

Upcoming Days of Significance

here are many important dates of significance in the coming weeks, and EIPS is planning many engaging learning experiences for staff and students across the Division. Please mark your calendars now, so you don't miss out on these very special events.

Family Gathering | January 10

The EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team is thrilled to invite you all to our Indigenous Education family gathering on **Wednesday, January 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.** It will be a **Métis Kitchen Party!** Glen Allan Elementary, located at 106 Georgian Way in Sherwood Park, has generously offered their gym space for our gathering. Please join us for a meal to begin the evening and then spend time together listening to Métis fiddle champions Alex Kusturok and Brianna Lizotte as well as learning some basic Métis dance steps. It will be a wonderful family dance party to lighten up the long winter evenings! To help with our planning and guarantee there'll be enough food for everyone in attendance, a RSVP form will be sent to families in the near future.

You may have seen our two special guests on the news when they were part of the Indigenous delegation to travel to Rome to meet with the Pope. Alex and Brianna brought the beauty, strength and resilience of their Métis culture by playing their fiddles in the Vatican. [Watch the video](#)

You can learn more about [Alex Kusturok](#) and [Brianna Lizotte](#) from their webpages.

Ribbon Workshop | January 30 and 31

The Ribbon Workshop is for secondary students—make your own Ribbon Skirt or Shirt. We'll continue with our yearly tradition of sharing teachings from Elders and sewing ribbon skirts with interested students. This year, we are adding men's teachings and sewing ribbon shirts. More information will be released as we get closer to the date.

January 4 is [National Ribbon Skirt Day](#), but EIPS is on winter break at that time. Therefore, we've planned our own EIPS divisionwide Ribbon Skirt/Ribbon Shirt Day on **February 7**.

Direct Student Support

Study Help for Métis students. Rupertsland Institute has secured access to Alberta ExamBank for K-12 Métis students to test their understanding through online practice. Métis students can sign up for the [RECC Room](#) to find the login for their MNA Region. Questions? Contact education@rupertsland.org.

Interested in learning more about how your school is engaging in truth-telling and the reconciliation process? Connect with Amaya Ortigosa, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Lead Teacher at the school.

Interested in learning more about EIPS divisionwide work in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education? Reach out to your school's lead teacher, connect with the Division team at victoria.vilaivan@eips.ca and read the Division's [blog](#).

Resources of Interest

Curious about Indigenous-focused events and programs planned for our area?

- Visit [Strathcona County's Indigenous Connections](#) page for information and upcoming events.
- The City of Fort Saskatchewan has a [Truth and Reconciliation initiatives page](#) and an active [Indigenous Society of Fort Saskatchewan](#).
- Visit the [Indigenous events page through eventbrite](#).
- The [Edmonton Indigenous Relations Community Bulletin](#) shares events and initiatives in the Edmonton area.

Interested in learning more about the Cree 13 Moon calendar?

[Cree Literacy Network](#) has a [printable 2024 calendar](#) around the Cree th- and y-dialects. The website is also full of excellent information and resources on Cree language and culture.

[When the Trees Crackle with the Cold](#) by Bernice Johnson-Laxdal and Miriam Korner is an excellent book and activity pack that can be used by families to learn more about the 13 Moons.

The names of the 13 Moons can vary, depending on one's teachings, dialect, place and culture. For example, Métis scholar [Elmer Ghostkeeper outlines the 13 Moons](#) from his teachings. You can read more in his book, *Spirit Gifting: The Concept of Spiritual Exchange*.

For inquiries about First Nations, Métis and Inuit education happening in your school, please reach out to Amaya Ortigosa, the Lead Teacher at the school.