
Education for Reconciliation SEPTEMBER 2018 Update

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is enacting *Education for Reconciliation* through two committees: **The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Leadership Committee** which is focused on developing community and inter-agency partnerships to advocate for Indigenous Education and sharing with parents what our Board is doing to enact *Education for Reconciliation*. **The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Committee Advisory Committee** is focused on engaging in teacher education about Indigenous Education and developing and exploring classroom resources in Indigenous Education.

September Update. Our district has developed a Student-Focused version of our Three-Year Education Plan 2018-2021, which articulates the district strategies for school improvement from a student stance (written in *green* below). In the month of September, our committee work is advancing our key strategies to ensure that Alberta Education System Supports First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Students' Success (Outcome Two).

Students will use the Gallup Student Poll Survey results to set goals to increase hope, engagement, entrepreneurial aspirations, and career and financial literacy. Our Building Communities of Hope project in St. Albert Catholic High School and École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d'Youville is a school-university partnership to work with students to make visible sources of hope in their lives within and beyond school. Their experiences in developing visual and digital representations of "hope spaces" will be shared with others in our district community.

Students will experience how indigenous culture and spirituality connects with our Catholic faith. To connect our Catholic faith to Indigenous culture and faith, our Religious Education Consultant is introducing School Chaplains to prayer table artifacts that celebrate our Indigenous communities' identities, spirituality, and cultural connections. In the September Chaplain meeting, each School Chaplain was given a Métis sash and inuksuk. Some basic facts about each artifact were shared and discussed (e.g., the interwoven threads of the Métis sash represent the cultural sharing between French and Indigenous communities; and the inuksuk symbolizes that "someone has been here" and "this is the way"). Such connections will be visible on prayer tables and used to teach to students through religious education programming and school-wide liturgies and events. Elders and parents of Indigenous students from Alexander First Nation First Nation, St. Albert, Morinville, and Legal communities will be invited to share their histories and stories, and teachings about such artifacts.

Students will learn how to take an active role in Truth and Reconciliation through activities shared with them through teacher professional development led within our district. On September 26th, our ATA Walking Together Consultant led staff through a session to take back to their schools or to lead at district-wide PD on November 9th about Indigenous Alberta and Indigenous Ways of Knowing. Sessions like this are important to begin to prepare our staff to meet the Teaching Quality Standard (2018) that will come into effect September 1, 2019: *A teacher develops and applies foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis, and Inuit for benefit of all students. Achievement of this competency is demonstrated by indicators such as: "supporting learning experiences of all students by using resources that accurately reflect and demonstrate the strength and diversity of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit" communities and individuals.*