

# Howitt News



2024-2025 Newsletter #3

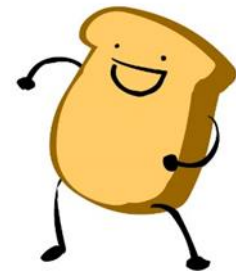
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Fall Update:

It was great to see so many families in the building last week as part of our student-led conferences. I hope you had a chance to hear about the great things your children are doing, meet their teacher, and to set learning goals to start the year. If you were unable to make the conference, classroom teachers will be reaching out to connect with you at a date and time that works for all. We continue to focus on completing our fall assessments in reading, writing, and numeracy. Our fall teams are starting to wrap up their seasons. Wrestling, volleyball, and cross country will all wrap up in November. Grade 4&5 basketball will be starting soon, and Mr. Carey is offering an RPG Club after school. Thanks to our PAC for hosting our first PAC Movie night on October 18<sup>th</sup>. We had over 150 people attend. We thank them for supporting our school with field trips, popcorn days, hot lunch days, and the goal to build a new Primary playground!

## 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 Mrs. Sally Anderson and the Read-and-Feed program for supporting our school with breakfast program food items.



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FAMILIES:

<b>Friday October 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Provincial Specialists Pro-D Day (no school for students)</b>
<b>Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PAC Meeting at 5:30 pm in the library</b>
<b>Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Grade 6 Immunizations (AM) <u>PAC Hot Lunch Day (Pita Pit)</u></b>
<b>Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Halloween@ Howitt (Thursday, wear your costume)</b>
<b>Friday November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Leadership Spirit Day: wear your pajamas to school!</b>

<b>Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Daylight savings ends (clocks fall back an hour)</b>
<b>Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Individual Student photo re-take day (starting at 9:15 am)</b>
<b>Wednesday Nov 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SD70 Cross Country District Event</b>
<b>Friday November 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Howitt Remembrance Day Assembly (wear red if possible): 10:55 am</b>
<b>Monday November 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Remembrance Day (Monday): no school for students</b>
<b>Monday November 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>School Based Pro- D Day (no school for students)</b>

### **Halloween @ Howitt: Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 John Howitt's Facebook Page.



#### **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 1<sup>st</sup>!**
- Please send your child with extra clothing in case they get tired of wearing their costume or it gets wet/dirty.

## **INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PHOTO RETAKES: (Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the morning and until done):**

Retakes for students will be happening on **Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. We will start around 9:00 am and should be done by recess. All students need to have a picture taken for our student records. Students who were away on October 18<sup>th</sup> on our original photo day will need to have their picture taken. 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 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.

appropriate use of



### **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 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. Again, there should be no pictures of 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](mailto:sbrown@sd70.bc.ca))

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY**

Our Remembrance Day ceremony is scheduled for Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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, 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: FINAL CALL!**

The last call to get your comfort kit into your child's classroom teacher ASAP. 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.

## **LUNCH PROGRAM**

John Howitt has a limited number of lunches available for students. Students require a parent or guardians signature and you can sign up once for the entire year. For more information on our new lunch program by nourish 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 Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 [lbehnke@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:lbehnke@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!

## Afterschool Sports and Clubs at Howitt: October and November 2024

**VOLLEYBALL: GRADE 6&7 STUDENTS COMBINED TEAM WITH ECOLE GRAND CEDARS. PRACTICES ON TUESDAY (AT E.G.C.) AND GAME DAYS ON WEDNESDAYS.**

- WEDNESDAY OCT 30<sup>TH</sup> HOWITT @ MAQUINNA
- FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> SD 70 VOLLEYBALL JAMBOREE 2 PM TO 6 PM
- **WRESTLING: PRACTICE AT HOWITT ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. INTERSCHOOL PLAYDAYS ON OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 24<sup>TH</sup>. WRAP UP JAMBOREE AT ADSS ON NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>.**
- **CROSS COUNTRY PRACTICE OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>. THE DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY EVENT IS NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> MORE INFORMATION TO COME.**
- **SAFE CLUB WITH MS. LENORMAND HAPPENING WEDNESDAYS AT LUNCH TIME.**
- **WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AFTER SCHOOL ARTS AND SPORTS INITIATIVES HAPPENING AT HOWITT IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.**

### **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.





## 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 25 <sup>th</sup>	Provincial Pro-D Day- Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library.
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Hot Lunch Day
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween @ Howitt (Thursday)
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day at Howitt. Assembly at 10:55 am
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Remembrance Day (Monday, no school)
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	PAC meeting 5:30 pm in the library
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Student progress reports sent home
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School before winter break
Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Winter Break
January 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Re-Opens (Monday)
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	PAC popcorn day
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
February 17 <sup>th</sup> students)	Statutory Holiday: Family Day (no school for
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day before Spring Break
March 17 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break (two weeks)
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	First day back from spring break
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Good Friday
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library
April 30 <sup>th</sup> & May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Early dismissal for Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Victoria Day
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	PAC meeting in the library 5:30 pm



June 11<sup>th</sup> PAC Popcorn Day  
June 21<sup>st</sup> National Indigenous Day  
June 26<sup>th</sup> Last Day of School for students  
June 27<sup>th</sup> 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

