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## Divisional Highlights



### TRADITIONAL GAMES

This year we teamed up with SAPDC, Alberta Health Services, and Piikani Traditional Knowledge Services to offer Traditional Games Certification Level 1. We had 10 teachers and staff in our division complete the certification!

### ELDERS IN RESIDENCE

Our weekly Elder in Residence program continued for 2018-2019 with several elders from Piikani and Kainai spending time with staff and students in our Pincher Creek and Fort Macleod Schools. We also has guest elders at other schools and events throughout the school division.

### BLACKFOOT WAYS OF KNOWING

Our Innovations in First Nations Education grant is focused on Blackfoot Ways of Knowing and we worked with elders, cultural knowledge holders, storytellers and authors from local Blackfoot communities providing processional development and student experiences.

# "Every Child Matters" Orange Shirt Day 2019



(Right) LRSD purchased a copy of "The Orange Shirt Day Story" for schools. (Left) Fort Macleod schools celebrated Indigenous resiliency together.

## The Orange Shirt Story

"Six-year-old Phyllis Webstad was as excited to wear her shiny new orange shirt as she was to attend school for the first time. But her first day at the St Joseph Mission near Williams Lake, BC was nothing like she expected. Her orange shirt was taken away from her, never to be returned"... Since 2013, September 30 is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to all come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. LRSD has participated for the past few years and has purchased copies of the Orange Shirt Story book and lesson plans to help spread awareness in a student friendly way.



**The Blackfoot story of the Lost Children teaches us to take good care of our children. This constellation, also known as Pleiades is often painted on tipis as a reminder.**

# W. A. Day Elementary School

Fort Macleod



On March 4th, The W.A. Day and F.P. Walshe dance troop attended an event at The University of Lethbridge, who was hosting their Indigenous Awareness Days in March. The students performed dances of many categories: jingle dress, fancy, traditional, chicken and grass. The students also had the opportunity to participate in a hoop dance lesson and got to listen to the guest speaker, Cowboy Smithx.



Left to right- Kyra Bareshinbone, Aaliyah Medicine Crane, Silver English, Rylee Mcdougall, guest dancer, Tori Many Fingers, Mathew Yellowhorn, Tristan Blood, Emma Jo, Jessica Wadsworth, Avery Provost, Kansie Blood, guest dacer, Tacey Rabbit, Jewel Provost, Leighton Provost.

# Matthew Halton High School

Pincher Creek



We have had another busy but amazing year with our FNMI students here at Halton. Throughout the year, students have had many amazing opportunities to learn and grow both academically and culturally.



We have had the opportunity throughout the year to bring in many guests to teach our students about Blackfoot Culture. Students learned many hand games and practiced their hoop dancing skills in various classes. The Aboriginal Studies class went on a field trip to see tipi rings and learned about traditional Blackfoot ways.

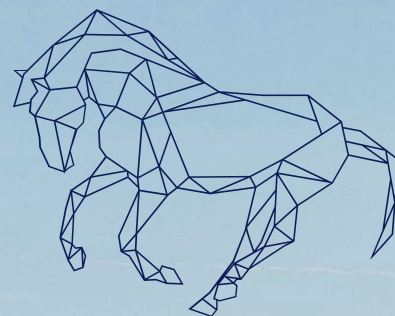
Several students had the opportunity at once again attend the FNMI Summit, hosted at Piikani School. Here they heard from various guest speakers who challenged them to learn and grow.



Our year once again concluded with our FNMI Celebration of Learning where families came together to look at the amazing work our FNMI students did throughout the year and, of course, share a delicious meal together!



