

next week at colquitz

friday, september 29, 2023

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTIONS

Hello Colquitz Families,

It was another great week, and a thoughtful and reflective day today, as we recognized Orange Shirt Day as a school community.

We held a school-wide assembly this morning, which included drumming The Lekwungen Celebration Song by Bradley Dick and the Equality Song by Patrick Aleck. Many thanks to our Drum stewards, Jane Spies and Heidi James, for leading us. Mr. Wilson and a student read the picture books, "I Lost my Talk" and "I am Finding My Talk" as a way of helping students understand the impact of residential schools on indigenous languages. We also shared a moment of silence. Students demonstrated exceptional respect through their conduct at the assembly, and I want to thank them once again for this.

All classes also engaged in a school-wide activity this week where they choose one of these questions to answer and put on an orange hand, which they placed on boards as they entered the gym. We invite you to think about these as well:

1. *At school, all students should feel...*
2. *What attitudes are needed on a journey of Reconciliation?*
3. *What do you think happened in communities that had no children over the age of five?*
4. *What evidence have you seen of any revitalization of culture and ceremony in the territory in which we live?*

In my speech at the assembly, I spoke about the reasons that we have the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day in Canada. Here is how I concluded:

For those who may think, "But this has nothing to do with me! This happened before I was born!" it's important to recognize that while we may not have been the people who directly harmed Indigenous children and communities in Residential Schools, we as part of Canadian society have a responsibility to make our relationship with Indigenous people and communities better moving forward. Just like it's our responsibility now to try to improve the environment due to past mistakes, or injustices that were permitted to exist more commonly in our society in the past, like racism, sexism, or homophobia.

This is not about blame – it's about doing our part and helping our community be the best it can be. Because, if not us, who? If not now, when? We cannot wait any longer. When we know better, we do better. And we must do better now and every day forward.

If you are able, here are two events that will be happening on Saturday for you and your families to take part in for TRC Day.

My husband and I attended the Pow Wow last year, and it was incredible, so we will be attending again this year.

- **Victoria Orange Shirt Day Centennial Square September 30th 10:00 am – 1:00 pm** <https://victoriaorangeshirtday.com/>

- **Songhees South Island Pow Wow Royal Athletic Park, September 30th 10:00 am gate opens Grand entry at 12pm and 6 pm.**

<https://www.songheesnation.ca/south-island-powwow>

Whatever you do, enjoy this weekend with your families.— Carrie Schlappner— Principal



next week at a glance

Monday, October 2 NO SCHOOL in observance of National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Tuesday, Oct 3

Wednesday, Oct 4

Thursday, Oct 5 International Teacher's Day

Friday, Oct 6 SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

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upcoming important dates—*mark your calendars!*

Monday, Oct 9	Thanksgiving—No School
Tuesday, Oct 10	World Mental Health Day
Wednesday, Oct 11	National Coming Out Day
Tuesday, Oct 17	PAC Meeting—6:30pm in Library
Wednesday, Oct 18	Grade 6 Immunizations
Thursday, Oct 19	The Great Shake Out
Friday, Oct 20	ProD Day—No School for students
Wednesday, Oct 25	Parent-Teacher Interviews—1:49pm early dismissal
Thursday, Oct 26	<i>Eid-e- Milad un Nabi (Mawlid)</i> <i>Intersex Awareness Day</i>
Tuesday, Oct 31	Hallowe'en

Tour De Rock Ride- By – October 5th at 10:50am, in front of the school on **Interurban Rd.** Classes are invited to cheer the riders on as they continue their journey in support of children with cancer and their families. In the coming days we are collecting 'Coins for Cancer.' Students are encouraged to bring in to their class any pocket change they can spare as a donation to support Tour De Rock.



There will be Cops for Cancer yellow ribbon sales by donation, in the foyer at lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Students are raising funds to support the Tour De Rock and those children and their families impacted by childhood cancer.



Please see the attached information from **Esquimalt Neighbourhood House**. They are hosting an Island Sexual Health workshop, ***The Approachable Adult***, next **Thursday, October 5th from 10am-11:30am** (At 511 Constance Avenue) This is for parents and any adults that have children 8-18 years old in their lives.

Folks can register with via email jbelleveau@enh.bc.ca or phone 250-385-2635

Reporting

Absences



Please email colquitz@sd61.bc.ca AND your child's teacher if your child will be late or absent, or call the Attendance Line at 250-479-4313.

This is the best way to ensure we get the message and a call-out does not go out to you in error. **Thank you**

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FINE ARTS UPDATE

T-shirt orders – All Fine Arts students will need to wear a black/blue/white Colquitz Music t-shirt as part of their uniform. They can be ordered using the attached PDF, or students can grab a form from their teacher. Orders are due on or before Oct 13th.

Early rehearsals – a reminder that early morning rehearsals are part of your child's class time and should not be missed. Grade 7 Band and Grade 8 Band alternate Wednesday mornings. Grade 6 Band meets in sections every 4 or 5 weeks. Please arrive in time to be seated with your instrument ready to play by 7:40. Schedules for early mornings are on Mrs. Montgomery's website all the way up until the Winter Break. Band classes are Tues-Wed-Thurs, Strings are Monday and Friday, Choir is Monday and other early mornings.

<https://montgomerymusic.weebly.com/>

Poinsettias – our first fine arts fundraiser is starting! We will be selling Hilltop Poinsettia plants and arrangements. Forms should be going home on Friday afternoon. Profits raised by this fundraiser will go to your child individually and will be used to lessen the cost of the Grade 7/8 tour. If your child is in Grade 6, they can start saving towards their music trip in Grade 7/8. Orders must be brought into Mrs. Mackenzie by Oct 25th, and late forms will not be accepted. Please read the form carefully and follow the instructions on how to fill out the sales form. The plants will be delivered on Dec 13th and you will have to pick them up at the school.

Please note that CPAPA meeting dates are in the CMS Calendar for each month. Please note we've changed to time to 6:30pm.

They are the first Monday of the month, except for next week:

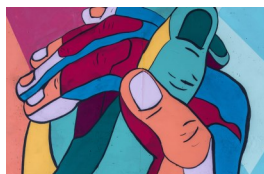
October 5 (Thursday)	November 6
December 4	January 8
February 5	March 4
April 8	May 6
June 17 (AGM)	

They are also listed on the CPAPA webpage: <https://colquitz.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/cpapa/>



COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION IDEAS

As we head further into the school year, here are two helpful articles from Family Smart on ideas for **connecting with your child's teacher** and with **communicating with your child** by asking some different questions.



Don't wait for Meet the Teacher Day! , Instead use these year-round ways to connect with your child's Teacher: <https://bit.ly/3RoDUso>

How was your Day at School? : Nothing inspires shrugs and grunts better than that question. To spark a real conversation with your kid, try asking one of these "would you rather" questions — plus find additional pointers and ideas to inspire connection here. <https://www.additudemag.com/would-you-rather-questions-for-kids-adhd-conversation-starters/>

NEXT WEEK IN SPORTS

Tues Oct 3 - grade 6/7 girls basketball tryouts 7:30 am

Tues Oct 3- Touch Rugby after school at Shoreline

Wed Oct 4- Ultimate game after school at Colquitz

Thurs Oct 5—X-Country Meet after school at Beaver Lake



Please see here for schedules of seasons of sport competitions:

<https://lowerislandschoolsports.ca/middle-schools/annual-season-info/>

Many thanks to our coaches for providing these amazing opportunities for our students!