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Teachers and Educators
Williams Lake and Area

Dear Teachers and Educators:

Thank you for choosing to attend an historical experience at the Little Red Schoolhouse in 150 Mile House. As schoolmarms, we are attempting to recreate a living history experience for the children who attend our sessions and the adults who accompany them. We will keep as true to the life of children in the year 18 96 (the year this schoolhouse was opened) as possible. Therefore, we ask that you help us create the atmosphere of that bygone time.

Costuming is an important part of creating the atmosphere. We ask that the children and all adults be in era appropriate costumes. That being said, we do not want this to become an onerous or expensive task. Our teacher package (to be sent soon) contains quick and inexpensive ideas for costumes. Also, we have many costumes at the schoolhouse, for boys, girls and adults, that may be used by visiting groups. Although we have some hats and bonnets, we suggest, for sanitary reasons, that each person bring their own headwear.

Each person, adult or child, will be assigned a pioneer name for the day. These are names of people who have actually attended this schoolhouse. The adults take on the personas of older students who are there to assist the schoolmarm with lessons and activities.

In keeping with the era, we ask that cell phones be put away, except when being used to take photos. They should be turned off or on vibrate mode. Should you need to use your phone, please use it out of the schoolhouse.

We have recently begun offering some fall sessions as well as the Spring sessions. However, since fall sessions are offered late September to early October, we recommend these for older students (grades 2 or 3 and up). Most sessions will be about two to three hours in length. When we have multi-age groups, it sometimes works well to divide the children into older and younger students for part of the day. We would require your assistance and supervision for outdoor activities at these times.

We have a pre-visit package to send, prior to your visit. It includes ideas for costumes, lunches, a sample letter to send home, a list of typical school visit activities, and some preparation ideas and activities. If you decide to do some of these activities before coming to the school (making butter/biscuits), please let us know, in order to avoid duplicating activities.

We look forward to sharing this exciting history with you.

Sincerely,

Audrey Dye, Chris Donaldson, Mary Forbes

Date

PARENTS

Our class is excited to have the opportunity to visit the Little Red Schoolhouse at 150 Mile House and to experience what life was like for children over 100 years ago. We will be discussing what life was like in the Cariboo without the benefit of modern technology.

The date and time of our visit is

I would encourage all children to wear an appropriate costume that day (costume ideas are attached). Please do not feel the need to go buy a costume, just find what you can around your house, then we can augment what you find with the costume items that the schoolhouse owns. We have some hats and bonnets, but, for sanitary reasons, it is better That each person wear their own headwear.

Lunches should be era appropriate also. Try not to use any plastic at all, as it was not invented yet. They should include some of the following; bread, biscuits, chunks of cheese, meat and sausage, hard-boiled eggs, honey or jam on bread, whole vegetables (carrots), but very little fruit (perhaps an apple or an orange and some dried fruit and nuts). Wrap items in cloth (tea towels) or butcher paper or waxed paper. Lunch containers should be wicker baskets, metal pails, brown butcher paper tied with string, or a cloth tied onto a long stick. Every child should have some kind of cloth to use as a mini tablecloth. Drinks should be water or milk in a glass jar, wrapped in a cloth.

If you have any interesting connections (family or friends) to the history of the area, please share them with your child.

Thank you for helping make this a memorable experience for your child. Any questions, please contact me..

SINCERELY,

Preparations prior to Old Schoolhouse Visit

1. Practise singing God Save the Queen
2. Send home information to parents (costumes and lunches)
3. Go online to the sites listed below to watch 150 Mile Old Schoolhouse videos
4. B.C.Education: the Story of the One-Room Schoolhouse
5. Johndellca (website) 2 minute video about the 150 Mile Old Schoolhouse
6. Come to old schoolhouse to get costuming
7. Use washrooms up at the big school...no facilities in the old schoolhouse
8. Line children in two rows to come to the schoolhouse....boys on the left, girls on the right
9. Wait outside the schoolhouse at the bottom of the stairs..."Ma'am" will come out to greet you

List of activities that may be included in your Old Schoolhouse visit

1. Beginning day activities; outside lineup, raising the flag, singing God Save the Queen, chores, cleanliness inspection
2. Inside opening exercises; roll call, manners, behavior expectations
3. Writing on slates, using Copperplate script
4. Writing with pen and ink (usually grade three and older)
5. Oral recitation, math drills, use of Roman Numerals
6. Reading practice with vintage books
7. Health and cleanliness and deportment lessons
8. Learn about forms of schoolroom punishments
9. Music; old instruments and songs
10. Art; sketching, botanical drawing, watercolor painting
11. Crafts; make and take homemade toy projects
12. History and geography of the 150 Mile settlement
13. Domestic Science; food preservation and sampling pioneer foods
14. Era appropriate outdoor games, activities and equipment
15. Discussion and displays of historic clothing
16. Discussion of historic technology, comparing to modern day

