



AHCAHK SPIRIT BEAR MUSKWA

KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION LIFE LONG LEARNING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 ISSUE

LEARN MORE ABOUT US ONLINE!



www.kfnlearning.com



[Kapaweno First Nation School](https://www.facebook.com/KapawenoFirstNationSchool)

Phone: 780.751.0008 | E-mail: admin@kfnschool.ca



SCHOOL YEAR 2023/24

Let's break through the ceiling together

Kapawe'no First Nation - Every school year should be exciting and the anticipation of a new year and what that brings should make the hairs on your arm stand up.

At Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School and the help of numeracy, literacy, band, resource centre and the new teachers, a

blend of EA and the sports academy should elevate our student's learning abilities.

more on page 2



The heart beat very close to our Mother Earth

Kapawe'no First Nation - Nanaskomin to Cory Cardinal Sr and Jr for the beautiful song and amazing sound of the drum, performed on August 28, to begin our Staff PD Sessions. Also, we heard songs performed by our young Muskwak Singers that started our day and our Nehiyawawin class.

Watch the video on facebook by scanning this QR code



FIRST NATION
VIRTUAL LEARNING
CENTRE

CALL US TODAY!

(780) 751-0008

email: admin@kfnschool.ca



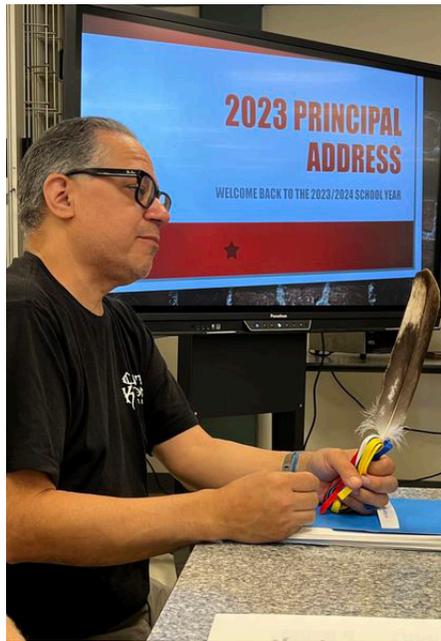
Cory Cardinal Sr comes to the First Nation Distance Learning Center with an impressive background in education and nation engagement

Kapawe'no First Nation - With 21 years of experience in both teaching and educational administration, he has consistently demonstrated an unwavering dedication to promoting accessible and culturally relevant education.

His expertise extends beyond traditional classroom settings, having spearheaded various initiatives aimed at integrating technology into remote learning environments, which aligns seamlessly with the goals of the Distance Learning Center.

Cory's leadership style is characterized by his collaborative and inclusive approach. He has a track record of successfully building bridges between students, educators, parents, and the wider community. His commitment to respecting and incorporating indigenous knowledge systems into the curriculum is particularly commendable, and his vision aligns perfectly with the First Nation Distance Learning Center's mission to provide holistic and empowering education.

Furthermore, Cory Cardinal's ability to



inspire and motivate both his colleagues and his students is truly remarkable. His dedication to fostering a nurturing learning environment that values each individual's unique strengths and cultural heritage will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and success of the First Nation

Distance Learning Center.

Under Cory's leadership, the First Nation Distance Learning Center will continue to flourish as a beacon of educational excellence and community empowerment. His wealth of experience, combined with his unwavering commitment to advancing indigenous education, makes him an ideal fit for this important role.

Please feel free to reach out to Cory at ccardinal@kfnlearning.com or (780)751-0009 to discuss student registration for the First Nation Distance Learning Center for Grades 4 to 12.

Thank you for your continued support of quality education within indigenous communities. We look forward to the positive impact that Cory Cardinal will undoubtedly bring to the First Nation Distance Learning Center.

When children have the love, community support, and culture, everything is possible on their educational journey.

Let's break through the ceiling together from page 1

As athletic director, Brian D. Thomas will help raise the level as an educator to meet these unique challenges.

This year The Ice district will have skating for our elementary students on synthetic ice. Plyometric lab to increase speed, power, and explosive strength. The physical fitness center. Golf simulator and second-to-none strength and conditioning program.

Learn more about KFN School's Sports Programs by scanning this QR Code. The Four Core Sports include Hockey, Lacrosse, Boxing and Archery. More programs are available at the website.

Finally an aquatics component for resistance and refreshing recovery after training to revitalize the muscles. Plus a host of new coaches and enthusiastic assistants to help out in each program.

Let's break the ceiling together this year 2023/2024.





FIRST NATION **VIRTUAL** LEARNING CENTRE

- Students from 4-12 academically robust Alberta diploma with traditional and contemporary learning
- Students oriented towards alternative life long learning
- For all Nations of Turtle Island desiring and hopeful of creating their own virtual school to service nation members achieving their educational goals in any space, any place and at any pace

CALL US TODAY

(780) 751-0008



email: admin@kfnschool.ca

Our Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School (K-12) Ever Increasing Knowledge with everyday learning in core programming!

Academics, Athletics and Indigenous Arts and Music a way of life. Literacy, Numeracy, Sciences, Social Studies and LAW (Land, Air, Water and Fire) Learning.

We are a leading Nehiyawak (Cree) Nation and in Canada providing in person and virtual learning for Indigenous students in a real time bricks and mortars in the Cloud along with qualitative experiences, unlike any that has existed before in Turtle Island (Canada).

We pride ourselves on our ability as an academically Alberta accredited school taught with a traditional and contemporary balanced approach.

Our greatness includes;

- A leading edge of curriculum and instructional design;
- An Indigenous Way of Knowing (Language, Traditions, Culture, Practices, Values and Morals) and Learning;
- With equal importance as Alberta accredited Education coursework supporting anxiety;
- Our delivery model is based on the Seven Grandfather and Grandmother Teachings and Learning;
- We provide a minimum of 950 hours for elementary / junior high student instruction, and 1000 hours for high school;



- Our school timetable allows us to provide for a four (4) Day School week over the winter months (November to April);
- Our Sports Academy participates in the Alberta Junior and Senior High School Athletic Association;
- Giving students the foundation to reach their potential and gain confidence both academically and socially.

Where are we located

Our school is 3.5 hours north of the city of Edmonton and 2.5 hour east of Grande

Prairie on paved highway on the north-west shore of Slave Lake (Buffalo Bay). High Prairie and Slave Lake are two towns located nearby.

You can check out our facebook site for Kapawe'no First Nation School: <https://www.facebook.com/kapawenofirstnationschool/>

Check out our website at www.kfnlearning.com for more information.



Ruby's GAS BAR
On the Sucker Creek First Nation

Family friendly service

Full service: Gas, Diesel, Propane, and more...

