

March Newsletter

Hello families,

It was so good to see some familiar faces at the first Round Dance hosted by the Fort Saskatchewan Indigenous Society yesterday. It was very successful with approximately 170 joining in the feast and dancing!

Candle Day

EIPS is hosting a Candle Day event this **Thursday, March 23**. Elder Wilson will be there as well as students from some schools and other invited guests. We wish to thank the schools who offered to take part in what will be an important day. We are also grateful to Salisbury for hosting the event.

The original event was set to take place in 2020, however, Covid appeared four days prior which resulted in the event's postponement.

The idea of Candle Day stems from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's hearings, which took place in seven cities throughout Canada. Each of the cities represented one of the Seven Sacred Teachings, which many of our schools have embraced as part of their school cultures. Elder Wilson has shared with us that at the end of each event, cupcakes with candles would be brought out in recognition of the fact that children at residential schools never had a birthday acknowledgement, and even further, were never celebrated in any of the ways that children should. This was particularly impactful for Elder Wilson, and so he wanted to create a day to celebrate the spirit of children and honour residential school survivors through the concept of birthdays and cupcakes.

Upcoming Events in Fort Saskatchewan

The Indigenous Society of Fort Saskatchewan has a Facebook page for updates on events. You can also email isfortsask@yahoo.com to be added to an email list. We are collecting red dresses for the Society's MMIW display.

Ribbon Skirt Making- Volunteer to help make ribbon skirts for our community members who do not have one or learn to make one yourself.

Sundays @ The Bridge Wellness Hub 2pm

The Fort Saskatchewan Indigenous Society Red Dress Day-May 5th (*May 5 is Red Dress Day in Canada, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The event began in 2010.*)

Elk Island Fort Saskatchewan School Community Gathering -May 30th



MAY 30, 2023

FORT SASKATCHEWAN FAMILY GATHERING

**An opportunity for
First Nations Métis
& Inuit students
and families to
create connection
in the Fort. See
you there!**

**Come for snacks and
conversation.**

**Please bring a lawn chair to sit
by the fire.**

**6-7 PM
TURNER PARK,
FORT SASKATCHEWAN**



Elk Island Public Schools