

âcimowin, Kitachimowinaw, Our Story

September 2022

Truth and Reconciliation Day at SouthPointe School was marked by a school-wide assembly September 29th, 2022. Each class explored the truth of the Residential School system and the lasting effects of assimilation policies in Canada. Students created amazing artist representations of how we can build a pathway to reconciliation together.

Students also made personalized buttons for students who may not have orange shirts. Ribbons and fabrics were also disbursed to every class for anyone who wanted to wear them. Providing connection in place to the story of Phyllis Webstad and honoring the voices of Residential schooling survivors. Students participated in poetry and virtual sessions with artist Connie Kulhavy through Rupertsland Institute. Other classes participated in sessions offered by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.





Students led our assembly and I felt pride in our strong, resilient school community as we held silence with our Treaty 6 and Métis Nation flags raised again to acknowledge the land and our history. Our bulletin boards represent a community that shows “Every Child Matters” today and everyday.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- On November 17, Rupertsland Institute presents the [Get Ahead of Your Future](#) job fair at the Edmonton Convention Centre for Métis Nation of Alberta students ages 15-17. To find out more or register for the event, email careerfaairs@rupertsland.org.
- Gallery@501 in Sherwood Park has a wonderful [Alex Janvier exhibit](#)—on now until November 20—“The Healing Language of Alex Janvier” by world-renowned Denesuline artist, Alex Janvier, from Cold Lake First Nations, Treaty 6 Territory. Curated

in partnership with the Janvier Gallery and Gallery@501, this exhibition features paintings, sketchbook drawings, video and audio works that reflect Janvier's experiences within Canada's residential school system.

- [Strathcona Museum and Archives](#) has two exhibits featuring Indigenous artists—Aaron Paquette's immersive mural, The Past Shows Us The Way, and Shakihi: The Art of Connie Kulhavy.
- Strathcona County Hall in Sherwood Park is showcasing Métis artist Heather Shillinglaw's art piece [miyotamon nanas - it is a good road in all directions](#).

Direct Student Support

- The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) is continuing its partnership with Dolly Parton Imagination Library for its Oskaya Ayamichikewak Young Readers Program. MNA citizens can sign up for free children's books mailed home each month. [Learn more](#)
- Each year, the Métis Nation of Alberta provides scholarships to reward outstanding academic achievement. Scholarships are open to Métis students pursuing post-secondary education. Scholarship recipients receive both monetary reward and recognition during the Métis Week celebration in November. The deadline for scholarship applications is October 31—of the current year. [More information and applications forms](#) are available on the MNA website.
- **Jordan's Principle:** Learn more about Jordan's Principle and the funding supports available for First Nations children—visit the [Assembly of First Nations](#) and [Government of Canada](#) resources.
- Welcome to Leaha Atcheynum, the newest member of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team. Leaha identifies as a proud Métis woman with Cree ancestry and comes to us from Jackfish Lake, Saskatchewan, where her family still resides on their traditional Métis land. Her great-grandmother (chapan) comes from Saulteux First Nation and her great-grandfather was a French settler. Leaha is married into Sweetgrass First Nation where her husband and children are registered treaty members. Leaha and her family reside just east of Chipman, Alberta. She is an advisor with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team where she supports staff, students, families and communities. Leaha has a degree in social work from the University of Regina.

Resources of Interest

-Interested in learning more about EIPS Division-wide work in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education? Connect with the [Central Services Team](#) and read the Division's [monthly blog](#).

- NextGen Book Club is holding its next meeting at Fort Edmonton's Indigenous Peoples' Experience on October 4. At the meeting, participants will discuss *Five Little Indians*. Refer to the [event details](#) for more information and to purchase a ticket.
- You may have noticed some recent and important additions at EIPS Central Services and at each Division school. Continuing on our learning journey of truth, understanding the meaning behind our land acknowledgement, and our commitment to the reconciliation process, the Treaty 6 and Métis Nation flag are now permanently displayed at each EIPS site. The official flag raising ceremony at Central Services happened in June and can be watched in its [entirety here](#) or a shortened video highlighting the Board of Trustees commitment can be [watched here](#). Our library now is home to our Treaty 6 and Métis Nation flags at SouthPointe School.
- I am a proud Métis mother and teacher at SouthPointe since September 2018. My family heritage is from the Golden Lakes Algonquin Nation and root Métis ancestors in the Ontario Ottawa Valley area, Region 6. I am currently finishing my Masters of Educational Leadership at Concordia University of Edmonton.
- Please reach out to me and introduce yourself via email and let me know a time we can connect for a phone call. I have made my way to most classrooms and met many students this month with class introductions.
- I will be reaching out to each family to connect and ask some questions about in person events we are considering this year!

Warm regards,

Danielle Booker

Grade 6 and First Nation, Métis and Inuit Lead Teacher

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