



# Howitt News

Issue #9

MARCH 4TH, 2026



## SPRING BREAK 2026 (March 9<sup>th</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>)

Friday is the last day of school prior to spring break (2 weeks). We will be back in session on **Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**. If you are going on a trip, pack some books to read, journal, take pictures, and come back and tell us all about it. Let us know what the best part of your trip was. If you are staying home, then rest and relax. Have fun with friends and family and go outside and enjoy all the great things the Alberni Valley (and Vancouver Island) offers.

### STUDENT LEARNING UPDATES: TERM 2



Student learning updates went home today. **Please sign and return the school report envelope as soon as possible to your child's teacher.** Many students did not return their envelopes from their December learning updates.

If you have any questions about your child's progress, please reach out to their classroom teacher.

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR NEXT YEAR (2026-2027)

John Howitt Elementary is taking registrations for incoming catchment area Kindergarten students for September 2026. Those children born in 2021 are starting Kindergarten in September.

Registration packages are available at the school or can be completed online. Copy of a birth certificate and proof of residence in our catchment area are also needed to complete the registration package. We will also have an "All About Me" form for families to complete to help us get to know your child. For more information, please contact the school at (250) 723-7521.

In May/June 2026 we will host our Kindergarten "Here We Come" event for children and families to get a tour of the school, meet staff, and take part in learning centers to help welcome you to our school.



## **ARE YOU MOVING? CHANGING SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026?**

As we are preparing for the 2026-2027 school year, please inform us if your family is moving or changing schools. This helps us keep our records up to date and ensures a smooth transition for your child. If you are planning a move, please let us know. We can help to make the transition as seamless as possible for your family. It also helps us to plan our staffing and classes with a clear picture of our student numbers. Please contact the school office at your earliest convenience if you have any updates regarding your address or school plans for next year.

**If you are moving schools, we strongly suggest that you register with the new school as soon as possible. This ensures that they can plan for any new students for next year. It also helps to make sure that the new school has a spot for your family. Thank you!**



## **HOWITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (P.A.C.)**

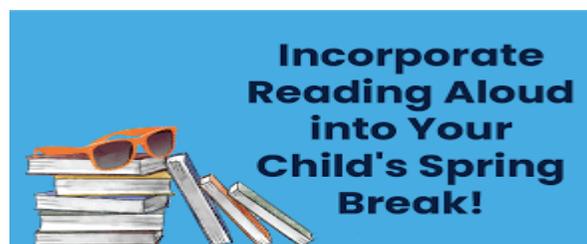


We have a long tradition of parent involvement at John Howitt Elementary with a wide variety of opportunities available for parent volunteers. For its size, our school community is very rich in resources and opportunities for our students thanks to the committed efforts of our parents over the years. 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 March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the library. All PAC fundraising will go towards building a new primary playground.**

## **SPRING BREAK LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

As we approach spring break, we want to encourage our students to continue their learning in a fun and engaging way! Here are some recommendations to support reading, writing, and math skills during the break, utilizing fantastic resources like Prodigy Math, Epic Books, Raz-Kids, and Teach Your Monster to Read.



### **Reading**

- Epic Books: Encourage your child to set a daily reading goal of 20-30 minutes. With a diverse selection of genres, they can explore new worlds and ideas. Visit the public library to find a great book to read!

- Raz-Kids: This interactive platform offers quizzes after each book, reinforcing comprehension. Encourage kids to listen to books being read aloud to help improve their fluency.

### Writing

- Journal Writing: Have your child keep a spring break journal to document their adventures. This is a great way to encourage reflection and expression of their thoughts and feelings.
- Creative Writing Prompts: Provide fun prompts related to spring, such as “If you could be any animal in spring, what would you be and why?” to spark their imagination.

### Math

- Prodigy Math: Encourage daily practice through engaging math challenges on Prodigy. Set goals for your child to reach specific levels by the end of spring break, making math fun with games and challenges!
- Real-World Math: Involve your child in everyday activities like meal planning or budgeting for outings. Cooking is a fantastic way to practice math skills, such as measuring ingredients and calculating cooking times.
- Card and Board Games: Incorporate math through fun card and board games that require counting, strategy, and critical thinking. Games like Uno, Monopoly, or even simple math bingo can reinforce math skills while providing quality family time.



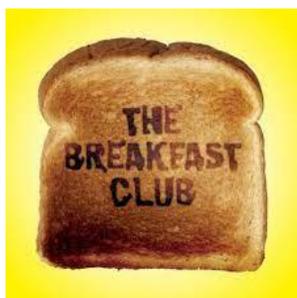
### Combined Activities

- Outdoor Math Scavenger Hunt: Create a scavenger hunt where students solve math problems to find the next clue. This combines physical activity with math practice!
- Themed Reading and Writing: Choose a spring theme (like nature or animals) and read books related to that theme. Encourage your child to write summaries or share their thoughts.
- Get outside and go for a hike! Talk about the things you see and smell!

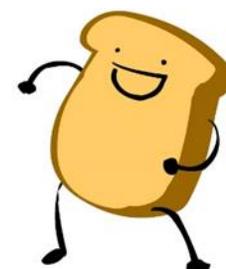


By incorporating these engaging activities, you can help your children reinforce their skills while making the most of their spring break. Happy learning!

**READ-AND-FEED BREAKFAST:**



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. **The**



**Howitt Breakfast Program will start again on Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (after we return from Spring Break).**

**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Student Learning Update #2 reports sent home
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day before Spring Break
March 9 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break (two weeks)
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	First day back from spring break
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Good Friday (no school for students)
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Monday (no school for students)
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Popcorn Day
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Individual Student Photos and Class Photos (Friday)
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Cookie Day: details to come (NEW day)
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	PAC Meeting 5:30 pm in the library
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Earth Day
<u>April 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 23<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>Early dismissal for Student Learning Conferences (dismissal at Noon)</u>
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	School Based Pro-D Day (no school for students)
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Hot Lunch Day
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	May the "Fourth" be with you
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Pro-D Day (no school for students)
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Statutory Holiday: Victoria Day
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	PAC meeting in the library at 5:30 pm
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	National Indigenous Day
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School for students
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Admin Day (school closed)

Sincerely,

Mr. S. Brown  
Principal

