



**Honouring the Children of Residential Schools**  
**#sd8abed, SD8 Kootenay Lake**  
**Resources for Staff**

Wondering how best to approach this learning? Here are some tips which may help guide you this week, from #sd8abed. We have included some sample phrasing for teachers and resources. As shared this weekend from Dr. Chief Robert Joseph, we take steps forward with love.

In June 2022, SD8 students and staff will be gathering through the virtual wuqanqankimik Reconciliation Run Walk. This is an opportunity to move forward together.

**Staff:** More news from Residential School sites across Turtle Island are confirming stories of survivors. More unmarked graves are being found. This kind of news can be hard to accept and understand, for everyone. You may experience many feelings in the next while. You may be sad, angry, confused, depressed, afraid, or have no feelings at all for some time. Feelings may come and go and come when least expected. Everyone deals with loss differently. We are collectively mourning. This is time to practice self care: what is that you do to take care of yourself? Reach out to friends, family, colleagues. What is your medicine and what makes you feel better? It is okay to feel vulnerable.

Check in with your Aboriginal friends, colleagues, family, and Elders. Reach out and offer your support if you are able.

*\*Please channel any requests for additional supports that are needed through your PVPs as we acknowledge the AbEd staff may not be the ones to provide support during this time.*



## Grade Level Speaking Tips and Resources:

### K-3

- Residential schools were schools for First Nations children
- We know that children were not treated kindly there
- In the fall, you will see that we wear orange shirts to honour these children
- You will see orange shirts now as well, to remember that education should be kind, loving and accepting to all children.
- More children from there are remembered now and in the news - if children ask why? A response could be: “because we know children were not treated kindly”.

### Possible activities:

- Paint orange hearts on the windows
- [Ktunaxa counting](#)
- Write messages of love and kindness to each other
- Draw/paint: I remember when (a special time with a family member)
- Talking Circles - topics
  - I am thankful for...
  - Someone I love is...
  - I feel supported when...

### Grades 4-7

- Residential schools were schools for First Nations children
- Children from all over Canada attended these schools
- Children were forcibly removed from their families to attend these schools
- Many communities have been affected by the news of these schools, and all residential school survivors and families.
- Children from these schools are remembered as we learn more in the news, if students ask why, a response could be “because we know children were removed from their families and forced to attend these schools. Many were treated very unkindly there, and weren’t allowed to speak their language or practice their culture. We remember them to honour their stories”.

### Possible activities:

- Write messages of love and kindness to each other on orange hearts
- Read stories of Residential Schools (see suggested resources below)
- Talking Circles - topics



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- I am thankful for...
- I feel supported when...
- At school, children deserve to feel...
- Two voice poem - school today versus school yesterday
- Write a letter to our community Elders

## 8-12

- Residential schools were schools for First Nations children
- Children from all over BC attended this school and many communities have been impacted by this school and the ongoing impacts of residential schools.
- Children were forcibly removed from their families to attend these schools. It was illegal to NOT send your children to these schools.
- Many children experienced abuse and extreme hardships at these schools (disease, malnutrition, loss of culture, loss of connection to community).
- Survivors of these schools and community members spoke about children who never made it home from these schools.
- Unmarked graves of children were found in a mass grave at the former site of Residential Schools across Turtle Island.
- Communities all over Canada are grieving this news and what it means for our communities.
- Flipgrid: students create 90 second flip grids on how they understand Truth before Reconciliation

### Possible activities:

- [Listen to the CBC Front Burner Podcast](#) - Tuesday June 1 episode
- Visit the [Reconciliation Canada](#) website and the [Youth Toolkit](#)
- Learn about where the Residential Schools in BC were located
- Follow Indigenous influencers on social media and read their posts
- Talking circles with topics including: how do we honour these children and our communities; how do we support each other in times of grief and loss; how do we make sure these things never happen again.
- Write a letter to our community Elders

### Full school/Learning Group activities:

- Orange paper hearts on the walls
- Painting paper hearts on the windows of all schools
- Orange paper hearts woven into the fenceline of schools



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- Orange shirts - messages: who I honour, who I love, I remember, Reconciliation means to me...
- School writes on the topic of reconciliation: each class finishes this sentence: Reconciliation means to me - all joined together on a google doc and published on school website
- Walk/Run in honour of these children
- Collect children's shoes and teddy bears to leave at City Halls, legislatures, churches, or other public buildings.





