

Dear École Stonewall Centennial Families,

When Phyllis Webstad was taken to residential school in the 1950s in Williams Lake, BC, she had her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school. Phyllis' story has become an annual opportunity to discuss what happened at residential schools in Canada.

Staff and students are invited to wear orange shirts on **Thursday, September 26**. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. Orange Shirt Day represents an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples, École Stonewall Centennial School, and the Stonewall community to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

Each grade group will be participating in a common learning experience, as outlined below:

- **Grade 5 students** will be reading Phyllis's story, having a conversation about her experience with school, and how it differs from their own. Their shared learning will culminate with the creation of a collaborative art piece which will be displayed outside our front office.
- **Grade 6 students** will be reviewing the student-friendly version of the 94 calls to action, and will each represent the meaning of a given call to action on an orange t-shirt art project. The completed projects will be displayed in the windows of the South Interlake Regional Library.
- **Grade 7 students** will review the history of residential schools, bear witness to survivor accounts, and will reflect on how to challenge stereotypes through viewing APTN's "First Contact."
- **Grade 8 students** (who attended a live NCTR event at Canada Life Centre on September 18th) will reflect on the poem, "I Lost my Talk" by Elder, Rita Joe, and create a "word splash" that reflects their understanding of Truth & Reconciliation.

Yours in education,

École Stonewall Centennial School

