



Duke Observes Orange Shirt Day



Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake in 2013 and has since spread to schools across B.C. and Canada. On September 30th each year we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools.

Residential schools were church-run schools where approximately 150,000 Métis, Inuit and First Nations children were sent between the 1860s and the 1990s. The schools harmed Indigenous children by removing them from their families, forcing them to speak English or French instead of their ancestral languages, disconnecting them from their culture and traditions and forcing them to adopt Christianity in order to assimilate into Canadian society. The government has since acknowledged that this approach was wrong, cruel and ineffective, and offered an official apology to the Indigenous people of Canada in 2008

Why is September 30th a special date?

September 30th falls during the time of year when Indigenous children were taken away to residential school.

Why is it an orange shirt?

The "orange shirt" in Orange Shirt Day refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was given to her by her grandmother for her first day of school at St. Joseph's Mission residential school in British Columbia. When Phyllis got to school, they took away her clothes, including her new shirt. It was never returned. To Phyllis, the colour orange has always reminded her of her experiences at residential school and, as she has said, "how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

Students at the Duke of Connaught took part in several classroom discussions and projects themed around Orange Shirt Day. One of those discussions centered on "**Geronimo's Dream**. Geronimo Henry was brought to the Mohawk Institute Residential School, also known as the "Mush Hole" in Brantford at the age of 5.

Geronimo's dream is to build a monument in memory of those who like himself suffered and continue to suffer as a result of this experience. Duke Students were given writing prompts to share their thoughts on what a safe and caring school should be and how best to honour those affected by residential schools:

Richie: *At school students should feel safe, and the students should feel comfortable, and are respected by the other students. The students should always, be happy and they should be always ready to learn. My action is trying to help the survivors, and I will respect the survivors that went to residential schools like Geronimo.*

Winnie: *In school, students should always feel safe, welcome, accepted, and comfortable in their surroundings regardless of who they are. For students to feel that way, we should treat each other with respect, kindness, not judge them, and accept them for who they are. We do not want to repeat the past because we don't want anybody to suffer like how the kids at residential school did. We want people to be able to speak their own language, remember their culture, wear the clothes they want to wear, and most importantly, be themselves. My action will be to not only honour the survivors, but also remember the people who didn't make it. In order to honour the survivors, and remember the people who didn't make it, I will be supportive towards them and their families, learn more about residential schools, and lastly, never forget what they have been through.*

Rachel: *School should be a place where every student feels safe and comfortable. We should honour those who have survived and those who did not, by making people aware of what had happened to them and how much they've suffered. We must also accept and not judge other cultures or any language based on stereotypes and unconscious bias, let them be themselves as well as them living with dignity.*

Saffy: *At school I feel safe because no one is bothering me verbally or physically. All students should feel safe in a way that they don't feel excluded or discriminated. We should listen to the survivors and make sure that everyone knows what they went through and so that it never happens again.*

Dance-a-Thon

Students were treated to a day of dancing, courtesy of our community and the talents of Ron the DJ from Professor Jams. This is a major fundraiser for the school and we are indebted to the hard work and support of our parents, especially Bev Grondin and Tanya Barrett, as well as Danielle Fermo and Sue Munn. Students first heard about the event at assemblies and all classes were invited to participate in the Dance-a-thon.



Halloween Costume Parade!

SAC

It's hard to believe that November is upon us! SAC has many events and family nights planned over the next couple of months and we hope to see you at as many as possible.

On Wednesday October 30 we held an amazing school-wide dance-a-thon, and it was a spectacular success. Your child definitely had their fill of Old Town Road dance-offs, and for that we say - you're welcome and we're sorry. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it such a fun day. And extra big thanks to all of you for sponsoring your children and helping us to raise funds for activities at Duke. We're still counting the loose change but I think we're set to break our fundraising expectations with this event!

Our first Movie Night of the year will be Friday November 8 at 5:30pm. Last week we sent out a poll on Facebook and based on your votes we will be screening...drum roll please... TOY STORY 4!

We are experimenting with Friday night events this year and would love to hear if that is more or less accessible to you and your family.