Directions for Making Butter

Steps:

1. Let the whipping cream sit at room temperature for 12 hours.

One liter cream + 2 liter jars with tight fitting lids

2. Pour the whipping cream into 2 jars. Fill the jars only half full.

3. Put the lid on the jars and make sure it is on tight.

4. Shake the jars up and down. Do not shake too fast - about one shake per second.

5. If your arm gets tired, let another member in your group shake the jar. (Count to ten, or say "butter chant" for each turn duration)

6. Continue shaking the jars until a clump of yellow butter forms in the center of the jar. The shaking will take 10-15 minutes.

7. Using a strainer, pour the contents of the jar into a bowl. Rinse and squeeze gently to remove buttermilk - can sample buttermilk

8. Add some salt to the butter for flavour and enjoy!!!

Churning
Chant

{ Turn, butter turn,
Turn, butter turn,
Peter's waiting at the gate,
Waiting for a butter cake,

• Recipe from the Wiggins family
Miocene pioneer family.

• an idea for lunch at the
Old School house!

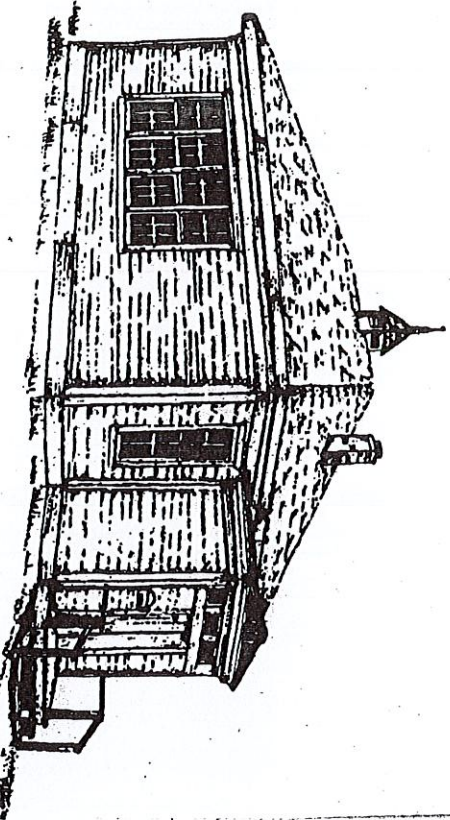
BAKING POWDER BISCUITS

LORI WIGGINS

2 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
1 cup water or milk

4 tsp. baking powder
½ cup lard
1 cup grated cheese (optional)

Mix together flour, baking powder and salt (and cheese if you like). Using two butter knives or a pastry cutter, cut lard into the flour mixture. Add the water or milk. Stir with a fork until it forms a soft dough. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently 8 to 10 times. Roll or pat into desired thickness. Cut with cookie cutter (great fun for the kids). Bake in a 425 F oven for 12-15 minutes.



150 Mile House School



Create a pioneer outfit

Have you ever wanted to dress like a pioneer? It is easy. You probably have most of the clothes right in your home! If you are a girl, you can wear a cotton dress or borrow a cotton skirt, an old-fashioned blouse, and an apron from your mother. A shawl or scarf can be worn over the shoulders. If you cannot get a bonnet, wear a straw hat decorated with flowers, birds, or fruit. Shoes with laces or straps are suitable footwear.

Boys can wear brown or black boots or laced shoes; woolen, cotton, or corduroy trousers with suspenders; and a country-styled cotton or flannel shirt. Hats can range from straw hats to caps with visors. Denim overalls are also suitable pioneer wear, as are knickers with long socks. Vests can double as waistcoats. Look through your closet or ask friends to lend you clothes that resemble the ones you see.



Everyday outfits for boys consisted of a cotton shirt, trousers, and suspenders.



Many children only had two outfits—one for weekdays and one for going to church on Sundays. Everyday clothes for girls consisted of soft cotton dresses with a sash around the waist. Pinafores, such as the one worn by the girl above, covered dresses and kept them clean. If a girl only had one dress, she covered it with a clean pinafore or apron on Sundays.



