



June 5, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are pleased to be welcoming Elder Adrian Wolfleg to our Innisfail Schools Campus as our guest on Tuesday, June 13. Elder Adrian will be taking time from his busy role as First Nations Educator at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, to join our special ceremony as we install new Indigenous Art at our three Innisfail schools.

Elder Adrian will lead us through the protocols and teachings that honour this celebration in a manner that respects and follows Indigenous culture. Prior to blessing the art as part of an Innisfail Campus-wide assembly in the main gym, Elder Adrian will perform a brief but culturally significant Smudging Ceremony with our administrative teams from all three schools.

Schools across Chinook's Edge are focusing efforts to honour our First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, and to ensure they feel safe, valued and engaged in their learning. According to Alberta Education: "This is accomplished through positive, inclusive and respectful attitudes, as well as through the presence of affirming First Nations, Métis and Inuit images and art celebrating diversity... When representatives from the FNMI department of Alberta Education enter a school, they look for evidence of this belonging presence."

Our division was fortunate to receive a Healthy Schools Wellness Fund Grant to help, in part, support initiatives that enhance learning for the Indigenous children and youth we serve. Through those funds, we were able to offer support to all schools to ensure Indigenous students – and all students and staff – feel welcome through art that depicts their heritage. As part of this process, Olds teacher Janice Gallant reproduced her original artwork – created with Deer Meadow School's Indigenous students – to make available to all schools.

We are very proud to be installing one of these reproductions in the entryway of all three Innisfail schools, and invite you to join us at the gathering on June 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in gym 3 (Cyclones gym).

Yours truly,

Principal Angela Warke
École John Wilson Elementary

Principal Danica Martin
École Innisfail Middle

Principal Wayne Pineau
École Innisfail High