



# AHCAHK MUSKWA

SPIRIT BEAR

KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION COLLEGIATE

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025 ISSUE

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Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate

Phone: 780.751.0008 | E-mail: [admin@kfncollegiate.ca](mailto:admin@kfncollegiate.ca)



## Highlights from Professional Development with Staff: Inspiration from former Olympian Brian Thomas

Kapawe'no First Nation - On day two, Mr. Brian Thomas, a former Olympian and our current Athletic Director, discussed the core mission of our Sports Academy and attracting more students; balancing academics and athletics. He stressed that our goal is to help student-athletes pursue their dreams through both learning and athletic development.

He highlighted how sports like pimotatowin (archery) help students develop focus and control while improving endurance and coordination. Pakamatohekewin (boxing) serves as an outlet for energy, teaching discipline, focus, and respect.

*more on page 3*

### Professional Development: Learning and Laughter at KFN Collegiate

Kapawe'no First Nation - On the third day of our professional development week, KFN Collegiate staff kicked off with a smudge and honor song led by our pimachimowin team. Principal of Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School, Mr. Jorden Thiessen, reflected on the previous day's activities and reviewed the agenda for the rest of the week.

A session that continues to bring out stories, sharing and staff feeling good about having a voice at KFN Collegiate.

*more on page 3*



*A sharing circle led by Superintendent Mr. Boh Kubrakovich-Kiniw helped set the tone for the morning.*



## KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION HEALTH CENTRE

Phone: 780-751-2284

Email: [health@kapaweno.ca](mailto:health@kapaweno.ca)

Portfolio Councillor Pam Halcrow

Marcella Schnurr, Health Manager





## WHO WE ARE

Under the Kapawe'no First Nation Lifelong Learning, the Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate comprises four pillar schools, is accredited both in western studies and Nêhiyawak Pimachihowin (way of life). Our programs specialize in Nêhiyawewin (Cree Language) Isihcikewin (to know for yourself) arts, sciences, music, sports and Nêhiyawak studies. With state-of-the-art technology, we build upon the technological advances of Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School (K-6), Buffalo Bay Academy (7-12), First Nation Virtual Learning Centre (FNVLC) and Kapawe'no Kaskitayanih (Ka Skih Tah Ya Nih) (Outreach/Adult Learning).

## LOCATION

Nestled within the ancestral lands of the Kapawe'no First Nation, the First Nation Collegiate stands alongside Buffalo Bay connecting the waters of the Lesser Slave Lake 29 km away from High Prairie and along side the Hamlet of Grouard.

## KNOWLEDGE EVER INCREASING

Mission: To enrich learning rooted in Knowledge Ever Increasing blending ancestral Iyiniisiwin with academics.

Vision: Fostering a learning environment with ancestral Iyiniisiwin and contemporary knowledge to face and shape tomorrow's challenges.

## LIFE LONG LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

"Knowledge Ever Increasing" philosophy embodies the harmonious blend of Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak Pimachihowin and modern pedagogy.

We extend by incorporating our 7 Sacred Grandmother / Grandfather teachings, Elders Knowledge Council involvement and use Lateral Kindness with enriching the academic environment with collaborative and wisdom-based learning.

Our 7 Sacred Grandmother / Grandfather teachings are; Sakihitowin (Love), Manacihitowin (respect), Sohkitewin (Courage), Kwayaskitawin (Honesty), Iyiniisiwin (Wisdom) Tapahteyimisowin (Humility) and Tapwewin (Truth)

## INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM ELEMENTS

Iyiniisiwin Circles: Interactive dialogue sessions where students, educators, and Elders share knowledge.  
Nehiyawak Exchange Program: An extension of cultural, athletics and Pimachihowin exchange initiative, now at the collegiate level.

## UNIQUE FEATURES

Interdisciplinary Programs: Melding traditional knowledge and modern subjects for a well-rounded education.

Research Opportunities: Working in sync with our schools, we offer research initiatives that allow students to delve into their ancestral knowledge.

Partnerships: Leveraging relations with local businesses and organizations for internships and job placements.

