

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS & INUIT NEWSLETTER

Livingstone Range School Division No 68

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Hello:

On behalf of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Working Committee, I am grateful to extend greetings to everyone in the region.

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Newsletter is produced once a year. This newsletter is created to inform students, parents, staff and the general public of the various First Nations, Métis and Inuit programs and events that occurred within Livingstone Range School Division during the 2016-2107 school year. We have had a successful year with many positive events and celebrations. Thank you to all staff for the awesome work! Thank you to parents and families! Lastly, thank you to the fantastic students!

We wish students, parents, families and staff a safe and happy summer.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education

Livingstone Range School Division shares a commitment with the Ministry of Education that all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students have the opportunity to achieve or exceed the educational outcomes established for Alberta students.

Fulfilling this commitment requires targeted supports and close collaboration to eliminate gaps in achievement and engagement and improve student retention and graduation rates of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 21

Project of Heart Closing

Stavely School

JUNE 21

Aboriginal Day Celebrations

Stavely School

Town of Pincher Creek

FIRST NATIONS MÉTIS AND INUIT WORKING GROUP

*Georgina Henderson, FNMI Success Coordinator

*Duane Petluk

*Kyle Blood

*Celestine Twigg

*Sherri Day Chief

*Barb Smith

*Sandra Lamouche

*Chiyoko Kensley

*Lorraine Morningbull

*Jordan Ducharme

*Ty Provost

*Carol Lach

*Darryl Seguin

*Richard Feller

*Sterling Paiha

*Tara Tanner

*Dave Fender

WA DAY SCHOOL, FORT MACLEOD

POW WOW PRINCESS CROWNING AT TREATY 7 DAY – SEPT 21/16

On September 21, 2016, W.A. Day and F.P. Walshe schools came together to celebrate the *spirit and intent* of Treaty 7. The spirit and intent of treaty is about living together peacefully and is in alignment with the 7 Habits. Treaty 7 was signed on September 22, 1877 between Queen Victoria and five First Nations: the Siksika (Blackfoot), Kainai (Blood), Piikani (Peigan), Stoney/Nakoda, and Tsuu Tina (Sarcee). W.A. Day welcomed a new Powwow Princess during the event, Tacey Rabbit (Gr. 4) from the Blood Tribe won the title. Contestants were judged on attendance, academics, public speaking, dancing and cultural knowledge. Please congratulate and encourage Tacey as she represents our school at events and powwows throughout the year!



ELDERS IN RESIDENCE SHARE WISDOM WITH WA DAY STUDENTS

In January 2017 W.A. Day Elementary School began an “Elders In Residence” program. Utilizing the LRSD Elders Directory and grandparents of some of our students, elders have been invited to share with the school every Friday and one Monday per month. Some of the knowledge shared includes stories, crafts, art, language, native history and traditional teachings. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Elders who have shared their wisdom and contributed to the lifelong learning of our students and staff!



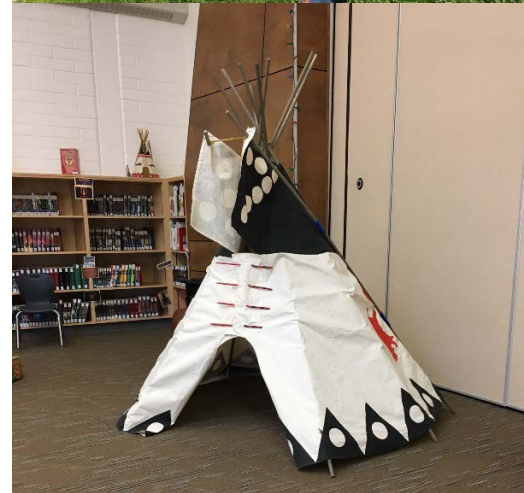
PLACE BASED LEARNING CREATES COMMON GROUND

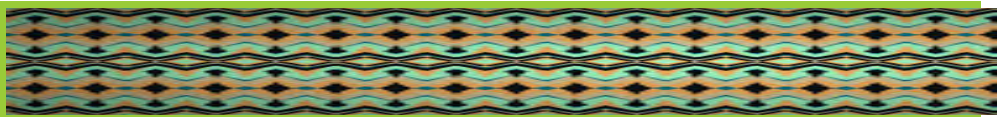
W. A. Day Elementary hosted the Head-Smashed- In Buffalo Jump Edu kit in their learning commons for two weeks. This included a large wall hanging of a buffalo that taught students what different parts of the buffalo were used for. Students used the mini tipi set up in the learning commons to read and look at old Blackfoot photographs. Mrs. Lamouche presented some of the artifacts to all classes and shared some Blackfoot culture and history.



