

September 2010



Acimonis

Be sure to join and register for the upcoming Mamawihtowin Conference on October 18th and 19th held at the Catholic Conference Center where you will be able to connect with other First Nations, Metis and Inuit staff and other stakeholders in and around the region. Registration is open to everyone interested in assisting our students succeed in every area.

Open to community members, parents, Elders, administrators, teachers, and support staff. Come one come all.

You can register online at

no charge at www.nrlc.net and the course ID is FNMI-3739-002 or you can fax your registration to 780 882 7908. This conference is made available at no cost to participants by an Alberta Education grant and cooperatively with district support.

Topics are:

Communicating with FNMI Students, Parents and Caregivers and Increasing Resiliency in First Nations Metis and Inuit Students by Glenda Bristow.

Cree Language Planning

by Pauline Auger with Delores Pruden & Gwen-na Cunningham.

The Merits of a Culturally Responsive School System by Perry Bellergerde.

For more complete details on the two day schedule please visit www.nrlc.net.

Vanessa Lennie
F.N.M.I. Coordinator



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"...[W]isdom comes only when you stop looking for it and start truly living the life the Creator intended for you."

–Lelia Fisher, HOH

There are many things that block us from wisdom such as; selfishness, secrets, hate, anger, jealousy and judgments. Another thing that can block us from wisdom is trying too hard or wishing something would happen. Wishing implies doubt and trying implies control. We need to let go of these things. We need to abandon ourselves to the Creator. As soon as we surrender everything, the wisdom starts to flow. The Elders know how to help us with this. Just ask them.

My Great Spirit, today I surrender my life and my will to Your care.

Rosary School

Tansi! Welcome Back! Hopefully everyone enjoyed their summer! Grade 3 science class enjoyed a Power-Point presentation on inuksuk's and built their own inuksuk from the various rocks that they collected. The Talking Circle for Grades 6 and 7 is in full swing. The students have been playing trust games, learning about circle protocol, and practicing their name in Sign Language. They also colored in their legends that relate to the stones they will be earning for their Seven Sacred Virtues bracelets. Georgina Supernault from Manning Aboriginal Resource Center came to meet all the participants on September 28th. Georgina will be coming as often as possible to the talking circle, as well as inviting an Elder to come as well. One of the Canadian Future Achievers Recipients, Kyleigh

Lacasse-Carpenter, has offered to help set up and be a Grade 8 leader for the Talking Circle. She is a great help. While researching Sign Language I discovered that a Universal Sign Language was first used by Aborigines and taught to children as young as 3 years old. In discovering that, the F.N.M.I. board is all about Native Sign Language, its history and uses. We are continuing with our Question of the week and every week there are more participants. On October 14th we will be having bannock on a stick. This is for ECS – Grade 4. We also have partnered with Georgina Supernault for this event. I have attended community planning meetings in regards to National Addictions Awareness Week/National Aboriginal Addictions Awareness week. There are plans for a community movie night, a community check stop, an ad-

dictions movie for junior high, and ECS to grade six will be designing liquor store bags. NAAW/NAAAW is November 14-20, 2010. We are also brainstorming some ideas to celebrate Metis day on November 16th. Happy thanksgiving!

Tally Robinson



Sara Presakarchuk showing sign for "Buffalo"



Hello, my Friend!

Picture Source: "Native American Sign Language", by Madeline Olsen

The Native American sign language uses hand movements to represent words or ideas. On many occasions, the signs look like pictures drawn with the hands.

All varieties of American Indian Sign Language are currently endangered, but prior to the cultural disruption caused by European colonization, it was commonly used across a large swath of North America from the Gulf of Mexico to Calgary, Canada, an area of over 1 million square miles. It spread so far because it was used as a *lingua franca between Native American nations speaking at least 40 different languages.

It was also used within native

communities as an alternative to their spoken languages and as a primary language for deaf people. The current number of signers is unknown, but it is clear that there are still a number of users across North America, both hearing and deaf.

For untold thousands of years, the First Nation people have communicated with Sign Language. This pure "Unspoken Talk" was seen as a gift from the Creator for the purpose of council between all nations.

All tribes had individuals who could interpret during council between tribes.

During war when silence was very important, they could communicate between warriors the enemies' position, numerical strength and other important factors.

It is a learned skill that was once taught to children before they could even speak!

It is known that children less than 3yrs of age could communicate very efficiently to not only adult members of their own tribe, but literally any other Indian they came in contact with,

no matter what tribe they came from.

* *Lingua franca. A language used for communication between speakers of different native languages--especially in international exchanges and diplomatic circles.*

St. Andrew's School

Hello, my name is Valerie Norman and I'm excited about my new position at St. Andrew's School this year. I have the opportunity to work with students and teachers to enhance our FNMI program and give Junior and High school student's direction into career planning.

Some things that I have worked on this month for FNMI are:

- Organize FNMI update meetings
- Meet with teachers to give support for FNMI curriculum infusion
- Work with students to assist with transition into junior high

- meet with communities to share ideas for the upcoming year

In the upcoming month we will be:

- hosting our FNMI update meeting on October 20th 10:00am
- Grade 1 students will be learning about the 7 Teachings
- Grade 2 students will be aware of two Cree Legends that will be shared in their class
- In junior high, some students will be looking into their career planning
- Junior high students will be a part of our Wellness Conference by buying,

cooking and sharing a traditional meal with students.

We are always looking for FNMI resources and role models. If you, or someone you know, is of FNMI ancestry or a cultural expert in a particular area of FNMI history and events, and willing to assist us in our programming, please contact me at the school.



Valerie Norman

Good Shepherd School

Good Shepherd School was pleased to have our Resident Moshum, Dave Cummings, visit and share stories and artifacts with our students on Tuesday, October 5th. We all look forward to his visits!

On Friday, October 22nd, we will be having the Grouard Outreach Program present to our Grades 4 and 5 classes. The topic is once again "Trappers and Traders" This is an awesome presentation and we look forward to seeing you if

you are able to attend your child's presentation. Times will be written in their agendas.

Our Parent Council monthly meeting is Wednesday, October 13th, from 7pm-8:30 pm, we encourage everyone to come. If you require any information, please call me at the school at 624-3432.

Susan Dirksen



Our Resident Moshum, Dave Cummings