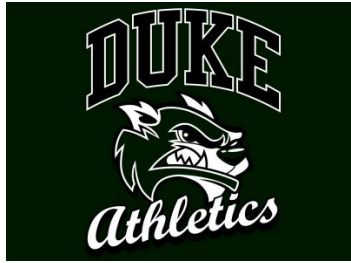
Our annual Holiday Breakfast is planned for December 14 – please save the date. We need some keen holiday elves to help us pull together activities, entertainment and snacks! If you would like to help with this event, please [sign up here](#). You will be paid in all you can drink egg nog. Mmmm.

Each week we distribute via email the "Need to Read" to keep you informed of goings on at the school. If you have not done so already, you can sign up right on the DukeSAC.ca home page.

We are all eager to meet and speak with as many parents as possible. Please join us for coffee/tea/hot chocolate on the first Friday of each month, either in front of the main doors or in the lobby of the school.

As a parent or caregiver of a Duke student, you are all automatically members of School Council. If you wish to get more involved, please email us at info@dukesac.ca.

We hope to see you at our next SAC meeting on Wednesday November 20th, in the cafeteria, at 6.30pm. Child-minding provided.



Duke Cross Country 2019



The Duke Running Club and Cross Country team had an awesome season with more than 160 runners in grade 1 to grade 8. On October 3rd, 2019, we participated in races at Ashbridges Bay and the runners persevered through wind and rain to complete all of their races and have a lot of fun! We loved the umbrella tents and teamwork! We had many teams and individuals qualify for Conference finals. It was exciting to see the students work together and independently in their races. On October 17, 2020, more than 56 runners attended Conference Finals and Grade 3 to 8 runners did a fantastic job. Well done to all participants.

We ended the season with a trip to City finals on October 24th, 2019 with 15 runners in Grade 4 to 8. It was a beautiful day at Centennial Park. Duke runners did amazing and were supportive of each other.

City Results were:

Grade 4: Alice Holden 77th place

Grade 5: Christian Bushfield 17th place

Grade 7 Girls TEAM: Danielle Rievely 26th, Charlie Muha 82nd, Jasmin McDonald-Bliss 80th, Amelie Forget 79th, Arwyn Wallis 109th

Grade 7 Boys: Alic Webster 2nd place, Oscar Morton 58th place

Grade 8 Girls: Eden Doty 30th, Peyton Docherty 39th, Emily Chan 46th, Chloe Dufour 61st

Grade 8 Boys: Connor McGinnis 46th, Ben Armstrong 42nd

A special thank you to the Duke coaching staff this season. We had incredible parent volunteers and support for meet supervision and transportation. Thank you to parent marshalls who braved the rain to supervise races and a special shout out to our parent coach, Zoe Webster who was at practices all season, marshalled races and got our City finalists off to an amazing start at each race.

Go DUKE Go!

Erin Kittask, Sarah Papoff, Lisa Angeli, Ani Anastasi, Kathleen Riggs and Vanessa Kirk (coaching team)

Grade. 7/8 Boys Touch Football



Thank you to all the boys for their strong efforts this season! The boys played in a very difficult tournament and while playing in a torrential downpour, the boys gave it their all and played their hearts out. Thank you for a very memorable season. Ms. O and Mr. Aishford

Gr. 7/8 Girls Touch Football

There is so much to say about this wonderful group of girls who came together to play a sport that many did not even understand. The ladies finished 2nd in their qualifying tournament and no one expected what was yet to come. First, they defeated a 1st place, very talented and very experienced team from Deer Park in the semi-finals. They ladies advanced to the Conference Finals where they met another difficult team from Hodgson P.S. The girls were down by 9 with minutes left in the game, to fight back and defeat Hodgson 10-9, winning the title of CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS. Off to City Finals to meet the North Champion Glenview P.S. The girls played one of their best games and came on top 14-13 to win the title of CITY FINALISTS! Ms. O and Mr. Aishford are extremely proud of each and every one of you!! WAY TO GO DUKE!



Gr 5/6 Boys Soccer

The grade 5/6 Boys soccer team had a brief but strong season. The team practiced hard and played 2 tough matches. We are all proud of their hard work and dedication. Thank you for a wonderful season! Ms. Gheorghe and Ms. Alexander.



Girls Grade 5/6 Soccer

The girls had a fantastic season, making it all the way to the Conference Semi Finals. Mr. Aishford and Ms. Hodgins congratulate them on a job well done!