(780) 523-5134

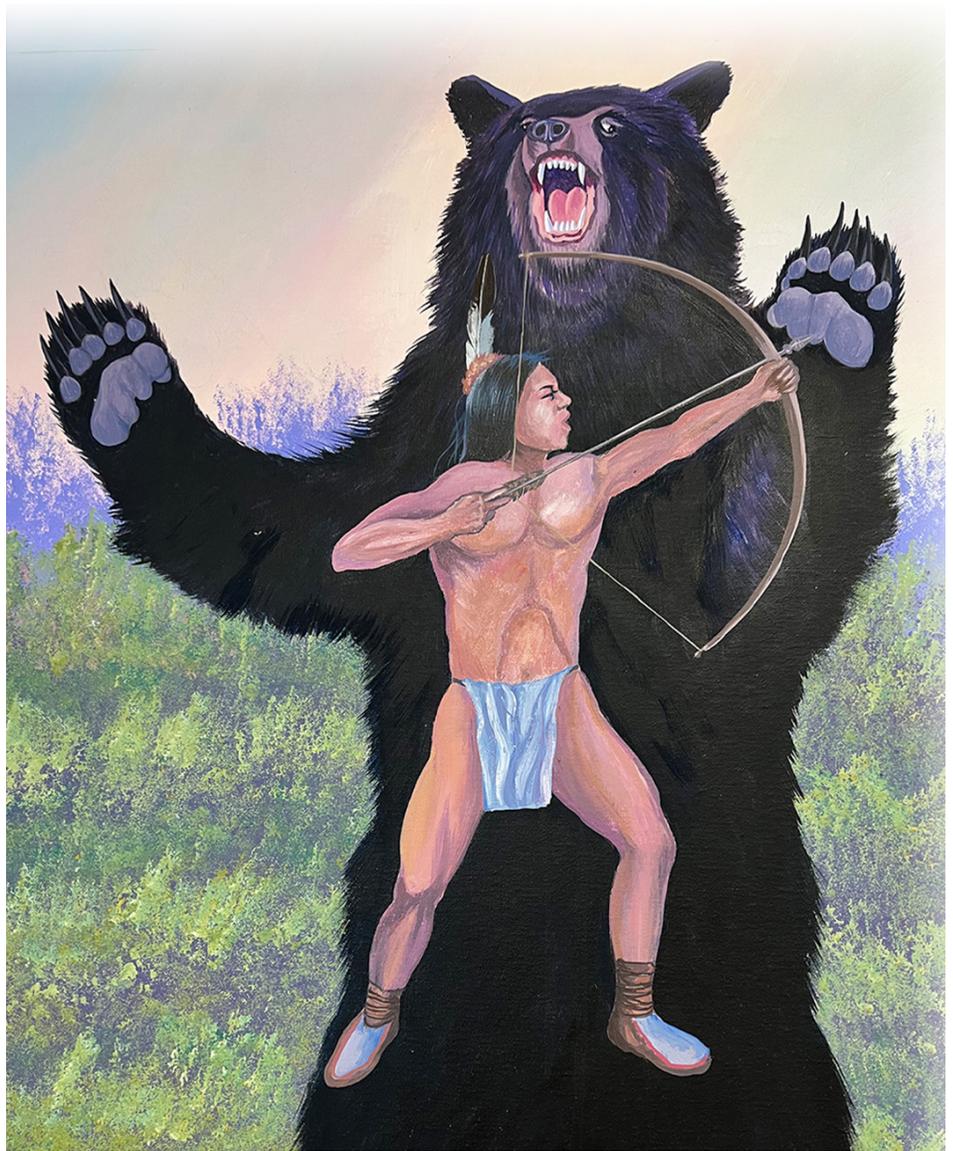
OPEN DAILY TILL 11PM

Guardian of the Nēhiyawak Territory: The Ahcahk Muskwa (Spirit Bear)

In the heart of the Nēhiyawak territory, nestled within the forest and lake lived a Nation that shared a profound connection with Mother Earth. Their lives were intimately entwined with the rhythms of the forest, and the creatures, both two and four-legged, that inhabited it held a sacred place in their hearts. Among these creatures was Ahcahk Muskwa, the Spirit Bear—a majestic, rare, and almost magical white bear that gracefully roamed the woods.

The Nēhiyawak held Ahcahk Muskwa in the highest regard, believing it to be the guardian of the forest and a symbol of the profound harmony that existed between humanity and the natural world. They possessed a song, a powerful and ancient chant that reverberated through the forest whenever they gathered to celebrate their deep-rooted connection to the land. “Way ah yah ho, way ah yah ho, yah way – o hey yo,” they sang, their voices carrying the melodious notes like a gentle breeze through the rustling leaves. The song’s lyrics resonated with a sacred presence, a call to Ahcahk Muskwa, beckoning it to draw nearer and share its timeless wisdom.

“Ahcahk Muskwa,” they chanted, their voices harmonizing with the forest’s heartbeat, “Ohti petotew.” These words held the meaning of “Coming this way,” a tender invitation to Ahcahk Muskwa, imploring it to approach. “Ahcahk Muskwa,” they sang once more, their voices brimming with heartfelt devotion, “Sakihitownow,” which translated to “To love us”—an affirmation of the profound affection they held for this guardian of the forest. The song would echo through the woods, repeated four times, each iteration strengthening the profound bond between the people and Ahcahk Muskwa. It served as an acknowledgment of the bear’s presence and an expression of gratitude for its pivotal role in their lives. As they sang, the forest itself seemed to listen, and Ahcahk Muskwa, a creature rarely glimpsed by outsiders, would occasionally grace them with a brief



appearance—a shimmering, white figure amidst the verdant trees. Across generations, the Nēhiyawak continued to sing their Ahcahk Muskwa song, diligently passing it down from knowledge keepers to the youngest among them. It became an integral facet of their cultural heritage, serving as a poignant reminder of their solemn responsibility to safeguard the land and all its inhabitants. In response, Ahcahk Muskwa seemed to heed their calls, appearing more frequently, almost as if to assure them of its enduring presence.

As the river of time flowed onward, Ahcahk Muskwa and the Nēhiyawak nation coexisted in tranquil harmony, their destinies forever intertwined. The song, a timeless refrain, persisted, echoing through the forest and carrying with it the ancient wisdom of a people who comprehended the paramount importance of living in perfect accord with the natural world. In the heart of the Nēhiyawak territory, Ahcahk Muskwa continued to stand as the guardian of Mother Earth, an everlasting emblem of the indomitable bond between humanity and the boundless wonders of nature.

Message from the Principal Jorden Thiessen (August 28, 2023)

A Year of Exploration and Growth

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all of you as we embark on an exciting new academic year at Kapaweno First Nation School. I am Jorden Thiessen, and I am honored to serve as your principal. As we prepare for the upcoming year, I wanted to share some important information and express my enthusiasm for the journey that lies ahead.

Important Dates: First and foremost, mark your calendars! The 2023 school year is set to commence on August 28, 2023. We are eagerly counting down the days until our school halls are filled with laughter, learning, and the vibrant energy of our students.

A Year of Exploration and Growth: This year promises to be filled with boundless opportunities for learning, growth, and community engagement. We have an array of exciting activities planned, including music programs, sports events, and traditional teachings that honor our rich cultural heritage. Our goal is to create a well-rounded educational experience that nurtures not only academic excellence but also the holistic development of each student.

A Strong Foundation in Tradition: At Kapaweno First Nation School, we are deeply committed to preserving and celebrating our traditions and heritage. Our school serves as a place where cultural knowledge is cherished and passed down through generations. Traditional teachings will be interwoven into our curriculum,



fostering a strong connection to our roots and fostering a sense of pride in our identity.

Parent and Guardian Involvement: We recognize that education is a partnership

“When children have the love, community support, and culture, everything is possible on their educational journey.”

between the school, students, parents, and guardians. Your involvement and support play a crucial role in ensuring the success of our students. We encourage you to stay engaged, attend school events, and maintain open communication with our dedicated teaching staff.

Open Doors and Open Hearts: My office door is always open, and I am here to support you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have. Together, we can create an environment where every student feels valued, inspired, and empowered to reach their full potential.

As we eagerly await the first day of school, let us embrace the promise of a fresh start and a year filled with meaningful experiences. I am honored to be a part of the Kapaweno First Nation School community and look forward to building lasting memories together.

Wishing you a wonderful end to your summer and an exceptional start to the school year!

Warm regards,

Jorden Thiessen Principal
Kapawe'no First Nation School

*Awasisak ka-nistawetakwaw sakihitowin,
nehiyaw sihtwawina ekwa ka-mamawi
nisohekamahtwaw wayaw nekan ote
tetotewahk*

Message from Boh Kubrakovich-Kiniw

Superintendent of Kapawe'no School, First Nation Collegiate, First Nation College, Buffalo Bay Academy

A school year filled with growth, learning, and positive transformation

Nehiyawawein, Academics and Athletics in Life Long Learning will advance us all Tansi Students, Parents, and Staff,

Greetings, hope you are in good health and high spirits after the summer break. As we forge ahead with a new school year, we would like to express our gratitude for your unwavering dedication within our Kapawe'no Life Long Learning.

