

THE CASZETTE

June, 2018

Newsletter #7



CASWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Happy Spring

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Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

Administrators' Message

Dear Parents/Guardians May Newsletter

We are in the midst of a bustling June. Teachers and students are preparing for report cards and completing final assessments. We can't wait to see the growth of our students in the results! The month is full of exciting learning opportunities and celebrations such as the SPSD Festival of Nations Powwow, track day, band concerts and numerous learning trips scheduled. Please take an opportunity to join in the learning with your child's class.

I would like to highlight our upcoming celebrations centered around National Aboriginal Day and PRIDE day. The week will celebrate culture and inclusivity. At Saskatoon Public Schools, our goal is to provide school environments that are safe and caring places where excellence in learning is a priority and everyone feels included. In celebrating PRIDE Day we strive to create a safe and inclusive environment for people of all genders. In celebrating National Aboriginal day we recognize that we are all treaty people. The age old question from students of "why do we need to learn this stuff" is still heard in classrooms, hallways and homes (thank goodness!) We often hear this question from students and parents in relation to teaching of First Nation, Inuit and Metis content, worldviews and culture. We appreciate these questions as it helps us build a deeper understanding of why it is so important. I would like to highlight a few of the reasons why we do this work as we invite you to join our week long celebration. (content below retrieved from the SPSD Curriculum and Instruction blog post.)

Historical Imperative:

For First Nations and Métis peoples as original inhabitants of this land, our cultures and languages are connected to this place. The cultural traditions and languages of First Nations and Métis peoples live here. If FNIM content and perspectives don't live in the curricula used in the land where they originate, where will they be reflected? Would we expect to go to any other place in the world and not see the content and perspectives of the original inhabitants of that land reflected in curricula being used in classrooms?

Moral Imperative:

The current disparity.

We know that our Métis and First Nations populations do not currently experience the same quality of life as the majority of the Canadian population. There are many reasons for this, but one WE as educators have some control over is the teaching and learning that goes on in our classrooms every day.

The statistics are alarming.

We are aware of the statistics connected to the achievement of First Nations and Métis students, and the disparity that exists there between FNIM students and non-Indigenous students. When we know the statistics, it is important to go beyond the knowing to a place of action. **Responding to help students.** The Cultural Responsiveness model Saskatoon Public Schools is using talks about holistic learning and how we take the whole child into consideration. This includes helping them to develop a positive identity. The inclusion of FNIM content and ways of knowing includes Treaty Education, Métis content and perspectives, and First Nations content not focused on Treaty Education. Infusing FNIM content and perspectives helps our Indigenous students to see themselves reflected in their learning.

It also helps the non-Indigenous population to experience the worldviews and contributions of FNIM peoples past, present, and future.

Please check out the information in this newsletter about our celebrations of National Aboriginal Day. We encourage you to talk with your child about what they are learning (it is amazing what they know!) and encourage them to participate in all of the cultural activities. One of these activities is a Smudge which is a cleansing ceremony often associated with First Nation Culture. Please join us for any or all of the activities as well!

I would welcome any questions or conversation about the Smudge and other events. Please join us for any or all of the activities as well!

Have a marvelous June
Sincerely,

Justin Giesbrecht, Principal

Dayna Laturnas, Vice Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER		
June	13	Play Day Grade 1-3 afternoon only
June	14	City Track at Griffith
June	18	SCC Meeting 7:30
June	21	National Aboriginal Day (see times for events on next page)
June	25	Grade 8 Farewell
June	27	Last Day for Students, report cards go home

National Aboriginal Day

Monday June 18th - Opening Ceremonies

A smudge will take place to start off our week. The smudge will be in the front of the school and open to everyone. Classes two at a time will be called down to participate and learn about smudging.

Tuesday June 19th - Father's Day Kickball and Tipi Raising 10:30- 1:30pm

Tipi Raising @10:30 - Boys and Girls group will help raise tipi. Sandi Harper will talk about the tipi teachings. We will set up sound system so all students can hear and will group student around the tipi to view and listen.

For lunch there will be taco in a bag and freezies available.

Kickball will be taking place after lunch to also celebrate Father's day. Two locations so more students/staff can join in on the fun!

Wednesday June 20th Spend the day with Traditional Story Teller Joseph Naytowhow

Staff smudge in the morning before raising the tipi. In the morning Joseph will be at book and bagel to meet with students, parents, and staff. Throughout the day Joseph will meet with our classes to share his stories and knowledge.

Thursday June 21st School Performance and Dance

During period five and six Caswell students will perform various First Nation dances. Grade three will perform the Rabbit Dance and then teach some Jigging steps to the school. We will end with the whole school joining us for the Red River Jig and then a Round Dance.

Friday June 22nd Pride Day Celebrations and Closing Ceremonies

Throughout the afternoon we will talk about pride day and discuss two spirited people in First Nations culture. Students will be able to design own flags, get their face painted, and create safe space posters for classrooms. We will create a collaborative mural throughout the day using sidewalk chalk. Closing ceremonies will include a presentation of flags at the end of the week to each classroom and inviting participants to join in on a Round Dance.



YOU'RE INVITED TO SHARE IN OUR

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND PRIDE DAY FESTIVITIES

At CASWELL SCHOOL
210 30TH STREET WEST



THROUGHOUT THE WEEK OF

JUNE 18TH – JUNE 22ND 2018



Monday, June 18th

9:00 am Opening Ceremonies and Smudge



Tuesday, June 19th

10:30 am Tipi Raising

11:30 am Taco in a Bag with Father's Day Kick Ball to follow

Wednesday, June 20th

8:15 am Book and Bagel

9:00 am Story Telling with Traditional Story Teller Joseph Naytowhow

Thursday, June 21st

2:30- 3:00 pm School Pow Wow Dancers and Jiggers Perform

Friday, June 22nd

2:30- 3:15 pm Closing Ceremonies

