

2026.09.17 SD8 Weekly Bulletin - Family Edition



Mission - We inspire and support each learner to thrive in a caring learning environment

 Remember to check out the [SD8 calendar](#) for important dates and to find out what is going on around the district!

(downloadable/printable version - [2026/2027 School Year](#))

INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH SCHOOL FAMILIES / PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Family Engagement Sessions

Check out the [SD8 Family Engagement webpage](#) to view our recorded presentations!

DPAC Meetings (virtual)

Please join us virtually for our next DPAC Meeting!

Find meeting dates, agendas, DPAC contacts and more [here!](#)

Next meeting is **TONIGHT** (September 17, 2026) from 6:00 to 8:00 PM PST - hope to see you there!

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day- September 30th

September 30th marks **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters**

[Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters](#) began in Williams Lake, British Columbia, on September 30, 2013. Established to honour Residential School Survivors, their families, and those who never returned home, it serves as a powerful reminder of the lasting impacts of the Residential School system. What began as a grassroots initiative has since evolved into a nationally recognized movement, with individuals, organizations, and communities across Canada participating in acts of remembrance, reflection, and reconciliation each year. The orange shirt symbolizes the loss of culture, freedom, and self-esteem that many Indigenous children experienced.

The **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** was established in response to **Call to Action 80** of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which called on the federal government, in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, to create a statutory holiday recognizing Survivors, their families, and communities while ensuring the history and legacy of residential schools are publicly remembered. **Bill**

C-5, which established the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a federal statutory holiday, received Royal Assent on June 3, 2021.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day are both observed annually on **September 30th**, and they are dedicated to honouring Residential School Survivors, their families, and communities, and to recognize the lasting impacts of Canada's Residential School system. These commemorations provide an opportunity to deepen Canada's understanding of the intergenerational effects of residential schools and to reflect on their enduring legacy as part of the ongoing journey toward truth, healing, and reconciliation. On September 30, Canadians are encouraged to wear orange in honour of Residential School Survivors and their families, and in remembrance of the children who never returned home.

Learn More: National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation [Lunch and Learns](#) September 21-25th

Safer Schools Together - Complimentary Student and Family Sessions

As part of Safer Schools Togethers' on-going work through the Ministry of Education and Childcare's *erase* strategy, we are pleased to announce **COMPLIMENTARY student and family sessions** coming up again this school year.

Student sessions on "**Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities**", as well as "**Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent in Our Communities**" are for students in grades 5-12. Please note this is a 60 minute session, with different days and times to accommodate different bell schedules. These are for educators to watch with their classes.

All our student sessions can be found [HERE](#).

As well, the family sessions are recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up. All our sessions can be found [HERE](#) - Please note the first session is Tuesday, September 15th.

[SD8 News](#) - *catch up on the latest announcements, Board Highlights and news in SD8!*

[Superintendent's Report](#) - *Read the latest blog from Superintendent Smillie to find out what's being celebrated and what is going on around the district this month!*