**#sd8abed District Resources: Residential School Resources**

These resources are available from the Ab Ed Resource Library. Please contact District Aboriginal Team to borrow: [jesse.halton@sd8.bc.ca](mailto:jesse.halton@sd8.bc.ca) or [danica.weager@sd8.bc.ca](mailto:danica.weager@sd8.bc.ca)

**Kits:**

100 Years of Loss

**Intermediate/Secondary Books:**

As Long as the Rivers Flow by Larry Loyie (x2)

A Stranger At Home: A True Story by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (x2)

Fatty Legs: A True Story by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (x2)

Goodbye Buffalo Boy by Larry Loyie

My Name is Seepetza by Shirley Sterling (x2)

No Time to Say Goodbye by Sylvia Olsen

Righting Canada's Wrongs. Residential Schools: The Devastating Impact on Canada's Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Findings and Calls for Action by Melanie Florence

Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story by David Alexander Robertson and Scott B. Henderson

They Called me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School by Bev Sellars

Wenjack by Joseph Boyden

**Primary Books:**

I am Not a Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer

Kookum's Red Shoes by Peter Eyvindson (x2)

Shi-shi-etko by Nicola I. Campbell (x2)

Shin-chi's Canoe by Nicola I. Campbell (x3)

When We Were Alone by David A Robertson and Julie Flett

When I Was Eight by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

**Teaching Guides:**

Untold History: Understanding the Impact of Indian Residential School on Canada's Aboriginal Peoples (A Teacher Resource for Grade 7) by Ilona Weiss



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These resources are available online:

Visit [Reconciliation Canada](#)

Resources (aussi en français): <http://www.orangeshirtday.org/about-us.html>

Video: <https://youtu.be/E3vUqr01kAk>

Sample of Activity for high school:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LN0UjkNIjm75tuXkc\\_uT3vOUqJ4yDGm2OdA9jDX8VBg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LN0UjkNIjm75tuXkc_uT3vOUqJ4yDGm2OdA9jDX8VBg/edit?usp=sharing)

Lesson plans and guides:

- [Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation guide - grade 5](#)
- [Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation guide - grade 10](#)
- [Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation guide - grade 11/12](#)
- [Lesson plans from Manitoba Teachers Society](#)

**Additional Resources:**

- [Here is a compilation of excellent resources](#) for Orange Shirt Day, from the BCTF:
  - K-12 curriculum connections
  - Sample lessons and templates
  - Letter to Prime Minister Trudeau - template
  - “Children should feel” + individual responses on feathers - bulletin
  - “To help with Reconciliation, you can” activity
  - Grade 5 Orange Shirt Day announcement
  - Suggested texts
- [TRC](#)
- Yukon Education Student Network [School Resources](#)
- [First Nations Education Steering Committee Resources](#)
- [Gord Downey's Secret Path](#)
- [Monique Gray Smith on "Why we need to learn"](#)
- [Carey Newman and "The Witness Blanket"](#)
- Authentic K-7 FNEESC resources - each elementary school was provided with this kit and it includes many books that can be used for Orange t-shirt day teachings. Ask your PVP to access this kit.
- [Nakusp Secondary School Video](#)
- BCTF: [ORANGE SHIRT DAY ACTIVITIES](#)



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- Teach BC [Orange Shirt Activities](#)

**Resources for supports for intergenerational Residential School Survivors:** -  
Recommended to be shared on school websites and to all ABED families

### [Indian Residential School Survivors Society](#)

“The Indian Residential School Survivor Society (IRSSS) has a wealth of experience delivering wellness and healing services to Indian Residential School Survivors and intergenerational Survivors throughout B.C. IRSSS provides essential services to Residential School Survivors, their families, and to those dealing with intergenerational traumas. These impacts affect every family and every community across B.C. and Canada.”

Services include:

- grief and loss counselling
- crisis counselling
- trauma counselling
- clinical therapy
- art therapy
- alternative healing therapy
- energy healing
- emotional support for people in the settlement process
- family and group counselling
- basic life skills coaching
- educational workshops on a broad range of health issues
- traditional healing methods and medicines
- traditional foods sourcing and preparation
- crisis support

**KUU-US Crisis Line Society** - In B.C., a toll-free First Nations and Indigenous Crisis Line (1-800-588-8717) is offered through the KUU-US Crisis Line Society.

### **Community Service Agencies for Counselling**

[Nelson](#), [Creston](#), [Salmo](#), [Slocan Valley](#), [Kaslo](#)

### **Employer Supported Counselling Services**

[Circle of Indigenous Nations \(COINS\)](#) - an Aboriginal non-profit society that provides cultural support and counseling services to people in the West Kootenay and Boundary



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region and was formed in March 2013. We provide programs rooted in Indigenous practices that strengthen cultural connection and support holistic healing and learning. Contact Kris Salikan, MSW, Executive director at [coinations@gmail.com](mailto:coinations@gmail.com), or 250 231 4968.