## GOVERNANCE

Functioning under the Kapawe'no First Nation's Hereditary Chief Sydney L Halcrow and Lifetime Councillor Debbie Chalifoux and Councillor Pam Halcrow, we share governance principles under Lifelong Learning in the Nation, ensuring alignment and maintaining our own distinctive role in higher learning.

## FLEXIBLE LEARNING

Building upon the four-day school week implemented at our schools, the curriculum includes interactive virtual sessions, enabling students to pursue independent research projects or participate in local support services.

## CURRICULUM

Fully accredited, our courses meet the academic standards for higher education, while our unique Nêhiyawak / Indigenous studies program complements the curricula offered.



## SCHOOLS

We have four pillar schools under our First Nation Collegiate which are:

### THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS ARE:

- Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School - K-6 (KNS)
- Buffalo Bay Academy - 7-12 (Sakamoostos Wasaw)
- First Nation Virtual Learning Centre (FNVLC) (Kaskapatew Pekiskwewin)
- Innovative Learning for Diverse Student Needs (Kapawe'no Kaskitayanih)

## ADMISSIONS

Admission processes are holistic, considering applicants' academic and cultural contributions. They are also in line with the open and inclusive admissions policy at Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate.



## CALL US TODAY

**(780) 751-0008**

E-mail: [admin@kfnccollegiate.ca](mailto:admin@kfnccollegiate.ca)  
Website: [www.kfnccollegiate.ca](http://www.kfnccollegiate.ca)

Alberta Education School Number S.2351





## ***Professional Development: Learning and Laughter at KFN Collegiate*** from page 1

Following the sharing circle, the team engaged in a workshop and breakout session focused on policy development, reviewing current draft policies at KFN Collegiate to ensure alignment with our mission, vision and core values;

**Mission Statement** - To enrich learning rooted in Knowledge Ever Increasing blending ancestral Iyiniisiwin with academics.

**Vision Statement** - Fostering a learning environment with ancestral Iyiniisiwin and contemporary knowledge to face and shape tomorrow's challenges.



## ***Highlights from Professional Development with Staff...*** from page 1

Miskwami Mitawiwin (hockey) Canada's national sport, engages students in teamwork, health, and confidence through weekly sessions supported by donated equipment. Metawewin (lacrosse) combines traditional practices with modern gameplay, encouraging students to set goals and enhance their skills. And the many other sports we have such as basketball, volleyball, soccer and baseball.

Mr. Thomas also mentioned the team supporting this mission, including Mr. Sandy Laughlin, who focuses on dryland training and goal setting, and Mr Sergiy Ivanyuk, who manage hockey development and program logistics. Mr Rod Sutherland has been multitasking efforts that have contributed to the Academy's success.



Additionally, initiatives like the anti-bullying policy, the student-athlete program, and intramural play during lunch hours play vital roles in fostering a positive environment.

Mr. Thomas emphasized that achieving a balance between academics and athletics prepares students to excel in sports while pursuing their educational aspirations and dreams.



**KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION WELLNESS CENTRE**  
**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Phone 780-751-3085 | Email: Kara.supernault@kapaweno.ca | Kara Supernault, Coordinator





## Teachers Enhance through Nêhiyawêwin Circle for Student Learning

Kapawe'no First Nation - Teachers at Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School and Buffalo Bay Academy are taking proactive steps to further integrate nêhiyawêwin into their teaching practices. During lunch, they dedicate time to learn on their own, focusing on strategies to enhance the language experience for their students. This ongoing professional development reflects their commitment to nêhiyawak pimachimowin.

The KFN Collegiate schools have been participating in Nêhiyawêwin Isihcikewin (Online) and classroom learning from Ms. Linda Gladue for three years now. Recently, the teachers have added to their learning by joining the Nêhiyawêwin Circle hosted by our Superintendent with Ms. Gladue, Mrs. Charlene Noskey and Mr. Gladly Anderson, where they learn to incorporate nêhiyawêwin into the four core subjects throughout the school day.



This initiative aligns with the mission and vision outlined in "The Renewed Heartbeat of Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak". The roadmap

emphasizes the need to reclaim and revitalize nêhiyawêwin, ensuring it remains a solid part of the nation.

