

First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- Orange Shirt Day
- Elders in Residence
- Sweatlodge Ceremony
- Student Awards
- FNMI Grads
- Wisdom and Guidance Council
- National Indigenous Peoples Day

Oki!

Livingstone Range School Division is located on the traditional land and territory of the Niitsitapi (“real people” aka Blackfoot people) within the Treaty 7 region of southern Alberta. LRSD is bordered by two First Nation communities, Kainai (Standoff) and Piikani (Brocket). Historically known as ‘*the Lords of the Plains*’ the Niitsitapi have a rich history and culture which resulted from a nomadic lifestyle within this territory. This has given rise to a wealth of knowledge, stories, values, traditions and language connected to the landscape, animals and plants in this area. LRSD values and respects Niitsitapi people and culture, as we strive to authentically utilize and apply the knowledge and wisdom in areas that may best support FNMI student success, Foundational Knowledge in all schools, as well as, reconciliation in education.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise

As of August 2017 all LRSD teachers and staff had the opportunity to participate in the Kairos Blanket Exercise, a teaching tool to share the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Over the past year students from the Crowsnest Pass, Claresholm, Fort Macleod, and Pincher Creek also participated in the Blanket Exercise.

To learn more visit the website:

<https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/>



Photo: Talking Circle at Willow Creek Composite High School gives teachers and students a chance to share insights.



Orange Shirt Day – September 30

“Every Child Matters”



WHY ORANGE SHIRTS?

The national campaign started in 2013 out of Phyllis Webstad’s account of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school in 1973 at the St. Joseph Mission Residential School in Williams Lake, BC. Her shirt was stripped away and replaced with the school’s institutional uniform. The date, September 30, was chosen because that was the time of the year the trucks and buses would enter the communities to “collect” the children and deliver them to their harsh new reality of cultural assimilation in residential schools. Indian residential schools operated across Canada between 1831 and 1996. This day was recognized across our school division in a variety of ways by students, teachers and staff.



Photos Above L-R: Issabelle Sellon students (Coleman), AB Daley staff (Nanton), West Meadow Elementary (Claresholm)
Below L-R: Matthew Halton High School (Pincher Creek), Canyon Elementary School (Pincher Creek)



CANYON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – PINCHER CREEK

Celebrating Culture and History



This year Canyon School staff and students celebrated FNMI culture and history in a variety of ways. Our school administrative team met with the Piikani Elders Council in August to introduce ourselves and express our desire to work together to support students from Piikani who attend our school. To begin the year, all Canyon staff spent a day on the Piikani Nation. While there, we spent time with Jaron Weasel Bear at the Traditional Knowledge Services center, took in a tour of a few sacred sites.

We also continued to build a positive relationship with our Elder in Residence, Mr. Eric Crowshoe. Mr. Crowshoe shared information with all students on the topic of the signing of Treaty 7, and also supported our Grade 6 classrooms through the Blanket Exercise. Staff and students also took part in Orange Shirt Day and Rock Your Mocs day in the fall. We also welcomed Sandra Lamouche to the school to introduce our students to story of the hoop dance. Mr. Crowshoe also shared his personal story of resilience with our staff as a part of professional development activity, and spend time in every classroom of the school providing guidance and support to staff and students alike.



National Indigenous Peoples Day

Canyon School marked National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2018 by raising the Piikani and Canadian Flag together, with Jaron Weasel Bear and Peter Strikes With a Gun performing the Blackfoot flag song. In the coming year we hope to expand our Elder in Residence program and deepen our relationship with the Piikani community.



W.A. DAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL- FORT MACLEOD

Elders in the Learning Commons



Elder Joe Yellowhorn was invited to speak to students twice this year during their learning commons period. He spoke with students in February about friendship and love. In the month of May, Joe taught students Blackfoot words and spoke about Blackfoot Traditional Ways of Knowing about seasonal changes. W.A. Day students had the privilege to learn about traditional uses of the buffalo from Elder Shirley Crowshoe using the Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump's Edukit.

Honoring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards

Congratulations to Tacey Rabbit, Grade 5 who was awarded one of 12 province wide Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award's from the Alberta School Board Association. These awards recognize First Nations, Metis and Inuit students who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education path and embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential while celebrating the ways of their people. Tacey was nominated by her teacher Mr. Zoeteman, in May 2018 she attended an award ceremony in Edmonton, AB.



