

âcimowin, Kitachimowinaw, Our Story

September 2023

Truth and Reconciliation Day at SouthPointe School was marked by a school-wide assembly September 29th, 2023. 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 pins 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. A video was made to share what some staff and students felt Orange Shirt Day meant to them. Thank you to students from the Leadership 9 class who interviewed, led our assembly, did daily announcements and made posters. I felt pride in our strong, resilient school community as we held silence to acknowledge the land and our history.



At our front foyer we have had our art installation hung over the summer. SouthPointe School was honoured to have the presence and teachings of Métis artist and knowledge keeper Connie Kulhavy in Spring 2022, creating a mural that reflects the lands of Fort Saskatchewan. Every community member was able to create, through the medium of acrylic paint, a wooden disc that reflects their connection to this place and place it on the mural. Our community of

Fort Saskatchewan came to be because of the North Saskatchewan river and the plants, animals and opportunities the river provided and continues to provide to the life that surrounds it. She will be coming back to help us personalize our school space even more!

We also had our first Fort Saskatchewan Family Gathering in Turner Park. It was lovely to see some families and visit with Elder Evelyn Day.



**FORT SASKATCHEWAN
FAMILY GATHERING**

**AN EVENT BRINGING TOGETHER
FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT
FAMILIES IN THE FORT**

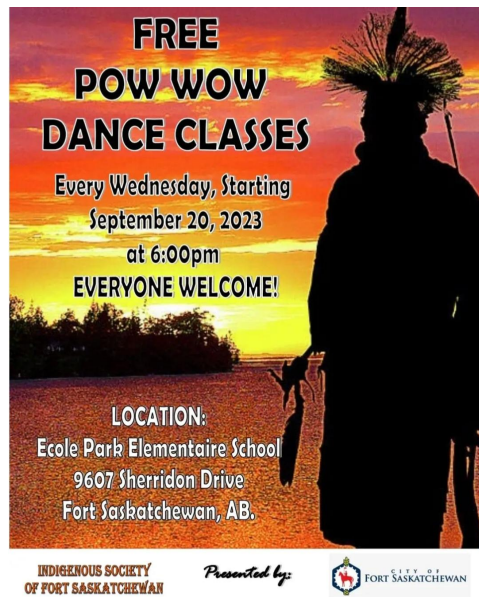
An evening to sit in circle with an Elder and other special friends for conversation, connection and cookies.

Bring a lawn chair to visit and share in our community.

SEPTEMBER 26 | 6PM TO 7PM
TURNER PARK GAZEBO

The poster features illustrations of a bird, a cornucopia, a deer, a bear, and a plant. A circular inset photo shows a group of people gathered outdoors in a park-like setting.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates October



**FREE
POW WOW
DANCE CLASSES**

Every Wednesday, Starting
September 20, 2023
at 6:00pm
EVERYONE WELCOME!

LOCATION:
Ecole Park Elementaire School
9607 Sherridon Drive
Fort Saskatchewan, AB.

INDIGENOUS SOCIETY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN Presented by: CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

The poster features a silhouette of a person in traditional Indigenous regalia against a sunset background.

Next Fort Family Gatherings with Elder Evelyn Day

- Tuesday, January 23, 6:00-7:00 pm West River's Edge Pavillion
- Tuesday, May 28, 6:00-7:00pm -Turner Park Gazebo

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.

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](#).

- I am a proud Métis mother and teacher at SouthPointe since September 2018. My family heritage is from Northern Alberta on my mom's side and on my father's side Golden Lakes Algonquin Nation and root Métis ancestors in the Ontario Ottawa Valley area, Region 6.
- Please reach out to me and introduce yourself via email and let me know a time we can connect for a phone call. If your child is interested in support at school.
- 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 2 and First Nation, Métis and Inuit Lead Teacher

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