

Good evening, Sardis Families. We would like to acknowledge and recognize the sad news shared on Thursday regarding the confirmed 158 child deaths at the locations of St. Mary's Residential School, Coqualeetza Industrial Institute, All Hallows School and Coqualeetza Indian Hospital. To honour these students, their families and community, all schools in the district will lower their flags to half-mast from September 21st until the end of the day on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Survivors or family of survivors can access the following supports: Indian Residential School Survivors Society: 1-800-721-0066 or National Indian Residential School Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419.

Here are some things for you to know as we head into Week #4 at Sardis Elementary:

1. **Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** is Picture Day! Student individual photos will be taken. Further details on ordering pictures will be sent home with students.
2. **Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup>** is also the last day to order Sardis Swag. Order forms for new swag including, t-shirts, hoodies, crewnecks, toques and hats, are available at the office. Payment can be made by cash or cheque made out to Sardis PAC. Samples are available in the front hall of the school. Tuesday will also be the last day to hand in coupon book order forms.
3. **Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** we will have our first fire drill. We are mandated to have six fire drills per year. We will have three in the fall and three later in the Spring when the weather improves. Teachers will be preparing their students for this fire drill to ensure the students know what to expect. It is very important for us to practice with our students so they are confident should a real emergency occur.
4. **Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** is Orange Shirt Day. On Orange Shirt Day we honour the Indigenous children who survived residential schools and remember the lost and stolen children who did not. Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake, B.C. in 2013 where, at a commemoration event at a local residential school, a story was told about a young female student named Phyllis who had her brand-new orange shirt taken away on her first day at the school. The orange shirt is a symbol of the many losses experienced by thousands of students and families across Canada due to residential schools. Since it began in 2013, the phrase "Every Child Matters" has been used as part of the movement to recognize the value of every child and for communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. You can learn more about Orange Shirt Day at [www.orangeshirtday.org](http://www.orangeshirtday.org) We will have an assembly for students in the afternoon and we encourage all students to wear their orange shirts on Friday.
5. **Hot Lunch:** Our first hot lunch of the school year will be from Hugo's on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The PAC hot lunch program tries to stay green by using the online program MunchaLunch.com. An information sheet on how to sign up for MunchaLunch is attached. The deadline for ordering our first hot lunch is **October 4<sup>th</sup>**.
6. **Reporting a Student Absence:** To report your child absent we have a District Safe Arrival program. These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time. You can use the following options:  
  
**Option 1:** Download and install the School Messenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

**Option 2:** Use the SafeArrival website at <http://www.sd33.bc.ca/safearrival>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report and Absence.

**Option 3:** Call the toll-free number 1-833-698-6567 to report an absence using the automated phone system

It was an exciting and busy week at Sardis with our first week of full time Kindergarten, a very successful Terry Fox Run, and our first PAC meeting. We also hosted our Open House and enjoyed welcoming students and families/caregivers into our school. We hope everyone enjoyed the pizza and had a chance to meet their teacher. Keep reading these Sunday updates as we have lots more busy weeks coming up!

**Upcoming important dates:**

**Monday, Oct. 2nd** National Truth and Reconciliation Day – Schools closed

**Friday, Oct. 6th** Non-Instructional Day - No school in session for students

**Monday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>** Thanksgiving Day - Schools closed

Mrs. Sanderson