

Did you know?

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation also known as Orange Shirt Day. The Government of Canada recently passed legislation to make it a statutory holiday to step forward in the reconciliation process. It is one of the 94 calls to action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Call to Action 80

"We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."

District Principal's Report

Hadi,

We are extending a warm welcome back to another school year in SD91. Welcome to the new staff that are joining our team. This year will be an opportunity to reflect on everything that has happened in our country this past year whether it is related to the recent discoveries at former residential school sites or our continued battle with COVID-19. I commend all of you for the hard work that you have done and will continue to do for our students. Please contact us at:

Katie Nesbitt - knesbitt@sd91.bc.ca

Leona Prince - lprince@sd91.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Leona Prince

3 Things You Might Not Know about Orange Shirt Day

1. Orange Shirt Day references a real orange shirt taken from a residential school survivor. The story of the original orange shirt can be found on page 2.
2. The day aims to raise awareness of the residential school system in Canada. More than 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children attended Indian residential schools in Canada between the late 1800s and 1996.
3. Wearing an orange shirt reminds us of the impact of residential schools still felt today. It honours the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, celebrates resilience and affirms a commitment that every child matters.

Helpful Resources and Links

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

- [Orange Shirt Day Org](#) - Teacher Resources
- [Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters Campaign](#) - Information
- [What is Orange Shirt Day](#) - Activities and Videos
- [Phyllis Webstad Orange Day Shirt Presentation](#) - Video
- [History of Residential Schools](#)

COVID-19 Links *Updated*

- [K-12 Education Recovery Plan](#)
- [Système d'éducation—Plan de Reprise](#)
- [BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)
- [COVID -19 Protocols for School and District Administrators and Staff— MoE](#)



Student Role Model

We will be continuing our process for recognizing Aboriginal Student Role Models. Each month 1 student from each of our high schools in SD91 will be chosen by the staff. They will be acknowledged in our monthly newsletters and then at the end of year we will hold a celebration in each school.

Who will be our role models for September?





The Original Orange Shirt—Phyllis' Story

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's story in her own words...

I went to the Mission for one school year in 1973/1974. I had just turned 6 years old. I lived with my grandmother on the Dog Creek reserve. We never had very much money, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission school. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting – just like I felt to be going to school!

When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt! I never wore it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared.

I was 13.8 years old and in grade 8 when my son Jeremy was born. Because my grandmother and mother both attended residential school for 10 years each, I never knew what a parent was supposed to be like. With the help of my aunt, Agness Jack, I was able to raise my son and have him know me as his mother.

I went to a treatment centre for healing when I was 27 and have been on this healing journey since then. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don't matter. Even with all the work I've done!

I am honored to be able to tell my story so that others may benefit and understand, and maybe other survivors will feel comfortable enough to share their stories.



To learn more about Phyllis and Orange Shirt Day visit:

[Phyllis' Story \(orangeshirtday.org\)](http://Phyllis' Story (orangeshirtday.org))

Remembering the **215**
Indigenous Children
that never made it home.

#EveryChildMatters
#215Children



How do we, as a system, address these discoveries?

It started with 215 unmarked graves that sent ripples of shock around the world and many of us, including myself, grappled with this information. We were questioned by our families and students about this and many of you expressed the desire to handle it but feared that it wouldn't be handled right. During the September 24th Aboriginal Education conference we have asked colleague and SD91 friend Kevin Lamoureux to address this and help us move forward together safely and with the dignity that those children deserve. Thank you for your care and support of our communities during this time.