

Backgrounder

School	Truth and Reconciliation Week Activities in SD 71
Ecole Puntledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Support Workers (ISWs) will be available to enhance the learning that is taking place in classes through sharing, in an age-appropriate way, the journeys of their own families. • Over the next two weeks each student is going to work towards creating a massive (500+) orange feather mobile that will be hung at the entrance of the school for the week. • Students will be working to paint orange hearts on the walk up to the school. • On the 29th, while the students are wearing orange, the school will gather for an outdoor assembly, followed by a drone shot photo of the school gathered in the shape of a shirt.
Cumberland Community School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange shirt day is being encouraged each day for the week of Sept 26 – 30. • Gr 9's have done a beautiful integration of FPOL (first peoples' principles of learning) in their current science work on observations, life cycles, seasons. • One class (Grades 3/4) is starting the day each day with the SD 71 gifted song – <i>Am'lala sa K̓umuxse'</i> - Comox Valley Schools First Nation Song. • Music classes: The Grade 5/6 class is doing music appreciation and drumming with an Secw e'peme Honour song. • Two divisions are working with the song One Drum by Indigenous singer/songwriter Leela Gilday. The title of the song symbolizes unity as we move through the truth and reconciliation process, and the lyrics make a call for a better world. • Grade 8s will hold an exercise to try and decolonize students understanding of the gravitas of oral text. • Two other classes have been reading My Name is Seepetza to their divisions. It is a journal style book about a girl in residential school and her experiences. • Grade 2's are doing a writing exercise using the book Shi shi etco. • Grade 4/5s are currently reading Richard Wagamese "One Native Life". It is about his experiences growing up in foster care and feeling disconnected to his Ojibway culture. • Staff would also like to do the Chanie Wejack walk again this year. • ISWs have tentative plans to do some salmon smoking & sharing to model some harvest/preparation work.
Miracle Beach Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each class will take on one act of reconciliation that they can work towards over the week. • During the week, classes will explore the natural space around the school learning about indigenous plants and history. While doing this they will collect rocks. Classes will create orange rocks using the rocks collected. The orange rocks will be displayed around our outdoor classroom as a way to start more conversations regarding reconciliation. They will use the same rocks later in the year to create moccasins – which will connect to residential schools and missing children. • During the week, intermediate classes will be smoking salmon on site. • On the 29th, the entire school will be encouraged to wear orange. As well, a smoked salmon snack will be delivered to each class.
Royston Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of teachers are doing their own learning around residential schools and reconciliation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grade 6 classes will host Trish McPhail, a cultural presenter, who will be coming to share about her adoption story and reconnecting with her

