



âcimowin | kitachimowinaw | our story

In this space, we'll be sharing information and resources related to First Nations, Métis and Inuit education throughout EIPS. We'll highlight what's happening in our Division schools, provide resources available for students and families, and share upcoming school and community events. Our goal is to share an update at the beginning of each month.

**September 2021**

## **Upcoming Events and Important Dates**

### **James Mowat News**

Our Indigenous literacy program has started for this year. If you identified your child as an Indigenous Learner through the registration process or parent portal, you should have received a permission form to indicate whether you wanted your child to participate in this literacy program. For students participating in this program, Mrs. Knott will be utilizing First Nations, Metis, and Inuit resources to connect students to their culture and Indigenous teachings while working on building literacy skills.

Orange Shirt Day at James Mowat will be on September 29th this year as Elk Island Public Schools will be honouring the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th with a school closure day. We encourage all students to wear orange on the 29th. We will be having a short ceremony on that day and teachers will be doing a variety of activities.

Thanks to a grant from Shell, James Mowat along with schools in Fort Saskatchewan and Bruderheim now have Outdoor Learning Spaces. Our learning space is located behind the school surrounded by our beautiful trees.

### **Youth Leadership Forum on Reconciliation | Deadline to register October 3**

Experiences Canada is hosting a virtual Youth Leadership Forum October 13-17. The event will bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, ages 14-25, from across the country to develop Reconciliation projects to undertake in their own communities. Registrations are being accepted until October 3. Please connect with your school's lead teacher for details on supports for students if their registration is accepted. For youth who feel internet connectivity issues might be a barrier, please email [forums@experiencescanada.ca](mailto:forums@experiencescanada.ca) so we can discuss ways we can support your participation. Further information and registration can be found on [Experiences Canada](https://www.experiencescanada.ca) website.

**Strathcona County Family and Community Services** have been reaching out to different community groups, organizations and businesses in Strathcona County with respect to understanding their experience with COVID over the past year. Some of the groups they're looking to hear from are newcomer families/individuals, seniors, LGBTQ2+, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples. Specifically, they're looking to hear about their experiences with COVID and the impact it has had on their lives. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in sharing your experience as part of this project, contact [Audra.Holm@strathcona.ca](mailto:Audra.Holm@strathcona.ca).

## **Direct Student Support**

**Métis Nation of Alberta Gear up for School Program** Is your child Métis? Is your child attending preschool, kindergarten, Grade 1 or Grade 2 this school year? The MNA is once again offering [free school supply kits](#). Click on the link to read more about the program and access the registration form.

Successful applicants for the **Gear Up for School** 2021 program will meet the following criteria:

- All children receiving school supplies through this program must be entering **preschool, kindergarten, Grade 1 or Grade 2 in the 2021-22 school year**.
- Successful applicants and their children must currently **reside in Alberta** and provide an Alberta mailing address on the application form.
- Either the parent/guardian applicant or the child receiving a backpack **must be an MNA citizen** (or citizens).

From skills courses to wellness kits, discover all the [MNA Youth Services](#) has to offer free to all Métis ages 12-29.

**Jordan's Principle** Learn more about Jordan's Principle and the funding supports available for First Nations children—visit the [Assembly of First Nations](#) and [Government of Canada](#) resources.

## Resources of Interest

**Edmonton Indigenous Relations Bulletin** Stay up-to-date on events and initiatives in the Edmonton area—[subscribe](#) to the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Relations Community Bulletin.

**Indigenous Art Adventures** Cree artist Lance Cardinal is continuing his online art and language show, [Indigenous Art Adventures](#), for young people and their families. His latest show will be live on Saturday, September 11 at 2 p.m., when he'll share the Cree word for fall and will lead children on a fall leaf art project. The show, as well as previous episodes, is available on the Aboriginal Congress of Alberta Association's [Facebook page](#).

**Virtual Family Gatherings** We're grateful to Elder Wilson Bearhead and the family members who attended our virtual parent gatherings last school year. We look forward to continuing the conversation and welcoming new families to our virtual circle. We'll share this year's schedule in our next newsletter.

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For inquires about First Nations, Métis and Inuit education happening in your school, please reach out to the designated lead teacher, John Murphy at [general.jmw@eips.ca](mailto:general.jmw@eips.ca)