

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 23, 2022

RE: RVS Commemorates Truth and Reconciliation Week

On Sept. 26-29, students and staff in RVS will observe Truth and Reconciliation Week leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a non-instructional day in RVS, meaning classes will not be held and all facilities will be closed. Truth and Reconciliation Week will honour Every Child Matters and Orange Shirt Day and provides flexibility for schools to learn and reflect on the history and legacy of residential schools.

“Observing Truth and Reconciliation Week is an important opportunity for RVS to teach all our students about the history and contributions of the Indigenous peoples of Canada, while also communicating solidarity with our Indigenous and Métis learners,” said Superintendent of Schools, Greg Luterbach. “This is time to reflect and recommit to the work of truth and reconciliation, both individually and as a school division.”

RVS is committed to providing inclusive education environments for all students. Observing Truth and Reconciliation week is one way we carry out the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action 62, which calls for age-appropriate education on residential schools, Treaties and Indigenous people’s historical and contemporary contributions to Canada. It also meets one of the goals of RVS’ Four-Year Plan to help students navigate successfully as global citizens by valuing diversity, cultures and traditions.

Across our division, schools will participate in several activities during the week. One event will be Orange Shirt Day when students and staff wear orange t-shirts to recognize the legacy of the residential school system. Many schools will partner with members of local Indigenous communities who will lead traditional activities and teach students about their culture and traditions. Schools will also highlight books and poems centred on the Canadian Indigenous experience. RVS’ newly launched Indigenous Learning branch has been assisting schools in the lead-up to Truth and Reconciliation week by highlighting resources that support programming and initiative for Sept. 30.

Media interested in learning more about specific activities happening at schools in their area are invited to contact RVS Communications.

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