



PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE SCHOOL DIVISION

"Dedicated to the Pursuit of Excellence"

Dear Parent/Guardian:

September, 2023

All schools in the Portage la Prairie School Division will be commemorating Orange Shirt Day on **Friday, September 29th**. This is a time to honour Residential School Survivors and build community. Every Child Matters. The Manitoba Government is recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th as a day of observance to encourage reflection and meaningful discussions about the impacts of Residential Schools.

Each school will commemorate Orange Shirt Day in their own way. Schools will strive to ensure age appropriate discussion on these sensitive topics. The history and legacy of Residential Schools education falls under the social studies curriculum.

Orange Shirt Day is about showing that you care. Although students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt on this day, we also do not want students to feel bad if they don't have an orange shirt. They could wear something else that is orange such as a bracelet, or they could create an art or written piece and bring it to school with the message that Every Child Matters.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis' story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. 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. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

www.orangeshirtday.org

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

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