Traditional Beading Program

In collaboration with Kids First Family Center, our school held a traditional beading program on Thursdays at lunch hour from November 2017 to March 2018. Students learned how to bead necklaces, headdresses and Christmas ornaments throughout the year. Participants celebrated their accomplishments by enjoying each other's company over a traditional meal of bannock and berry soup. Thank you to Joelly Cross Child and Rachel Oudshoorn for sharing their knowledge and expertise with the students of W.A. Day Elementary School.



W.A. DAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL- FORT MACLEOD

W.A. Day Princess

Congratulations to Kaydence English for winning the title of W.A Day Princess 2017-18. Our school had eight students compete for the title of W.A Day princess and were asked to write and deliver a speech, model traditional dance, and shared cultural knowledge, including the 7 Traditional Teachings and Blackfoot Language, teachers provided scores for contestants based on attendance, grades and how they used the 7 Habits.

Sookaa'pii!
(do good/ that is good)



Photo L-R: Urijah Fox, Rylee McDougall, Kaydence English, Aly English and

Drum and Dance



Student Leaders- Tacey Rabbit and Jewel Provost sharing the history of Native Dance styles.

This year W.A. Day's Drum and Dance lunch hour program was led by two grade five students, Tacey Rabbit and Jewel Provost under the supervision of Ms. Kensley. This group is composed of First Nations and non-First Nations students who share an interest in learning more about Blackfoot culture. These two student leaders taught participants a variety of traditional dance using 7 Habits and 7 Traditional Teachings. To begin the year, participants built stamina using introductory Pow Wow Fit videos! We listened to multiple local drum groups and conversed over their similarities and differences. As a group, we acknowledged the land we are on and learned about Treaty 7 and aspects of Blackfoot culture. Student's identified natural vs manmade structures in our school's playground area and presented their observations to the group. At the end of March our school's drum and dance group was invited to perform at Extendicare.

◀◀◀◀ Passkaan (Dance) ▶▶▶▶



Matthew Halton High School

Mount Royal Indigenous Youth Science Talks

Twelve Grade 9 students once again headed up to Mount Royal University for the annual Indigenous Youth Science Talk in May. Students were treated to various work stations where they were able to learn more about science programs and the many supports offered to Indigenous students at Mount Royal.



Grad and Feather Ceremony

We were very proud to have 11 First Nations, Metis, Inuit students graduate from Matthew Halton this year. Each student was presented with an eagle feather at our grad ceremony and an honour song was sung.

Tikakimaat!
(work hard | try hard)



FNMI Celebration of Learning

On June 14 our FNMI Celebration of Learning barbeque and celebration was held. Parents, students, elders, and staff all enjoyed a barbeque together and enjoyed looking at the many student artifacts that were displayed throughout the Hawk's Nest. As always, students were very excited and proud to show their family the amazing work that they had done.

Blackfoot 10/20/30

We were very pleased to once again have Ms. Celestine Twigg offer Blackfoot Language classes to our high school students.



Photos: Students learn through hands on experiences during Experiential Learning Week at MHHS!

Student Awards

Irvin Provost was the recipient of two exciting opportunities. This summer he will be participating in the SHAD program. “SHAD is an award-winning enrichment and entrepreneurship program and network that empowers exceptional high school students – at a pivotal point in their education – to recognize their own capabilities and envision their extraordinary potential as tomorrow’s leaders and change makers.”

Next year Irvin will be attending, United World College. United World College believes “that education can bring together young people from all backgrounds on the basis of their **shared humanity**, to engage with the possibility of **social change** through courageous action, personal example and selfless leadership. To achieve this, UWC schools and colleges all over the world deliver a challenging and transformational educational experience to a **deliberately diverse group of young people**, inspiring them to become agents of positive change...” We are very proud of Irvin and wish him the best on his next adventure!

FNMI Youth Summit 2018



Blackfoot Minds: Sharing Knowledge, Culture and History

On April 24, FP Walshe students attended the 5th Annual Youth summit hosted by Kainai High School. The youth summit started five years ago with LRSD collaborating with KBE (Kainai Board of Education) and PBOE (Piikani Board of Education) to bring FNMI high school students together to discuss issues relating to school, culture and how to be successful in high school.

