

every child
matters

CALLS
TO ACTION #63



ORANGE SHIRT DAY AT QUEENSBURY

Phyllis' story

Today we participated in a school wide virtual assembly and learned about the significance and importance of Orange Shirt Day, through the experiences of Phyllis Webstad. Phyllis (Jack) Webstad attended St. Joseph Mission School, near Williams Lake - one of many residential schools in Canada. Orange shirt day is in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to a child's sense of self esteem and well being.

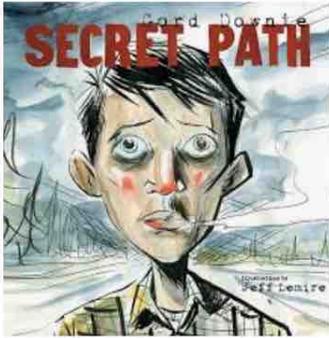


By making an orange shirt available to every Queensbury student and staff member, we affirm our commitment to ensure every child matters.

There are a great deal of stories that the impact of residential schools have left in its wake, and most are not pleasant. Students should feel safe and welcomed at school.

Let's continue the conversation about the legacy of residential schools.

***All students should feel welcomed, safe, and
valued at school***



Social Justice and Language Arts with Mrs. Roy's Class

Our grade 7 students will be learning about the impact of Canadian Residential Schools through the story of Chanie Wenjack, a young boy who died trying to escape from Cecilia Jeffery Residential School.

An excerpt from Gord Downie (secretpath.ca):

“I am trying in this small way to help spread what Murray Sinclair said “This is not an Aboriginal problem, this is a Canadian problem. At the same time that Aboriginal students were being demeaned in the schools, and their culture and language were being taken away from them, and they were told they were inferior and they were pagans, that they were heathens and savages, and that they were unworthy of being respected, the very same message was being given to the non-aboriginal children in the public school systems as well.....They need to know this history includes them” (Murray Sinclair, Ottawa Citizen May 24, 2015).”



Indigenous communities have made 94 Calls to Action to the Canadian Government in order to begin making amends.

Ways for classroom communities to act on Call #63:

- Write a letter to a member in your family to share the knowledge you have learned regarding residential schools
- Purpose: to understand through reflection, create empathy and respect through acknowledgement, and promote awareness by sharing knowledge

Classes participated in a virtual assembly today, which included listening to the picture book “When we were alone” by David A. Robertson and Julia Flett

