

Brighthouse Newsletter

Brighthouse Elementary

6800 Azure Road
Richmond, BC
V7C 2S8

Kathy Pantaleo

Principal

Leah Scharf

Vice Principal

School Schedule:

8:40 - Welcome Bell
8:45 – Classes Begin
10:10 -10:25 - Recess
11:50 - 12:42 - Lunch
2:45 - Dismissal

Sept 29th - Oct 3rd, 2025 Week at a Glance

Monday	Orange Shirt Day
Tuesday	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - No School on this Day
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	Hot Lunch - Edo

Dear Brighthouse Families,

On Monday, we will be participating as a school in our Walk for Truth and Reconciliation. We will be meeting by the front of the school facing Azure Road at 10:30 am. Families are welcome to join us. The purpose of the walk is for us to gather as a community to reflect on the past, acknowledge the truths of our shared history, and commit to walking forward together in unity. By coming together, we foster understanding, healing, and hope — building a future rooted in respect, compassion, and meaningful change. We will still be walking if it is raining, so please ensure that your child is dressed to walk in the rain on Monday.

To our Jewish students, staff, and families, we wish you a meaningful Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. May this Day of Atonement bring peace, reflection, and renewal as you fast, pray, and gather with your communities.

We extend our warmest greetings to members of the Hindu community observing Dussehra. This festival marks the victory of good over evil and is often celebrated with prayer, cultural events, and family gatherings. May this day bring joy, prosperity, and light.

Wishing you all the best,

Leah Scharf and Kathy Pantaleo

Important Dates!

Sept 22 - Oct 1	Navaratri
Sept 29	Orange Shirt Day Assembly @ 10:30 am
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - No School
Oct 2	Yom Kippur
Oct 3	Dussehra
Oct 3	Hot Lunch - Edo
Oct 10	Hot Lunch - Subway
Oct 13	Thanksgiving Monday - No School

Wear an **orange shirt** on Monday, September 29th to honour and remember those impacted by the Residential School System.



BECOME HOMESTAY at the RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Be a host for an international student for a month, semester or year. Richmond International Education (RIE) Homestay Program is looking for local families to offer a welcoming home.

Contact us to find out more about this enriching opportunity.

study@sd38.bc.ca

604-668-6217



RICHMOND
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ENRICHING GLOBAL MINDS



Remember to dress for the weather! We will be going outside rain or shine. If you re in need of rain boots, pants or coats for your child, you can visit the donation station at the office.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th



Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake in 2013 to create awareness of the impacts of Indian Residential Schools on generations of Indigenous people. September 30th was chosen as the day to honour the students who survived going to an Indian Residential School and to remember those who did not come home. September 30th was chosen as this was the time when children as young as three years old were taken from their homes and brought to the schools. September is also a good time to reflect on the history of Indigenous peoples and how we will move forward in reconciliation, as a school community, for the year. **Wear an orange shirt** on the day to honour and remember those impacted by the Residential School System.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was established in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 80. A bill was tabled in March 2019 to establish a national holiday and tabled again in September 2020. After 215 bodies were found in unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School on May 28, 2021 the bill was fast tracked, passed, and received royal assent on June 3, 2021.

"The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation recognizes that at least 150,000 Indigenous children from across the country were forcibly separated from their families and their communities. Children were brought to residential schools where too many experienced abuse and were removed from their cultures, languages, and traditions. This federal day builds on the momentum of Orange Shirt Day, which was inspired by the story of Phyllis Webstad and chosen by Indigenous peoples to remember the legacy of residential schools and promote the path of reconciliation... This year, the tragic locating of unmarked graves at former residential school sites across the country has reminded us of not only the impacts of colonialism and the harsh realities of our collective past, but also the work that is paramount to advancing reconciliation in Canada. Today, we also recognize the harms, injustices, and intergenerational trauma that Indigenous peoples have faced – and continue to face – because of the residential school system, systemic racism, and the discrimination that persists in our society. We must all learn about the history and legacy of residential schools. It's only by facing these hard truths, and righting these wrongs, that we can move forward together toward a more positive, fair, and better future."

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, June 2021

Why an orange shirt?

Orange Shirt Day commemorates First Nations residential school survivor, Phyllis Webstad's story. In 1973, on her first day at St. Joseph Mission Residential School they took her orange shirt along with her other belongings and never gave them back. This became a symbol of the loss of identity and culture of Indigenous people and a way to never forget the history of forced assimilation. The national day is one of remembrance, reconciliation and education of our shared past and a symbol of support for our shared future.

National Day
for Truth and
Reconciliation



"The road we travel is equal in importance to the destination we seek. There are no shortcuts. When it comes to truth and reconciliation, we are all forced to go the distance."

The Honourable Murray Sinclair

We acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the hə́ŋqəmiŋəm language group on whose unceded territories we live and where the x̣məθḳəyəm people continue their traditions and cultural education. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn, create meaningful relationships and make positive contributions to education in this territory.