OTTER NEWS

September 25, 2023

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| **Upcoming Events** |
| **Date** | **Event** |
| September 29 | Orange Shirt Day (intermediate assembly 8:50, primary assembly 9:30) |
| September 30 | National Day for Truth & Reconciliation |
| October 2 | Stat Holiday |
| October 5 | World Teacher’s Day |
| October 6 | School Improvement Day (no classes in session) |
| October 9 | Thanksgiving (stat holiday) |

**Terry Fox Run**

We are constantly amazed at the generosity and support of our North Otter community. We not only hit our fundraising goal, we exceeded it, with contributions of over $1100. We will leave schoolcashonline open until Saturday for any families that would like to make last-minute donations.

**Meet the Teacher BBQ, September 19, 4:00-6:00PM**

Thank you to our PAC who, despite unfavorable weather conditions, provided hot dogs, snacks, and drinks for our visiting families. To all of you that braved the weather, thank you for being here and for expressing your support and appreciation for the work that we do.

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

North Otter will be remembering National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) on September 29th. We encourage parents to talk with their children about why we recognize the day. We know orange shirts are hard to find this time of the year and if you find yourself without one, that’s ok. We often have students/staff pin an orange heart or orange shirt on their shirt to show they care.

If you are looking to purchase an orange shirt over the weekend, just keep in mind that some big sellers like Amazon and Etsy do not always give back to the Indigenous artists and organizations that create much of the artwork. Below are some stores that do have verified partnerships.

* **LFVAS** (designed by Katzie artist & former student from our district- Pick up only at Eastleigh Cresent office) <https://www.lfvas.org/product-page/2023-every-child-matters-national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation>
* **Orange shirt day society**- partnered with Kit and Kaboodle(3-5 day shipping) <https://kitandkaboodlewl.ca/collections/every-child-matters-orange-shirt-collection>
* **KPU bookstore:**(Local Kwantlen artist) <https://www.kpu.ca/news/2023/09/07/students-orange-shirt-day-design-reminder-every-child-matters>
* **List of 7 Indigenous owned retailers:** <https://shopfirstnations.com/blog/where-you-can-buy-a-shirt-for-orange-shirt-day-2022/>
* London Drugs <https://www.londondrugs.com/every-child-matters.html>
* Mark’s <https://www.marks.com/en/pdp/orange-shirt-society-youth-unisex-t-shirt-79252860f.410036691859.html?utm_content=shopping&gclid=CjwKCAjwjaWoBhAmEiwAXz8DBSrvpT-F8Cbeq6DnDr-qeL2_AMKmPdw58WZ4zAgD-GZCA2LqwG2xThoCCnAQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds>
* Canadian tire <https://www.canadiantire.ca/en/pdp/orange-shirt-society-every-child-matters-t-shirt-english-large-4990138p.4990138.html?&&gclid=CjwKCAjwjaWoBhAmEiwAXz8DBZvnnEEmE_CxM0md_metWPuQzm61QYxNIfx2iUeSz5vD46HekjK-bhoC7HMQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds#store=434>
* Walmart: <https://www.walmart.ca/en/cp/national-day-for-truth-reconciliation/6000204164023>

**Student Supply Fees**

As mentioned in previous emails, we will be distributing student supplies through the classroom this year instead of requiring parents to purchase those items personally. In order to cover the expense, we have organized student supply fees on schoolcashonline. Any family that requires assistance to cover the fees is asked to reach out to the office or administration.

**Reporting Absences**

We know that with all the new office staff, it may be a bit confusing determining who you should email when you want to report an absence. The best way to ensure that on-call office staff receive your email is to either call the school and leave a message or email noeattendance@sd35.bc.ca

**Words of Encouragement**

With all the negativity in the world, we make a point to bring encouragement to our students, staff, and parents. If you would like to be a part of our mission of spreading words of encouragement, please take a moment to leave a positive note for our staff, students, or parents. We will be sure to pass along the message or share in a staff meeting.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rvqr_Ar4dE-2p7oVwqS7JBJiFuZU4oZNmc3ijpPTWDhUNUpYWlI1UUVLQjg5Q0hYTERVSU83RU1RUy4u>

**Otter Athletics**

We have had our introductory meetings for volleyball this past week and collected name of interested volleyball players. As we begin our season, here is some helpful information for parents.

* Boys – Practices on M/W/F after school until the season starts. Once games begin, boys will practice on Monday and Friday, with games on Tuesdays.
* Girls – Games Wednesdays. Practices Tuesday after school and Wednesday at lunch
* Athletic fees will be $20 and cover the cost of athletic gear (tshirt, water bottle, bag, etc.). Any family that needs assistance with cost, please reach out to admin.
* We are looking for parent managers to assist with arranging rides for away games. Please reach out to coaches if you are able to help.