

“Every Child Matters”

Orange Shirt Day 2016

Friday, September 30



What is Orange Shirt Day?

First Nations residential schools were set up across Canada in an attempt to take First Nations people away from their cultures and ways of life. Over 150,000 children were taken from their homes and put into 130 residential schools across Canada. Taken from their families, these children were not allowed to speak their language, take part in any

First Nations ceremonies, activities or cultural events. These schools existed for over one hundred years. The last residential school closed in 1996.

At Eastview we embed Indigenous Worldviews, place-based learning and First People Principles of Learning in a meaningful and relevant way. We are proud of our relationship with the local Aboriginal Communities; our school is on the traditional lands of the Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish people.

Eastview will be wearing Orange on Friday, September 30 to build awareness and understanding of the destructive impact of residential schools across Canada. Let's work together to move forward in the interest of all children.

Event Details

Sept. 26

Division 5 – Primary classroom visits classes to share learning and showcase student-generated skit b/w at 1:00 and 2:15 (see website for specific times)

Sept. 29

Story Book Reading with Mr. Smyth - Sharing the impact of residential schools (Activity Room)

Primary: 9:30

Intermediate: 11:15

Sept. 30

Traditional Story Telling and Drumming – We welcome distinguished guest Ketximtn (Alroy Baker) Squamish Nation Elder. Parents are encouraged to join us in the Eastview Gym. Ketximtn is expected to join us from 9:15-11:00.

Division 5 will share learning showcase skit honouring Ketximtn. 10:40 in the Activity Room.

Phyllis's Story

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and wellbeing, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.



Phyllis (Jack) Webstad

"I went to the Mission for one school year in 1973/1974. I had just turned 6 years old. I lived with my grandmother on the Dog Creek reserve. We never had very much money, and there was no welfare, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission school. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting – just like I felt to be going to school! When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt! I never saw it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared.

I was 13.8 years old and in grade 8 when my son Jeremy was born. Because my grandmother and mother both attended residential school for 10 years each, I never knew what a parent was supposed to be like. With the help of my aunt, Agness Jack, I was able to raise my son and have him know me as his mother. I went to a treatment centre for healing when I was 27 and have been on this healing journey since then. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don't matter. Even with all the work I've done! I am honored to be able to tell my story so that others may benefit and understand, and maybe other survivors will feel comfortable enough to share their stories."

Phyllis is married, has one son and two grandsons aged nine and five years old. She is Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band). She comes from mixed Secwepemc and Irish/French heritage, was born in Dog Creek, and lives in Williams Lake, BC.

She earned diplomas in Business Administration from the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology; and in Accounting from Thompson Rivers University.