

ALEXANDER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*SAFETY * RESPECT * RESPONSIBILITY*

Phone: (250) 344-5513

<http://www.sd6.bc.ca/school/apes>

Bob Wilson, Principal

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NEWSLETTER

Alexander Park Vision

Welcome to Alexander Park, where we discover our world through progressive practices in a respectful, caring environment.

Alexander Park Values

- * Everyone belongs; our differences make us better.*
- * We are considerate of others, our environment, and ourselves.*
- * Every moment is an opportunity to learn and grow.*
- * We own our actions and learn from them.*
- * We find joy in each day.*

In this Newsletter:

- Orange Shirt Day
(September 30th)
- Student drop off / pick up
- PAC (AGM)
- Upcoming Dates

Find our newsletters and subscribe to our school calendar online!

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Dear Alexander Park Elementary Community,



Orange Shirt Day

In 1973, six year-old Phyllis Webstad started school at the St. Joseph Mission Residential School near Williams Lake. Her Grandmother, with whom she lived, gave her a new orange shirt for her first day of school. However, as soon as she arrived, the Mission staff quickly stripped her of her new shirt and replaced it with the school's institutional uniform. She never saw her orange shirt again.

Phyllis only attended St. Joseph Mission Residential School for one year. However, that year affected her life for many years. In her words: "I finally get it, that 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."

September 30 is Orange Shirt Day, and it was chosen because this was the time of year that children were collected and delivered to residential schools, to face abuse, shame, and deprivation in what we recognize today as a deliberate campaign over generations to eradicate Indigenous culture. During the residential school era (1831-1996), approximately 150,000 children attended residential schools, and over 6000 children died while attending these schools. The actual toll may be higher as records were not always kept accurately.

While students learn about residential schooling and its lasting impacts throughout the year in age-appropriate ways, we wear orange shirts on September 30 to remember those who went to residential schools, the children who survived, and those who did not. If you would like to participate, you are welcome to send your child in an orange shirt if they have one on September 30.

Sincerely,
Mr. Wilson

School Grounds/Pick-Up/Drop-Off

Our pick-up/drop-off and visitor protocols are in place to keep staff and students safe when with grown-ups who are not part of our regular controlled environment (visitors, which includes non-staff parents). We require visitors to register at the office for contact tracing, confirm that they are healthy, and wear masks while on school property during school hours. Practically, we cannot do this every morning with every parent visitor, which is why we have asked parents to remain distant during pick-up/drop-off, either:



- on the other side of the fence for parents who meet their children near the playgrounds, or
- close to the street for parents who meet their children at the front of the building.

Once bus students have left the playground at 3:20, parents and children are welcome to come onto our grounds, following appropriate social expectations. In the drop-off/pick-up zone at the front of the school, please refrain from walking or riding your bike through the grassy area – stay on the roadside to the best extent possible.

In the next month we will begin changing some of our pick-up/drop-off locations as the school and the arena prepare for winter operations. We will give families notice if your child's location is changing.



Please come and support your Parent Advisory Council by attending their Annual General Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 3:30 pm. The meeting will be outside on the back playground.

*** Please do not come onto the playground until after the bus students have left. ***

Picture Retakes:

Picture retakes are on Monday, October 26th in the morning. Please call the office to let us know if your child needs retakes. All students who missed the picture day will automatically be on the retake list.



Dates to Remember:

12 October 2020 Thanksgiving Holiday

26 October 2020 Picture Retakes

27, 28 and 29 October 2020 Early Dismissal Days (Student will be dismissed at 2 pm and the buses will run an hour earlier.)