HOOP DANCING

Students created a team hoop dance that was presented at F.P. Walshe School for the Regional District of Student Leaders Symposium in March and at Lethbridge School District Powwow in May. (Photo: Miles Poytress, Brayden Asachuk, Tessa Muirhead, and Ethan Gouchie pose together at Nicholas Sheran School).





WA DAY SCHOOL, FORT MACLEOD, ALBERTA

TRADITIONAL BEADING

Beading was a huge hit this year with up to 50 students participating throughout the year. We would like to extend a thank you to Fort Macleod Kids First Family Center for their support in operating this program!



OTHER EVENTS: REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 10- Remembrance Day Celebration- Honor song “Soldier Boy” at W.A. Day and F.P. Walshe school assemblies.



ROCK YOUR MOCS: NOVEMBER 15/16

Staff and students shared in the ‘Global Celebration of Native Culture’ by rocking their moccasins, or an alternative (such as slippers) and got a chance to enter their names into a draw for a prize.



HOOP DANCING: DECEMBER 12 – 13/16

For the third year Mrs. Lamouche taught the native Hoop Dance to all grades during their dance unit. She related hoop dance teachings to the General Outcomes of the P.E. Curriculum. Hoop dance also relates to the 7 Habits which she also shares during her lessons.



CANYON SCHOOL, PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA

BLANKET EXERCISE

The Blanket Exercise is an interactive activity that helps students to understand how colonization of the land we now know as Canada has impacted the First Nations people who lived here long before the settlers arrived.

Ms. Lach facilitated the Blanket Exercise with both Grade 6 classes on May 2nd. During the talking circle many students shared that they did not now know about this part of Canada's history. It was a thoughtful discussion of understanding that our Elder Eric Crowshoe guided us through.

ELDERS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Funding through the BCCE (Building Capacity and Collaboration in Education) grant has provided the opportunity for Eric Crowshoe to spend every Tuesday at Canyon Elementary. Eric has provided support inside and outside the classroom to students, met with families, provided professional development to teachers, collaborated with administration and is continually supporting Canyon in walking together in our First Nations, Métis and Inuit programming. Eric feels it is an honor and blessing to be a part of Canyon School and has gratitude to the staff and students for this opportunity.



DOUBLE K DAYS



Jaron drumming with Kindergarten students for Double K Days

Traditional Knowledge Services worked collaboratively this year with Canyon Elementary to provide support in a variety of programming which included Storytelling, Drum Making, Learning about Drumming, Knowledge about Pow Wows and Learning and playing Traditional Games.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY: SEPTEMBER 30, 2016



STAVELY STUDENTS CONNECTING WITH INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE THROUGH PROJECT OF HEART

Grade five and six students from [Stavely Elementary School](#) will participate in the launch of “[Project of Heart](#)”, an activity commemorating the lives of thousands of Indigenous children who died, went missing or were harmed during their time in residential schools.

The inspiration for the event, taking place **Thursday, January 19 at Stavely School**, came when teacher Julaine Guitton wore an orange shirt to school for [Orange Shirt Day](#), in recognition of the residential school legacy. Guitton’s students were eager to know more about the history of the schools.

“The students in my class had many really thoughtful questions, and approached the subject with such respect, heart, and an honest desire to learn that I felt compelled to provide opportunities for them to follow their questions,” says Guitton.

Guitton contacted Georgina Henderson, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Success Coordinator for Livingstone Range School Division, who visited the class and helped launch plans for the Project of Heart event.

“What started as Orange Shirt Day unfolded into a natural expansion of the students’ interests, passion, commitment and inquisitiveness. I have been captivated by their thoughtfulness, integrity and love for learning and for their fellow man,” Henderson says.

The project connects with the grade five social studies skills outcomes, including Canadian history. Guitton values the real-world learning opportunities for students provided by this project.

“I feel like Project of Heart is going to help my students [engage in] reconciliation with our First Nations neighbors in ways that will resonate with them long past their time in my classroom,” she says.