Kapawe'no Life Long learning is an integral part of our journey in life and our schools are more than just places of learning; they are the heart of our Nation, where culture, Nehiyawewin, tradition, and ever increasing knowledge thrive. We encourage parents and guardians to actively participate in their children's learning, and we extend our appreciation to our qualified teachers and support staff who work tirelessly to provide the best learning experiences.

Our ancestral Nehiyawewin and Nehiyawak ways will assist our voyage and carry our grandmother's teachings and laws of love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility, and truth to our people. They are the threads that connect us to who we are and bind us together as a Nation. We are committed to preserving and revitalizing Nehiyawewin, ensuring we flourish within our circle of learning. Nehiyawewin is not just a means of communication; it is the key to preserving our identity and passing down our rich Nehiyawak ways to the next generation.

Equally important is the partnership between academics and athletics. We recognize that



**“We are the Kapawe’no
Muskwak, and that
strength flows through
our veins, unwavering
and true. No challenge
can break our bond,
for we are Kapawe’no
Muskwak strong!”**

sports have a unique power to teach life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and resilience. It is not just about winning on the court, field or ice, but also about winning in life. Our students' success in athletics is a source of pride, and we encourage their pursuit of excellence in sports and wearing the Muskwak logo proudly.

Academic excellence is the foundation upon which our students' future success is built. Our teachers are dedicated to providing quality education that equips our students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to navigate an ever-changing world. The synergy between academics and athletics is powerful. It teaches us that dedication and hard work can lead to success in any endeavor.

As we navigate this academic journey with you, let us always remember the importance of cultural and preservation of Nehiyawewin, holistic learning, and the wellness and wellbeing of our students. Your input, ideas, and involvement are valued and essential. We look forward to a school year filled with growth, learning, and positive transformation. We are Kapawe'no Muskwak strong!

Kinanaskomin,

Boh Kubrakovich-Kiniw

Superintendent of Kapawe'no School, First Nation Collegiate, First Nation College, Buffalo Bay Academy

Harmonizing Mother Earth and Music: Fred Mack's Impact at Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School

Kapawe'no First Nation – Mr Fred Mack's role as the new music and outdoor education teacher at Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School and the Buffalo Bay Academy promises to usher in a wave of enthusiasm, creativity, and cultural enrichment for the students.

Mr Mack's passion for land, air, water and fire (LAWF) teachings will connect students with their environment, fostering a deep appreciation for nature. This approach not only enhances their understanding of the land but also provides a unique context for musical exploration. The program combines traditional drumming and Nêhiyawak music practices with modern wind, brass, and percussion instruments, creating a dynamic and culturally rich musical experience. This fusion celebrates the heritage of the community while introducing contemporary musical elements. The music program is dedicated to providing students with a wide range of

learning and performance opportunities, including participation in sports games, festivals, and other events that showcase their musical talents and teamwork skills.

Throughout the year, students will have the privilege of learning from and collaborating with special musical guests. These guest artists will offer unique insights, mentorship, and inspiration to the band class, enriching their musical journey.

An exciting introduction to music and band participation will nurture students' musical potential, teaching them the fundamentals of playing instruments, reading music, and

working together as a cohesive musical unit.

Mr Mack's dedication to sparking musical potential and his innovative approach to combining music with land-based teaching will undoubtedly contribute to the greatness of Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School. Through this program, students will not only develop their musical talents but also deepen their connection to their culture and environment, fostering well-rounded and culturally aware individuals.



KAPAWE'NO NÊHIYAWAK SCHOOL K-12

Ever Increasing Knowledge with everyday learning in core programming including:

- Academics
- Indigenous Arts and Music
- Athletics
- LAW (Land, Air, Water and Fire) Learning

An Indigenous Way of Knowing (Language, Traditions, Culture, Practices, Values and Morals) and Learning. Our delivery model is based on the Seven Grandfather and Grandmother Teachings and Learning.

Where are we located

Our school is 3.5 hours north of the city of Edmonton and 2.5 hour east of Grande Prairie on paved highway on the north-west shore of Slave Lake (Buffalo Bay). High Prairie and Slave Lake are two towns located nearby.



REGISTER NOW!

◀ SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER ONLINE



KAPAWENO FIRST NATION SCHOOL

Kindness, Fairness, Nurturing Excellence

For more information, please contact us at KFN School
Email: admin@kfnlearning.com | Phone: (780) 751-0008



www.kfnlearning.com

Charting the Future of Education: Empowering First Nation Students and Beyond

Kapawe'no First Nation - Since our inception on April 1st, 2021, we embarked on a pioneering journey to redefine education in Canada. Our mission at First Nation Virtual Learning Centre, teaching Grades 4-12, is crystal clear: to provide cutting-edge Virtual School experiences that transcend traditional boundaries and unlock the potential of First Nation students, as well as those eager to learn about our Nēhiyawak ways.

Our approach is unlike any other; it's the convergence of the physical and the digital, a fusion of bricks and mortars in the Cloud, resulting in an education of unparalleled quality. This isn't merely online learning; it's a revolution in education along with the integration of the Nēhiyawak way of life.

We take immense pride in being at the forefront of curriculum development and instructional design. Our unwavering commitment to innovation means we continually push the boundaries of what's possible in education. We firmly believe that every student deserves the very best, and we are resolute in delivering just that.

As we look ahead, our commitment to virtual education remains steadfast. Through our Indionetwork platform, we are ready to offer another year of transformative learning experiences. We'll continue to stream our lessons to First Nation students across Turtle Island, ensuring that access to quality education is not limited by location or circumstance.

The future of education is boundless, and we're poised to embrace it fully. We're venturing into uncharted territories, expanding our virtual content, and pioneering inspiring methods of learning. Interactive virtual field trips, gamified learning experiences, and personalized learning paths are just a glimpse of the exciting avenues we're exploring.



High School and Mature Student Classes Being Offered by our teaching staff virtual and in the classroom setting for Semester 1 as follows:

- Social Studies 10-1,10-2,20-1,20-2, 30-1, 30-2
- Art 10, 20, 30
- English 10, 20, 30
- Family Law (10)
- Intro To Psychology (10)
- Nēhiyawêwin 10, 20, 30

Independent Studies (Choose from a catalogue of independent studies courses with under the supervision) <https://kfnlearning.com/virtual-learning/> Welcome to a new era of education, where the possibilities are as boundless as the sky.

For further information, please connect with Principal Cory Cardinal Sr at (780) 751-0008 or email corysrcardinal@kfnschool.ca



Scan this QR Code to download the Registration Package



Scan this QR Code to learn more, visit the official KFN Life Long Learning Website

ADMINISTRATION

Bryan Richardson *Education Director / President First Nation Collegiate*

Tansi, Bryan Richardson nitsikason. As the Education Director and head of Special Projects at Kapawé'no First Nation, with over 40 years of experience as a leader and innovator in Education, I carry the dreams and hopes of a better quality of education for First Nation students. One that speaks to decolonizing the colonial attitudes installed by Euro-Centric conquest of First Nation People. I make no excuses for my stance that 150 years of Western Education has done little to prepare the First Nation students of today to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The time has come for a new system of First Nation Education. One that is entirely controlled both in creativity and innovation with embedded LAW (Land, Air, Water) and Fire teachings to make it relatable to the First Nation student reality. One that is approved by our Elders and carries the strength of the Cree Language, Ways of Knowing, Ways of Learning and most importantly Way of Life.