# HORSE SPIRIT



Matthew Halton High School has been offering Therapeutic Horsemanship to our students for the past 3 years. Program is facilitated by Matthew Halton Success Coach Ty Provost and FNMI elder Pat Provost through their business Horse Spirit. Horse Spirit has been working with schools in the division since 2015, F.P. Walshe High School and Canyon Elementary School being the first to offer the program. The program is available to all students on a referral base. Program accepts a maximum of 10 students, this number ensures that each student participating receives the full benefit of the program. Therapeutic Horsemanship is not a traditional horse program, it is so much more. The Blackfoot cultural foundation mixed with years of horse knowledge offered by Ty and Pat Provost brings a unique holistic approach to wellness. The program is a hands on life skills training through horses with on-the-ground exercise and horseback activities. This allows students to work on anxiety, self-esteem, problem solving, focus, respect, and confidence building. Students learn everything about horses from the ground up and because horses have such strong spirits and are able to mirror our human emotions, students really have to be honest with their own emotions and acknowledge them. So in return students are actually learning about themselves and self control through the horses. Students selected are always a mix of FNMI and Non-FNMI students which helps create a more cultural awareness for all students in the school. Success Coach Ty Provost and FNMI Elder Pat Provost always look forward to having a great program and hope every student finds their own successes.



# West Meadow Elementary School

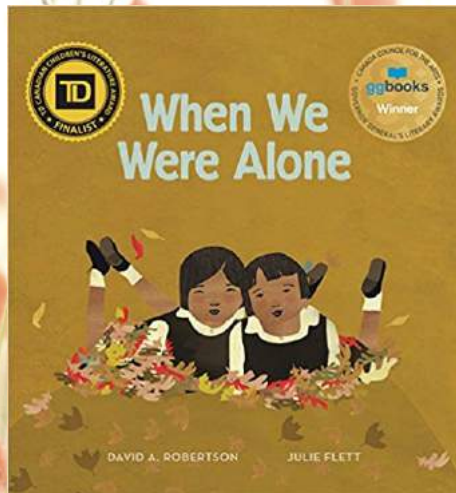


West Meadow Elementary students (left) enjoyed learning Blackfoot Culture through Art during Discovery Days, Blackfoot games, Hoop dancing in PE. The school was also given the Blackfoot name "Asoyinnaapioyis" (barrel house) on National Indigenous Peoples Day by Elder Joseph Yellowhorn.



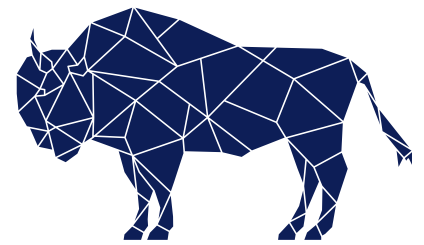
## "Honoring Memories, Planting Dreams" Granum School

Granum students joined in reconciliation through the "Honoring Memories, Planting Dreams" activity created by the First Nations Caring Society.



Grade 1/2 students were read "When We Were Alone" and discussed the differences between their school and the residential school. They then created a heart to "plant" along with their flowers in memory of the children lost during the residential schools.

