Dear Parent/Guardian:

At your school for the next two weeks is a travelling display called U’mista. The display consists of 2 exhibits the *Project of Heart Canoe* and *Speaking to Memory*. During the next few weeks your child could be learning about Residential Schools and reconciliation as part of the British Columbia renewed curriculum. These lessons were developed locally to provide age-appropriate educational materials about Residential Schools to foster open dialogue and strengthen the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada and to move towards reconciliation by learning the truth.

It is important that we deal with the topic of Residential Schools with sensitivity. For some students the topics discussed may be sensitive, especially if they have personal connections with residential school survivors. For others, the topics may be controversial, particularly if they feel they have no connection with the issues. We will ensure that the topics are presented fairly and with sensitivity. We will allow students the space and time to reflect in a safe environment and will focus on healthy ways to engage in self-care. We encourage children to check-in and talk to their parents at home about this topic.

If you would like more information on these exhibits, please check out the following links.

**Speaking to Memory**: <http://moa.ubc.ca/portfolio_page/speaking-to-memory/>

**Project of Heart Canoe**: page 26/27 specifically talk about the canoe in the following document, which is an excellent resource to learn about residential schools. <http://www.bctf.ca/HiddenHistory/eBook.pdf>

Please feel welcome to drop in and see the exhibit. Check in with the school office for clarification and location.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact your school and/or teacher.

Email address

Phone number

Sincerely,

Teacher Name