Every day I give thanks for the support of my beautiful wife, Leana Richardson who teaches me daily that artistic spirit, not only enriches life, but stands as an emblem of inspiration to learn, grow and develop as an individual. That women are to be respected and honored

for their knowledge, skill and attributes. Much happened in the past as European contact that I believe set First Nations Education back two hundred years. What was once a Matriarchal society where women mattered, where their education taught our future generations, was turned into a society where European attitudes that women were "sub servant" to men took away female empowerment and violence against women was perpetrated and accepted by men. No more will this happen! The school programming we have developed through the First Nation Collegiate is decolonizing our youth and future generations of women will rise up and reclaim their Matriarchal hierarchy as it once was.

Rooted deep in the heart is a steadfast commitment to realizing the vision laid down by our hereditary Chief, Sydney Halcrow, and our esteemed Councilors Debbie Chalifoux and Pamela Halcrow. Their tales of unwavering determination echo the saga of a Cree Nation that knows no bounds, a Nation that believes in its infinite potential to create a Self Determined Nation set on changing the realities of other First Nations in Turtle Island through example and courageous program designs that focus on Sovereignty and Inherent Rights.



"Fuelled by passion, driven by vision, and inspired by our community's undying spirit, we're crafting a legacy of knowledge and achievement."

Our collective aspirations aim high, reaching out to every student, every parent, every soul in our community. The strides we've made in a relatively short span are commendable, but our journey is far from over. With an ever-rising graduation rate from kindergarten through to Post Secondary College, we're setting the stage for a brighter, knowledge-rich future. In the words of Chief Halcrow, our quest is about "ever-increasing knowledge," and I am wholeheartedly devoted to making this vision a reality.



Boh Kubrakovich-Kiniw *Superintendent of Schools, Collegiate and Academies*

"Together, we will continue to intricately weave the tapestry of knowledge, culture, and understanding, enriching the lives of our students and the broader Nation."

Tansi, Wabisha Kihiw togashin muskwa ahcahk, Boh Kubrakovich-Kiniw nitsikason and it's a tremendous honor to serve as the Superintendent of Life Long Learning for Kapawé'no First Nation. I am truly blessed to have my fiancée and Nicimos Jenn, along with our eight children, who provide unwavering support in my endeavors. Today, our most powerful approach to embracing the Nêhiyawak way of life and learning is by seamlessly weaving it into the fabric of our students' daily lives, be it in-person or in the virtual realm. Joining Kapawé'no First Nation fills me with immense pride. My journey has been enriched by the invaluable experience and wisdom passed down by knowledge keepers, as well as the profound influence of my parents,

both educators, and the unwavering support of my sisters/brothers and family. My passion is dedicated to nurturing a profound understanding of our identity, language, laws, and principles among our Nation. With an extensive career spanning over 30 years within the realm of Anishinaabe / Nêhiyawak development, I have tirelessly worked to build sovereign governments and forge connections between our land and laws through life long learning. As we set forth on this educational journey together, let us never forget the profound significance of balance in the Nêhiyawak way of life. It's more than just a concept; it's a lifestyle and graceful dance that harmonizes the wisdom of our ancestors with the rhythms of the present.

Nav Kaur *Education Director for IELCC and Daycare*

Tan'si nitotemtik, Ms Navjot Kaur nitsikason, which translates to "New Light" in English, and it's my profound privilege to serve the youth of Kapawe'no First Nation. My journey in the field of education spans over 15 years, with diverse experiences working alongside people of all ages and backgrounds. I pursued my education at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, culminating

in a Master's degree in 2017. Beyond my professional life, I'm a proud mother, fluent in four languages, and currently exploring the art of quilting. I firmly believe that supporting our youth is an investment in our collective future. Together, we illuminate the path towards a brighter tomorrow. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to be part of this journey with you all - kinanaskomitin.



"Leadership education is the beacon that guides our youth towards a future as bright as their potential."

Rebecca Hersom-Petersen *Executive Assistant to the Education Director*



Tansi, Mrs Rebecca Hersom-Petersen, nitsikason. With pride, I serve as the Assistant to the Education Director at the esteemed Kapawe'no Holistic Academy. As I navigate my initial year, the gratitude I feel is profound, for I've forged meaningful connections with our dedicated team and the ever-curious students. Embarking on this path, I'm actively involved in the intricate process of data integration.

Collaborating with our academy's diverse teams, I'm dedicated to creating a system that fosters holistic learning and growth. Every dawn at First Nation Collegiate is a reminder of our collective mission. With unwavering commitment, I aim to contribute towards a year filled with enlightenment, exploration, and collective success.

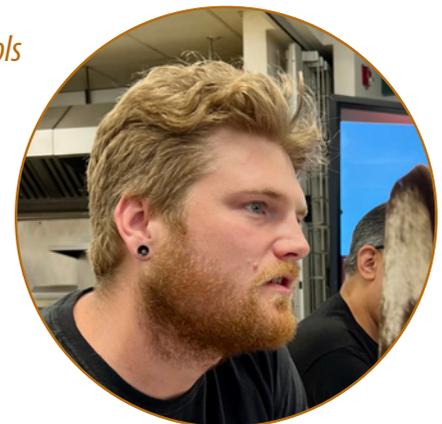
"In the heart of academia, where data meets passion, I'm driven by our shared ethos of holistic learning and collective growth."

KAPAWE'NO NEHEYIYAWAK SCHOOL AND FIRST NATION COLLEGIATE

Jorden Thiessen *Kapawe'no Neheiywak and Sucker Creek Neheiywak Schools*

Tansi, Mr Jorden Thiessen nitsikason, I am the new K-12 Principal. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working with students with various special needs and it has been an incredibly fulfilling journey. Witnessing the growth and progress of these amazing individuals has fueled my passion for alternative education and meeting the unique needs of every student. Growing up in High Level, a small town up north, I was raised with traditional values that have shaped my outlook on life. I believe in the power of community, respect for others, and the importance of strong personal character.

Laughter has always been a dear companion of mine. I firmly believe that a joyful spirit can brighten even the darkest of days. Sports and art are two of my greatest passions, as they provide avenues for self-expression and personal growth. Cheering for the Oilers during hockey season is a tradition that brings me immense joy and excitement. In all that I do, I strive to embody the principles of servant leadership. This quote by John C. Maxwell encapsulates my philosophy: "Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge."



"I am committed to serving others, advocating for their needs, and creating an inclusive and empowering educational environment for all students."

Cory Cardinal *Principal, First Nation Collegiate*

Tansi, Mr. Cory Cardinal, nitsikason, serving as the Principal of FNVLC. I proudly identify as a Nēhiyawak from Sucker Creek. My journey has been deeply influenced by my late father, Harold Cardinal, who instilled in me a profound reverence for lifelong learning. His unwavering encouragement paved the path for my achievements in both athletics and academics. During my formative years, I had the privilege of attending Canada's esteemed Athol Murray College of Notre Dame, graduating as a part of the Class of '88. The unwavering support and unwavering belief in the value of education from my father played a pivotal role in shaping my academic and athletic pursuits. My personal philosophy

centers around maintaining a harmonious equilibrium between academics and athletics, with an unwavering focus on core subjects. I steadfastly believe that this holistic approach not only nurtures well-rounded individuals but also fosters a deeper sense of identity through the teachings of sacred LAW. My experience at full-time academics has undeniably fueled my passion for education and my ability to inspire others. My commitment to returning to my roots and giving back to my community radiates through my role as the Principal of FNVLC. Here, I continue to guide and inspire students on their unique journeys of growth and self-discovery.



"Self-governance and education form the bedrock of sovereign learning. They empower individuals to seize control of their educational odyssey, embrace their cultural heritage, and forge their destinies."



