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Issue 96

Holy Family Matters

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Central Office News & Events January 2010

Standing at the Gates of the New Year....

Sacred Mystery, waiting on the threshold of this new year, You open the gates and beckon to us: "Come! Come! Be not weary of what awaits you as you enter the unknown terrain, be not doubtful of your ability to grow from its joy and sorrows. For I am with you. I will be your Guide. I will be your Protector. You will never be alone." Guardian of this new year, we set aside our fears, worries, concerns. We open our lives to mystery, to beauty, to hospitality, to questions, to the endless opportunity of discovering You in our relationships, and to all the silent wisps of wonder that will draw us to Your heart. We welcome Your unfailing presence and walk with hope into this new year. - *J.Rupp, Out of the Ordinary*



AISI
Dana Laliberte



It has been exciting to see our students present their 21st century learning to the School Board and Central Office staff each month. In December, Brayden Noskey, a student from Valerie Norman's Aboriginal class in St. Andrews School in High Prairie, gave a power point presentation on Métis heritage. It was interesting to see artifacts and pictures from around the High Prairie area. She talked about her grandmother's influence – teaching her to dance. She shared the history of the Métis people and what they have contributed to the way of life in the High

Prairie area. Brayden worked closely with Mary Briand, the Division Mentor/Coach who works with new teachers to the school district. She then gave her presentation, along with a few other classmates, to the new teachers at St. Andrews School so they would have a good understanding of the students' local Aboriginal influence. Board Members were impressed with this young lady's poise and confidence. Brayden's parents, younger sister and Kokum attended the presentation, as well.



Brayden and 3 generations of family members



Brayden presenting her Métis Heritage



Valerie Norman-Aboriginal Studies teacher



Betty Turpin, Superintendent, tying on a Métis sash

Next regular Board meeting of HFCRD #37 will be at Central Office in Peace River, Tues. January 19 at 10:00 a.m. Board meetings are open to the public.



Curriculum Corner

Dana Laliberte

Teachers have had the challenge of learning a new math curriculum. From Kindergarten to Grade 10, we have been attending workshops, planning lessons together and implementing many new ideas for learning math over the last two years. You, as parents, will notice some significant changes to Math learning. Some things look quite different from what many of us did in Math in our school years. No longer do we memorize one way to do a problem. Students are now expected to do extensive, real-life problem solving and understand there are many ways to solve a problem, not just one way. They work with manipulatives so they can show their learning concretely, pictorially and symbolically. This helps them to develop a keener, more active number sense. They are asked to dramatically improve their mental math skills. In the near future, we will be hosting Family Math Nights in all our elementary schools. Watch for them and be sure to bring the whole family for an evening of math thinking and challenges!



Reflection.....

I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am the next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practise what you have learned about life during the last twelve months. All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good that you tried for but didn't achieve is mine to grant. All that you dreamed but did not dare to do, all that you hoped but did not obtain, all that faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new".

To be a Christian is to have received a new life, to have become a new life. 'The old has passed away; behold the new has come!' Through Baptism, our old selves have been buried in the tomb of Christ and we have risen with Him to newness of life. To be a Christian is to believe in the new. To be a Christian is to believe in a God of newness, perpetually active among us, forever bringing the new out of the old...to be Christian is to dare at attempt to see as God sees.

-J.Rupp



FNMI

Vanessa Malegana

Elder's Meditation of the Day

"It's not the package and the wrapping which counts but what is inside, underneath the clothes and the skin."

- Lame Deer, LAKOTA -

Our eyes and ears gather information that is fed to the mind, and we tend to form judgments, opinions, and assumptions which determine our perception. We might see someone act a certain way, then label that person forever, not at all concentrating on what is inside the person. It matters not our height, our size, our facial features, or our gender. What matters is our thoughts. Good thoughts overcome all obstacles. *Great Spirit let my inside contain Your qualities.*



Aboriginal Studies Teacher, Valerie Norman, preps grade ten Aboriginal Studies student, Brayden Noskey, from St. Andrews School – High Prairie, prior to her presentation. Brayden presented her Métis research classroom assignment to the Board of Trustees and some Central Office Administrators in Peace River.



Future Métis Leader, Brayden Noskey, from St. Andrews School proudly shares her Métis cultural knowledge