

January 2022

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

SPS News

Moose Hide Campaign 2022

We were looking forward to participating in the Moosehide Campaign this February however, due to the risks involved with the Omicron variant, this year's Moose Hide Campaign Day has been postponed from February 10, 2022, to May 12, 2022. We will be taking part in May. Please see <https://moosehidecampaign.ca/> for more information.

Have a Heart Day 2022 - February 1

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Have a Heart Day initiative! Have a Heart Day is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are. Please check out <https://fncaringsociety.com/have-a-heart> for more information. We will be taking part at SPS this February!

Virtual Family Gatherings | February and March 2022

Many thanks to the families who joined us for our first virtual gathering in January. We're grateful for the welcome from Elder Wilson Bearhead, the questions and conversation from attending families, and for your patience as we work through spotty internet connections from our homes!

We look forward to seeing you all again in February and welcome any families who wish to join us. Elder Wilson will again open our gathering, followed by a short presentation from our friends at Rupertsland Institute to share the programs and supports they offer for Métis children and families. We'll then have time for any discussion or questions and comments families wish to share regarding Indigenous education or supports within EIPS.

The theme for our third gathering in March will depend on what families have shared in the first two gatherings. If there's a specific topic or idea you'd like the group to discuss, please reach out to someone from the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team directly:

- jeremy.albert@eips.ca
- harlee.mcarthur@eips.ca
- cheryl.devin@eips.ca

Sessions will take place online using **Microsoft Teams Meetings**. Join on your computer or mobile app. If you are interested in attending, please email one of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team members for the log in code.

- **Gathering 2: Feb. 15, 2022 (7–8 p.m.)**
- **Gathering 3: March 15, 2022 (7–8 p.m.)**

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.

Is your child in Grade 12 and looking to move on to post-secondary education? There are a [variety of scholarships, bursaries and grants](#) available to First Nations, Métis and Inuit students to attend trade school, college or university. Talk to your child's lead teacher for more information or support in filling out applications.

2022 marks the beginning of the **Decade of Indigenous Languages** as declared by The United Nations General Assembly. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team would like to begin gathering information that informs us on how to move forward with language learning opportunities for EIPS students and families. We invite families to complete a [short online survey](#) as one of our first steps in envisioning what language learning can look like in our Division. We're excited to think of the possibilities for students and families and thank you in advance for your input and ideas. The survey will remain open until the end of February. Thank you also to the family members in our January virtual gathering for sharing their wishes for Indigenous language opportunities.

We are thankful for questions posed during the virtual gathering and wanted to share the answers with all families:

- **Are sharing circles offered at EIPS schools?**
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team members do visit schools and facilitate sharing circles for students. If you're interested in this opportunity for your child at his/her school, reach out to your school's lead teacher to chat.
- **Do EIPS schools participate in smudging?**
EIPS does have a smudging policy and guiding document for schools written with guidance from Elder Wilson—[AP 159: Smudging in Division Facilities](#). After guidance from Elder Wilson or members of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team, some schools within EIPS offer regular smudging opportunities for students who wish to have access to the ceremony at school. Upon parent request, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team members can work with other Division schools to ensure

smudging is respectfully and freely available for any students wanting to do so at school. Please reach out to Jeremy.Albert@eips.ca to chat further if you're interested.

Resources of Interest

Tutoring Support

Did you know? Edmonton Public Library offers free tutoring support for anyone with an EPL library card? Check out all of the [supports for students](#) they offer.

Alberta Education has launched [online tutorial videos](#) for students as well. New materials will continue to be added in the coming months.

Cree Language Learning

Families at our January virtual gathering also requested information about online Cree language courses being offered. Here are some that might be of interest to families:

- The Centre for Race and Culture is once again offering beginner and intermediate Cree language classes with program coordinator and instructor Reuben Quinn. Refer to the website for [descriptions, dates and support resources](#).
- Portage College also offers [online Cree classes](#).