

# Acímonis

April 2009



## **FNMI**

Vanessa Malegana



Our Holy Family Regional Division #37 try outs for the Cultural Hand Games Tournament held on February 27, 2009 was a huge success. The tournament was held at Holy Family School in Grimshaw. Teams from seven of our Catholic schools brought an elementary team and a junior high team with a total of close to 16 teams. A big thank you to the FNMI School Coordinators, to Maxine Fournier and Charlie Bouchard for hosting the tournament, for all the parents, Katimavik crew, Elders, and dignitaries, and other volunteers in and out of school, your help in so many different ways is very much appreciated. Thank you as well to Tracy Zweifel at Sagitawa Friendship Center for assisting us as well. Principals and Central Office administrators—A huge thank you as well for supporting the tournament! My apologies, if I missed anyone that helped us organized this fun filled day for our students who thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The next Regional Cultural Hand Games Tournament is scheduled for April 3, 2009 at Ecole Providence School. 16 teams will be in attendance from the other surrounding school districts and band schools.

If you would like to volunteer you can contact Vanessa Malegana at 780-624-3956 and at [malegana.v@hfcrd.ab.ca](mailto:malegana.v@hfcrd.ab.ca) or if you just want to come out and enjoy the event, feel free to drop by Ecole Providence School April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 tentatively beginning around 10:00am to 2:00 pm for now.

Taken from [meditation@whitebison.org](mailto:meditation@whitebison.org)

### **Elder's Meditation of the Day**

"In order for our children to survive in the world, they need a firm understanding and belief in the basic principles of sharing freedom and respect of individuality."

--Haida Gwaii, Traditional Circle of Elders

There is a saying: Tell me, I'll forget; show me, I'll remember; Engage me: I'll understand. The adults need to determine what the younger generation is learning. The principle of sharing keeps the youth from being greedy and selfish. The principle of freedom teaches the youth about choices, decisions and consequences. The principle of respect keeps us from playing God and becoming a controller of all things. We need to learn these lessons so we may demonstrate them for our children.

Great Teacher, help me to understand Your principles.

**Vanessa Malegana**

### Good Shepherd School

February 27 – What an incredible day for our Good Shepherd Hand Games teams! We had a blast! Thank you to the staff and students of Holy Family School for making us feel so welcome!

Mr. Cummings returned to Good Shepherd School on March 3 and 4 to share information about the First Nations people and their many uses of the buffalo. Students learned such things as how the tail was used for swatting flies, how the bones were later formed into tools and how the hide was turned into clothing.

Our Grade Two classes learned a great deal about Inuit life from Ms. Malegana when she visited in February. This learning will continue when Mr. Cahill visits with them March 27.

I am hoping to touch base with a few parents this month regarding setting up a Good Shepherd FNMI Parent Group. I would like to get together, informally, perhaps over tea and bannock and chat about the Good Shepherd FNMI Education program. Please give some thought into joining – your opinions are appreciated!

Parent Teacher Interviews are just around the corner for Good Shepherd School. I will again be available both nights of Interviews, March 18 and 19. Please feel free to drop by my office, near the library, for a quick hello or a chance to chat.

*Leanne Rein*

### E'cole Providence



The Ecole Providence Eagles are very happy that they participated in the Hand Games and they all had so much fun. We are very happy that the elementary students took first place. We are looking forward to having you all come to our school on April 3rd. It is coming so fast and we are getting excited about hosting the 3rd Annual Cultural Regional Hand Games Tournament this year.

We are also having Driftpile Elders and Drummers come to the school to show us how they play the hand games. A date will be set shortly.

*Norma Chalifoux*



### Rosary School



Tansi, Hello!

The buzz this month was the Cultural Hand Games Tournament at Holy Family School in Grimshaw Alberta. This year Rosary's team was called the Thunderbirds, and thunder they brought! For those who do not know the Thunderbirds represents power, strength and nobility.

I am proud to say our Thunderbirds brought home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy and will be receiving certificates of participation. When we arrived we were taken to the gym and provided with healthy snacks and lunch for our team and supervisors. It was great! I would like to thank Holy Family for hosting this event.



Also, I would like to take the time to invite all of Rosary's parents to the next Parent Council Meeting which is March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We will be having a guest speaker Stephanie Arsenault the Project Link Coordinator.

She is a dietician and will be discussing a new nutrition point system. I encourage all parents to come and join in the learning experience for classmates and parents.

A reminder to all parents the parent council is a place to share your thoughts and idea's.

I look forward to seeing you all there!

*Lynn Eldstrom*

### St. Andrew's School

#### Events this past month:

- Cultural expert Norman Calliou visited St. Andrew's School and spoke to our Aboriginal Studies class on Treaties.
- 26 students attended the Cultural Hand games tournament hosted by Holy Family School in Grimshaw. A great time was had by all, and host Maxine Elter-Fournier did an amazing job.
- Our grade 4 and 5's enjoyed excellent presentations from Historic Dunvegan where we learned about the fur trade through their "Trappers and Traders" outreach presentation.

#### Upcoming Events:

- **March 10, 2009: FNMI Career Showcase**
- Norman Calliou will be revisiting our Aboriginal Studies.
- Robert Cahill will be visiting our grade 2 students and doing a presentation on Canada's arctic. He will then be doing soapstone carving with our 2A class
- Larry Loyie and Constance Brissenden will be visiting our Social 10-2 class and our grade 4's.
- In April, our FNMI students will have an opportunity to attend and Aboriginal Business Symposium held here in High Prairie.



**Amanda Keay**