Stavely Elementary principal, Kathy Charchun, is proud of the work her students have done in partnership with the First Nations community, in what she describes as a “collaborative, overdue journey toward truth and reconciliation.”

“I look forward to our grade 5/6 class sharing their experience and knowledge with our greater school population to ensure that all of us at Stavely Elementary School are more informed and more involved on this path,” says Charchun.

Family, guests and media are invited to share in the special day, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Attendees will learn more about the project from students and guest speakers including Guitton, Henderson, Charchun and Piikani elder Eric Crow Shoe, who will offer an opening prayer and share stories from his time as a student at [St. Cyprian residential school in Bocket](#).

The event will be held in the grade 5/6 classroom, beginning with the opening prayer. Light refreshments will follow and an opportunity for media to speak to students and Livingstone Range teaching and administrative personnel.

Julaine Guitton and Georgina Henderson are both enthusiastic about the potential for long-term significant change as a result of the students’ work with Project of Heart. “The students are on a journey and committed to building new relationships with the Indigenous people to build a better and stronger Canada through a collective effort,” says Henderson.

Guitton says, “When all is said and done, I hope that students can look back on their time with me and remember the ways they were empowered to grow, learn and develop as people.”





LRSD Powwow media release (April 28, 2017): Zyna Taylor, Communications Coordinator

F.P. Walshe and W.A. Day Schools in Fort Macleod are gearing up to host a colorful explosion of culture and learning for *Ohkaniposiyo'op* (“getting everyone together”) – a division-wide powwow on Thursday, May 4th. The event, which has previously involved only the Fort Macleod schools, is expanding this year to include students from all over Livingstone Range School Division (LRSD), and could see attendance nearing 2,000.

In addition to traditional powwow activities like drumming, dancing and enjoying Aboriginal foods, the event will provide an opportunity for all students to share and celebrate Indigenous culture and make connections with one another and their communities. Throughout the day, students will create art, play Blackfoot games, hear stories from elders, watch the raising of a tipi and learn about post-secondary opportunities through Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge.

W.A. Day School Principal, Richard Feller, notes the event builds understanding while aligning with Alberta Education curriculum on First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) culture.

“It is our sincere intention to create an authentic and engaging learning opportunity to help bring meaning for students as they participate within the Alberta learning agenda,” says Feller. “This provides an occasion to build positive relationships and reciprocal understanding. [We learn] about how our First Nations view themselves and our world as we walk together.”

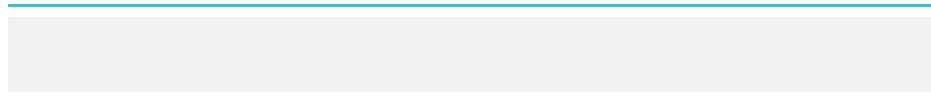
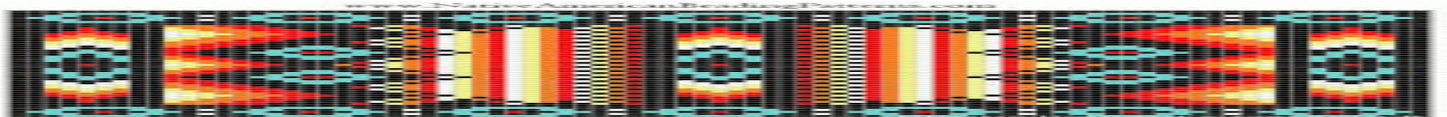
Duane Petluk, F.P. Walshe School teacher and FNMI Liaison, says this event is the largest in LRSD history and that it signals a bright future for all students.

“I have been teaching for many years and I have never, ever, been a part of an event that I am more proud of,” says Petluk. “Ohkaniposiyo'op - Getting Everyone Together, makes me proud to be a Livingstone Range School Division teacher, proud to be an FP Walshe teacher and proud to be Indigenous.”

Also in attendance at the event will be: Piikani and Kainai Chief and Council representatives; Miss Blackfoot Canada, Gloria Good Eagle; Piikani Nation School dancers; Alberta Order of Excellence recipient Dr. Leroy Little Bear; World Champion Ironman, Blake Yellow Horn & Iron Woman, Maya Many Grey Horses; and other delegates of the Kainai and Piikani Nations and local community.

