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AFTER SCHOOL ARTS AND SPORTS INITIATIVES HAPPENING AT HOWITT IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.

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.
- 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.



2024-2025 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:

October 9 th	PAC Popcorn Day
October 14 th	Statutory Holiday: Thanksgiving
Oct 16th & 17th	Early Dismissal for Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)
October 25 th	Provincial Pro-D Day- Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
October 29 th	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library.
October 31 st	Halloween @ Howitt (Thursday)
November 8 th	Remembrance Day at Howitt
November 11 th	Statutory Holiday: Remembrance Day (Monday, no school)
November 13 th	PAC Popcorn Day
November 18 th	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
November 28 th	PAC meeting 5:30 pm in the library
December 19 th	Student progress reports sent home
December 20 th	Last Day of School before winter break
Dec 23rd to Jan 3rd	Winter Break
January 6 th	School Re-Opens (Monday)
January 15 th	PAC popcorn day
January 20 th	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 12 th	PAC Popcorn Day
February 14 th	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 17 th	Statutory Holiday: Family Day (no school for students)
February 27 th	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library
March 12 th	PAC Popcorn Day
March 14 th	Last Day before Spring Break
March 17 th -28 th	Spring Break (two weeks)
March 31 st	First day back from spring break
April 9 th	PAC Popcorn Day
April 18 th	Statutory Holiday: Good Friday
April 21 st	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
April 29 th	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library
<u>April 30th & May 1st</u>	<u>Early dismissal for Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)</u>
May 14 th	PAC Popcorn Day
May 19 th	Statutory Holiday: Victoria Day
May 26 th	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 27 th	PAC meeting in the library 5:30 pm
June 11 th	PAC Popcorn Day
June 21 st	National Indigenous Day
June 26 th	Last Day of School for students
June 27 th	Admin Day (school closed)

*If you have any questions please contact the school,
or touch base with your child's Teacher!*

Sincerely,

Mr. S. Brown,
Principal

