



Acímonis - December 2009



Merry Christmas:

The First Nation, Métis and Inuit Coordinator position at St. Andrews is still vacant in High Prairie and any inquires can be made to St. Andrew's School at 780 523 4595.

Driftpile Regional Hand Games Committee is working to put together a cultural hand games instructional DVD that explains the history, rules, and how to play the games, to name a few things. Nine school divisions have confirmed their

participation the regional tournament this year in June.

St. Andrews hosted their first Cultural Awareness Session in November. Two more will be hosted with Elder Margaret Cardinal and are scheduled for the new year, one in January and one in March.

Cultural awareness is also being held with all Holy Family School staff. The "Fallen Feather DVD: Residential School Legacy" will be fea-

tured and presented by the Division F.N.M.I. Coordinator. The first one is scheduled for November 30th and the next one in March.

*Vanessa Malegana
F.N.M.I. Coordinator*

Elder's Meditation of the Day

"Money cannot buy affection."

—Mangas Coloradas, APACHE

In these modern times we put too much emphasis on material things and on money. We believe that money is power. If we have money, people will respect us. If we have money, people will admire us. If we have money, we can have anything we want. Maybe we can purchase anything in the material world, but we cannot purchase anything in the Unseen World. The Unseen World is not for sale. It can only be given away. Love, affection, admiration, trust, respect, commitment -- these must be earned or given away. If we use these things from the Unseen World, we are using real power.

My Creator, let me demonstrate Your power today. Let me be loving to all I meet.

F.N.M.I. School Coordinators

Rosary School

Tally Robinson
robinson.t@hfcrd.ab.ca
780-836-3625

Holy Family School

Lynn Noskey
noskey.l@hfcrd.ab.ca
780-332-4550

Glenmary School

Sherry Rhodes
rhodes.s@hfcrd.ab.ca
780-624-5656

Christine Naturkach
naturkach.c@hfcrd.ab.ca
780-624-5656

Good Shepherd School

Susan Dirksen
dirksen.s@hfcrd.ab.ca
780-624-3432

St. Andrew's School

Vacant

Ecole Providence

Norma Chalifoux
chalifoux.n@hfcrd.ab.ca
780-324-3832

Cyber High

Trinity Fowler
fowler.t@hfcrd.ab.ca
780-324-3832

St. Stephen's School

Kathleen Badger
badger.k@hfcrd.ab.ca
780-524-3562

CyberHigh— CyberHigh is looking forward to the New Year and the many changes it may bring. We have ordered new décor, including the seven teachings. Our staff and students all strive to demonstrate the courage, respect, love, honesty, truth, humility and wisdom they teach. Some of our English classes are working on the art of story telling and our Social Studies classes are excellent with infusing Aboriginal perspectives. Our dream catcher class is on December 3rd and will possibly make great Christmas gifts for the parents. The students and I are soon to start working on a small Inukshuk display. Best Wishes to all of you during the holiday season from all of us at CyberHigh.

Trinity Fowler

Rosary School—So hard to believe November is over. This month I have been fortunate to visit the ECS class for storytelling and dreamcatchers. I was also able to catch up with some grade 4/5 students who missed making dreamcatchers last month. I have been very busy doing research and finding resources on the Iroquois and the wampum belt. On that note there will be a new display board in December about the wampum belt and the Iroquois 6 Nation Confederacy. Rosary School is very interested in having the Lacrosse Workshop again. This won't be happening until the spring so I'm still in correspondence setting a date. December is a short and busy month but I should have a visit again in the grade one class to make individual medicine wheels that the students can take home. We are infusing some FNMI into our school Christmas concert through a Readers Theater on the Huron Carol ('Twas in the Moon of Winter Time) where we will

have a background Aboriginal nativity scene which will be portrayed by our elementary aged FNMI students. Have a Merry Christmas everyone!



Jackson McGillivray working on his dream catcher.

Tally Robinson

Glenmary School— Our parent teacher interviews were well attended this year. In addition to meeting with the teachers visitors could see student work, a book fair sponsored by the library and various other displays.

During Métis week (Nov 16 – 20) we ran a Métis Trivia Quiz each morning during subhouse. Students and staff were busy researching and chatting about the questions all week. The house with the most correct answers over the entire week was Anastasia – congratulations!



We also had a special bulletin board to celebrate this week.

Sherry Rhodes

Good Shepherd School—November was very busy here at *Good Shepherd School!*

ECS-E and ECS-F classes had Resident Moshum, Dave Cummings visit.

All Grade 3, 4, and 5 classes were entertained and educated about Native Legends with Dave Cummings. Dave is a wealth of information and enjoyed telling stories about the buffalo, beaver and spirituality.

Our Grade 1 and 2 classes spent the first day of Métis week taking fieldtrips to the Sagitawa Friendship Center where they learned “What it means to be Métis”, as well as made medicine bags and were served a yummy treat of bannock.

Our kindergarten classes made tipis out of sinew, skewers and paper, and learned what the significance of the tipi is and the meaning of the tipi poles.

All Grade 1 and 2 classes were given coloring/activity books “I am Métis”. They all enjoyed learning about the Métis sash, jigging and the Red River cart, as well as many other interesting facts.

We were also very lucky to have Vanessa Malegana come into our Grade 1 and 2 classes and share her Inuvialuit stories of the beaver, muskrat and much, much more!

December will prove to be a very busy month as well, with the Christmas concert and all of our many Christmas activities. Please keep a close watch on your children’s agendas for upcoming events!

Susan Dirksen

St. Stephen’s School—Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Upcoming events:

December 10/09 – Christmas Dinner for Students

December 10/09 - Christmas Theme Day

December 15/09 – Christmas Concert @ 7 pm

I can’t believe the year is almost over.

The grade 4’s have been doing some oral presentations.

The grade 5’s made tipis.

The grade 6’s have made time clocks and tipis.

The grade 7 and 9’s have made a Cree Calendar and should be ready to go home for the new year.

The grade 8’s have made looms and a direction map.

Kathleen Badger & Julia Okimaw-Hawryluk

Holy Family School—Tansi

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I’m enjoying the position of FNMI Coordinator at Holy Family School. Students are wonderful; I’m focusing on building relationships with the students and getting to know the staff. I started having bannock lunches on Wednesdays for Grades 4, 5, & 6’s and the Junior High on Fridays, it is a success. The bannock lunches are every two weeks, it is very busy. I am learning to jig with the Grade five students. A volunteer was in to make bannock with the Grade 2’s, the students enjoyed it.



Bannock making with the grade two students.

Have a good one.

Lynn Noskcy