# JOIN THE MUSKWAK HOCKEY PROGRAM TODAY!

## ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS A WINNING BALANCE

More information and to register go to [www.kfncollegiate.ca](http://www.kfncollegiate.ca)



## Sakihitowin: A Week of Love, Learning, and Crafting in Kindergarten at Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School

Kapawe'no First Nation - The Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School kindergarten class had a busy week learning about the greatest grandfather teaching of all "Sakihitowin / Love". We read "Johnny Eagle and the Seven Teachings." Perfect lesson for every day but especially Valentine's week. We have been busy making gifts for our loving parents and some really cool crafts.

We sewed ourselves our very own stuffed heart teddy using a very big kid friendly needle with the help and guidance from Ms.Erin. Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day from Kindergarten



## Sandy Laughlin's Journey: From Horticulture to helping others

Kapawe'no First Nation - Alexander (Sandy) Laughlin is the youngest of four sons born to Dr. Robin and Vivian Laughlin, who moved to Canada from Scotland in 1975. Raised in High Prairie, Alberta, he continues to live on the farm purchased from his parents in 2008. Sandy graduated from E.W. Pratt High School in 1998. He holds a certificate in Ornamental Horticulture from Olds College, earned in 2004, and attained his Red Seal in Plumbing and Gas Fitting in 2009.

In 2022, Sandy changed his career direction by graduating from the Addictions and Mental Health Counselling Diploma Program at Northern Lakes College, driven by a commitment to assist those facing addiction challenges. He is also a proud father of two daughters, Keira, 18, and Gracie, 19, who



both live in High Prairie.

Sandy is heavily involved in his community, volunteering for youth sports, pond hockey, and high school football. He coaches Junior and Senior hockey teams and provides security for local public events. Additionally, he mentors individuals focused on personal development and physical fitness, evidencing his commitment to community support.

Recently, Sandy accepted the role of Head Fitness Trainer / Mentor / Sport Leadership at Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate/ Buffalo Day Academy, an opportunity he appreciates. He looks forward to collaborating with staff and parents to enhance the educational experiences of students.



**KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION LIFELONG LEARNING  
CITIZEN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Tel: (780) 751-3800 | Email: [Carla.Halcrow@kapaweno.ca](mailto:Carla.Halcrow@kapaweno.ca) | Portfolio Councillor Debbie Chalifoux - Carla Halcrow, Manager





# NEHIYAWEWIN *Sacred* TEACHINGS LAWS



## ◀ SAKIHITOWIN

Kihew tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw sakihitowin kisnawmakonow tanisi ta isi miyo pimachiyah, tanihsoh kamakoyah kihmamtonikanaw ekwa miyo otinikewin ekwa sakihitowin

(Love) - Eagle carries and gives us the gift of love, teaches us how to make a good life, to help us think good and to show others respect and love.

## ◀ MANACIHITOWIN ▶

Sakawmostos tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw manachitowin tamanaohiyakwaw ki totimnawahk kispin kintawitin ekosi ti sih kanawapimkawiwin maka kispin ki miyininan ka miytotahson ekwa ka maytotin kitaskiy

Respect - Buffalo carries and gives us the gift of respect, to respect others so that they see you respect them. If you do harm and only do good for yourself, you harm yourself and our land.



## ◀ SOHKITEHEWIN

Muskwa tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw sohkithehewin kimikonow tanisi ti sih nipowistamahk oma kikwiw ka kostamahk

Courage - Bear carries and gives us the gift of courage, shows us how to stand up in the face of fear and be brave.

## ◀ KWAYASKITATSOWIN ▶

Mistapew tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw kwayaskitatsowin - ki kisnaw mako sinaw tanisi ti sih nisoka mahsoyah kwasyask ti sah yah yahk ekwa kayas okih kitotimnawahk kapisih pimachitowaw

Honesty - Sasquatch carries and gives us the gift of honesty, teaches us how to stand up respectfully and be considerate. It also teaches us how well our ancestors lived and survived.



## ◀ IYINISIWIN

Amisk tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw Iyinihiwin - kisnawmakosinaw oma katotamahk kikwiw kiksikinaw manachitowin ekwa niso kamahotowin ihm i ya sihkikha ta miywiciwat kichi ayisiniw

Wisdom - Beaver carries and gives us the gift of wisdom, teaches us the way we understand how to love and helps us learn how we relate to others.