Grade 7/8 Girls Soccer

The grade 7/8 girls' soccer team met for practice every Tuesday and Thursday morning. They gelled as a team and everyone improved their skills. Thanks to all the girls who participated. On a blustery, rainy day on October 2, the girls made their way to Dieppe Park for our soccer tournament. By the time they had finished their first game they were drenched. Although the Duke girls played well and kept the ball in the opponent's half for the most of the game, they ended up losing 1-0. Duke won their second game playing very well both defensively and offensively while dodging the rain drops. After having to change fields, Duke lost our last game to the host school, Cosburn. Despite the rain and cold the team had a great day showing determination and great sportspersonship. They made Duke and their coach proud.



Grade 7/8 Boys Soccer

It was a fast and furious tournament. The Duke of Connaught 7/8 boys made their presence felt, winning the first 3 games convincingly. However, in the quarter finals we faced Glen Ames and lost 2-0. I just want to say how proud I am of each student on the team. You gave it your best - a job well done! Mr. Dennis



Student Vote 2019

Senior students at Duke joined with their counterparts in other schools across Canada for Student Vote, facilitated by Elections Canada. Student Vote “is an authentic learning program that provides students with the opportunity to experience the voting process firsthand and practice the habits of active and informed citizenship. The activities are intended to inform students about government and the electoral process, enhance information literacy skills, encourage research into the candidates and issues, and foster dialogue among students and their families. Students take on the role of election workers and coordinate a vote within their school. Participating students cast ballots for the election candidates running in the school’s electoral district. The results are shared publicly after the close of polls.” Students at Duke students gave a majority of their votes to the NDP and Green Party.



Eco Schools Update



There are a lot of exciting initiatives planned for this year. We are fortunate to have over 50 classroom Eco-Reps, who will be assisted by 7 teachers and community volunteers. Among the plans are daily organic waste tracking in the cafeteria, combined with an education campaign on recycling. We are aiming to reduce our organic waste and better monitor separating our recycling. In addition, we are embarking soon on a project to reduce the amount of plastic in the school. Watch for details on the Eco Schools board located on the main floor by Room 3 and on the announcements, as well as the main floor TV!

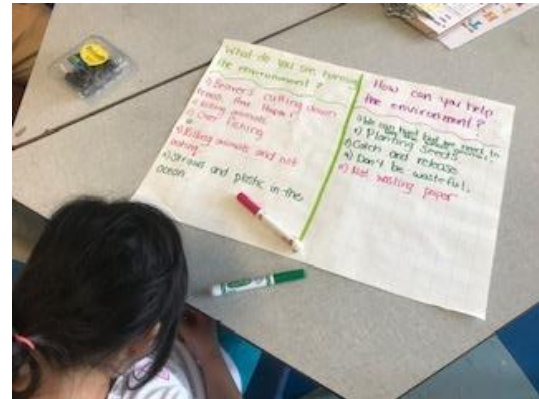


Mr. Boccia at Rouge Park by London Ketchum

Mr. Boccia and Ms. Alexander's classes went to the Rouge park, which is a National Urban Park. Once all of us drove there, we walked over to the piles of mulch, and woodchips. Each student was supposed to fill buckets with mulch or wood chips depending on their class (Ms. Alexander's class did the wood chips and Mr. Boccia's class did the mulch), and the mulch was much easier loading in the buckets than the wood chips. Then we put the mulch away and headed down the trail, with only buckets of wood chips, to plant trees. People partnered with other people to plant trees, with the occasional parent in the group. When we were done we got back on the bus to go to the place we were eating lunch, which had a beautiful view of the pond. Also at lunch, Mr. Boccia handed out a Timbit to everyone there, including the parents. All of us headed on the start of our hike, now full, and some of us saw woolly bears and picked them up for the rest of the hike. I really enjoyed the trip! Did you know there are more than 18, 000 species of animals in Rouge Park?



Eco-literacy is woven throughout the curriculum. Ms. Diana from Forestry Ontario recently paid Mme patry's grade 4 class a visit:



Eco-literacy extends beyond the walls of the school. Mr. Newhouse recently took his grade 5/6 class to the Brickworks for an interpretive program.





Everybody likes to read at the Duke!