George Halcrow *Student Services*

Tansi Mr George Halcrow nitsikason, I have been working for kapaweno First Nation School for the past 4 yrs. I was hired as an education assistant as the first employee when the School first started then I worked my way to IT and liaison, then this year I was promoted to student services director. I really enjoy working for our Nēhiyawak School, I've always had a passion to work with the youth not only from our nation but

from the community of Grouard. In the last two years I've accomplished getting my first yr of education assistance and am currently doing my second year. During my second yr at the School I was able to get my archery certification as an instructor, the last two years we at the School have had a successful two yrs in archery we have come in first in our division, I enjoy watching our students succeed in all the sports programs we offer.

Wendy Lamouche *Student Services/FNVLC*

Tansi, Ms Wendy Lamouche nitsikason, I am from the vibrant territory and presently residing in Grouard. As I step into my second year, my enthusiasm continues to soar. The FNVLC stands as a testament to the limitless possibilities of education in our digital

age, paving ways for our students to chase and achieve their dreams. In tandem, my commitment stretches across the hallways of Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School, ensuring every student feels seen, heard, and supported.

"Empowering each student's journey, virtual or tangible, I stand by them, bridging dreams with reality."



Angela Courtorielle *Itinerant Teacher / Student Services / Nèhiyawêwin Keeper*

Tansi Ms Angela Courtorielle nitsikason, and I am Nehiyow. I have spent much of my life living in the bush and learning about the many herbs and medicines; learning about the animals and their different uses; and learning about how to haul snow and melt it to make water, chop wood and to build things using just the trees, willows and other resources around me. I am a spiritual type of person and although I pray, I usually pray to the Creator as opposed to a God because I believe we were

created rather than born. I am a very open person and believe that learning is something that happens until the day we die and I am always wanting to learn any new thing that I know nothing about. I have always prided myself on being a hard worker, a positive role model and a caring person that anyone can talk to. I believe that we, as people, cannot function without others because we need that interaction, connection and togetherness in order to grow and learn.



"Today may not be a good day, but tomorrow can always be better. This is a beautiful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the power of hope."

Linda Gladue *Itinerant Teacher/Nèhiyawêwin Keeper*



Tansi Mrs. Linda Gladue nitsikason, and I've called Grouard home since 1983. My journey in teaching Nèhiyawêwin began in 2006 at Northland School, where I dedicated myself to this important learning until 2016. Now, I'm proud to continue sharing the beauty of Nèhiyawêwin at Kapawé'no Nèhiyawak

School, entering my 3rd year of teaching. My passion for preserving and passing on our language and culture drives me each day, and I'm thrilled to be part of this vibrant Nation and school. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of Nèhiyawêwin lives on.

"Perseverance in safeguarding our Nèhiyawêwin and nurturing our connection to Mother Earth is the bridge that carries our traditions forward, ensuring our cultural legacy remains rooted in the wisdom of our ancestors."

Bernadette Chalifoux *Student Services / Administrative Assistant*

Tansi Ms. Bernadette Chalifoux nitsikason, and I'm thrilled to embark on my third year at KFN School. My journey here began as an Education Assistant two years ago, and it was a time when I truly fell in love with the children and the vibrant spirit of our remarkable school.

This year, I've taken on a new role within the school office, which is a testament to

my dedication and hard work. I'm excited to continue contributing to the Kapawé'no Nèhiyawak School in my new capacity and to be part of another year filled with possibilities and growth. As I step into this new chapter, I'm reminded of the importance of dedication, and I am committed to bringing my utmost enthusiasm and hard work to ensure that every day is a step forward in our collective journey of excellence.



"Together, we can accomplish great things and inspire each other to reach new heights. Let's make this year yet another testament to our unwavering dedication and the boundless potential that resides within our Nation."

Brian Thomas *Athletic Director / Physical Education*

Tansi, Mr Brian D. Thomas nitsikason, a former Olympian hailing from Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Currently, I'm in my second year at Kapaweno Nēhiyawak School, and I must say, I'm absolutely thrilled to be here! Stepping into school every day isn't just a routine for me; it's the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. My passion has always been to give back to young, impressionable youths, and teaching

sports is the perfect channel for achieving that dream. My primary objective is to create a lasting impact by helping young women and men graduate, excel in sports, and learn Nēhiyawēwin. Holding the roles of Athletic Director and Physical Education Teacher, I take on various responsibilities, all aimed at elevating our school's reputation within the territory.

"Greatness is achieved by those who are not just on time but ahead of it, seizing every opportunity before it slips away."



"Literacy is not only about reading and writing, but also about the dedication to lifelong learning, for it is through knowledge that we unlock the doors of opportunity and understanding."

Christina Jervah *Consultant*

Tansi, Ms Christina Jervah nitsikason and I am so excited to be part of the Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate family. I have been an educator with Indigenous education for over 30 years and I had many roles. I have been a teacher, special education teacher and coordinator, and Vice Principal. For 7 years, I was also part of Treaty 8 education as a literacy specialist and shared my love of literacy with several FN schools and communities. I then worked for WCTC for close to 3 years as a literacy specialist and coordinator of second level services. I love teaching, but I also love talking about and sharing ideas on literacy to any and everyone who will listen. Literacy

begins with family as children learn to talk, express themselves, (oral language) and telling stories to explain their environment and world (storytelling). That is the foundation for all Literacy. I am hoping that sharing stories will strengthen our partnership between the school community and our families. My role at the school is to embed literacy support to all areas of the curriculum including LAWf teachings. It is to support all staff to meet the needs and expectations for all students and their parents, including students who may have exceptionalities and specific learning needs. We are committed to writing our students' stories of success.

Fred Mack *Music and LAWf Teacher*

Tansi, Mr. Mack nitsikason. It's a great privilege to be part of this wonderful Nation and school, working alongside amazing students, fellow teachers, and staff. My dedication to teaching Music and LAWf (Land, Air, Water, Fire) teachings, as well as my involvement in sports at Kapawe'no, is something I hold in high regard. My commitment to being a lifelong learner of traditional skills and music sets an inspiring example for our students. Fostering this same attitude in them will undoubtedly enrich their lives. The addition of high-quality wind, brass, and percussion instruments is an

exciting development, and our vision to blend traditional drumming and Nēhiyawak music practices with modern instruments presents a unique opportunity for our students to explore the rich cultural heritage alongside contemporary musical expressions. Our plans for learning and performance opportunities, such as playing at sports games and festivals, will undoubtedly provide valuable experiences for our students. The inclusion of special musical guests throughout the year will surely inspire and broaden their musical horizons.



"Leadership in music and LAWf teachings harmonizes the wisdom of our ancestors with the creativity of the present, cultivating a future where our Nēhiyawak ways thrive alongside new melodies of understanding."

Lee Lalonde *Sanitation Engineer*

Tansi Mr Lee Lalonde nitsikason, and I proudly serve as a Sanitation Engineer at the Kapawe'no Nĕhiyawak School. While my professional role is focused on ensuring cleanliness and environmental sustainability, my identity transcends my occupation. I am Nĕhiyawak , a member of the Drift Pile Cree Nation, and I call Grouard Mission my home.

Beyond my professional life, I find immense joy in being a loving father and engaging in

sports and physical activities. These passions not only keep me physically active but also connect me to my cultural roots, where the importance of physical well-being is deeply ingrained. In reflecting on the progress and growth of the Kapawe'no First Nation, I'm heartened by the direction in which our Nation is moving, particularly in the realm of education. It is a testament to our collective commitment to the well-being and future of our people.



"I am excited about the positive changes unfolding within our First Nation Collegiate and the role that education plays in shaping the next generation. Together, we are moving forward, nurturing our Nĕhiyawak ways and Nehiyawewin, and creating opportunities for our children to flourish."