## ◀ TAPAHTHEYIMISOWIN ▶

Mahikan tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw tapahtheyimisowin ispayo ka miyo totawat ayisiniw kwayask ki pimatisinaw kakiyaw

Humility - Wolf carries and gives us the gift of humility, it goes to show us to treat others well and to live good with everyone.



## ◀ TAPWEWIN

Miskinahk tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw tapwewin ispayo maka tah kam atoskatamihk pohko tapwewin piyahitk ipihpihk maka ki miyo wahpah thikosinaw kikwiw kawi ispahyihk pahpiyahitk

Truth - Turtle carries and gives us the gift of truth, it takes work and patience to gain truth but the truth lives only if we let things happen slowly.





# The Renewed Heartbeat of Kapawe'no Nehiyawak

The Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak Nation stands at a unique crossroads in history. The legacies of Canada's colonial past and the influence of churches have strained the deep connection between our proud Nehiyawak Nation, the askiy (land), wiyasiwiwinah (laws) and pikskwewin nēhiyawēwin (to speak our language).

Our future is where Nēhiyawēwin is spoken, understood, and cherished by all nēhiyawak and those connected to our Nation and schools. We envision a self-sustaining cycle of Nēhiyawēwin and Nēhiyawak way of life, where the young are the carriers of both ancestral wisdom and contemporary adaptations.



**Mission:** Our mission is nēhiyawēwin revitalization, empowering ourselves with its richness, healing, and reconnecting with our ancestors and land.

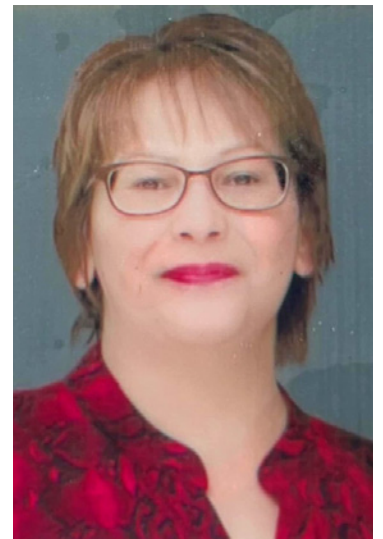
**Vision:** To speak nēhiyawēwin with pride, making it the heartbeat of Kapawe'no nehniyawak culture, deepening our connection to land and pimachimowin.



## Charlene Noskey Enhances Learning and Nēhiyawēwin at Buffalo Bay Academy

Kapawe'no First Nation - Buffalo Bay Academy is thrilled to welcome Mrs Charlene Noskey, a passionate educator and fluent nēhiyawēwin speaker from Loon River First Nation. Since graduating from the University of Alberta in 2016, Mrs Noskey has dedicated her career to working with children, ensuring they not only receive a quality learning experience but also connect with their cultural roots.

Her unique approach incorporates nēhiyawēwin and pimachimowin teachings into the curriculum, fostering a rich learning environment that embraces both academic and cultural growth. Mrs Noskey's commitment to engaging students and involving the nation is evident as she actively collaborates with fellow educators and parents. By promoting inclusivity and pride in pimachimowin, she aims to empower her students and inspire them to pursue their dreams. Buffalo Bay Academy is excited to support Mrs Noskey initiatives, which are set to make a lasting impact on the students' learning journeys and strengthen their ties to nehniyawak pimachimowin.



**KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION WELLNESS CENTRE  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Email: [Jarett.Knibb@kapaweno.ca](mailto:Jarett.Knibb@kapaweno.ca) | Jarett Knibb, Manager





# KAPAWE'NO NEHIYAWAK SCHOOL

Alberta Education School Number S.2351

We proudly lead the Nehiyawak (Cree) Nation and Canada in providing unparalleled in person and Virtual School experiences for Indigenous students in real-time as a Grade K-6 accredited school.

Our approach, a fusion of tangible tradition and the Cloud's ethereal possibilities, offers qualitative experiences unmatched in Turtle Island (Canada). At the forefront of curriculum and instructional design, we take immense pride in our academically rigorous program, deeply infused with Indigenous Ways of Knowing, encompassing Language, Traditions, Culture, Practices, Values, and Morals.

