



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.

**October 2021**

## **Upcoming Events and Important Dates**

As our Division reflects upon the history and continuing legacy of residential schools, annual Orange Shirt Day and the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we commit to ongoing learning and truth-seeking. Important learning and conversation cannot happen for just one day; we will continue to deepen our understanding throughout the school year.

### **James Mowat News**

Jeremy Albert will be visiting our school to spend time with our students on October 21 and 22.

We are hoping to have Cheryl Devin come out to work with our students on some Metis beading projects in November.

Due to changes in protocols there has been an adjustment made to the schedule that Mrs. Knott will be following when working with identified students. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mr. Murphy at the school.

### **Virtual Youth Leadership Conference**

Métis Nation of Alberta's upcoming Virtual Youth Leadership Conference will take place on Oct. 16, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will all be on a virtual platform. We'll be discussing topics including social justice, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and climate change. Individuals must be Métis Nation of Alberta Citizens between the ages of 12-29 to attend. The formal registration deadline has passed, but interested families can inquire about possible late registration options by contacting the MNA at [youth@metis.org](mailto:youth@metis.org).

### **Global TV Story**

In September, Global National was at Glen Allan Elementary filming for an upcoming story for their current affairs TV show, "The New Reality." Various people were involved in the filming including Glen Allan students and teachers along with Elder Wilson Bearhead and Superintendent Mark Liguori. Thank you to Glen Allan for hosting and making everyone feel welcome. The segment is scheduled to air on Global's "The New Reality" program on October 30. It will be on at 7 p.m. across all markets and time zones (e.g., 7 p.m. in Toronto, 7 p.m. in Edmonton, etc). There will be a [YouTube](#) version and an [online piece](#).

### **Ongoing First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education**

Curious to see what's happening in First Nations, Métis and Inuit education around the Division? Check out the [monthly blog](#) on the EIPS website. School leads, teachers, students, administrators and families are working throughout the Division to understand the truths of colonization, to develop foundational knowledge for better understanding and to build respectful relationships.

One exciting project you may have noticed is the inclusion of a tipi at Central Services, thanks to the ongoing relationship with Elder Wilson Bearhead. Many schools in the Division are thinking deeply about Elder Wilson's teachings, how to honour his invitation for each EIPS school to know their story with land and place, and to breathe life to that story. As such, several schools are learning to build relationships with the natural spaces near their schools or are creating outdoor learning spaces within their schoolyards. Elder Wilson worked alongside Superintendent Liguori to create a vision for a land-based learning space at Central Services. The central space will lead the Division as an example of learning from and with the land. It will showcase Elk Island Public Schools' commitment to bring to life the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the Division's commitment to honour its responsibility as a Treaty 6 partner. We are just at the beginning stages of this learning as a Division and look forward to all the ways we can work with Elder Wilson, families and communities to invite land-based learning experiences for EIPS students.

Many events happen in the month of November, including Métis Week, Inuit Day, Rock Your Mocs and Indigenous Veterans Day. We'll include more information on these events and how EIPS will participate via our website and newsletter.

## Direct Student Support

**MNA Resources** From skills courses to wellness kits, discover all the [MNA Youth Services](#) has to offer free to all Métis ages 12-29. The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has a [variety of other family support](#) services, including health, housing and entrepreneurship.

**Literacy Resources** For Métis families new to EIPS, the Métis Nation of Alberta has partnered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for the [Oskaya Ayamichikewak Young Readers Program](#). Children four years and older registered in the program receive a new book in the mail every month. It's an excellent way to promote literacy and foster a love of learning in children. Rupertsland Institute is also holding [virtual early learning engagement sessions](#) for Métis parents, educators and families.

**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.

**Questions?** Have questions about your child's learning? Please reach out to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education lead teacher at your child's school. We're here to engage with you and offer supports to students. [Harlee McArthur](#), EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Family School Liaison Worker, is also available for conversation and to offer supports to children and families.

## Resources of Interest

**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 have set the meetings for the winter season, the traditional season for gathering and visiting. Once we firm up Elder attendance at the meetings, we'll share the specific dates, times and meeting link with you. We've tentatively planned for one meeting in November, one in January and one in March.

**Interested in learning Michif online?** Josh Morin will be once again hosting a southern Michif language virtual gatherings for beginners taking place Oct. 13 to Dec. 1, 2021. [Register online](#) or call Dana at Further Ed at 780-460-2207.

**Interested in learning Cree?** The Centre for Race and Culture is once again offering beginner and intermediate Cree language classes with program coordinator and instructor Reuben Quinn. [Check out this website](#) for descriptions, dates and support resources.

NorQuest College also has an [open studies beginner Cree course](#) starting in January.

Check out Edmonton Public Library's commitment to the 94 Calls to Action and working toward reconciliation through their [Indigenous Services programs](#). Many programs are available, including online Cree classes in partnership with the Canadian Native Friendship Centre.

**Interested in learning about Indigenous sports role models with your family in a COVID-safe, online format?** An invitation to you from our friends at Roots of Resilience. We're so excited to be back at it for a second year of speakers series kicking off with the fall series "Indspired Through Sports," providing an opportunity to celebrate Indigenous resilience and success after the hard but necessary truth learning we all did leading up to the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

This speakers series will feature six incredible Indigenous athletes with different sports and backgrounds. From Bullriding to Dance we'll hear of their motivations, their setbacks and what pushes them to continue to strive for greatness. This series is going to be a great opportunity for students to get a look into what these professional athletes have gone through to get to where they are today and give a new outlook at the many possibilities sports can open up to youth! The series will also help teachers and adults see first-hand the importance of sports as an avenue to responsibility and success.

Speakers and dates:

- October 14: J.R. LaRose (Football)
- October 21: Dakota Louis (Bullrider)
- October 28: Kendra Jessie (Dancer, Fitness Coach & Tiktok influencer)
- November 4: Mathew Rathbone (Hockey)
- November 12: Sonya Dodginghorse (Barrel Racing)
- November 18: Angie Lightning (the importance of sports for youth)

[Tickets](#) are available online (one price for the whole family).

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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)