

Howitt News



2024-2025 Newsletter #4

November 15th, 2024

- **Monday November 18th is our first School Based Pro-D Day. Reminder that there is no school for students.**
- **John Howitt Elementary hosts the Pacific Rim School District School Board Meeting Tuesday November 26th, 2024, in our Library from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Come out to hear what is happening at Howitt and across the School District.**

HOWITT SCHOOL WEAR: **ONLINE ORDERING OPEN UNTIL NOVEMBER 26TH**

Use the QR code to access our Howitt online school clothing store. We have lots of options for colors, and you can choose from our main school logo or our sports logo. Sizing charts are located online, and you can pay by credit or debit. Get your orders in by *November 26th* (11:59 pm) for delivery before Christmas. Looking for a Christmas gift, check off the gift option when ordering and you can pick up all items from the office.



- Clothing with our main school logo: the clothing will have logos created with a Direct to Film method. The main logo would be printed in Mirror image on a film and then heat sealed onto the clothing. The finished result is beautiful and colours are very vibrant. They wash and dry easily.
- Sizing charts are available under each clothing item, and there are both youth and adult sizes. If ordering for Christmas, there is an office pick up option for your orders.
- **Payment is made online through your credit or debit cards.**



HOWITT WINTER CONCERT “A Peaceful Winter Night”,

Tuesday December 17th please save the date
1pm (no tickets required) 6 pm (tickets required)

Students in the following classes will be performing:

Mrs. Douglas (Kindergarten)

Mrs. Organ (Grade 1)

Mrs. Fedirchuk (Grade 1&2)

Ms. Lenormand (Grade 2)

Mrs. Davidson (Grade 3)



Tickets will be sent home with the oldest sibling in your family in early December. We are limited in tickets for the evening concert. We will take names on a waiting list for extra tickets but cannot make any guarantees of having extra tickets.

***There are no tickets required for the 1 pm show**

GRADE 4&5 BASKETBALL AT HOWITT

Thanks to Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Dyer, and Mrs. Bouchard for coaching our Grade 4&5 basketball team.

Upcoming schedule:

Tuesday	Nov 19 th	Practice afterschool
Wednesday	Nov 20 th	Intrasquad game at Howitt
Thursday	Nov 30 th	Practice at lunch
Monday	Nov 25 th	Practice afterschool
Wednesday	Nov 27 th	Game afterschool @ Howitt
Thursday	Nov 28 th	Practice at lunch
Monday	Dec 2 nd	Practice afterschool
Wednesday	Dec 4 th	Game afterschool @ Haa-huu-payak School
Thursday	Dec 5 th	Practice at lunch
Monday	Dec 9 th	Practice afterschool
Wednesday	Dec 11 th	Game afterschool @ Howitt
Thursday	Dec 12 th	Practice at lunch

Friday Dec 13th Wrap up Jamboree at ADSS: time to be determined (afterschool)

Basketball for Grade 6&7 students starts in January 2025. Watch for more details in our future newsletters.



HOWITT LIBRARY SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:

Happening all week! *November 25th to November 29th.*



Mr. Harper is hosting a Howitt book fair during the week of *November 25th to November 29th*. Students will get a chance to see what books are available to purchase. Great idea to support reading at home.

- Students can purchase items before school, recess, and lunch.
- The book fair will also be open after school until 3:00 pm.

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 November 29th, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the library. Ms. Lenormand and student leaders will be providing childcare for any family who needs this support.

LUNCH PROGRAM

John Howitt has a limited number of lunches available for students. Students require a parent or guardians can sign up once for the entire year. For more information on our new lunch program by Nourish please contact the school.

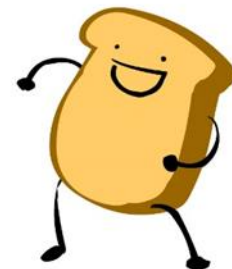
REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENT OR LATE

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.



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.





GIFTS AND GIVING Is Back Again on December 9th!

This is an especially exciting day for the whole school. Each student can choose one gift for a loved one and have it wrapped up to bring home. They love this day - their faces just light up!

We are counting on the generosity of parents to donate gently used or new items. **You can deliver items starting the week of December 2nd to 6th and up until Friday December 6th. Check in at the office and we can help you to get them to our main gym.**



Examples of Items We are looking for:

- * Kitchen items * toys * jewelry * tools *
 - * Christmas décor * recreation tickets
 - * Grooming products * pet supplies *
- anything else you think would be appropriate.

Any item that is new or gently used. All items left over will be donated to local charities.

Donations of gift bags, gift wrap, gift tags, or tissue paper would be appreciated 🙏



Any Questions Please the school (250) 723-7521.

Thank you to all for making this happen for your amazing children! John Howitt Elementary PAC

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FAMILIES:

Monday November 18th	School Based Pro- D Day (no school for students)
November 19 th	Deadline to order online for our PAC Pizza lunch on November 27 th
November 26 th	Howitt Spirit Wear clothing sales close (11:59 pm)
November 26 th	Howitt hosts the Pacific Rim School Board
November 27 th	PAC Hot Lunch Day
November 28 th	PAC meeting 5:30 pm in the library
December 17 th	Winter Concert 1pm and 6 pm
December 19 th	Winter Wonderland Skating
December 19 th	Student progress reports sent home
December 20 th	Last Day of School before winter break
Dec 23rd to Jan 3 rd	Winter Break
January 6 th	School Re-Opens (Monday)

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 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 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)

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.

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**.

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.

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:

November 18th	School Based Pro-D Day (No school for students)
November 19 th	PAC online pizza orders are due
November 26 th	Howitt Spirit Wear clothing sales close
November 26 th	School Board Meeting at Howitt 5 pm to 6:30 pm
November 27 th	PAC Pizza Day
November 28 th	PAC meeting 5:30 pm in the library
December 17 th	Winter Concert 1pm and 6 pm
December 19 th	Winter Wonderland Skating
December 19 th	Student progress reports sent home
December 20 th	Last Day of School before winter break
Dec 23rd to Jan 3 rd	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