Reconciliation begins with you.

Together, we can raise awareness of the impact of Canada’s residential school system on Indigenous Peoples.

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) Legacy Schools program helps classrooms/schools lead the movement in awareness of the history of Canada’s residential school system. All participating schools are encouraged to create reconciliACTIONs, which are unique to each school and can incorporate fundraising, cultural activities and more. DWF will share these activities online to provide support and inspire all of us to “Do Something.”

Are you ready to find out more? Visit downiewenjack.ca.
EDUCATORS’ QUICK START GUIDE

SECRET PATH LESSONS

1. Where do you find hope?

Action: Share the Secret Path song with your class.

Assignment: After sharing the song, have students write down where they find hope in their lives. This can be shared in a class journal or question wall to encourage enquiry and discussion.

2. What’s your question about Chanie’s residential school story?

Action: Share with students that Chanie is a youth survivor from Peterborough, Ontario. He was a student at the residential school in Fort William.

Assignment: Ask students: What questions do you have about what happened to Chanie and other Indigenous youth in residential schools? Have students do research and gather information from resources such as 100 Years of Loss (100yearsofloss.ca/en/)

3. Write a letter to the Wenjacks.

Action: Give students options to create a letter to the Wenjacks. Students can work in pairs to write a letter to Chanie Wenjack, Pearl Wenjack, and Daisy Munroe.

Assignment: Write a short letter or create a video in which to send to the Wenjacks about how you think Chanie’s story impacts your own life and/or the lives of those around you. Also, post on social media and share the letter with friends and family.

4. How do you find hope?

Action: Encourage students to look for hope in their own lives. Ask students to identify things that give them hope and share them with the class. This can be a class activity or individual assignments.

Assignment: Ask students to write a short letter or create a video (with a script) to send to the Wenjacks for taking the time to read the letter. They can add their questions to a journal or question wall in class to encourage enquiry (see www.100yearsofloss.ca)

5. How can we bring Indigenous knowledge and skills into our lives?

Action: Share with students that Indigenous knowledge and skills are important and can be brought into our lives. Ask students to suggest ways to learn more about Indigenous knowledge and skills.

Assignment: Ask students to come up with ideas to bring Indigenous knowledge and skills into their lives. Students can work in pairs or groups to create a plan for bringing Indigenous knowledge and skills into their lives.

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Register as a Legacy School and get a toolkit
Get access to over 200 educational resources, including lesson plans, videos, and inspiring stories from other Legacy Schools.