

Elementary Aboriginal Education

In Primary Aboriginal Education, we have been busy working on many projects and learning about many different aspects of Aboriginal life. Carver Barra presented his presentation to his class on Gill Net Fishing and it was a huge success. In classes, a lot of the focus has been on community, and comparison with our ways, and the ways of Aboriginal people of the past and present. The children have also been exploring language in the form of learning counting and basic words in Cree. They have also been exploring the artistic styles of famous Canadian Aboriginal artists. Before Christmas a class at BVE plans to have a local Metis artist Cheryl Clark come in to share about her Aboriginal ancestry, her work, and inspirations. Ms. Clark will also lead the class in a simple painting project in her style that the kids will be able to take home as a Christmas gift. For small group learning, and one on one, a lot of the focus has been on internal growth.

Students have learned about, used, and made their own personal medicine wheels, and

medicine bags. We have also learned about the Seven Grandfather teachings and discussed ways we could incorporate them into our everyday lives.

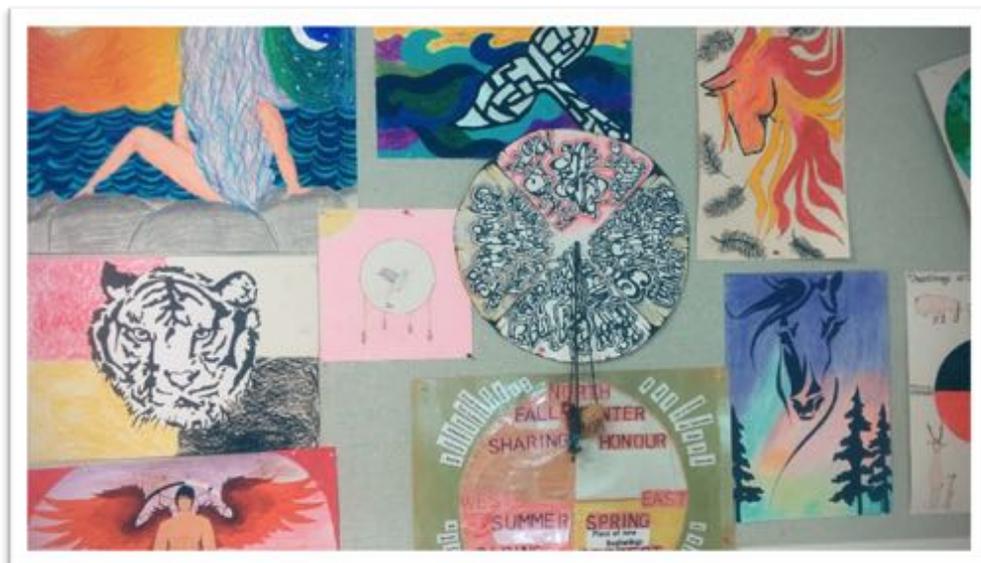


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A Message from Lisa Moore, Aboriginal Student Assistant at R.S.S.

Health and Wellness Focus and the Medicine Wheel

The Medicine Wheel is a great way to demonstrate the importance of balance in all areas of our lives.



Aboriginal Education has displayed Medicine Wheel information at the Health and Wellness Fairs at Revelstoke Secondary School as well as at the Healthy Relationships table that the Women's Shelter runs weekly at the high school. In addition, many grade 12 Aboriginal students create their own Medicine Wheel as part of their cultural studies.

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"We envision a student body and staff who understand indigenous history and circumstances, and recognize our roles as individuals and institutions in reconciliation, ensuring that Aboriginal students are successful and confident in their endeavours, feel connected to their cultural heritage, and recognize their unique gifts, strengths and abilities. We are committed to a community that acknowledges, honors and respects the diverse cultures of Aboriginal students, families and Elders." (from the S.D. #19 Enhancement Agreement)

We have included a write up about the Medicine Wheel from one of this year's students, Madison Fifield, and a photo of several other Medicine Wheels.

Learning Resourcefulness, Good Nutrition, and Generosity....Through Soup!

Students in the Ab Ed program have started making soup every Tuesday with food from the Food Recovery Program. Each week one or more students help me by figuring out what we can make with the supplies we have. We make a slow cooker of soup and put it out in the common area of RSS for anyone to help themselves. The goal is to learn to make nutritious and good-tasting food economically.

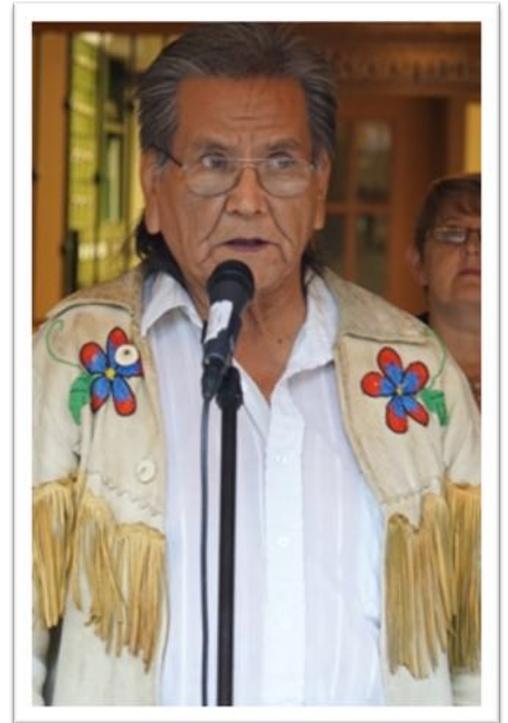
A Gift of Stories

We are so fortunate to have been gifted a large digital library of Secwepemc stories from Louis Thomas. They will be uploaded onto the district library so all schools will be able to access them. Thank you so much Mr. Thomas!

Community Involvement

Winter break can be a difficult time for some, so a few of our students are planning to do some baking to donate to the Community Christmas Dinner. This will be much appreciated at the dinner but it also gives students a positive focus at a time that can be a struggle for them as well.

Finally, one of our Aboriginal students is partnering with a friend and the Stoke Youth Liason to organize a gala event to promote Project Prom. We're hoping to show how beautiful dresses can be reused and redesigned, saving resources and including everyone in events like Prom, which can be financially daunting.



Do you know any little ones who were born in 2012? If so this is the year to register them for Kindergarten! Registration starts in February at each of the Elementary schools.

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Medicine Wheel Project Write Up

Historically the medicine wheel has represented the alignment and interactions of physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual realities¹. However, the significance and use of the medicine wheel is specific to certain cultures, meaning that the order of colours and their attributes are not always the same depending on the culture. The medicine wheel is said to symbolize the power of the four directions (North, South, East, West) and the Creator above and Mother earth below surround the spiritual world of the four directions. The Cree nation and the Metis are known to have used the medicine wheel, although there are some differences between the attributes of each direction. The Cree medicine wheel is known to have these attributes; North is white and represents knowledge and wisdom, East is yellow and represents the beginning of new things, South is red and represents family, honesty, and hard work, and West is black and represents deep reflections. While the colours of each direction of the Metis Medicine Wheel are the similar to the Cree Medicine Wheel their attributes are different. On the Metis Wheel, North represents Mental well-being, East represents Emotion, South represents Spiritual, and West represents Physical well-being.

¹ www.ictinc.ca/blog/what-is-an-aboriginal-medicine-wheel

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