	<p>birth mother on Monday, September 26th. They will then participate in a mini-inquiry into Residential Schools, with a focus on St. Michael's Indian Residential School in Alert Bay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISWs will be working with Kindergarten classes to help them understand why every child matters then decorate a picture of an orange T-shirt. ○ A grade 3 class will be sharing literature (picture books) and engaging in meaningful discussions with students, and then sharing interviews with Orange Shirt Creator, Phyllis Webstad. ○ Another grade 3 class will read the children's book "I Hope" by Monique Gray Smith. The class will brainstorm/talk about what they hope for our indigenous peoples in Canada. ○ Students will then write letters of appreciation to the school's Ni'noxola. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On Sept 29th in the morning, the entire school will be doing a school-wide circle and moment of silence.
<p>Mark R Isfeld Secondary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school's Ni'noxola and ISW staff spent time this summer making orange jingle dresses and are planning a jingle dance. ● An orange shirt story board will be displayed every day accompanied by a teacher guide shared with teachers to support student learning. ● Donations will be asked for from staff and students to support the Orange Shirt Society (https://www.orangeshirtday.org/orange-shirt-society.html). This will be supported through information about Phyllis Webstad and the purpose of the Orange Shirt Society. ● Information will be shared on the Indigenous Education bulletin board and in student announcements.
<p>Arden Elementary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There will be a school assembly featuring an Indigenous speaker. ● The Warrior Society, as a follow up to last year, has already started and they may be drumming to an Indigenous Song, "Am'lala so K'umuxse." ● Teachers will be engaging in sharing age-appropriate Indigenous stories in their classrooms. Students will have the opportunity to write a word or sentence on an orange paper feather and they hope to make a display with the feathers.
<p>Hornby Island Community School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hornby School will be acknowledging the entire week by wearing orange each day and wearing PAC provided Orange Shirt Day t-shirts on Thursday. ● Age-appropriate literature will be shared and discussed in classes and in the library. As a way to commemorate "Phyllis' Story," each student will choose a meaningful word to write on the front of a paper orange t-shirt which will be displayed on a clothesline in the school hallway. ● K-1 students will draw and colour "Every Child Matters" images. ● Grade 2-4 class is designing an 'ultimate school' to demonstrate their understanding of the neglect that was experienced by so many children in residential students. They will be displayed in the front foyer. ● Grade 5-7 students will be learning about treaties, practicing their drumming skills and recording videos about what Truth and Reconciliation means to them. ● Hornby will have a school-wide assembly. There will be student drumming and song, followed by a symbolic walk on the train tracks, in honour of Chanie Wenjack.
<p>G.P Vanier Secondary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each morning Vanier students will begin the day with a different Truth and Reconciliation session for all classes, students and staff to engage in. These sessions will be led by our Indigenous education Liasson Committee (see below). <u>Week of September 26 – September 30</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon Sept 26th Knowledge and Understanding – Student led (Keyworth – Social Justice) 9:15-9:30 • Tue Sept 27th Calls to Action and Pledges 9:15- 9:35 • Wed Sept 28th Reflection and Care 9:15 – 9:35 • Thu Sept 29th Orange Shirt Day- Holding Space for Truth- featuring guest speakers Keisha and Mary Everson 9:15 – 10:15ish • Fri Sept 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Non-instructional Day
Ecole Robb Road	<p><u>Tuesday and Wednesday Sept. 27 and 28</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hole for our Reconciliation tree will be dug by maintenance Monday morning in the back field near the pavement. • Each division will receive an orange paper in their mailbox (with a heart). Students will be asked to reflect and write notes or pictures of healing thoughts, remembrance and reconciliation on this <i>one</i> sheet of paper. Classes will bury this sheet in the hole where the tree will be planted. • Story Walk around school property (back of school) with the book : <i>With Our Orange Hearts</i> in English and French available all day Tuesday and Wednesday. The last station of the story walk is planting your message in the tree hole while reflecting. A small shovel will be available for you. • Wednesday 1:00. There will be a short ceremony, the school ISW, will say a few words about the symbolism of this tree. <p>Planting this tree is a symbolic gesture for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The action of planting the tree will contribute towards Reconciliation, demonstrating that we care about all children, including those who never came home from residential schools and those who came home with scars by their experiences. Planting this tree is a reminder to never forget that every child matters.</p> <p><u>Thursday September 29th, Orange shirt day</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly in the gym starting to enter at 11:00 promptly as we return from recess. • Land acknowledgment by 2 students. • Grade 4 classes will sing “Remember Me.” • Some classes will read the book <i>I Lost My Talk</i> (using document camera) • Play video of the tree planting ceremony. • *There are bilingual activities and powerpoint presentations teachers to use with classes.
Navigate/NIDES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comox Compass K – 7: Will invite students to wear orange on Monday Sept. 26th. They will hold a talking circle and will read some age appropriate books to their students. They will show them this video - a powerful song written, recorded and filmed with students from Sk'elep School of Excellence in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, Kamloops, British Columbia. • They will take a look at the lyrics and will plan an art project from that. • Primary On-Line: Will send the following letter to their families: • This Friday is an important day for all Canadians. You might recall that "Orange Shirt Day" is a movement that started 9 years ago to honour and recognize the experience of survivors of residential schools in Canada, and to show an awareness and commitment to ensure that every child matters. As of this past June, September 30 is an official holiday, now known as "National Day for Truth and Reconciliation". • Fine Arts E-cademy (Fae): They are taking the kids out onto the land for a field trip to Paradise Meadows. Starting the day there with a land acknowledgement

