

Orange Shirt Day 2018

Orange Shirt Day honors the children who survived the Indian Residential Schools and remembers those students who did not survive.

Elders shared their stories about their experiences at Residential School. One elder spoke about the loneliness felt by his parents after all the children were taken to Residential School. The mothers continued to cook as if the children were coming home and even the dogs howled constantly.

Message for the students:

- 1. Listen and try your best in school**
- 2. Learn your language – this is who you are (Most Important)**
- 3. Practice your culture daily and be proud of who you are**
- 4. We need to visit each other and help elders**
- 5. Feel good about yourself – you are special (self-esteem)**

Be aware of triggers of survivors:

- Smells - of fresh paint (back at school)
- Sounds – cranes heading south (we leave with the cranes)
- Sight – orange leaves, leaves falling (leaving soon)

Also, we as educators have to understand that many survivors of Residential School still find it difficult to come into the school building. We all have to find ways to make the school more culturally sensitive and to incorporate local resources and culture into the delivery of lessons.

Picture: This artwork will be painted on a large mural in our school. It depicts that we are never attending residential school again and that we are finally “home”.

COMING HOME – HOPE – LOOK FORWARD – NOT EVER BEING SENT BACK –
MOVE FORWARD – BETTER LIFE

