

Gaa-izhi-gikendamaan noongom

What I've learned today—First Nation, Métis and Inuit education highlights for fall 2019



Fall 2019

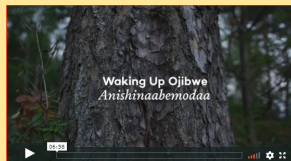
ANISHINAABEMODAA INITIATIVE—WAKING UP OJIBWE

Waking Up Ojibwe
Anishinaabemodaa

The Anishinaabemodaa Initiative, in partnership with the Rainy River District School Board and Seven Generations Education Institute is currently in its third year and continues to grow to support communities, educators, families, and children. Consultation with community partners continues to be at the forefront of the strategy to ensure communication and planning involves parents, Elders and language speakers. As of this fall, 180 preschoolers, toddlers, and teachers throughout Treaty 3 are receiving weekly Anishinaabemowin instruction. Gigidiziiminaanig,

representing the 10 First Nation communities in the District, continues to provide guidance and direction for the Initiative. Since the launch of the website last spring, Anishinaabemodaa - Waking up Ojibwe has expanded to include resources, videos and language kits, which are intended for use by families and teachers.

Click on the following icons to watch Anishinaabemowin videos



MORE INFORMATION



anishinaabemodaa.ca



facebook.com/anishinaabemodaa



youtube.com/channel/UCvjs74Qi_BG2XjqWqTOwU1w



Language learning resources
wakingupojibwe.ca/pathways/families/

PARTNERS



www.rrdsb.com

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ORANGE SHIRT DAY

[Orange Shirt Day](#) commemorates the children who never returned from Residential School, as well as the survivors. It is a time to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for the generations of children to come. Students and staff wore orange shirts to affirm that every child matters and to demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation, as well as anti-racism and anti-bullying.

Since the official date, Monday, September 30th, was a PA Day, schools within the Rainy River District School Board chose an alternate date to commemorate Orange Shirt Day. Many schools also incorporated lessons and activities that day for further learning opportunities. For example, at Crossroads School, students rotated through different stations, such as making attachment hearts, hearing a story, speaking with local survivors, and watching a short skit. Students at Donald Young School and Sturgeon Creek School participated in an Orange Shirt Day walk organized by Rainy River First Nations.



SELF IDENTIFICATION

In the Rainy River District School Board, parents, guardians (for students under the age of 18), students over the age of 18, and staff have the opportunity to identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit on school registration forms, [self-identification forms](#), and course option sheets.

Currently, the Rainy River District School Board's voluntary student self-identification rate is 43.0%. This is an increase of 2.5 percentage points from last year. To provide context, the provincial voluntary self-identification rate is 2.0%. This data is used to help identify trends in achievement at the school and program level, and to provide further supports, where necessary. In the fall of 2017, the Rainy River District School Board began implementation of the voluntary staff self-identification process. To date, 421 members have completed the staff self – id form. Our voluntary staff self – id data is at 25.7%.



FNMI LEARNING IN SCHOOLS

The Board continues to connect student learning to the local histories and cultures of the First Nation and Métis communities. Our most recent efforts include resource development for Grade 10 Civics and History courses, with an emphasis on local histories and perspectives. Schools continue to participate in Festival du Voyageur, Gagwe-gikendamaawiziwin, Orange Shirt Day, Fall Harvest, Treaty Recognition Week, Land Acknowledgement (opening exercises) and Indigenous Week at RRHS and FFHS. Through our actions, we honour the [Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action](#) 62.1 and 63.3, “as we build student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect and provide curriculum on residential schools, treaties, and Indigenous people’s historical and contemporary contributions to Canada.”

The Rainy River District School Board is proud of their continued partnerships with First Nation and Métis communities across the District. Elders, Senators, and Knowledge Keepers continue to be key resources to schools and classrooms, bringing their expertise and experience to enrich student learning. These important relationships have supported the Board in its focus on positive outreach to parents as partners in their children’s education. As a result, funding is provided to all schools to enhance appreciation and awareness of First Nation and Métis history, culture, and perspectives through school events and field trips, and to support schools in bringing this expertise into the classroom.

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DAGWAAGINI MAAWINDOOSIJIGEWIN (FALL HARVEST)

On October 2-3, 2019 approximately 430 students and their teachers from elementary and secondary schools in the Board participated in [Dagwaagani Mawindoosijigewin](#). This is an annual event hosted by Seven Generations Education Institute.