This year's summit was focused on the Blackfoot culture with the focus on sharing knowledge, culture and history. Jenny Bruised Head was the coordinator for the summit and did an awesome job. The students were treated to a variety of breakout sessions included career options and current issues, sewing baby moccasins, beading/handbags, Blackfoot Art, Blackfoot syllabics, and many more.

At the end of the day the students were gifted with gift bags which included headphones and a portable phone charger. Shane Wells also gifted a smudge box made by the students of Kainai High School over to FP Walshe as a way of prayer for the communities.



Photo Courtesy of Kainai Board of Education

Aatsímoyihkaan
(prayer/ religion)



Sweat Lodge Ceremony

On May 31, 2018, we took a select number of students to the residence of Joe Eagle Tail Feathers for a sweat lodge ceremony. It was a good day for a sweat as the weather was cloudy and rainy. Our bus made it through on those rez roads thanks to our bus driver Malcolm Parker.

Once we got to the site of the sweat, the students were amazed at the structure of the sundance lodge as this site is used during the summer months for the Sundance.

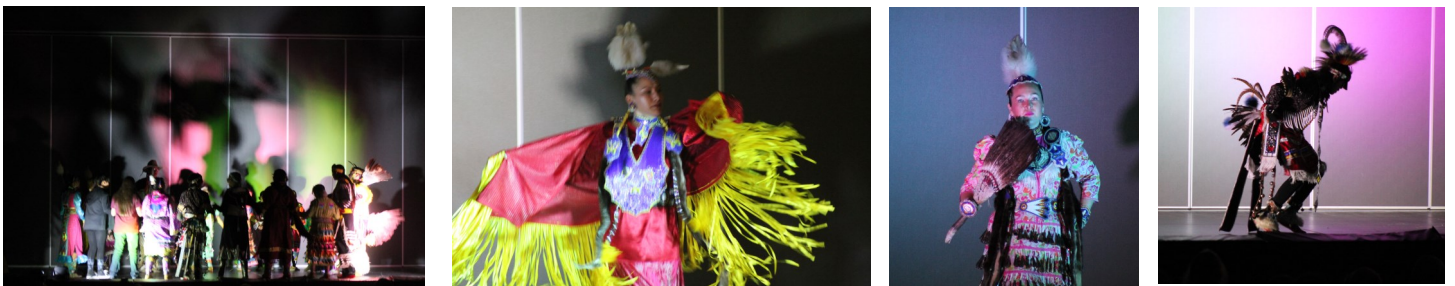
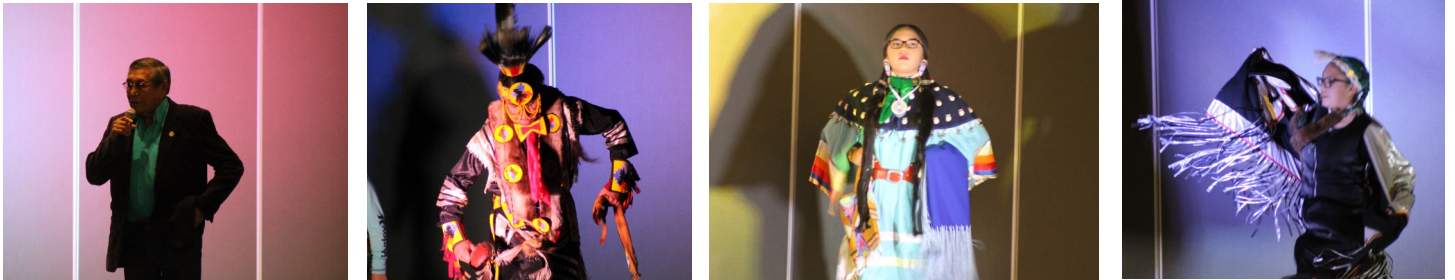
The four rounds of purification to get the students ready for the summer months led by Joe Eagle Tail Feathers. The ancestors of the past were very proud of our children and the accomplishments they were making. After the sweat we got together to celebrate with food and we all had a real good visit with each other.



