

September 23, 2022

Dear Parents,

CDSBEO is proud to join with voices across Canada to commemorate our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Orange Shirt Day. Because of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the truth of the experiences of Indigenous people in residential schools has come to light in recent years. We are called by the 94 Calls to Action from the TRC to teach this history in an age-appropriate way. CDSBEO is committed to the work of acknowledging this deplorable period of our country's past so we can work towards reconciliation.

This year, CDSBEO will honour the survivors and the victims of residential schools on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> through activities, knowledge-sharing and reflections. This work is meant to honour both the survivors, the victims, and those who suffer from inter-generational trauma because of the residential schools.

As a caution before the information is discussed in our classrooms, we want to ensure all parents/guardians are aware that the information is being shared with their children. **It is our intent to honour families by allowing them to tell their own story at home before the subject is brought up at school.** One of the concerns involved in commemorating this event board-wide is the inherent risk of re-victimizing or triggering students who either suffer from intergenerational trauma or who have been traumatized in their past. Should you have any concerns about your child being part of these discussions please reach out to your school principal.

*Orange Shirt Day* is a legacy of the St Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion that took place in Williams Lake, BC, in May 2013. As spokesperson for the Reunion group, former student Phyllis (Jack) Webstad told her story of her first day at residential school when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a six-year-old girl. In recognition of the unmarked graves found in various places throughout our country, the day has been marked as the *National Day of Truth and Reconciliation* by the TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission). A week-long schedule of learning and sharing for students grades 1-12 has been prepared. [Truth and Reconciliation Week 2022 - NCTR](#)

A sincere thank you for your support as we undertake important educational steps in doing the work of reconciliation.

Sincerely,



Norma McDonald  
Superintendent of School Effectiveness