

Howitt News



2024-2025 Newsletter #5

December 4th, 2024

FALL / WINTER UPDATE:

As a follow-up to our last email regarding lead in the water, we are awaiting our testing dates for Howitt. The plan is to have them completed by the end of 2024. We have added three water bottle filling stations (two in the main building, and one in kindergarten). Our hallway water bottle filling station has the necessary filter to provide clean water. We are flushing this station each morning, and out of an abundance of caution are asking students to run the water for 30 seconds prior to use. As we get more information from the School District and our Maintenance department we will provide updates to families. If you have any questions about this, please contact me at the school (250) 723-7521. (Mr. Brown)

We cannot believe that it is December already. We are looking forward to our 12 days of Winter Break starting this week. We have door decorating starting on Thursday this week, and it is Cozy Pajama Day on Friday. Watch out for all of our events in the weeks to come. Thanks to Mrs. Mayes for helping to get this organized with the help of her leadership students. Also, thank you to PAC for supporting our events and their PAC Gifts of Giving event on Monday December 9th.

HOWITT WINTER CONCERT “Cozy: 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)

Intermediate Choir



Tickets will be sent home with students by Friday December 6th. 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**



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

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:

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 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 January 29th, 2025, 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.

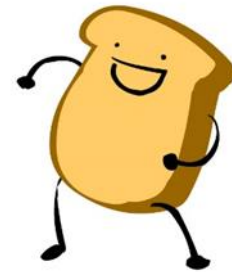
REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENT OR LATE

If your child will be absent or late, please contact our school at (250)723-7521. You may also email either behnke@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.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR FAMILIES:

December 17 th	Winter Concert 1pm and 6 pm
December 19 th	Winter Wonderland Skating
December 19 th	Student Learning Updates 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)

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**.

KINDERGARTEN BUILDING: STAFF PARKING and MAIN PARKING LOT

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. **In any of our parking lots, we ask that you back your vehicle into the parking stall. This allows you to see any small friends in the parking lot as you leave.**

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 Durr you might want to have Pacific Rim Schools, ADSS and E.J. Durr selected.
- 5 YOU ARE ALL SET

www.sd70.bc.ca

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING AT HOME WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Through hundreds of studies, it has been found that children that read at home with their parents perform better “[educationally and socially than those that do not](#).” The age at which to start varies depending on the research, but in general: the earlier the better. Many studies cite that reading with your children before the age of 18 months is best practice.

The key word in this is: *with*. Reading *to* your children has many positive impacts, but what we are discussing is reading *with* your child. Although it may seem counterintuitive to read with a child that can't... well... read, the act is more complex than simply teaching them how to formulate the letters c-a-t. Having them sitting next to you with the book in front of you both allows them to follow along with the visuals even if they can't read the words.

Reading with your child offers the following benefits [OUTSIDE](#) of them simply learning to read:

1. Letter recognition
2. Memory
3. Curiosity
4. Language skills
5. Motivation
6. Attention/ concentration
7. Emotional management
8. Colour recognition
9. Develops imagination

Now that we know the benefits, how do we do it? That may seem like a simple question but, once again, it's more complex than simply reading aloud with them looking at the page. It's important to point out the words as you're reading them to promote letter and phrase recognition. Point out animals, shapes and colours within the photos to promote colour recognition, curiosity and attention. If your child ever points at anything on the page or shows interest in some way, be sure to say the phrase out loud and repeat it a few times, this will enforce their interest and motivate them to point more often so that they get a reaction. With older children, engage them in the story by asking simple questions along the way such as “what do you think will happen next” or “what colour is this.” This will motivate children to pay attention and aid in memory development. Reading can also help with emotional management as you can find books that relate to things that may cause your child stress or anxiety such as starting a new school. Lastly, have fun! More than anything, this is one-on-one time for you and your child to bond and connect with a shared topic and interest.

Overall, reading is one of the keystones of education and is the starting point for success and ease in all other developmental areas. If you make ‘family read’ a fun and positive experience, it is an enjoyable way to aid your child's success and confidence as they move forward. (courtesy of Child Ventures Learning Academy)

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:



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
April 30 th & May 1 st	Early dismissal for Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)
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