

Orange Shirt Day in Schools



Chief Rhonda Larrabee of the Qayqayt First Nation with Glenbrook Middle School Students Gursimrit Badyal and Miranda Baron, September 2016.

WHEN:

Each year on September 30, communities across Canada are acknowledging Orange Shirt Day by wearing an orange shirt. This year, schools in SD 40 will recognize this day the week of September 25 to 29, 2017.

WHY:

Orange Shirt Day recognizes the harm that the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being, and as an affirmation of our commitment that everyone around us matters. The date was chosen because it was the time of year that children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it presents an opportunity to set the stage for anti-bullying and anti-racism initiatives at your school.

WHERE:

Learn about Canada's Indian Residential Schools:

www.orangeshirtday.org

www.projectofheart.bc.ca

www.legacyofhope.ca

www.wherearethechildren.ca

www.witnessblanket.ca

WHAT TO DO September 25 to 29, 2017:

- Build awareness Orange Shirt Day at your school staff meetings; start a book club around Canada's residential schools with your colleagues
- Wear an orange shirt, button or bandana after teaching about Canada's residential school system in your classroom.
- Host an assembly or feature Canada's messages of reconciliation during the announcements
- Create artwork that commemorates the survivors of residential schools and display the pieces around the school: e.g. create a collaborative mural that conveys the respect that students demonstrate towards Canada's diverse histories, specifically, residential schools
- Ask students to bring an orange shirt and have them decorate their own shirts with messages around empathy, respect and cross-cultural relationships. Students can demonstrate their understanding by gifting their shirts to another person to wear on Orange Shirt Day
- Have students decorate cut-out orange shirts made from paper, and create a display in your classroom with messages around reconciliation

HOW:

Purchase Orange shirts from Native Northwest community@nativenorthwest.com or orange shirts and buttons from www.angeshirtday.org or email careynewman@witnessblanket.ca for orange t-shirts





ORANGE SHIRT DAY IN THE LIBRARY

Create a display of books around Canada's Residential Schools

Some titles that you might consider can be found here:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/10-books-about-residential-schools-to-read-with-your-kids-1.3208021>

Contact SD 40 Media Services, or email Bertha Lansdowne, District Coordinator-Aboriginal Education, for information on how to access resources on Residential Schools.