



HUSKIES

Volume 2022/23-2

September 29, 2022

Principal: Mrs. W. Kelemen

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. J. Vossen

Decker Lake Elementary School

Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM

Phone: 250-698-7301 Fax: 250-698-7349

Principal's Message

To those who ask why Indigenous people don't just "get over" the residential school experience, Senator Murray Sinclair has this response.

"My answer has always been: Why can't you always remember this? Because this is about memorializing those people who have been victims of a great wrong. Why don't you tell the United States to 'get over' 9/11? Why don't you tell this country to 'get over' all the veterans who died in the Second World War, instead of honouring them once a year?

We should never forget, even once they have learned from it, because it's part of who we are. It's not just a part of who we are as survivors and children of survivors and relatives of survivors, it's part of who we are as a nation. And this nation must never forget what it once did to its most vulnerable people."

-Senator Murray Sinclair, 2017

On behalf of the children and staff of Decker Lake Elementary School, we acknowledge the past and make conscious acts of reconciliation for brighter days ahead.

In kindness,
Mrs. Kelemen, Principal

Mi'kiju' is the Mi'kmaw word for grandmother, Metata is grandfather, and Tu's means daughter

It's Time to Go and Play Now

It's 1982.

"Mi'kiju!" I shout from the ground,

"Can we go and play now?"

No Tu's, we must hide, your Metata says they're coming.

We can hear it, the warriors are drumming.

Those men will come to take you away,

"To learn" is what they will say,

But I haven't seen my sister since they took her that day.

We pack up our things and head for the river, Mi'kiju' grabs my hand, I need to stay with her.

We ran for an awfully long time, and Mi'kiju' says my sister is now where the sun shines.

It's 1996.

"Mi'kiju!" I shout from the trees,

"Can we go and play now?"

No Tu's, we must fight, your Metata says they're coming.

I don't understand why they come to take more,

As if all that we've lost doesn't make our hearts already sore.

They took our land, water, trees and animals too,

Now they want our children, them, me and even you!

So we fought, until we couldn't anymore.

We fought, like we hadn't before.

It's 2021.

Mi'kiju' is wise and old now, it's almost her time to go, as we sit with her and remember how far we've come with the men we used to run from, she looks to me and says,

"Remember the ground and the trees Tu's,

"Remember the drumming and the river,

"Don't forget the stories and the words Tu's,

"Don't forget the legends that make your bones shiver.

"I'm going with your sister, to see where the sun shines,

"Take your Tu's, it's time to show her what we won't and will allow,

"But most importantly, it's finally time to go and play now."

Author Cassidy Gallant
Mi'kmaw Poet

Orange Shirt Day

Thursday, September 29, 2022, Decker Lake will acknowledge and recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by wearing orange. We hope to colour-up our school and playground in orange!

Why do we have Orange Shirt Day?

September 30th is National Truth and Reconciliation Day in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

The following is an excerpt from Phyllis Jack. It was her orange shirt that is one of the reasons for National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

"I went to the Mission for one school year in 1973/1974. I had just turned 6 years old. I lived with my grandmother on the Dog Creek reserve. We never had very much money, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission school. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting – just like I felt to be going to school!

"When I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt! I never wore it again. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! The color orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

Phyllis struggled for many years because of the hurt she experienced with her orange shirt at residential school. She is better now as she continues on her healing journey. We are reminded on Orange Shirt Day that every child matters.

Decker Lake Dishes-Up...



Lockdown Drill

On Friday, October 7, at 10:10 AM, Decker Lake will be having a Lockdown Drill. The RCMP will be helping us during the drill. So if you see lights flashing and hear some noise, and your child(ren) come(s) home excitedly to tell you all about how DLES had police at the school, this will be the really cool and exciting reason why!

Student Verification Forms—
Please Return Them!!!

It's time for the annual check on Student Verification Forms. Every child at Decker Lake Elementary will get one. Please make any changes, such as **phone numbers, address, emergency contacts, custody, court orders, or alerts**, etc., directly on the form, sign the bottom of back page for each child, and send it back to the school as soon as possible. We need a signed form for every child, so please ensure information is correct for each child.

To ensure DLES protects your child properly, please ensure you send a copy of any court orders or other legal documents to the school.

Mark your Calendar

September

- 29 Orange Shirt Day
- 30 National Reconciliation Day—No School

October

- 7 Lockdown Drill with RCMP
- 10 Thanksgiving—No School
- 19 11:47 AM Early Dismissal - P/T Conferences
- 20 Shakedown Drill
- 21 Pro-D Day—No School
- 28 PAC Movie Night 5:30 PM
- 31 Hallowe'en

November

- 10 Remembrance Day Ceremony
- 11 Remembrance Day—No School

Open House Gift Card Winners!!!

The following students each won a \$50 gift card after putting their names in the draw.

1. Shea Woodgate
2. Abby Sapach
3. Carson Currie
4. Naomi Tearoe
5. Grayson Schneider
6. Nick Sampson
7. Jamison Sampson
8. Taryn Griffin
9. Norah Dell
10. Jennifer Matson

And the last word goes to:

Our District Planning Day Professional Development organizers: Leona Prince, Katie Nesbitt, and Chrystal Vanderwijk; and to our presenters, Honourable Murray Sinclair, Leona Prince, Frank Alec, Dr. Sarah Davidson, and Guy Prince.

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District Service...

Counselling is Available

Shauna Ianson and Nick Ferguson, two of our SD#91 district counsellors, will be working in our school this year. Nick will be at DLES part of the day on Tuesdays and Shauna will be here on Fridays.

Shauna and Nick will be working alongside staff and students in the school in a variety of ways. These may include helping to facilitate programs in the classroom, working with small groups on topics such as dealing with anxiety or building healthy relationships, as well as individual counselling. If you have any questions or concerns or would like your child to be able to access support through our school counsellors, please contact Wendy Kelemen at 250-698-7301.

In addition, if you are looking for longer-term individual support for your child, please contact:

Carrier Sekani Family Services
Phone: 250-692-2387 (Burns Lake)

The SD#91 Counselling Team also has a website with resources for students and their families available at <https://nechakowellness.wixsite.com/sd-91-counselling>

Welcome back to Decker Lake Elementary Staff!!!

Decker Lake Staff 22-23

- Mrs. Kelemen - Principal
- Mrs. Payne - AEA
- Mrs. Blair - PAA
- Mrs. Burleson - Custodian
- Ms. Giesbrecht - Gr 1-2
- Ms. England - Gr 5-6
- Mrs. Vossen - Admin. Assist.
- Mr. Williams - Indigenous Ed
- Mrs. Stevenson - PAA
- Mrs. Coulson - LSW
- Mrs. Benoit - Gr 6-7
- Mrs. Trottier - Librarian
- Miss Lee - Resource Teacher
- Ms. Menzel - LSW
- Ms. Lowe - Gr 3-4
- Ms. Hushard - LSW
- Ms. Eftodie - Custodian
- Mrs. Shelford-Schneider - K-1