Emily Cardinal *Healthy Food Program*

Tansi, Ms. Emily Cardinal, nitsikason and I proudly contribute to the Healthy Food Program at Kapawe'no Nĕhiyawak School with my sister Cindy. My identity as Nĕhiyawak is deeply rooted in my connection to the Swan River Cree Nation, and my home is in the welcoming community of Grouard Mission.

While my professional role revolves around promoting nutritious eating, my most cherished role is that of a mother to 11 wonderful children and a grandmother to three beautiful granddaughters. Family is the cornerstone of my life, and it drives my passion for ensuring the health and well-being of our Nation.

"As I engage with the Healthy Food Program, I am not only promoting physical well-being but also instilling the values of health and nutrition in our future generations. It is a role I cherish, as it aligns perfectly with the broader mission of our community and the Kapawe'no Nĕhiyawak School. Kinanaskomitin (Thank you)."

Cindy Cardinal *Healthy Food Program*

Tansi, Ms. Cindy Cardinal nitsikason, and I proudly contribute to the Healthy Food Program at Kapawe'no Nĕhiyawak School alongside my sister, Emily. My identity as nitsikason is deeply rooted in my connection to the Swan River Cree Nation, and my home is in the welcoming community of Grouard Mission. I have five wonderful children. I

have one grandchild and still await more. My children are my rock, and they firmly believe in the power of education. This is my second year at the Kapawe'no Nĕhiyawak School, and I can honestly say that I'm loving every moment of it. As I continue to be part of this incredible journey, I'm reminded of the profound impact education has on our community's future.



"Together, with dedication and a strong sense of purpose, we can nurture the potential of our youth and help them reach for the stars." Kinanaskomitin (Thank you)

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 6 TEACHERS/EDUCATION ASSISTANTS

Jackie Halcrow *Grade K/1 Teacher*

Tansi! Jackie Halcrow nitsikason, a proud Nêhiyawak hailing from Kapawé'no First Nation. Although I've called High Prairie home for the past thirty years, my heart remains deeply connected to my roots and Nation. Family is at the core of my life, with four adult children and four cherished grandchildren who bring immense joy and inspiration. As we embark on this new school year, I am filled

with anticipation, knowing that it holds the promise of something truly extraordinary.

For me, this year is about more than just education; it's about nurturing our young students' Nêhiyawêwin, culture, and identity. These are the cornerstones of our Nêhiyawak way of life, and I am dedicated to helping our young learners explore and embrace them fully.



"Our school is a beacon of hope and opportunity, and I take immense pride in being part of this wonderful community. Together, we'll create a nurturing and empowering environment where our students can thrive and flourish."



Daniella Lamouche *Education Assistant / FNVLC*

Tansi! Ms Daniella Lamouche nitsikason, and my journey at Kapawé'no Kapawé'no School began in February 2023 when I joined the First Nation Virtual Learning Centre (FNVLC) team, also stepping in as an Education Assistant whenever the need arose. This school year, I've taken on a special role as a one-on-one Education Assistant for Kindergarten/Grade 1. It's a privilege to work closely with these young learners and witness their growth and development firsthand. The prospect of being

back for another school year fills me with immense excitement. Every day at Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School brings fresh opportunities for our students to embark on new learning adventures. It's a journey I eagerly anticipate and cherish. As we move forward together, let's remember that education is a journey, not a destination. With each passing day, we have the chance to inspire and shape the future. Here's to another amazing school year of learning, growth, and countless moments of inspiration!

"Every day at Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School is a canvas of possibility, where I have the privilege to witness the young minds of our students blossoming with new knowledge and endless potential."

Erin Thunder *Education Assistant*

Tansi Mrs Erin Thunder nitsikason, proudly representing the Sucker Creek Cree Nation. I've embarked on a new journey as an Education Assistant at the esteemed Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School. With a rich background spanning 9 years in Early Learning and Childcare, I'm elated to join this vibrant Nation and connect with all of you. My life is a bustling blend of family and furry friends, with a loving husband, three cherished children, four canine companions, a kitty, and a bunny that add zest to each day. Beyond my

role at the academy, you'll find me exploring the great outdoors, relishing the tranquility of camping trips, unleashing my creativity through sewing, basking in the serenity of lakeshores, and immersing myself in the cultural richness of pow wows. As a dancer, my journey has evolved from traditional to jingle dancing, a transition that fills me with boundless excitement for the upcoming school year. Let's make this year a harmonious blend of learning, culture, and community. Thank you for this incredible opportunity!



"In the dance of life, every step we take is a heartbeat of our culture, a rhythm of our heritage, and a celebration of our journey."

Cory Cardinal Jr *Grade 2/3 Teacher*

Tansi Cory Cardinal Jr nitsikason, proudly embracing my Nēhiyawak heritage hailing from Sucker Creek, Alberta. In the footsteps of my remarkable parents, Cory Cardinal Sr and Nicole Cardinal, both dedicated educators who have left their imprints on various schools, I carry forward the torch of education. Moreover, my late kukom on my father's side, an educator with a certificate from Harvard, left a legacy that continues to inspire my educational journey. Education and the pursuit of knowledge run deep in my veins, and with each

passing year within the school's foundation, I am committed to honoring the traditions of my family by shaping a future dedicated to learning. My profound connection to my culture finds its roots in the wisdom passed down by my Mushum, the late Harold Cardinal, and my dad whose teachings have been a guiding light throughout my life. As the passing on the teachings I have to the Muskwak Juniors, I embrace the role of setting the rhythm for our collective journey, aligning our hearts with the beat of the drum.



"Together, we embark on a path of growth, wisdom, and cultural enrichment, forging a brighter future with our youth."



Florence Murdoch *Education Assistant*

Tansi Ms Florence Murdoch, nitsikason. I am honored to serve as an Education Assistant at the Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School. As I step into my second year here, my heart swells with gratitude. The bond I've formed with our exceptional staff and vibrant students makes every day a great journey. This year, I find myself taking flight solo, yet it's an

exciting venture. Alongside a new teacher and Cory Cardinal, I am diligently working to craft a program that not only educates but also inspires. With each sunrise, I'm reminded of our shared purpose here at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak, and I'm wholeheartedly committed to making this school year one of growth, discovery, and joy for all.

"As I embark on this year's journey, solo in stride but united in purpose, I'm reminded that our shared spirit of learning and growth is what truly makes this place special."

Lori Courtoreille *Grade 4 Teacher*

Tansi! Lori Courtoreille nitsikason, proudly from Grouard. With a bachelor's degree in Education earned from the University of Alberta, I embark on an exciting journey as the Elementary Grade 4 teacher at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School. I believe in the transformative power of knowledge and the impact it can have on young minds. Every day in the classroom is an opportunity to shape the future, to ignite curiosity, and to nurture the potential within each child. Beyond my role as an educator, I am a devoted mother of five

wonderful boys, aged from two to eighteen. They are my constant source of inspiration, reminding me of the importance of patience, understanding, and unwavering support in a child's growth.

In my free time, I embrace the great outdoors, relishing moments of adventure and serenity alike. Whether I'm working out, exploring on my quad, or camping under the stars, I find solace and rejuvenation in the beauty of nature.



"This school year holds the promise of new beginnings, fresh discoveries, and the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of my students. I eagerly anticipate the journey ahead, where we'll explore, learn, and grow together."

Rosie Lewis *Education Assistant*

Tansi Ms Rosie Lewis nitsikason. This marks my second term as an Educational Assistant our Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak school, and I'm delighted to continue this journey. What truly inspires me in this role is the daily opportunity to connect with my colleagues and the students. Working with these young minds, guiding them,

and witnessing their incredible growth as individuals is a source of immense joy. My passion for working with children has been a lifelong calling, a dream I've cherished since as far back as I can remember. In life, much like my favorite colors, turquoise and purple, it's the vibrant and diverse experiences that add richness and beauty to our journey.



