

## ***November 11th***

Every year on November 11th, across the world people pause for a moment of silence not to celebrate victory, but to honour sacrifice. Remembrance Day is more than a date on the calendar, it is a ceremonial occasion to reflect on the courage of those who fought, died and served in wars to protect the freedom we enjoy today.

The beginning of Remembrance Day traces back to the end of the First World War, which came to an end on November 11, 1918. Since then this day has become a time to remember everyone that fought in the world wars or peacekeepings.

The red poppy is inspired by the poem In Flanders Fields by Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, and has become a symbol of remembrance worn close to the heart in tribute to the fallen.

Across Canada today, ceremonies take place at cenotaphs, schools, and memorials. The silence at 11 a.m, it allows people of all ages to think about all the people that fought for peace. For veterans and their families, it is a moment of both pride and sorrow. For more recent generations, it is an opportunity to learn and to make sure that all the sacrifices are never forgotten.

Remembrance Day is not about honoring war, it is about remembering those who gave up their tomorrows, their lives so we could have ours. We live in a world where everything moves so fast, so taking even a single minute to remember can be a powerful act of gratitude.

As a newer generation I love to learn about this time of life, I love to do all of this to help all the newer kids take time and just remember. I honour the past with not just words but with my heart and my hands.

Today we are still working towards a peaceful future. That is the true meaning of Remembrance Day from what I have learned in school or at home learning. This is one of my favourite times of year and it will always be, I will always take time to remember or help others remember.

-Izzy Jessome