Treaty 7 Day Assembly

On Monday, September 25, 2017, FP Walshe School along with WA Day School came together to learn about the signing of Treaty 7 that took place 140 years ago at Blackfoot Crossing along the Bow river on the Siksika Nation. Elder Peter Strikes With a Gun opened up the assembly with an invocation and gave a few encouraging words to the students. Afterwards, Peter spoke about the long lasting effects of Treaty 7 on the Blackfoot people. Gord Tolton, Education Coordinator from Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village in Pincher Creek, gave a brief history of the signing of Treaty 7, where it took place, and who was involved in the signing. Good job Gord!

The assembly ended off with an array of colors and the sounds of the Thunder Chief drum group from the Blood Tribe. Dancers took to the floor with the WA Day dance troupe kicking it off, showcasing the talent of the young dancers. Following the dance troupe from WA Day we had our own dancers from FP Walshe School showing off their championship style moves. Community members from the pow wow circle who come from the Blood Tribe and Piikani Nation were also invited to join in the assembly. The crowd was in awe of the pow wow dancers who put on a great dance demonstration.



We would like to thank the Thunder Chief singers, Sheldon Day Chief and family, Natassia Melting Tallow, Brandt and Elaina Beebe, Clay Good Striker, Lana-Rae Blood and JD Potts for taking time out of their busy schedules to showcase their pow wow dance moves. We would also like to acknowledge the following students from FP Walshe, Tristen and Kansie Blood, Sootaa Smith, Arianna Prairie Chicken, and Reyes Eagle Tail Feathers for their time to dance for the students of WA Day and FP Walshe schools.



National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21



How will you Celebrate?

Schools across LRSD celebrated with many activities and events:

- Issabelle Sellon School – Traditional Teachings with Elders and Storytellers
- Crowsnest Consolidated High School- Assembly and Hoop Dance
- Canyon Elementary—Piikani Flag Raising and Community Celebration
- Matthew Halton High School– Community Celebration
- West Meadow Elementary- Traditional Acknowledgement and Movement Story
- W.A. Day Elementary- Assembly and Dance Demonstrations
- F.P. Walshe– Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump performance
- Stavely Elementary– Traditional Acknowledgement & Storytelling

Thank you to Piegan Crowlodge Elders Society for sharing your knowledge with our students at ISS!



Wisdom and Guidance Council



Council Goal

The goal of the Wisdom and Guidance Council is to provide guidance and support to enhance and increase student success for the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit learners in Livingstone Range School Division No 68. The Wisdom and Guidance Council represents First Nations, Metis, and Inuit interests in the design, implementation and assessment of programs, services and supports that improve the school experience and academic achievement of all First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in Livingstone Range School Division.

Council Members

Elder

Eric Crow Shoe
Joe Yellowhorn
Leroy Little Bear
Betty Ann Little Wolf

Parent

Kimberly Weasel Fat

Student

Irvin Provost

Trustees

Lacey Poytress
John McKee

Chair

Sandra Lamouche

Highlights from Wisdom and Guidance Council

Official LRSD
Traditional Protocol/
Acknowledgment
created for LRSD
schools!

FNMI Student
Opportunities
Webpage!

(Find online at our LRSD web-
site under Services> FNMI)



Thank you to the 2017– 2018 First Nations, Metis and Inuit Working Committee for all your hard work and dedication to FNMI Student Success!

F.P. Walshe High School, Fort Macleod

Sterling Paiha, Principal
Kyle Blood, CYCW
Barb Smith, E.A.
Sherri Day Chief, E.A.
Celestine Twigg, Blackfoot Language Teacher

W.A. Day Elementary School, Fort Macleod

Dave Fender, Principal
Chiyoko Kensley, FNMI Teacher

Canyon Elementary School, Pincher Creek

Paul Pichurski, Principal
Saavi Houldin, Learning Support/ FNMI

Matthew Halton High School, Pincher Creek

Tara Tanner, Principal
Ty Provost, Success Coach

Division Office, Fort Macleod

Richard Feller, Director of Learning– Support Services
Sandra Lamouche, FNMI Success Co-ordinator

Thank you to all our students, families and community partners, for helping make this a successful year!



Livingstone Range
SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 68

www.lrsd.ab.ca