# Innovations in First Nations Education

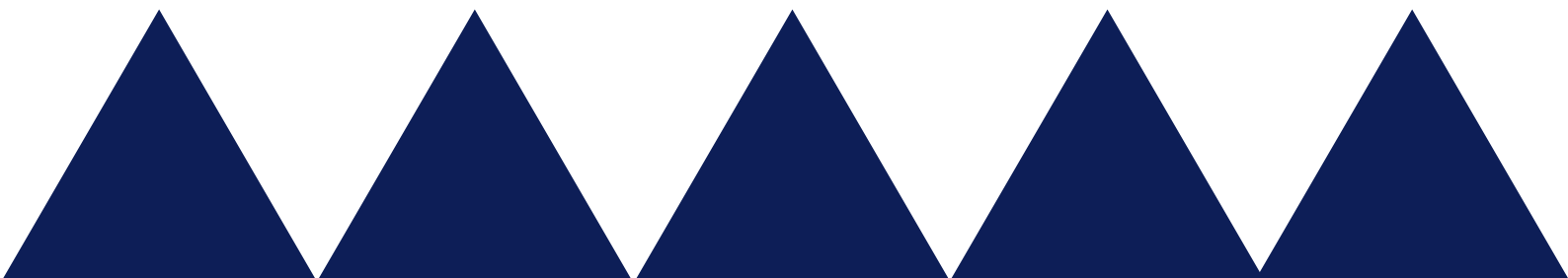


Photos L-R: Napi makes an appearance at PBOE Blackfoot Language symposium several LRSD staff attended; Sherri Day Chief, Joe Eagle Tail Feathers and Sandra Lamouche visit with Senator Murray Sinclair (TRC Commissioner); LRSD staff practice atl-atl throwing at Traditional Games Certification

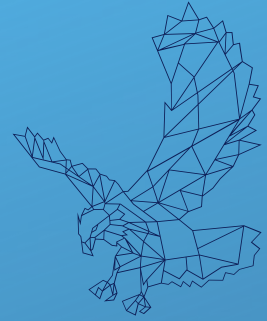


## HIGHLIGHTS:

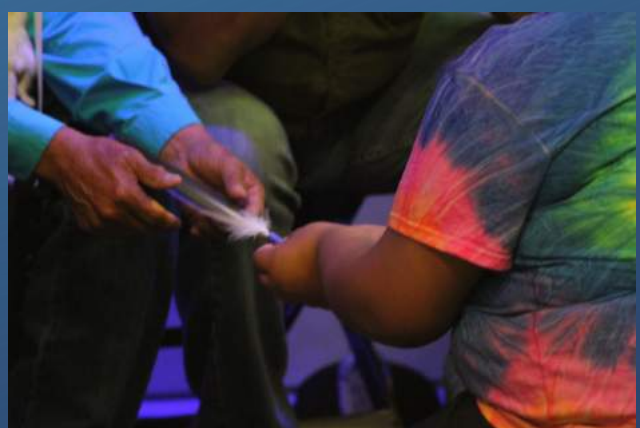
- Expanded FNMI Committee
- Creating shared values (left)
- Relationship Building with First Nations elders, storytellers, knowledge holders, and community members
- Professional Development opportunities such Land Based Ed. Conference, CASS FNMI Gathering, and Traditional Games Certification.



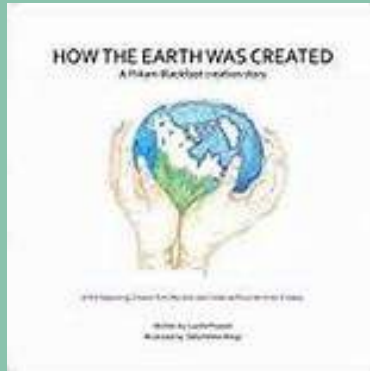
# FNMI Feather Blessing



F.P. Walshe High School was very proud to have 14 FNMI students graduate. Elder Peter Strikes With A Gun and Elder Joe Eagle Tail Feathers blessed eagle feathers at our feather blessing. The FNMI graduates and their families were invited to the blessing and enjoyed Indian tacos and berry soup with the staff of F.P. Walshe. The graduates were presented with eagle feathers as well as two Metis students receiving Metis sashes at the Cap and Gown ceremony. A backdrop depicting the Seven Sacred Teachings was created this year to allow our feather blessing to be held indoors and inviting family, friends and staff to attend the feather blessing. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Mr. Dan Orr, Ms. Shanan Tynan and Brandon Reyes for constructing and painting the beautiful backdrop. In addition our FNMI girls were given the opportunity to make their own ribbon skirts to wear on the feather blessing. Thank you to Sherri Day Chief, Sherri Terpstra, Sandra Lamouche, Toni Plourde, Marya Helm and Mary Oordt for volunteering their time to help with the sewing.







