

*Orange Shirt Day, held on September 30, is an event that started in 2013. It began as a way to promote awareness about the residential school system and the impact this system has had on Indigenous communities as well as the beliefs of non-Indigenous Canadians for more than a century in Canada.*

*While residential schools are not the fault of present-day Canadians, it is the inheritance we have all been given and therefore we have the responsibility to learn about the history of residential schools and to work towards healing a broken relationship between Indigenous peoples and settler Canadians.*

*Every child matters -- this is the spirit behind Orange Shirt Day. In schools, students and staff are encouraged to wear an orange shirt to honour the children that were taken away from their families to attend residential schools.*

*Why September 30? Often, children were removed from their homes at the end of September, which is why this date was chosen. Why orange shirts? One young student, excited to be starting school, wore a special new outfit in orange. When she arrived at the residential school, her clothing was taken from her and never returned. This marked the beginning of a loss of her identity.*

*At LES, we are committed to building our understanding of and relationship with the Indigenous people in Canada. Acknowledging Orange Shirt Day is one way in which we can show that we value all students having a sense of identity and belonging. Staff and students are invited to wear orange on September 30 in recognition of Orange Shirt Day. On this day, all students will attend a school assembly and be involved in a learning experience with their classroom teacher.*