



September 25, 2020

Dear Parents,

We have wrapped up another week of classes. Our children and staff have settled into school and classroom routines and in many ways it feels like any other school year. I love being able to hear the laughter coming out of the gym and from kids playing on the playground. I have a few items to note as we move forward:

1. The BCCDC has revised the key symptoms of illness on the Daily Health Check. We will send you an updated version of this form early next week. Upon receipt, please use it each morning prior to sending your child to school, you do not need to sign and submit a copy to the school. We will be updating our Safety Plan this weekend and will send a revised version to you early next week.
2. Now that we have our feet solidly planted, we are looking to start up our fall sports programs, which consist of Cross Country (grades 2-7), Boys Soccer (grades 4-7) and Co-ed Volleyball (grades 6 and 7). As per public health guidelines, at this point in time we are not permitted to compete against other schools; we are organizing competition within our school. Please watch for permission forms to be coming home in the near future. It is our intent to go outside at recess breaks, please dress ensure your child is bringing appropriate outdoor clothing.
3. Our AGM/Parent Information Night/Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Monday, October 5 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. These meetings will be held virtually. We will be sending out more information next week.
4. On Wednesday, September 30th, the theme of this Spirit Day and non-uniform day is wearing an orange shirt to acknowledge that every child matters and deserves to be treated with respect. As a continuation of our work to further the knowledge and understanding of our students about the history and struggles of Indigenous peoples in Canada, schools across the country will honour [Orange Shirt Day](#). This national observance will be held on September 30th, 2020. We support the role of parents as primary educators of their children. As such, we will be mindful to give you the opportunity to choose when to talk about sensitive issues with your child.

Orange Shirt Day is in recognition of the harm caused by the residential school system in Canada. It is also a public declaration that every child matters. Our Catholic social teachings call us to solidarity with our Indigenous sisters and brothers and to honour the dignity of all. The [Canadian Catholic Bishops](#) have urged all Catholics to commit to continuing our walk together with Indigenous peoples and to build a more “just society, where their gifts, and those of all people, are nurtured and honoured”.

Orange shirt day is one of the events to bring awareness of systemic racism in Canada’s history. Part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is to acknowledge past injustices and move towards healing. Teachers may address the topic in a way that is aligned with the developmental level of students by referring to the BC Curriculum. For example, students in primary classes may discuss the roles and responsibilities of people to build strong communities. Grade 4 students may discuss colonization and the impacts on Indigenous cultures,



## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

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while grade 5-7 students may talk about the impact of residential schools, laws and policies have on Indigenous cultures.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

I thank you for your continued trust and support for our school.

Sincerely,

K. Kozack  
Principal