



St. Matthew Catholic School
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Friday, September 21, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians, *Orange Shirt Day*

As we work to enhance our relationship with Indigenous peoples in Canada, Indigenous Education has become a significant part of the discourse. Therefore, in the spirit of hope and reconciliation, The Equity, Diversity, and Indigenous Education Department of the Toronto Catholic District School invites our school to participate in Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters on **Friday, September 28, 2018**.

Orange Shirt day is a national movement. It officially began in 2013. It has its origins in the experience of six-year-old Phyllis Webstad. In 1973, she entered the St. Joseph Mission Residential School, outside of Williams Lake, BC. Young Phyllis was wearing a brand new orange shirt for her first day of school – new clothes being a rare and wonderful thing for a First Nations girl growing up in her grandmother’s care – but her shirt was taken away from her upon her arrival at the school.



The Orange Shirt Day calls on every Canadian to wear an orange shirt on September 30th in the spirit of healing and reconciliation by recognizing the issue of residential schools, honouring the survivors and victims, and making a collective effort to ensure that every child matters. As September 30th is on Sunday, schools are invited to acknowledge this day on **Friday, September 28, 2018**.

Your child is encouraged to wear an orange shirt or top to school on Friday, September 28. On this day, your child will also be walking to honour Terry Fox.

Sincerely yours,

L. Pennacchio
 Principal