***"In the heart of tradition, we find innovation; in the cloud's boundless potential, we discover a new path to knowledge."***

In addition to our virtual classroom streaming options, we serve as a lighthouse for in-person learning. Our contemporary school, spanning Grade K-6, is nestled in the Hamlet of Grouard, Alberta, adjacent to the Sovereign Nation of Kapawe'no First Nation.

***"Our physical and virtual doors stand open, ready to guide the journey of every student seeking knowledge."***

## Knowledge Ever Increasing

**Mission:** To enrich learning rooted in Knowledge Ever Increasing blending ancestral wisdom with academics.

**Vision:** Fostering a learning environment with ancestral wisdom and contemporary knowledge to face and shape tomorrow's challenges.

**For more about us click on each:**

- Location
- Governance
- Nêhiyawak way of life
- Life Long Learning

***"We embrace our ancestral wisdom, we find the strength to uphold the Sovereign and Inherent Rights of our Nehiyawak Nation."***



## Location

Our school finds its home 3.5 hours north of Edmonton and 2.5 hours east of Grande Prairie, accessible via a paved highway on the northwest shore of Slave Lake, known as Buffalo Bay. The towns of High Prairie and Slave Lake lie in close proximity.

## Governance within our Nation

With unwavering support from Hereditary Chief Sydney Lee Halcrow and lifetime Councillor Debbie Chalifoux and Councillor Pamela Halcrow, we operate in alignment with our Nation's Governance Codes and the Sovereign and Inherent Rights of Nehiyawak people.

## Nehiyawak Pimachihowin (Way of Life)

A distinctive feature of our institution is the integration of LAWf (Land, Air, Water and Fire) teachings into our instructional programs and



education processes. Nehiyawak teachings hold equal importance alongside Alberta Education coursework, guiding our students on a path of identity discovery and a balanced approach to indigenous and non-indigenous ways of knowing.

Our Nehiyawewin immersion program lays the foundation for the revitalization of our language within our school, Nation, and territory. Our cultural and land-based programs immerse students in the Nehiyawak way of life and ways of knowing. Furthermore, we offer a top-notch Quality Daily Physical Education Program, running in conjunction with our Sports Academy and Indigenous Fine Arts Academy, tailored for students. We firmly believe in achieving academic excellence in harmony with athletic pursuits as a vital aspect of lifelong learning.

***"In the rhythm of our cultural heartbeat, we find excellence both in mind and body."***

## Life Long Learning

Our school adheres to Alberta Education's guidelines for instructional hours, ensuring a minimum of 950 hours for elementary and junior high student instruction and 1000 hours of instruction for high school. Our flexible school timetable allows for a four-day school week during the winter months (November to April), providing our students with extended weekends to explore, participate in activities, engage in cultural practices, and build upon traditions.

***"Learning knows no bounds; it spans generations, seasons, and beyond."***

As a federally funded, Alberta and EKC Accredited, First Nation-owned and operated school, we prioritize the well-being of our

*more on page 15*



# Professional Development at KFN Collegiate

Kapawe'no First Nation - Professional development is a cornerstone of our mission at KFN Collegiate, as we strive to enhance the learning experience of our students through the growth and well-being of our staff. During the week, we focus on equipping our educators and staff with the latest tools, resources, and strategies to foster a dynamic learning environment.

Our journey begins with engaging sessions on innovative practices, policies, difficult decisions, curriculum development, effective classroom management, nehiyawewin, pimachimowin and enhancing student athlete program. By investing in our staff's professional growth, we not only cultivate their skills but also empower them to inspire and support our students in achieving their fullest potential.



## DAY ONE: POWER SCHOOL INITIATION AT OUR SCHOOLS

Our dedicated staff engaged in PowerSchool training, an essential platform for improving communication and streamlining various tasks. We are all excited about the opportunities this new system brings, paving the way for more efficient operations and enhanced collaboration. Together, we're focused on continuous improvement, ensuring that we can provide the highest quality of education and care for our students.

