



# ROBERTSON SCHOOL

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**MRS. J. GUZZI**  
Principal

**MS. D. PETRZELKA**  
Vice Principal

Dear parents and/or guardians,

The discovery of the bodies of 215 Indigenous children buried at the former site of the Kamloops Residential School has left an unimaginable heartbreak and outcry of support for the many families of all those affected by the legacy of residential schools. It is important to acknowledge, honour, and give space to educate and remember the devastating effects residential schools have had and continue to have on the lives of Indigenous peoples, but we must do so gently and respectfully.

Following the guidance and recommendations put forth by Indigenous leaders, we had a moment of silence each day, and out of respect the WSD joined in solidarity by having our flags flown at half-staff for 4 days commencing May 31, 2021. The 4 days signifies the time in which a sacred fire would burn in order to help our relatives travel home.

Out of respect for the children and families of the Kamloops Residential School tragedy as well as all those impacted by the legacy of residential schools, we at Robertson School respectfully acknowledge, honour, and commit to raising awareness through education of the true history of Canada's past, and how this affects all Canadians moving forward.

Each school community is diverse, it is important to be cognizant of the trauma, pain, and healing many will feel during this time. This is a time to not only raise awareness and instill the importance of learning about Canada's history, but also a time to support one another in working towards reconciliation.

We invite you to view a video with words from WSD Knowledge Keeper Myra Laramée about the sacred fires, and how to honour these children, families, and community.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q9HOwjpU-0oW8MmQhcnAdHsncx-dvihD/view?usp=sharing>

If you need support, here are some potentially useful contacts/resources you can access:

Indian Residential School Survivors Society Emergency Crisis Line: 1-800-721-0066

24 Hour Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419

Hope for Wellness Help Line: 1-855-242-3310

Klinic Crisis Line: 204-786-8686

Thank you,

Jude Guzzi and Dana Petrzelka  
Robertson Administration Team