

2023 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Thousands of Survivors' voices. Hear their stories. Learn their truths.

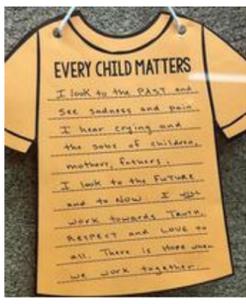
Truth and Reconciliation Week
Sept. 25-30, 2023

The Third Annual National Truth and Reconciliation Week occurred in GYPSD schools from September 25th to 29th and was marked by important conversations including the truths of the Indigenous Treaties and the Residential School system.

Students and staff attended Round Dances, heard from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Storytellers, and engaged in a wide range of learning activities and experiences to deepen and extend their understanding of the past and its impact on Indigenous peoples.

Recognized in this week is also National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day (September 30th). Orange Shirt Day recalls the experience of Residential School Survivor Phyllis Webstad, who at age six was stripped of her new orange shirt on her first day attending the St. Joseph Mission Residential School near Williams Lake, BC. The date of September 30 was chosen because it was the time of year when Indigenous children were typically removed from their families and forced to attend Residential Schools.

GYPSD is committed to highlighting the importance of these events, encouraging all staff and students to take the time to learn, reflect, and engage in conversations about truth, reconciliation, and the actions that each of us can take. Each GYPSD school found its own unique way to show support to mark this important date. We continue to show gratitude to our Elders and Knowledge Keepers, our community partners, as well as our Indigenous staff, students, and their families who continuously share their voice and their stories with our staff and students and provide their counsel in relation to our programs and services.



Elder **Jackie Whitford** visited staff and students at both Parkland and Ecole Pine Grove campuses with **Superintendent Lewis, Principal Ripkens** and **Assistant Principal Basaraba**.