Media is also invited to attend the celebration, which will kick off at **9:30 a.m. on the F.P. Walshe School track.**

“This is a wonderful opportunity to build, maintain and celebrate the mutually respectful relationships that exist and seek additional ways to walk and live together harmoniously in the spirit of education and reconciliation,” says Georgina Henderson, Livingstone Range’s FNMI Success Coordinator. “We welcome all guests to learn together, enjoy and celebrate with us.”





FEATHER BLESSING: JUNE 14, 2017

Elders Peter Strikes With A Gun and Peter Weasel Moccasin began the ceremony with a prayer and a blessing.

Principal S. Paiha of FP Walshe spoke to the graduates. He stated that this group of young people will be leading in their communities and in Canada. He mentioned that these are the youth who we will turn to for true understanding and connection to our First Nations culture and community. He offered congratulations to the graduates for a job well done.

Superintendent D. Driscoll thanked the elders, parents and community for their support of the youth. He encouraged the parents and community to continue to help, guide and encourage the graduates. He encouraged the youth to find their passion, enjoy their life and help their communities. Mr. Driscoll offered congratulations to the graduates on completion of grade twelve.

Kyle Blood, MC, introduced the graduates individually. The highest esteem is receiving a feather. It is the start of a new life and will take you a long way in life. Kyle mentioned that three graduates were not present today and asked for a round of applause to honor these youth.

Elder Peter Strikes with a Gun congratulated the graduates. He encouraged the youth to take advantage of the opportunities that will come their way and to prepare for unforeseen tests. The best teachers are the ones that guide our children. He reminded the graduates to follow the guidance of their parents. The youth are encouraged to use integrity as they move into a new era of their lives.

Each of the graduates was called forward for a personal blessing of Elder Peter Strikes With A Gun. Following the presentation of the feathers, the graduates were presented with a gift by Principal Paiha and Barb Smith. All guests were served berry soup and fry bread.

GRADUATES: Ky Many Fingers: Devon Cervo; Keana Crow Shoe; Billy Potts, Tristan Black Water; Walker English. Missing: Brendan Wells, Stanley Morning Bull, Trent Morning Bull.



YOUTH SUMMIT HONOURS INDIGENOUS SHINING STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENT: PINCHER CREEK, AB

Livingstone Range School Division and Matthew Halton High School (MHHS) are proud to announce that grade 10 student Irvin Provost is a silver medal recipient of the Indigenous Shining Student Award.

The annual award celebrates First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who demonstrate leadership and inspire others through embracing and respecting an Aboriginal perspective or world view.

Provost is the eldest of four children and has ancestry from both the Piikani and Kainai Nations. He is characterized as an optimistic and deeply thoughtful student with a positive work ethic and strong leadership skills. He has also demonstrated a gift for writing.

“As a very deep thinker, he wrote one of the best essays that I have read in my career,” says MHHS Native Liaison Lorraine Morningbull. “Irvin makes great contributions to class discussions [and] is willing to work hard in his pursuit of success. Irvin leads by example and is a positive role model for his siblings and other students in the school.”

In addition to his achievements at school, the described “gentle giant” has also made important contributions to his community, preparing a youth society grant proposal that successfully secured funding to initiate a youth literacy project, implemented in partnership with the local public library.

“It’s a huge honor to receive this award,” says Provost. “I was surprised that the Indigenous Shining Student committee recognized me...astounded that the committee would award me for my efforts to create changes within my community.”

Karen Johnson, administrator of a Rotary camp at which Irvin Provost was a participator, observed an intriguing and deep young man who captivated other participants with a story he wrote entitled, “The Dark Forest”.

“The group was mesmerized,” says Johnson. “I then knew that this young student was on his way to greatness.”

Provost will be honored at the upcoming FNMI Youth Summit at Matthew Halton High School on Wednesday, April 5, a day focused on student development and leadership. He was one of over 60 students nominated from schools across Alberta this year.



