



Orange Shirt Day - Since the date of September 30, 2018 falls on a Sunday, our board will recognize Orange Shirt Day on Friday September 28, 2018 in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for the future generations.

The Orange Shirt Day movement started in 2013 to highlight the pain and suffering of thousands of Indigenous children who were sent to residential school throughout the last century. The colour of the shirt is connected to the experience of Phyllis Webstad who was sent to Cariboo Residential School near Williams Lake, BC, in 1973.

Six-years old at the time, Phyllis went to her first day of school wearing a new bright orange shirt. New clothes were a rare thing for the young girl, who was being raised by her grandmother. However, upon arriving at the school, the nuns stripped her of the shirt, forcing her to wear the school's institutional uniform.

Webstad has felt the impact of that event long after it occurred, "that feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don't matter."

The shirt has since gone on to become a symbol of a national movement that recognizes the suffering of Indigenous children at residential schools across the country and to show a renewed commitment to ensure that every child matters.

We encourage everyone to wear an orange shirt on September 28, 2018 to recognize the resiliency and bravery of Residential School Survivors.



September 2018

Dear Families

Student voice is important to us. In November 2018, the York Region District School Board will invite all students to participate in the **Every Student Counts Survey (ESCS)**. The purpose of this census survey is to better understand YRDSB's diverse student population as well as students' experiences in school and outside of school. The survey results will be used to help improve our schools and to:

- Identify and eliminate systemic barriers to student success;
- Create more equitable and inclusive school environments; and,
- Improve student achievement and well-being.

CCI Research has been contracted to work with the Board to conduct the survey and to ensure data privacy, security and adherence to all relevant legislation. To ensure that the surveys are age-appropriate, two surveys have been developed. The surveys are voluntary and confidential.

Survey for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6

Families with a child in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to complete the survey online with their child at home. In November, a school letter will be sent home with a link to the online survey along with instructions. Families with more than one child in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be asked to complete one survey per child. The online survey will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Hebrew, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Tamil, Urdu, Vietnamese. If, for accessibility reasons, you require the survey on paper, in large print or braille please contact CCI Research at 1-866-450-4907 **no later than October 9, 2018**.

Survey for students in Grades 7-12

In November, all students in Grades 7-12 will be invited to complete the survey online during class time. The online survey will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Russian, Tamil and Urdu. For accessibility purposes the survey will also be available in paper, large print and braille. Accommodations for students who need assistance completing the survey will be arranged by school staff in advance. Participation in the survey is voluntary. Students can skip questions that they do not want to answer. If you are a parent/guardian of child(ren) in Grades 7-12 and do **not** want them to participate in the survey, please contact CCI Research at 1-866-450-4907 **no later than October 9, 2018**.

Meet The Teacher Night: This Thursday, we will open our doors to families to Meet the Teacher. We will begin at 6:30 and the format will be informal presentations in the classrooms with an opportunity to hear about teacher expectations and important information for the year. At 7:00, we will have teachers do a second informal presentation, so

families with two children can meet and hear from both teachers. The evening will finish at 7:30.

Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 27 - Meet the Teacher Night 6:30 to 7:30

Oct. 8 - No School - Thanksgiving

Oct. 9 - Area Cross Country

Oct. 10 - Picture day

Oct. 19 - Bus safety presentations