



Mark R. Isfeld Secondary
**Indigenous
Education**



Indigenous Education

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A Word from the ISW

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Spring break. The sun is out and the flowers are blooming, what a great place we live in!

March

March was so fun it felt like it was over in an instant. We started the month meeting with one of our new Cultural Presenters. Marlene Kelly came in during lunch to meet our students and to share information about her handmade buckskin dress. We were all in awe of the beautiful craftsmanship found in the fringe, beading, and dress creation. Not only did Marlene bring in her dress but she also brought her beautiful wrap around moccasins too. Marlene came in for a second time to teach us how to make medicine bags. We beaded around the edge of the bags with the students. Students who attended appeared to enjoy the time together as well as the medicine bag teachings. We used Melton fabric to make the beading



easier for the students.



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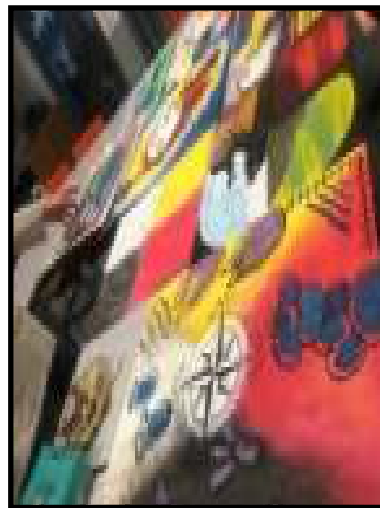
- [Medicine bags](#)
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March Continued.....

March,

Gibis'kwe is our group to support our young women aligned. We have been meeting for the last couple months to support these youth using a traditional Indigenous knowledge model of support, combined with experiential learning connected to Elders, Culture Keepers and support personnel. We held our pre-gathering at the Big house in preparation for our big event this April (Giving Voice). We listened to elders share their stories about coming of age as well as we participated in a generosity exercise. Approximately 50 people were in attendance for this half day session. We were grateful for the space, the stories, and the experience.

The Art 9 and Art 12 classes were lucky enough to learn about the medicine wheel with Mavis Aubichon. Mavis shared the teachings surrounding the medicine wheel. The teacher asked the students to pay specific attention to the aspects that appealed to them the most. The grade 9's created a medicine wheel with leather and beads.



The grade 12's created their own medicine wheel based on what appealed to them the most.

April

Our April is off to a great start! We will be working on the a multi-ring dream catcher to be representative of all the good intentions in our building. We have invited multiple presenters to come in and tell their dream catcher story. We have learned everyone has their own story and each one is special and unique. We are truly grateful to witness these stories. If you have a story you'd like to share we would love to hear it.

Our event, Giving Voice will take place at the Big House on April 16 & 17, 2019. This is an extension of the Gibis'kwe group to support women aligned using the cultural model. We will have local Elders present and able to attend the event. Additionally, Professor Andrea Landry from the University of Saskatchewan will be speaking as well as Kathi Camilleri (The village Presenter). Joanne Shenandoah, Grammy award winner with 3 nominations including 14 Native American music awards, will be presenting at the Big House in a free public event the evening of April 16th (6:30pm-8:00pm). We have been preparing for this event for a long time and are extremely excited!



Last but not least we have invited Liz, Brown from North Island College to host a drum circle with our students. She will bring teaching and songs. We look forward to our time together.

As you can see there isn't a dull moment here in the Indigenous Education office. We truly are fortunate to have the privilege of working with your children. Happy Spring everyone!

Jeannie McDonald & Holly Johnstone
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