Throughout the day, students participated in 16 different stations that involved food preparation, listening to traditional stories, and learning about the Anishinaabe and Métis cultures. Here are a few of the interactive stations that students had the opportunity to participate in:

- Manidoo Mazina'igan - Treaty Knowledge
- Métis games, jigging, and bannock on a stick
- The Drum and Eagle Staff (Saagachiwe and Gookomisinaan)
- Mashkikiwan - Traditional Medicines
- Deer, fish, and bird preparation
- Manoominikewin - Process of harvesting wild rice

The vision of Dagwaagani Mawindoosijigewin (Fall Harvest) is the transfer of knowledge to ensure Anishinaabeg community self-sufficiency, food preparation, and food sovereignty.



UNFC ALTERNATIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAM



The mission of the [Alternative Secondary School Program](#) is to create a comfortable and educational environment that is sensitive to the needs of the students. In a culture-based setting, all areas of life (emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual) are addressed so that the student can become an active member in the community and obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The program is based on individual, independent learning courses that students can complete at their own pace.

This is a partnership between the [United Native Friendship Centre](#), Fort Frances High School and the Rainy River District School Board. Funding is supported by the Ministry of Education.

At the UNFC Graduation/Success Ceremony in June, there were 21 graduates who received their OSSD and 21 graduates of the Aboriginal Headstart Program.



POWLEY DAY



[Powley Day](#) marks the most important Métis Rights recognition since the days of Louis Riel. It is celebrated every September 19th to acknowledge the sacrifices and contributions of the Powley family and the landmark decision in *R. v. Powley* [September 19, 2003]. On that day in 2003, in a unanimous judgement, the Supreme Court declared that Steve and Roddy Powley as members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community had the Métis right to harvest and that this right is protected under section 35 of *The Constitution Act*, 1982. This year, Powley Day was acknowledged at schools within the Rainy River District School Board. At local schools, such as Riverview School, students learned about the legacy of Steve Powley, in addition to the traditional Métis culture, history, language, and significance of the sash as a symbol of the Métis nation.

Visit: <http://www.metisnation.org/harvesting/the-powley-story/>

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INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WEEK

During the week of May 21–24, 2019, Fort Frances High School celebrated Indigenous Education Week with a number of activities throughout the week.

The week kicked off with a couple of events on Tuesday. A number of Physical Education classes had the opportunity to participate in lacrosse, facilitated by Terry McMahon of the UNFC. That same day, two classes were able to participate in a webinar, featuring Indigenous perspectives, hosted by the National Art Gallery of Canada in Ottawa.

On Wednesday, the entire school enjoyed the hoop dancing skills and motivational talk by Dallas Arcand, a three-time World Champion hoop dancer. This event was exciting and vibrant.

Many organizations gathered in the atrium to take part in the Career Symposium on Thursday. Once again, the entire school was able to participate in this as each grade was allotted a time to visit the booths, ask questions, put their names in for draws, and to learn more about each organization and the services they provide.

The week culminated with a free school-wide fish fry on Friday. The Grade 9 Food and Nutrition classes and the Grade 11 Hospitality and Tourism classes were a huge part of the preparations of the salads and the casseroles; they also breaded 115 pounds of walleye, fresh from Lake of the Woods. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all.

The residential school display, generously lent by Grand Council Treaty #3, was located in the school library all week and the movie, *Indian Horse*, continuously played in the library as well. Various classes viewed the display and/or the movie as part of their classroom activities during the week.

Lisa George and Denise Radigan, Indigenous Guidance Counsellors, FFHS



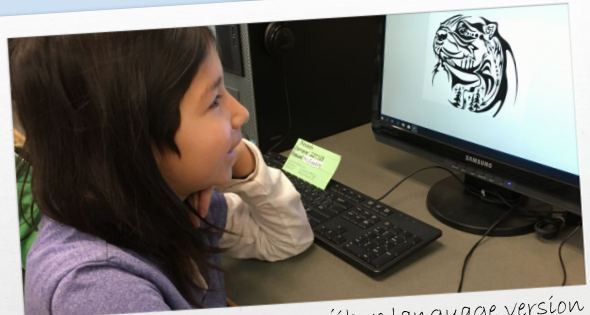
SNAPSHOTS



Back to school Pow Wow at DYS



Making medicine pouches at RMS.



Learning to code with the Ojibwe language version of MicroWorlds JR software at MCS.

RRDSB INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WEBSITE

For more information on Rainy River District School Board Indigenous Education Initiatives, please visit our website at: rrdsb.com/indigenous-education

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This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.