



In the Hawks Nest

At Hans Helgesen Elementary

June 4, 2021

Dear HH Families,

Late last week, we heard that a mass grave was discovered at the BC Residential School in Kamloops. We extend our sympathies to survivors, families and communities affected by this unspeakable tragedy. Flags across our school district are being flown at half-mast in honour of the victims and their families. Flags will remain lowered for 215 hours (9days) - one hour for each child whose life was taken from May 31 to June 8, 2021.

Many of our community members have worn orange as a sign of support and solidarity. We encourage you to keep this going.

This recent event is a difficult reminder for survivors of residential schools and their families, and a reminder of traumas they have endured. We work with the school district's Nat'sa'maht Indigenous Education department who collaborates with our local nations and their elders to determine how we can show support at this sad time.

As we walk this journey together, we hope we find the courage to support each other and to listen with an open heart.

Our school is celebrating Pride month to acknowledge the diversity of our school community. The Grade 5 Pride Leadership team led by Miss Spencer have organized activities. We are doing pride themed classroom door decorating, positive messages posters, rainbow day on June 28th, Battle of the Books (8 chosen books centering around the topics of family, loving yourself, identity and pride of Aboriginal culture) and many more.

In case you missed this email:

The provincial government has approved the school district's request to replace our roof and building envelope! It's an upgrade worth approximately \$5 million! The tender will go out next week, work will hopefully begin this summer and complete in early 2022. More details will come out soon!

It has been a year unlike any other and you and your children should be proud for the strength, resilience and flexibility you have demonstrated through this time. We have also received notes of kindness and appreciation from many families; we are grateful for these!

During these last few weeks of school, students can get a little tired and even cranky. This is a yearly occurrence. We are encouraging students to use their amazing problem solving skills with each other, as well as letting a staff member know they need some help. We are hoping all the fun activities that are planned will keep us positive and in good spirits!

Upcoming Dates

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| June 18 | Pizza Day order here |
| June 21 | Indigenous Peoples Day |
| June 21-25 | Fun Week |
| June 28 | Rainbow Day |
| June 29 | Last day of school |



With respect and
friendship,
Cathy and Jon



We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, specifically Scia'new Beecher Bay Nation on which the school is built. We thank them for sharing this beautiful land. Hych'ka – "Thank You"

Around the school