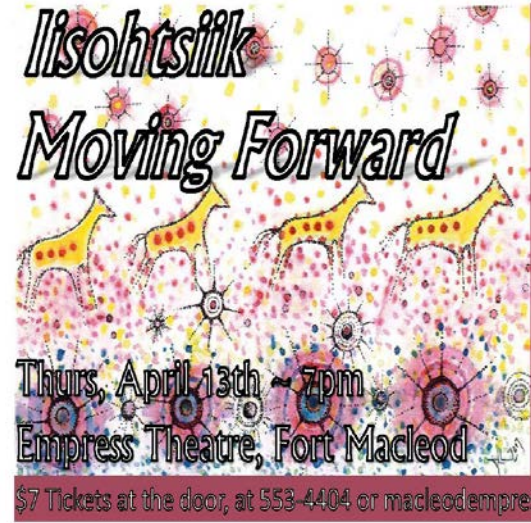
IISOHTSIK – MOVING FORWARD

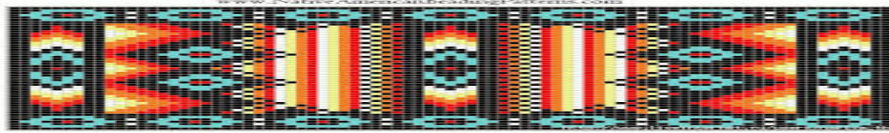
This April, three southern Alberta schools came together to create theatre designed to move truth and reconciliation forward. Students from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, Kainai High School and FP Walshe all collaborated for the first time ever in the hopes of building bridges between the three communities. The horse was chosen as the central motif, and each school independently created one act of the larger play. The week before the performance, the schools shared their creations with each other. The fourth act was workshopped with all three schools working together to move the dialogue forward.

Duane Petluk, drama teacher and FNMI Liaison at FP Walshe acted as the facilitator for FP Walshe’s portion of the play. “I am immensely proud of the work that they have done. From the first meeting to performance day, this has been driven by students and their ideas. Even at Walshe we have such a diversity of perspectives, it was fascinating to see everyone come together to create theatre,” he said. “Urban and rural, indigenous and non-indigenous youth, everyone came together to create the piece you are about to see.”

The play was facilitated by Duane Petluk, Ramona Big Head of TMS, Kelly Frewin of LCI and Dr. John Poulsen of the U of L. All four have an extensive history of producing theatre in Southern Alberta, but have never worked together. “The starting point for this production was a group of Drama educators, working on Curriculum Development in Edmonton, began talking about the possibility of collaborating on a drama production. Everyone immediately lit up and got excited. In all my 20 plus years of creating and directing plays, I have never worked with off-reserve high schools. This is unprecedented. *Iisohtsiik - Moving Forward* is a play created by three Southern Alberta High Schools: LCI, FP Walshe and Kainai High School,” said Ramona Big Head. “Each high school drama club work-shopped a scene and then all three high schools collaborated on the fourth and final scene. This play explores the horse as the focal point within Blackfoot and newcomer relations. This production is also created in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.”

There were two performances that took place on April 13th, one for the students of the three schools, and another for parents and community members in the evening. After the evening performance, the audience gave the youth a standing ovation. There was an extensive talk-back session after the performance where the audience was able to ask questions or make comments. The feedback from the audience was a powerful moment for many of the youth involved, some saying it was one of the most powerful moments of their lives.





FP WALSHE & CROSSROADS, FORT MACLEOD

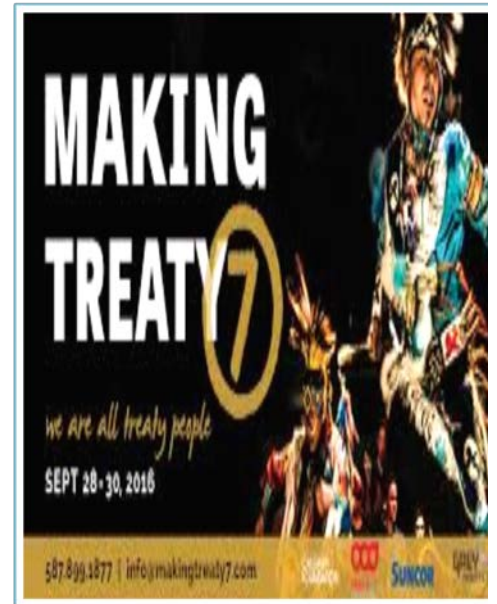
MAKING OF TREATY 7 – SEPTEMBER 2016

Students from FP Walshe and Crossroads attended the ‘Making of Treaty 7’ in Calgary. This event was hosted at Grey Eagle Casino and Conference Centre. The students and staff enjoyed the performance.