	<p>and there are plans to either do an activity or at the very least discuss Truth and Reconciliation Week at the start of the day.</p>
Highland Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is planning to have an extended presentation on Thursday the 29th for all students followed by a walk to commemorate those children lost to residential schools. • All students will walk with a name of a child from a list of known lost children as well as some blank nametags for those who are nameless. • Some classes plan to cut feathers out of orange paper with little messages for the children on them that could be displayed in the classrooms or combined into a larger non-permanent installation. • The art department will also be printing this year's Orange Shirt Day school design, created by Highland's digital art student Jayson Flett, Oji-Cree.
Huband Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a student led assembly on Thursday about the meaning of reconciliation using student poetry and videos. • During the week, students are painting wooden feathers with inspirational messages. These will create a whole school hanging mobile in our foyer. • They will also have a storey walk of Phyllis Webstad's Orange shirt story in the forest (thanks to the print shop for laminating the posters which are on metal stands).
Glacier View Secondary	<p>Theme: 'An act of reconciliation coming from you.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday: Bannock making and jigging with Kookum Sheila • Tuesday and Wednesday: Students will design and paint a rock with that theme in mind. These rocks are added to our 'Pathway to Hope" out front of the school • Tuesday: Elders invited to Glacier View for tea with students and ISW • Wednesday: Welcome Back BBQ and Corn Roast. Boys Club to help with this event. Information boards about the history of corn in Indigenous cultures in the Americas. • Thursday: Trying to find a cultural presenter for classes. • All week: Teachers will set up and present to class in their own way bearing the theme in mind. Presentation board on the history and meaning of Orange Shirt Day. • Orange shirts worn all week by staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will have follow-up in November working with JoAnn Restoule to build Dream Catchers/Sacred Circles.
Airport Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salish Weave Kit - will be set up in ISW room and accessed by all classes for lessons. • Each teacher received a Grade level package of ideas to help and inspire teaching. • Music classes will be learning indigenous songs. • School wide assembly September 29th.
Denman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denman is planning a Wear Orange Week, having an orange salad bar (all orange foods) and asking questions as students pass through, and an Indigenous Focus Day on Thursday. Our Indigenous Focus Day will feature the Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén - the Words Before All Else - "O.K." • "The intention is to create a universality in what we can acknowledge and offer gratitude to and agree upon as a starting place for our path going forward to whatever work/business comes next. It reminds us of our responsibilities and all that supports us."

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will then work in small groups to focus on one area of responsibility and gratitude together. They will create pieces based on their reflections. • There will also be an Indigenous story walk, and various classroom activities such as rock painting and orange hearts for the trees in front of the school and the windows.
Brooklyn Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student and staff will be wearing Orange Shirts on Thursday. • Teachers will be doing a wide variety of activities all week, and there will be a video played or a class presentation at the school assembly on the Thursday.
Valley View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valley View is having a guest speaker, Trish McPhail, from Indigenous Education come to speak with classes about the residential school experience and Truth and Reconciliation. • Teachers are doing age-appropriate lessons for all their classes about the residential school experiences in Canada. • Asking school community to wear orange shirts for the entire week of September 26. • A Downie Wenjak Walk is being planned for October 17.
Courtenay Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous games every day outside at recess • Wednesday, September 28 - Open house and Indigenous themed art gallery walk from 5:00 to 6:30. • Thursday, September 29 at 10:45 – pre-National Truth and Reconciliation Day assembly in the gym - “Welcome Song”, story read by students, “the water song”, slide show of student art to indigenous music, song: “Remember Me” • All day: story walk (The Orange Shirt Story by Phyllis Webstad). It will be out front around the big tree. • PAC (parent advisory council) will place orange ribbons on the fence.
Lake Trail Community School	<p>Lake Trails approach this year is to allow teachers to link their class events to curriculum as much as possible and emphasize that truth and reconciliation is an ongoing process and priority, not just a day or week. Classes will be taking part in some of the 150 suggested acts of reconciliation.</p> <p>Tuesday, September 27 will be Orange shirt day – but students are being encouraged to wear orange next week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange shirt picture day will be held on September 29.
Queneesh Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story time with Principal Cobey consisting of 16- 20-minute sessions throughout the week to read the Orange Shirt Story and to share his personal journey and family’s experiences with residential schools. • Will work with classes to practice the traditional greeting. • Indigenous Education Bulletin Board has been updated. • Playing the district song over the announcements (will occur every Friday going forward). • Multiple classes have signed up with the National Center for Truth And Reconciliation through the University of Manitoba- This is a virtual classroom that has activities throughout the week. • I lost My Talk- classes are using the poem and accompanying resources. • Classes will learn from the 10 days of Truth and Reconciliation- A resource that was shared with staff in order to help them with ideas for the week. • Staff meeting: Principal Cobey invited interested staff to do the traditional welcome with his support.
Aspen Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspen Park will be spending the week exploring the importance of reconciliation and orange shirt day.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With the focus of, "Listening with our Hearts," we will be listening to the stories of indigenous people (through speakers, music and books) and reflecting on the idea that every child matters.• At the end of the week, we will be inviting classes to participate in a heart garden where each student will write a message of hope that we will display.
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