



# VSB – ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

WEAR ORANGE  
ON  
SEPTEMBER  
29TH

## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

A DAY TO LISTEN, LEARN AND CELEBRATE ABORIGINAL CULTURE

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children’s sense of self-esteem and wellbeing,

and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and

anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

### RESOURCES

**Legacy of Hope** <http://www.legacyofhope.ca/>

**Reconciliation of Canada** <http://reconciliationcanada.ca/>

**Orange Shirt Day** <http://orangeshirtday.org>

**Phyllis Webstad's YouTube Video** <https://youtu.be/E3vUqr01kAk>

**Orange Shirt Day Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/orangeshirtdayeverychildmatters>



## WHY ORANGE SHIRTS?

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. It grew out of Phyllis Webstad's story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.



\* We are asking schools to celebrate a day early, as the 30th falls on a Saturday.