BLACKFOOT CLASS CELEBRATIONS – DECEMBER 2016

Parents, guardians and families of the FP Walshe Blackfoot class enjoyed a meal of tacos to showcase student work created throughout the semester.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY – SEPTEMBER 30



UPCOMING EVENTS

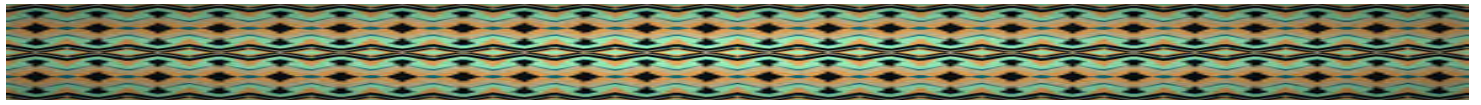
SEPTEMBER 22

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017 MARKS THE 140th ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY 7

SEPTEMBER 30

ORANGE SHIRT DAY





MATHEW HALTON HIGH SCHOOL, PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS & INUIT CELEBRATIONS – 2016/2017 SCHOOL YEAR

OKI from MHHS

Our school year started with a blessing from elder Eric Crow Shoe who is very supportive of our school initiatives.

A high school Social Studies class participated in the premier of Elder in the Making hosted by the Town of Pincher Creek and other agencies.

Our grade 8 class and the Napi Friendship Center honored the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman by making faceless dolls that were blessed by a Piikani Nation elder.

MHHS hosted the 4th annual FNMI Youth Summit on April 5/17. The theme for this event was “Empowering the Youth of Today to Be the Leaders of Tomorrow.” Students connected with successful Aboriginal MHHS alumni and community leaders. The day started with a welcome address and an elder prayer, followed by keynote speaker Dwight Farahat from Siksika Nation. He is studying Social Work at MRU and is a rap artist, and inspirational speaker. The message is to overcome negatives in life to achieve success. Students from Kainai High school, Piikani High School, FP Walshe and St. Michaels High School were invited to participate in a day of fun and learning.

FNMI Celebration of Learning was held June 8th to celebrate and showcase student success stories with parents, grandparents and family members. Guests enjoyed a BBQ.

Junior and Senior High students participated in a Blanket Exercise that teaches the First Nation history of Canada, promotes positive relationships and unity in working towards reconciliation.

Ms. Celestine Twigg teaches both Aboriginal Studies 9 and Blackfoot 10.

Aboriginal Youth Science Talk is a program hosted by Mount Royal University. Aboriginal Youth discover how a career in science and technology can help make an impact in their community and beyond. Participants enjoyed an inspirational, fun-filled day of speakers, science workshops, presentations, door prizes, food, and entertainment. Grace Kirkness won the IPAD.

Jaron Weasel Bear, Program Coordinator from Traditional Knowledge Services introduced students to Traditional Games.

Ian Robinson, Chef, continues to pass on his skill at making berry soup and fry bread to students at MHHS.



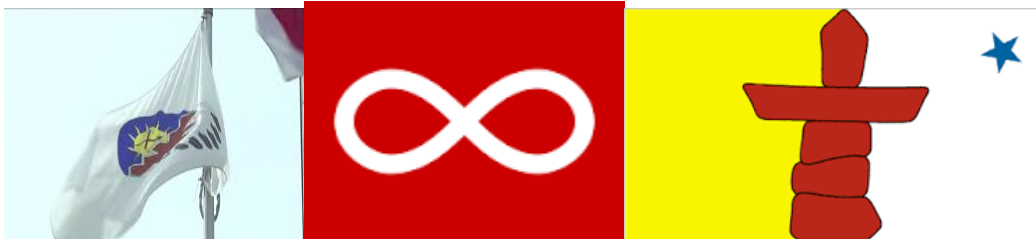
FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT CELEBRATIONS – 2016/2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Indigenous Shining Student Award is an annual provincial award that celebrates FNMI students who demonstrate leadership and inspires others through embracing and respecting an Aboriginal perspective and/or world view. This year was the first year Livingstone Range School Division and Matthew Halton High School nominated a student for this prestigious award. We are proud to announce that Irvin Provost, grade 10 student, was the silver medal recipient of the Indigenous Shining Student award. Congratulations to Irvin Provost!

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER!



TREATY 7, MÉTIS AND INUIT FLAGS



THANK YOU FNMI REPS

I would like to say “Thank You” to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit reps for a great year!

G Henderson, FNMI Success Coordinator