"This year, my primary goal is to instill in the children the belief that learning can be an exciting adventure, one filled with discovery and joy."



Sam Tomkins *Grade 5/6 Teacher*

Tansi Mrs Samantha Tomkins nitsikason, is an enthusiastic and dedicated elementary teacher with a strong connection to the Nēhiyawak (Cree) way of life. Hailing from Sucker Creek, Alberta, Samantha brings a wealth of experience to her role as the Elementary Grade 5/6 teacher at Kapaweno Nēhiyawak School.

My teaching journey spans seven years, during which I have honed my skills and developed a deep passion for education. My

primary focus is on fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment where students can thrive and achieve their fullest potential. I incorporate the Nēhiyawak way of life into my teachings and learning from my students. We recognize the importance of preserving and sharing Indigenous culture, traditions, and values with our students. By infusing these teachings into the curriculum, our students will develop a profound appreciation for their heritage and the broader Nation.

"I go the extra mile to make learning engaging and enjoyable for my students, understanding that a positive and nurturing atmosphere is essential for effective education."

Shavoni Auger *Education Assistant*

Tansi! Shavoni Auger nitsikason, and I proudly serve as an Education Assistant at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School. Currently in my second year in this role, I hail from the community of Grouard Mission, where I share my life's journey with my young and amazing son. In my quest for personal growth and empowerment, I harbor dreams of advancing my education. My

heart finds solace and inspiration in the realms of business and childcare, where I see the potential to make a positive impact on the lives of our youth and the Nation as a whole. My unique blend of technical prowess and boundless creativity fuels my enthusiasm for working collaboratively with the dedicated team at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School.



"Together, we strive to create a nurturing and empowering learning environment for the next generation, as I continue to embrace the path of lifelong learning."

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH TEACHERS/EDUCATION ASSISTANTS

April Adamson *Grade 7 Teacher*

Tansi! Miss Adamson nitsikason. My journey as a teacher at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School began in May of this year, following my move from Edmonton. Currently, I serve as the Grade 7 homeroom teacher, and I'm also responsible for teaching junior high sciences. With a solid academic foundation in science, I earned my chemistry degree at the University of Alberta before embarking on a career in teaching. Beyond the classroom, I have a diverse range of hobbies, including playing the electric guitar, foraging for and identifying local plants and fungi, and exploring the world of 3D printing. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to learn nēhiyawēwin alongside my students,

fostering a deeper connection to the rich culture and language of this community. For this school year, I have set some exciting goals. I aim to launch a robotics program and seamlessly integrate robotics into math and science lessons, allowing our students to explore the fascinating world of technology. Additionally, I will be offering swimming lessons, with the ultimate aim of establishing a swim team right here at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School. I'm enthusiastic about the learning journey ahead and the chance to make a positive impact on our students' lives. "Leadership in teaching science is about igniting the spark of curiosity and discovery,



guiding students to explore the wonders of the natural world. It's also about keeping their minds active while fostering a lifelong love for learning."

"Leadership in teaching science is about igniting the spark of curiosity and discovery, guiding students to explore the wonders of the natural world. It's also about keeping their minds active while fostering a lifelong love for learning."



Melissa Loupette *Education Assistant*

Tansi, my name is Melissa Loupette nitsikason and this year I am working as the grade 7 EA. I moved here from Edmonton in hopes of bringing joy to the students I have the privilege of being surrounded by every day.

I am passionate about equality and anti-oppression, and I feel working in a school like Kapawe'no First Nation is an amazing

opportunity to make a difference. Some goals I have for the year are to help promote literacy by bringing in content that is relevant and interesting to students such as graphic novels and manga. In my spare time I like going hiking, and playing tabletop and video games. I am excited to see how all my students grow throughout the year.

Barrymore George *Grade 8 Teacher*

Tansi, Mr. Barrymore George nitsikason, and I originally hail from Toronto. This school year, I have the privilege of teaching grade seven, eight, and nine English Language Arts (ELA) at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School. My journey in education has led me to the Northern parts of Canada, where I've dedicated more than a decade to teaching. This summer, I embarked on a new chapter as part of the Kapawe'no

Nēhiyawak School, and I must say it's been a great experience engaging with the students, parents, and fellow staff members. I'm eagerly looking ahead to a productive and rewarding school year, where I hope to inspire and nurture the young minds under my guidance. Together, we'll explore the world of literature and language, fostering a love for learning and self-expression.



"Leadership in teaching junior high students the art of language is not just about imparting knowledge; it's about igniting their curiosity, fostering creativity, and guiding them towards becoming confident communicators in an ever-evolving world."

Ian Chan *Junior High School Teacher*

Tansi, Mr Ian Chan nitsikason, and I have the privilege of teaching Mathematics to Grade 7, 8, and 9 students. My journey at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School is a new and enlightening experience, offering me a deep insight into Nēhiyawak culture. Originally from Malaysia, this experience marks the closest I've ever come to interacting with Canada's Indigenous Peoples, and it has been a profoundly meaningful and valuable experience for me. I am relatively new to the teaching profession, I completed my B.Ed. at the University of Calgary in 2022. Before that, in 2010, I graduated from the University of

British Columbia with a B.A. in Geography. My teaching journey began immediately after my graduation, starting at Drumheller Institution before joining the Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School community in May 2023. My approach to teaching is a two-way path I hope to learn as much from teaching as I aim to impart knowledge to the students.

Thank you for taking the time to read my introduction, and I'm enthusiastic about contributing as much as I can to the students' education here. Together, we'll embark on a journey of discovery and growth.



"Leadership in teaching junior high school students math, is like guiding them on a journey through the intricate patterns of numbers, where each lesson not only builds mathematical skills, connecting the past and present to shape a brighter future."



"Together, we'll embark on a journey of discovery, growth, and empowerment, ensuring that our students emerge as confident leaders who carry forward the legacy of our people."

Sherry Bellegarde *Senior High School Teacher*

Tansi, Ms Sherry Bellegarde nitisiyihkâson. I take immense pride in my roots, coming from the Little Black Bear First Nation, situated on Treaty Four Territory. My journey in education has been marked by a deep commitment to nurturing young minds in both middle years and high school. As a parent to two wonderful children, I understand the importance of quality education and actively engage in both sides of the educational spectrum - as an educator and as a parent. This dual role has given me valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of our students, and it fuels my passion for teaching.

One of my core beliefs as an educator is that a well-rounded education not only encompasses the core subject areas of high school but also includes a deep

understanding of our history and cultural heritage. I see it as my responsibility to instill in our students a profound appreciation for their roots, a connection to their Indigenous heritage, and the knowledge of the rich history that has shaped our community.

In the classroom, my goal extends beyond imparting knowledge; it's about nurturing leaders who are not only academically proficient but also culturally aware, rooted in their history, and equipped with the skills to excel in life. I'm genuinely excited about each new school year as it brings opportunities to meet new students, engage in various activities, and create an environment ripe for enriching learning experiences.

Aaron Courtorielle *Grade 10-12 Teacher*

Tansi, Miss Aaron Courtorielle nitsikason, proudly Nēhiyawak from Grouard, Alberta. I hold a Bachelor's of Education with a minor in Social Studies from the University of Alberta and am currently enrolled in a Master of Integrated Study program at Athabasca University. My journey in education began in 2002 when I had the privilege of working as an intern with Debahjehmujig.

Throughout my teaching career, I've been dedicated to instructing Nēhiyawēwin and Social Studies. Moreover, I've devoted a

significant portion of my career to working with youth, introducing them to various forms of self-expression through art. This experience has enriched my perspective.

My quest for knowledge extends to the study of Natural Medicines, where I'm eager to learn from elders and teachers, understanding the growth and usage of these medicines. My ultimate goal is to become a Doctor one day. I look forward to the journey ahead, where my dedication to education and cultural understanding will continue to shape a brighter future.