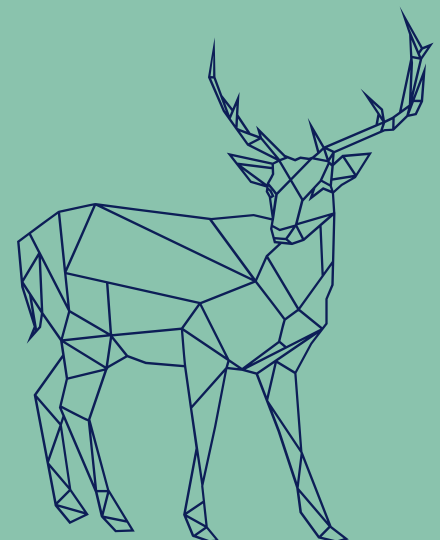
We were very lucky to have local author Lucille Provost and illustrator Dolly Yellowings share their knowledge and stories with our grade 6s. The students learned about the importance of forgiveness, participated in a grounding meditation and listened to their book *How the Earth Was Created : A Piikani Blackfoot Creation Story*. This was a great presentation and we are so grateful for this experience!

F.P. Walshe High School, Fort Macleod  
Sterling Paiha, Principal  
Joe Eagle Tail Feathers, Elder in Residence  
Celestine Twigg, Blackfoot Language Teacher  
Kyle Blood, CYCW  
Sherri Day Chief, EA  
Sherri Terpstra EA



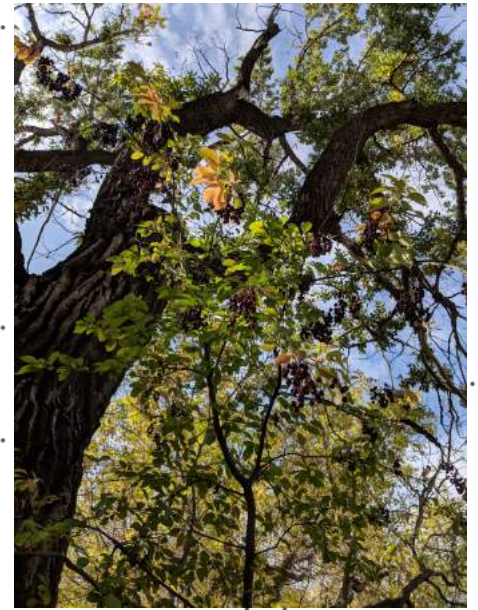
## Julian Black Antelope: Keynote Speaker at Walshe

Julian Black Antelope was the keynote speaker for the F.P. Walshe School Career Day on February 8, 2019. Julian was a former student at F.P. Walshe High School. Today Julian Black Antelope works as an actor and producer traveling around the world. He shared with the students that every choice they make, good or bad, will shape their path in life. Julian also advised the students to choose a path that they are passionate about, rather than worrying about a big pay cheque. He spoke about obstacles that they will encounter and encouraged them to be open to the possibilities each would present. Julian reminisced about growing up in Fort Macleod and the support he received from teachers at F.P. Walshe High School.





Students from F.P. Walshe attended the National Addictions Awareness activities in Piikani. Elders spoke to them about the pain of addictions, to stay away, and encouraged them to be strong when dealing with these circumstances.



Photos from W.A. Day Grade 5 Camp L- R: Mi'ksinittsiimistsi (Bull Berries), Naapihtaa (Old Man River), Pakki'pistsi (Choke Cherries)

## FNMI committee 2018-2019

Richard Feller  
Sandra Lamouche  
Lisa Furukawa  
Jenn Garbutt  
Savi Houldin  
Paul Pichurski  
Jill Klapp  
Sterling Paiha  
Kyle Blood  
Sherri Day Chief  
Célestine Twigg  
Jason Porteous  
Jade Oldfield

Tammy Gregory  
Jonina Millis  
Roger Doucet  
Kelsey Galbraith  
Ty Provost  
Greg Freer  
Julaine Guitton  
Dave Fender  
Justin Zoeteman  
Megan Davis  
Amanda High  
Marjorie Latimer



**Thank you to the Students, Families, community Partners, FNMI Committee, LRSD Teachers and Staff, for making this a great year!**