## DAY ONE: TEAM BUILDING AND PERSONALITY TESTING

Another session on day one the staff enjoyed engaging in personality testing activities. This collaborative experience is designed to strengthen our team dynamics and enhance our ability to work together effectively. By understanding each other's unique personalities and communication styles, we can foster a more supportive and cohesive work environment.





# SAKAMOOSTOS WASAW

## BUFFALO BAY ACADEMY

### Who We Are

Sakamoostos Wasaw (Buffalo Bay Academy), is a Grade 7-12 school that is part of the Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate. We offer technology-enhanced classrooms to support both traditional and new methods of teaching, offering students a unique blend of Nêhiyawak Pimachimowin. This blend incorporates academics with Arts, Music, Sports, and LAW teachings through full accreditation by Alberta and our Elder Knowledge Keepers.

We have two streams in our academy and they are our Grades 7-9 Junior High and 10-12 High School.

### Knowledge Ever Increasing

**Mission:** To enrich learning rooted in Knowledge Ever Increasing blending ancestral wisdom with academics and athletics.

**Vision:** Fostering a learning environment with ancestral wisdom and contemporary knowledge to face and shape tomorrow's challenges.

### Unique Features

**Customized Curriculum:** Now featuring blended online and in the classroom courses to enable personalized pacing and greater subject exploration.



**Cultural Affinity:** Expanded to include new programs in indigenous botany, astronomy, and seasonal rites and ceremonies.

### Governance

Under the Kapawe'no First Nation's Governance Codes, our expanded learning environment allows for a more diversified student body while maintaining our autonomy. This enables us to serve more effectively, falling under the Lifelong Learning framework of the Nation.

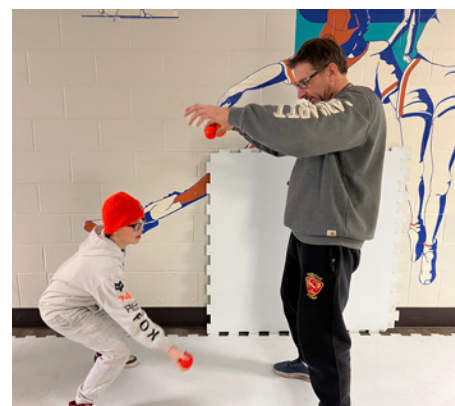
### Learning Philosophy

"Where tradition fuels the future, we create a distinct path to wisdom and growth." This philosophy is backed by the latest research in cognitive science and learning psychology, leading to ever-increasing knowledge and understanding.

### Location

At Kapawe'no First Nation our Buffalo Bay Academy is Grades 7-12 school, situated in the proximity of Kapawe'no First Nation within its ancestral lands along the sacred shores of Buffalo Bay, in Grouard.

Here, the land itself serves as a classroom, connecting our students to their ancestral roots.





## Flexible Learning

The school week from September to June is enriched by virtual extensions, engaging students in additional cultural and educational activities. Weekends are dedicated to fun, wellness, and athletics during the sporting periods.

## Curriculum at Buffalo Bay Academy

Buffalo Bay Academy is fully accredited by Alberta Education and follows the global standards for instructional time. We offer a minimum of 950 instructional hours for Grades 7-9 and 1,000 hours for Grades 10-12, consistent with Alberta Education standards and Kapawe'no First Nation governance requirements. To enrich these hours, we've incorporated flexible, additional online modules that can be accessed during extended weekends or evenings.

This maintains our alignment with the rigorous learning standards while offering our unique blend of traditional and innovative learning experiences.



## Innovative Curriculum Elements

**Balance with Technology to Enhance Learning:** Education in person or online that finds the balance between meaningful person to person interactions and using technology to improve communication and enhance learning.

**Traditional Knowledge Keepers:** In addition to in-person teachings, there are also live-streamed sessions where Elders and experts provide real-time learning experiences.

**Four Distinct Pillar Academies:** Arts, Music, Sports, and LAW academies offer certification courses and internship opportunities to students, fully integrating these pillars into daily learning.

## Contact Us

Our website at [www.kfncollegiate.ca](http://www.kfncollegiate.ca) offers virtual tours, webinars and news. Visit our expanded social media presence on Facebook at Buffalo Bay Academy for more enriching content.



