

Orange Shirt Day

“Orange Shirt Day was launched in 2013 to call attention to 165 years of residential school experiences (1831-1996). For residential school survivor Phyllis Webstad, the severing of the threads connecting her to family, community, and culture began in 1973, when the beautiful orange shirt she wore to her first day of school was stripped from her and never seen again. Orange Shirt Day is intended to raise awareness and acknowledge the harms of the past. This day can spark initiatives to weave reconciliation into education throughout the year...”
([NFB, 2020](#))

Orange Shirt Day brings us the opportunity to learn about the Residential school systems histories and impacts. Over the years, many organizations have developed lesson plans and activities that are ready to download for your use. I have noted some excellent sites below. Using social justice themed lessons is also a way to approach this topic.

We look forward to the photos of schools and classes sharing how they acknowledge and celebrate Orange Shirt day this year. You can share your photos on Facebook and Twitter. The district guidelines to sharing on social media are listed here:

<https://portal.sd72.bc.ca/Departments/communications/socialmedia/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Read:

Shi Shi Etko – Nicola I Campbell (<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/09/10/lesson-plans-and-resources-for-orange-shirt-day/>)

Shin Shi's Canoe – Nicola I Campbell

Fatty Legs - Margaret Pokiak-Fenton and Christy Jordan-Fenton

The Orange Shirt Story - Phyllis Webstad (<https://medicinewheel.education/pages/osdbooklaunch>)

When I was Eight – Christy Fenton - available in most school libraries

I lost my Talk – Poem – Rita Joe <https://www.poetryinvoice.com/poems/i-lost-my-talk>

Stolen Words – Melanie Florence

Secret Path – Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire – SSKT 0337 & SSKT 0338 at the district media library (lessons included)

Watch:

- Phyllis Webstad Orange Shirt Day
 - <https://youtu.be/E3vUqr01kAk>
 - <https://medicinewheel.education/pages/osdbooklaunch>
- Shi-shi-etko video
 - <https://youtu.be/tKErhCGjSDE>
- NFB playlist
 - [https://www.nfb.ca/playlist/orange-shirt-day-edu/?utm_campaign=625380_2020-09-04_-_Orange_Shirt_Day_\(EN\)_-EDU&utm_medium=email&utm_source=NFB+Education-All_Users](https://www.nfb.ca/playlist/orange-shirt-day-edu/?utm_campaign=625380_2020-09-04_-_Orange_Shirt_Day_(EN)_-EDU&utm_medium=email&utm_source=NFB+Education-All_Users)
- CBC Kids “What’s the Story”
 - <https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/what-is-orange-shirt-day>

Do:

- Wear an orange shirt
- Tell others about the Orange Shirt story
- Attend a free webinar:
 - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation online event – September 20, 2020
 - [https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/every-child-matters-chaque-enfant-compte-tickets-107741056400?utm_campaign=625380_2020-09-04_-_Orange_Shirt_Day_\(EN\)_-_EDU&utm_medium=email&utm_source=NFB+Education-All_Users](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/every-child-matters-chaque-enfant-compte-tickets-107741056400?utm_campaign=625380_2020-09-04_-_Orange_Shirt_Day_(EN)_-_EDU&utm_medium=email&utm_source=NFB+Education-All_Users)
 - UBC Learning Circle – “The Orange Shirt Story” with Phyllis Webstad
 - <https://learningcircle.ubc.ca/2020/08/19/phyllis-webstad-the-orange-shirt-story/>
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Where to Next?

- Read – *Stolen Words* (2017) by Melanie Florence
 - Discuss the repercussions of Residential schools and how that is still visible today
 - How does loss of language affect identity?
- Order the Residential School Kit through the district media library
- Read *Secret of the Dance* by Andrea Spalding
 - <https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/SocialJustice/Issues/Antiracism/BanningOfThePotlatch.pdf>

If you have any questions or would like some more resources, please reach out to me at gillian.kirke@sd72.bc.ca.

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