



Howitt News

Issue #6

DECEMBER 19TH, 2025



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- Today is the last day of classes until January!
- Reminder - Winter Break: *December 22nd - January 2nd*
- First day back to school: *Monday January 5th, 2026*

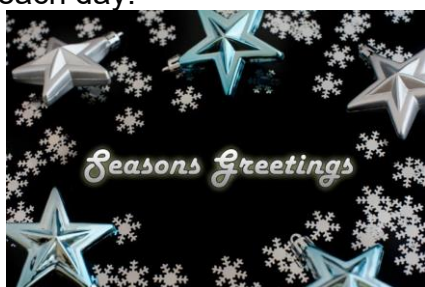


STUDENT LEARNING UPDATES: SENT HOME THIS WEEK.

If you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the new year! If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Brown sbrown@sd70.bc.ca).

THANK YOU FROM JOHN HOWITT ELEMENTARY!

- ☆ To Miss O'Donovan for her hard work on our Winter Concert.
- ☆ Thank you to all our student performers and stage crew students. You did a great job at the Winter Concert!
- ☆ Thank you to Mrs. Mayes for organizing our 12 Days Before Winter Break, our Leadership Activities, and organizing our Food Drive. Congratulations to Mrs. Bouchard's Grade 4&5 class for bringing in the most items in support of the Salvation Army.
- ☆ Thank you to our staff and students for working so hard in our First Term! Everyone deserves a restful Winter Break!
- ☆ Thank you to our PAC for their continued support of our students, staff, and school! Your help is greatly appreciated!
- ☆ Thank you to Mrs. Behnke for all that she does to support our students, families, and staff!
- ☆ Thank you to our families for supporting our students and staff!
- ☆ Thank you to Mr. Harper, Ms. Dyer, Mrs. Krupek, and Mrs. Davidson for coaching or running activities in term 1.
- ☆ Thank you to Mr. Dave Ralla (REMAX Mid-Island Realty) for donating Breakfasts For Kids for the holidays.
- ☆ Thank you to the Read and Feed Program for providing us with such nutritious breakfast items each day.



SEASON'S GREETINGS!

From the staff at John Howitt Elementary school, we wish you all the best this Holiday Season! Have a restful Winter Break and a Happy New Year!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

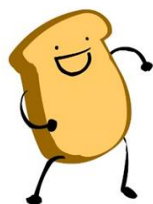
The school and office will be closed from December 22nd to January 2nd. There will be limited office hours on December 22nd morning only. Please call the school ahead of time to see if Mrs. Behnke is in the office if you require assistance. (250) 723-7521.

**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 Dates-

- Deadline to order online for PAC Pretzel Day: *January 20th* at 11:59 pm
- PAC Popcorn Day: *January 12th* (Monday)
- PAC Pretzel Day: *January 28th* (Wednesday)
- Our next meeting is **Tuesday January 27th, 2025**, at 5:30 pm in the library.

READ-AND-FEED BREAKFAST:**STARTS BACK ON TUESDAY JANUARY 6TH, 2026**

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.

**READING OVER THE WINTER BREAK:**

A great way to spend the holidays is with a good book! We hope that our students can find some time over the Winter break to read a good fit book, read to a family member, or have someone read to them!



MATH GAMES AT HOME OVER THE WINTER BREAK:

Here are some math games you can play at home over the winter break.

Tens Concentration

No. of players: 2-4

Materials: Deck of cards with 6 of each number from Ace through 9

How to play:

1. Place 16 cards in the middle of the table, face down in a 4X4 arrangement.
2. Players take turns turning over 2 cards trying to turn over a pair that totals 10.
3. If a pair can be made, the player keeps those cards and continues to try and turn over another pair. If the player is not successful, they return the cards they turned over to their original position, face down and they replace any cards that they took to make a pair with new ones from the deck.
4. The person who collects the greatest number of pairs is the winner.

Variations:

For younger children, use only small numbers that add up to 5 (e.g., all the cards from Ace to 4).

For older children, the pairs could be multiplied and points given as follows: if the answer is under 20, they get one point; if the answer is 20-40 they get two points; if it is over 40 they get three points.

Making Fifteen

No. of players: 2-4

Materials: Deck of cards, counters

How to play:

1. The object of the game is to get as close to a total of 15 as possible without going over.
2. One player deals two cards face down to each player.
3. The player to the left of the dealer goes first. If their cards add up to less than 15, they can ask the dealer for another card, trying to get their cards to total a number as close to 15 as possible without going over.
4. If the player goes over 15, they are out for that round.
5. Each player takes a turn asking for more cards.
6. After each player has had a turn, everyone turns over their cards and compares totals. The player with the total closest to 15 wins that round and takes a counter from the pile in the centre of the table.
7. If there is a tie, no one gets a counter.
8. The game ends when one player has collected 10 counters.

Variations: Instead of 15, use other totals such as 21, 30, 50, and deal out three cards to begin.

War

No. of players: 2-4

Materials: Deck of cards

How to play:

1. All the cards are dealt so that each player has one stack placed face down.
2. Without looking, each player turns up the top card in their pile.
3. The player whose total is the highest takes all cards played.
4. If the sums are equal, players keep their own cards.
5. The player who has the most cards in the end is the winner.

Double War to Ten

No. of players: 2-4

Materials: Deck of cards

How to play:

6. All the cards are dealt so that each player has two stacks placed face down.
7. Without looking, each player turns up the top two cards in their pile.
8. The player whose total is the highest takes all cards played.
9. If the sums are equal, players keep their own cards.
10. All players must agree on the totals before anyone takes the cards for that round.
11. The player who has the most cards in the end is the winner.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec 22 nd to Jan 2 nd	Winter Break
January 5 th	School Re-Opens (Monday)
January 12 th	PAC Popcorn Day
January 19 th	School Based Pro-Day (no school for students)
January 23 rd	Howitt Leadership Spirit Day: Teacher & Student Swap Day
January 23 rd	PAC Movie Night: The Lego Movie
January 27 th	PAC Meeting at 5:30 pm in the library
January 27 th	Family Literacy Day
January 28 th	PAC Hot Lunch Day: Pretzels
February 9 th	PAC Popcorn Day
February 13 th	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
February 16 th	Statutory Holiday: Family Day (no school for students)
February 25 th	Pink Shirt Day
February 25 th	PAC Hot Lunch Day
February 26 th	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library

Sincerely,
Mr. S. Brown
Principal

