



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC ACADEMY

140 Greenpark Blvd. Woodbridge. ON L4L 6Z6

Tel: 905-856-0955 | Fax: 905-856-0999 | <http://sgg.ycdsb.ca>

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Next Thursday, September 30th, in honor of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we will be celebrating **Orange Shirt Day** which is a day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada. September 30th falls during the time of year when Indigenous children were taken away to residential schools.

"The 'orange shirt' in Orange Shirt Day refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was given by her grandmother for her first day of school at St. Joseph's Mission residential school in British Columbia. When Phyllis got to school, they took away her clothes, including her new shirt. It was never returned. To Phyllis, the colour orange has always reminded her of her experiences at residential school and, as she has said, "how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

(Source: <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/about-us.html>)

To recognize this day, our school has planned a number of activities, both in the classrooms as well as a school community. One of the activities planned for that day is to make shoe sculptures out of plastic wrap. In order to proceed with this symbolic project, **we are requesting each student in Gr. 1-8 bring in a roll of plastic wrap** (i.e., Saran or Cling wrap). Students will use their shoe as a mold (or they can bring in an extra/old shoe which will be taken home at the end of the day) to create their sculpture.

We look forward to having our students participate in this meaningful activity and hope that it will serve as a reminder of the importance that **Orange Shirt Day** has for us.

A reminder that on September 30th, **all students are welcome to wear an orange shirt or accessorize their uniform by adding orange**. Please note that this day is not a civvies day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.



Sincerely,
The Orange Shirt Day Planning Committee