



First Nations Metis and Inuit News

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You All !!!

Our Board Members and our Central Office Senior Admin Staff held a very informative and communicative meeting with the chiefs of Western Cree Tribal Council. Many topics were discussed and another meeting will occur in the New Year. From an Aboriginal Perspective that is very exciting to see our leaders coming together in a meeting forum.

Other exciting events occurring in the province of Alberta is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement signed between senior government officials and Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Chiefs. A session I attended in Edmonton where Chief Caroline Buffalo and Alberta Education staff presented how the MOU action plans roll out will occur to improve education for students in First Nation Schools. Committee members from the First Nations communities will eventually be selected by application to sit on various committees when the plans unfold.

I will be attending our First Nation Metis and Inuit Specialist Education Council meeting where we will continue our planning the Soaring with Knowledge Conference slated for March 17th to 19th 2011 in Edmonton at the Marriot River Cree Resort.

Remember teachers and others can join the First Nation Metis and Inuit specialist council – For more information go to: www.fnmiiec.teachers.ab.ca and if you have an questions regarding eligibility for membership, you can call the Alberta Teacher Association at 1-800-232-7208 toll free.



Taken from Elder's Meditation

"The hearts of little children are pure, and therefore, the Great Spirit may show to them many things which older people miss." - Black Elk (Hekaka Sapa) OGLALA LAKOTA

Sometimes adults think they know more than the children. But the children are closer to the truth. Have you ever noticed how quickly they can let go of resentments? Have you ever noticed how free they are of prejudice? Have you ever noticed how well the children listen to their bodies? Maybe adults need to be more like children. They are so innocent. The children pray to the Creator and trust that He will take care of them.

Wishing you a restful and relaxing Christmas break with family and friends and a great new year

Vanessa Lennie
FNMI Program Coordinator
HFCRD No. 37

Good Shepherd School

Acimonis

This month we celebrated Metis Week with a presentation on "What it means to be Metis" from Maxine Elter, from the Metis office. Maxine was an awesome presenter and the kids asked her some great questions! We also had a Metis Trivia Contest. The winners of the contest were Catriona, grade 3r and Derek, grade 4H, Congratulations to you both!

As the winter season has quickly come upon us I will be accepting any donations of mitts, hats and jackets. Please send them to school with your child or drop them off at our office if you have any extra that you would like to donate.

Thank you, Susan Dirksen, FNMI Coordinator



St. Andrew's School

It has been a busy couple of months with lots of activities happening in our school. We had the opportunity to take 28 students to the Career Fair in Driftpile to explore the different careers and education available to our students in our area. The highlight was meeting two First Nation role models that have been an inspiration to our students. The interested students in grade 9 & 10 attended Destination Day at Grande Prairie College to explore the hot jobs in Canada, career exploration and planning and life after high school. It was a great opportunity for students to plan ahead and think about the future. Our school had the chance to hear a guest speaker from the U of A to hear about what they have to offer but also to book personal appointments to ask questions and get a clear picture of the career they are interested in at the University level. Northern Lakes Trades also came to our school to share their courses and opportunities with the students.

For Metis week, displays around the school enhanced Metis history and facts about the Metis people were shared each day through announcements.

I have been meeting with local Bands and Metis Settlements to share information on Powerschool and give a demonstration on how to log into the program and find information about a student in real time.

The Seven Teachings has been a success in our primary area of the school. I was invited to teach grade 1 & 2 students about the 7 Teachings and how we can live a happier, healthier life.



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

Holy Family School

Greetings!!!



Merry Christmas everyone! What a busy first month and I loved every minute of it. It has been a great pleasure to get to know all of the students at Holy Family School. Everyone is working hard and has been very welcoming. I enjoy learning from the students and sharing knowledge and laughter. We have worked on some interesting art projects that helped teach us about Inukshuk's, Moose Hair Tufting and we are exploring an artist by the name of Norval Morrisseau. We are looking forward to having a Bannock snack in the New Year and exploring the teachings of a Sharing Circle. I am very excited about the New Year. **Have a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of Peace and Love.**

Thank you

Merry Christmas to one and all!



Have a safe and

happy holi-

day season!!!

**Kathleen Badger
FNMI Coordinator
St. Stephen's School**

Acimonis

Hello,

December is upon us, and we are super excited. We have a theatre group here for the week of the 7th in preparation for our December 10th Christmas concert. Amidst all the excitement, the Talking Circle will be doing their part in Christmas activities. They have strung popcorn and cranberries for our own FNMI tree, with help from Lynn Sharp and Georgina Supernault. They will be making gingerbread cookies in the shape of tipi's, elk, wolves and tomahawks, etc. So far the group has earned their wisdom stone for their virtue bracelet and in the process of earning one for the virtue of love. To compliment that virtue the group has decided to prepare a gift basket of cookies for our seniors at the **Del-Aire Lodge**. And finally, for our last meeting of 2010 we will have a small gift exchange and add another bead to our virtue bracelets.

Recently, I shared a Pow Wow power point presentation with the grade 3 religion class. We did some craft activities and read the legend of the jingle dress. The grade threes had many questions about Pow Wows and I hope that one day they get an opportunity see one. The grade 5/6 social class helped me with preparing the FNMI Cree display board as part of their project "Good Citizen". I have collected some books that are relevant to Cree life and traditions for the grade 4 class to be on display in the class room for the month of January.

Question of the Week will continue in the New Year as well! In preparation of the Hand games tournament that we are hosting, there will be a sign-up sheet posted on the 13th and the hand games "To Do list" will be circulated at January's staff meeting and parent council meeting. In May the week of the 23-27, we will be having a Lacrosse Clinic! If there are any other schools interested in booking a day for this as well during this week Please send me an email. There is an opportunity for cost sharing.

*I hope everyone has a joyful and relaxing
Holiday! Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

Yours in Friendship,

Tally Robinson
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