



Francois Lake Elementary School

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Phone: 250-695-6401 Fax: 250-695-6695
860 Francois Lake Rd E
Francois Lake BC V0J 1E2

Principal: Mr. G. Rosenau
Admin. Assist.: Mrs. J Vossen

Principal's Message

I began writing this sentence at 5:04pm on Saturday the 22nd, and just by chance, that also happens to be the exact time the sun crossed the celestial equator. We are now officially in the autumn season! As the leaves have been changing colour, your child(ren) has/have been getting used to school routines, their teacher's expectations, and how their desk mate smells. Hopefully not too much of the last one. But seriously, it's been great to see kids finding peace in structure, joy in games, and connectedness in relationship throughout the school. The staff have been hard at work getting some start-of-year assessments done and setting the foundation for a strong year of growth for their students.

I am sure you've been hard a work at home and in your jobs too and am thus so appreciative of everyone who was able to make it out to the open house last week. Did I remember to take pictures? No. But, I have many witnesses that the kids were having fun with the scavenger hunt, new connections were made, and there were lots of good snacks—big thanks to the PAC, Mrs. Wilejto, and Ms. Woode for contributing to the spread of food! I very much enjoyed meeting more parents and other family members in our community, while also getting a chance to introduce you to my family as well.

Lastly, I just want to acknowledge all that you, the parents and guardians, have done and continue to do that we may not see at the school but know make such a difference in each child's learning both here at school and at home. Thank you for all you did to help prepare your child(ren) for the start of the school year; I think we are off to a great start!

Mr. Rosenau
Principal

No School Days

Oct. 12 – Thanksgiving
Oct. 23 – Pro D Day
Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day
Nov. 20 – Pro D Day
Dec. 21-Jan. 1 – Winter Break
Feb. 5 – Pro D Day
Feb. 15 – Family Day
Mar. 15-29 – Spring Break
Apr. 16 – Pro D Day
May 7 – Pro D Day

Orange Shirt Day, Tue. Sep. 29 – Wear Orange Shirts!

Why do we do this? This is Phyllis' story:

"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.

I was 13 years old and in grade 8 when my son Jeremy was born. Because my grandmother and mother both attended residential school for 10 years each, I never knew what a parent was supposed to be like. With the help of my aunt, Agness Jack, I was able to raise my son and have him know me as his mother.

I went to a treatment centre for healing when I was 27 and have been on this healing journey since then. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don't matter. Even with all the work I've done!

I am honored to be able to tell my story so that others may benefit and understand, and maybe other survivors will feel comfortable enough to share their stories."

Let's show our support for all of our community members! Wear an orange shirt on Tuesday!

Mark your Calendars!

(Dates & events subject to change)

September

25 (F) Pro-D Day—No School
29 (T) Orange Shirt Day
30 (W) Truth and Reconciliation Day – No School

October

12 (M) Thanksgiving Day—No School
19 (M) Photo Retake Day
21 (W) Early Dismissal 11:53 AM—
Talk About Learning Time
2–6 PM
23 (F) Pro D Day—No School

November

10 (T) Remembrance Day
Ceremony 10:45 AM

Tomorrow – No School!

Tomorrow is a district-wide Professional Development Day for all the staff who work for School District 91. It is an Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation focused learning event for staff organized by our own Mr. Jesse Fairley.

Our goal is for all our students to not only **be** welcome but to also **feel** welcome in our lovely little school. We do this for our kids.



Scouts Honor Kids Band

On Thursday, Sep. 10, our students were treated to a fabulous presentation by Scouts Honor Kids Band! This was a wonderful start to the FLES Falcon's new school year!



Terry Fox Run

Sept. 11, on Friday, was our school's Terry Fox Run! We were lucky to have amazing weather and full-on participation from all of our students

The community Terry Fox Run took place on Sunday, Sept. 20 at Francois Lake Hall.



Robotics

Mrs. Wilejto's class is learning about robotics with Lego Education Spike kits as part of their Applied Design Skills and Technology (ADST) curriculum.



PAC Posts...

The next **PAC meeting** will be **Wed. Oct. 21** at 5:30 PM, right near the end of the Talk About Learning Time. All parents are welcome, and babysitting is provided! How do **YOU** want to see our school teach our kids? Come have your say!

And the last word goes to:

Mr. Gerald Rosenau for going over and beyond staying late into the evenings, arriving early, and learning his "new roles and routines" as our principal. Our staff appreciates and thanks you!





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Francois Lake is offering an alternative way to get the bi-weekly newsletter, again this year! If you would like to take advantage of the online opportunity to avoid missing the newsletter in a backpack, see the bright images more clearly, share with family who live far away, and save on trash in your bins, please choose to receive your newsletter by email. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter on paper, please make that selection below.

Feel free to change your mind and make a new selection for this year, if you wish!

Please print your child's name/children's names clearly on the top line below and make your selection. Please note, we can only accommodate **one** choice.

Name(s) of student(s):

(Please print clearly)

- ☐ I would like to have my child's newsletter delivered the **same** way as last year. (This option is for former parents or guardians only.)

OR

- ☐ I would like to get my child's newsletter by email! Please send it to my preferred **email** address below. (Only one email address per family, please.)

_____@_____

(Please print clearly)

OR

- ☐ I would like to receive my child's/children's newsletter in **print**. (Only one paper copy per family.)

Please **return** this note to the school office with your choice marked **by Friday, October 2, 2026**. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Rosenau
Principal