"Leadership in teaching junior high school students math, is like guiding them on a journey through the intricate patterns of numbers, where each lesson not only builds mathematical skills, connecting the past and present to shape a brighter future."

HIGH SCHOOL VIRTUAL LEARNING CENTRE



Meriam Valdez *High School Teacher*

Tansi! Miss Meriam Valdez nitsikason and I am thrilled to be joining the Kapawe'no First Nation Virtual Learning Center (FNVLC). You may have noticed from my spelling of centre that I am American, Texas to be exact, but my heart has always belonged to Canada. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit the school and the Kapawe'no First Nation

this summer. It was incredibly beautiful. I have been a teacher for almost 10 years and I've loved every minute of it! I could not be more excited to take part in this project of expanding our learning base and reaching new students far and wide. I look forward to meeting you either in person or in the cloud. Don't be a stranger!

"Teaching leadership to our youth is not just about preparing them for the future; it's about empowering them to shape it."

Crystal Zhang *High School Teacher*

Tansi, Crystal Zhang, nitsikason, and it is an absolute honor to serve as one of the virtual teachers and support staff at our First Nation Virtual Learning Centre. I am thrilled to embark on this incredible learning journey alongside our students. My own journey began in China, and I immigrated to Canada at the age of 12. Currently, I reside in the United States. Beyond the virtual classroom, I am a passionate nature enthusiast, with a profound love for animals.

In my role as one of the virtual teachers here at FNVLC, my mission is clear: to ensure that all our online students have a successful semester. Together, we are set to embark on a year filled with learning, growth, and the exciting embrace of new challenges. These challenges will undoubtedly pave the way for greater achievements in the future!



"Virtual learning opens doors to amazing opportunities, connecting students with knowledge from across the globe. It's a gateway to limitless horizons where the pursuit of education knows no bounds."

Rhonda Willier *Education Assistant*

Nehiyaw nakayaskamohtahitowin, Tansi! Miyo-kisikaw, Muskwa squeo - nitisiyihkason, Sucker Creek ochi kiya, High Prairie iweegeeyan. Ekosi Maga. My name is "Women of the Bears," and I hail from Sucker Creek First Nation while currently residing in High Prairie. I am a direct descendant of Headman Moostoos, who was a signatory of Treaty 8 in 1899. I consider myself a quick learner, open-minded, well-organized, and proficient in both verbal and written communication. I've recently achieved my diploma as an Indigenous Social Worker and am actively pursuing my degree. With over two decades of experience, I've had the privilege of working

with diverse age groups, ranging from children and youth to adults and Elders. I take pride in being a circle keeper, a life skills coach, and a facilitator, finding joy in collaborating with people to develop and deliver workshops and programs.

My background extends to community development, where I've played a role in enhancing cultural ceremonies and traditions within various communities. I also have a history of working in Children Services, assisting families with healing and parenting programs, as well as family violence programming.



"I look forward to the opportunity to contribute my expertise and passion to your Nation and School, fostering a nurturing and empowering educational environment for all."



Rod Sutherland *Bus Driver / Transportation Coordinator*

Tansi, Rod Sutherland, nitsikason, Nēhiyawak from Big Stone Cree Nation, currently residing in Grouard with my life partner, Jasmine Cardinal, and my three children. I've been behind the wheel since I turned 18 and have found great satisfaction in my additional role at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School. In addition to managing the bus runs, I actively engage with our students as a one-on-one Education Assistant and contribute to the

Sports Academy in the afternoons. My time with the team has been immensely fulfilling, and I wholeheartedly support Kapawe'no First Nation's commitment to lifelong learning and the pursuit of excellence in academics and athletics. I'd like to extend my appreciation to our fellow drivers, including Gary Halcrow, Harry Halcrow, and our reliable substitutes, Lyle Halcrow, Ivan McKenzie, and Dirk Tomkins.

KEEPER IN RESIDENCE

Priscilla Sutherland *Elder Knowledge Keeper in Residence*

Tansi! Mrs Priscilla Sutherland nitsikason, known locally as Rudy, and I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our community. With a career spanning 30 years in the school system as an Educational Assistant and 8 years as a teacher/substitute, I have witnessed the transformation of education firsthand. My journey has been accompanied by Herman Sr, my loving husband of 46 years, and our blessings include 4 children and 22 grandchildren. While my professional background

is rooted in education, my heart is devoted to preserving and sharing our Nehiyawewin language and culture. I find great joy in contributing to the development of our dictionary and educational materials, all through the lens of our Nation and school. Today, I have the distinct honor of serving as the Elder Knowledge Keeper in residence at the Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School, where I continue to impart the wisdom of our ancestors to the generations to come.



"In the whispers of the wind and the stories of our ancestors, we find the wisdom to guide us forward. Let our journey be one of connection, where the roots of our culture strengthen the branches of our future."

Kapawé'no Nehiyawak School preserves Culture and Knowledge through Nêhiyawêwin

Kapawé'no First Nation - In the heart of our vibrant Nehiyawak Nation on Turtle Island, proudly stands a beacon of culture and heritage – Kapawé'no Nehiyawak School. More than an institution of learning, it is a sacred place for our Nehiyawak way and Nehiyawewin, a treasure held dear by our entire Nation.

For countless generations, the Nehiyawak have passed down the rich tapestry of the language, stories, and traditions, nurturing a profound connection to the land and the wisdom of our ancestors. This cherished legacy is safeguarded by the dedicated elders, knowledge keepers, and educators of Kapawé'no Nehiyawak School. "Our Cree language, Nehiyawewin, holds a special and place within our school for a multitude of meaningful reasons," articulates the Knowledge Keepers/Elders Council, esteemed pillars of the Kapawé'no First Nation committed to imparting wisdom to the younger generation. Their voices resonate with the weight of history and the warmth of tradition.

The school stands as a living testament to the enduring spirit of the Nêhiyawak. Our walls are adorned with symbols of resilience, courage, and a deep love for Mother Earth. Here, students don't merely glean knowledge from textbooks; they learn from the very earth beneath their feet, the waters that flow through our territory, and the wisdom passed down through generations. Within the hallowed halls of Kapawé'no Nehiyawak School, each day begins with a warm greeting in Nehiyawewin. Students exchange smiles, words, and laughter in their cherished Nêhiyawêwin. It's more than communication; it's a lifeline to their culture, their history, and their identity. Educators understand that language is the key to unlocking a profound understanding of culture. Through storytelling, students embark on a journey to explore the intricate



"Our school is teaching and learning our language while preserving our Nêhiyawak way of life," emphasizes Hereditary Chief Sydney Halcrow. "It's truly remarkable how we elevate Nehiyawewin as a central pillar of our daily learning experience, seamlessly integrating it with English to empower our students' self-discovery. This knowledge, ever-increasing, lights the path for our youth and Nation members."



tapestry of their heritage. Our Knowledge Keepers walk alongside us, sharing life stories, laughter, and their invaluable wisdom. This



intergenerational connection fortifies the sense of Nation that has always beat at the heart of the Nêhiyawak.



FIRST NATION COLLEGIATE



KAPAWÉ'NO NEHIYAWAK SCHOOL K-12

FREE BUSING PROVIDED TO
FIRST NATION COLLEGIATE CAMPUS



BUFFALO BAY ACADEMY



ARTS | MUSIC
SPORTS | LAW



*Preparing the students of today
to meet the challenges of tomorrow!*

www.kfnlearning.com



FIRST NATION VIRTUAL LEARNING CENTRE



FIRST NATION COLLEGE

COURSES
MADE AVAILABLE
FALL OF 2023



BUSING, MEALS,
SCHOOL & SPORTS
SUPPLIES
PROVIDED

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT KFN SCHOOL:

Email: admin@kfnschool.ca | Phone: (780) 751-0008

