

# FNMI NEWS



First Nations, Métis and Inuit Programming—Lethbridge School District No. 51

April 2016

## General Stewart Students read

### “The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush”

Grade 1, 2 and 3 students at General Stewart had the chance to read “The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush” with Ashley Wevers the FNMI liaison. The students created their own paintings with all natural paint made out of pureed fruits and vegetables. Each student learned that First Nations people did not have the paint we have today and had to use what they found in their environment.



General Stewart Grade 1, 2 and 3 Students Paint with Pureed Fruits and Vegetables

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## GS Lakie Students Experience Metis Jigging

The students and staff of G.S. Lakie Middle School had the opportunity to experience Métis jigging as Roy Pogorzelski visited the school the morning of March 4 to perform for the Lakie community during their weekly FISH Friday entertainment. Pogorzelski, who hails from the Meadow Lake and Green Lake area of northwestern Saskatchewan, learned to jig as a child when he was taught by his grandmother. He now lives in Lethbridge and works for the city. During his visit to Lakie, he taught the students about Métis culture, including the history and significance of the Métis sash. After performing to the “Red River Jig”, Pogorzelski taught the audience a few steps, and then invited everyone to stand up and jig along with him. His performance was met with enthusiasm from the Lakie student body, and the timing of the event was a perfect fit for Grade 7 students, who were currently studying Métis culture and history in their Social Studies classes.



GS Lakie Staff and Students Jig with Roy Pogorzelski



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Grad Feather Ceremony  
Thursday, May 19, 2016  
Victoria Park Gymnasium



District Powwow  
May 27, 2016

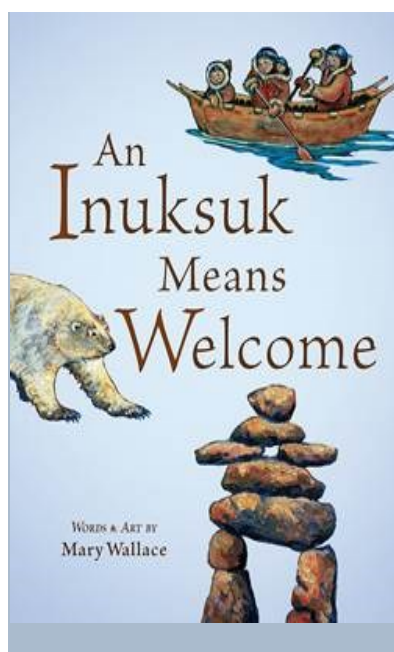
Agnes Davidson Elementary School

Career Quest Year-End Celebration  
June 8, 2016

LSD # 51 Education Centre, Board Room

Grade 4 and 5 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Days  
June 20, 2016  
Nicholas Sheran Community School

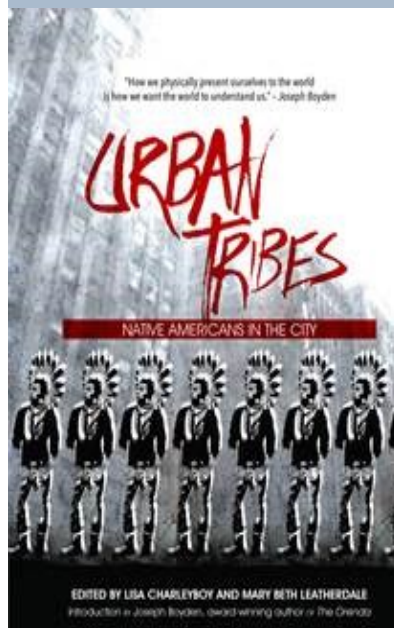




## *An Inuksuk Means Welcome*

*by Mary Wallace*

An inuksuk is a stone landmark that different peoples of the Arctic region build to leave a symbolic message. Inuksuit (the plural of inuksuk) can point the way, express joy, or simply say: welcome. A central image in Inuit culture, the inuksuk frames this picture book as an acrostic: readers will learn seven words from the Inuktitut language whose first letters together spell INUKSUK. Each word is presented in English and in Inuktitut characters, with phonetic pronunciation guides provided.



## *Urban Tribes:*

## *Native Americans in the City*

*By Lisa Cherleboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale*

Much of the popular discourse on Native Americans and Aboriginals focuses on reservation life. But the majority of Natives in North America live off the rez. How do they stay rooted to their culture? How do

they connect with their community?

Urban Tribes offers unique insight into this growing and often misperceived group. Emotionally potent and visually arresting, the anthology profiles young urban Natives from across North America, exploring how they connect with Native culture and values in their contemporary lives. Their stories are as diverse as they are. From a young Dene woman pursuing a MBA at Stanford to a Pima photographer in Phoenix to a Mohawk actress in New York, these urban Natives share their unique perspectives to bridge the divide between their past and their future, their cultural home, and their adopted cities.

# FNMI Mentorship



We currently have over 60 elementary, middle school and high school First Nations, Métis and Inuit students participating in Mentorship groups across the district.

The students have had the opportunity to make gingerbread tipis, play traditional games, make frybread, go to the corn maze and participate in Random Acts of Kindness.

## First Nations, Métis and Inuit department would like to welcome two new liaisons...

My name is **Jessica Singer** and I am from the Blood Tribe Nation. I am married with 2 children Rylan and Leela who are my world J . I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, writing, keeping active, learning new things, getting involved in the community and getting in touch with our First Nations roots. I plan on getting back on the pow wow trail this year and excited for my children to have that experience as well! I have been working with children and families in the community for 7 years and very passionate about my work! I am excited to have the opportunity to work with our First Nations, Métis and Inuit children, youth and their families in the Lethbridge School District.

My name is **Mandy Plain Eagle**, I am from the Piikani Nation. My parents are Richard and Noreen Plain Eagle. My grandmother is Margaret Plain Eagle. I love to spend time with my family especially my niece and nephew. I really enjoy playing hockey during the winter season with my friends. I also like to play slow-pitch during the summer time. Besides playing sports, I have a passion of wanting to help other people when I have get the chance too. I am a really friendly person and always willing to get to know others. I am excited to be working as a FNMI liaison and I look forward to the upcoming months.