Scan the code to learn more about Buffalo Bay Academy



email: [admin@kfncollegiate.ca](mailto:admin@kfncollegiate.ca)  
phone: (780) 751-0008



# KASKAPATEW PEKISKWEWIN "SMOKE SIGNALS"

## FIRST NATION VIRTUAL LEARNING CENTRE (FNVLC)

"Empowering First Nation Students through Innovative Virtual Education"

### Join Us in this New Era of Learning

Welcome to a new era of learning, where the possibilities are as boundless as the sky. We invite you to be a part of this transformative learning journey at the Kaskapatew Pekiskwewin "Smoke Signals". Join us in shaping the future of learning for First Nation students and beyond, where learning knows no bounds, and Nêhiyawak Pimachihowin is celebrated at every turn.

### Our Journey

Since its establishment on April 1st, 2021, the First Nation Virtual Learning Centre (FNVLC) has embarked on a pioneering journey that seeks to define lifelong learning on Turtle Island for students in Grades 4-12.

### Mission-Vision

#### Mission:

To enrich learning rooted in Lifelong Learning blending ancestral wisdom with academics.

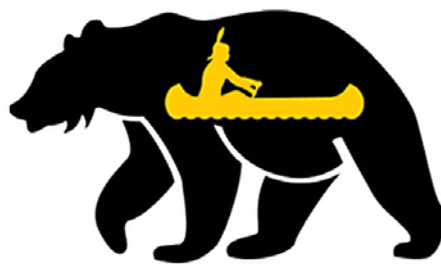
#### Vision:

Fostering a learning environment with ancestral wisdom and contemporary knowledge to face and shape tomorrow's challenges.

### The Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles for the First Nation Virtual Learning Centre (FNVLC) are foundational beliefs and values that shape its mission, vision, and approach to lifelong learning. Our guiding principles include:

**Cultural Respect and Preservation:** To honor and respect our ancestral cultures, traditions, and languages, and to work towards their preservation



and revitalization;

**Inclusivity and Equity:** To provide equitable access to quality learning for all First Nation students, regardless of their location, background, or circumstances;

**Nation Engagement:** To actively involve and engage with the local Nations and Indigenous communities, Elders, and knowledge keepers to ensure the curriculum and approach are culturally relevant and meaningful;

**Holistic Learning:** To offer a well-rounded learning that includes cultural teachings, traditional knowledge, and values alongside academic subjects.

**Innovation and Adaptation:** To be open to innovative approaches in education and adapt to the changing needs of students while preserving cultural integrity;

**Empowerment:** To empower students to become leaders, thinkers, and contributors to their nations and the broader society;

**Sustainability:** To ensure the sustainability of Indigenous cultures and languages by incorporating them into the educational experience.

### A Unique Approach

The First Nation Virtual Learning Centre (FNVLC) offers a unique approach to learning by seamlessly integrating traditional educational principles with digital technology, creating a comprehensive and transformative learning experience. This approach emphasizes the synergy between the tangible and virtual realms, blending Nêhiyawak (Cree) Pimachihowin (way of life) with modern learning practices. It goes beyond mere academics, immersing students in Indigenous culture and wisdom, fostering a deep understanding of their heritage, and preparing them to thrive in a

## Our journey is driven by the following:

### A Commitment to Innovation in Online Learning

At FNVLC, we are pioneering a revolutionary shift in online education. We firmly believe that learning should be accessible anytime, anywhere, and our commitment to harnessing the full potential of digital technology reflects this belief. By seamlessly integrating traditional learning principles with the dynamic capabilities of online learning platforms, we have crafted an educational experience that transcends conventional

boundaries. It's not just about delivering content virtually; it's about infusing every aspect of the learning journey with the richness of Nêhiyawak Pimachihowin, creating a transformative experience for our students.

### An Innovative Approach

Our approach is a testament to innovation. We are dedicated to pushing the boundaries of what's possible in education. From curriculum development to instructional design, we are constantly evolving to meet the dynamic needs

of our students. We understand that each student is unique, and our commitment to personalized learning ensures that every individual can thrive in their way.

### Empowering Through Education

We firmly believe that every student, regardless of their background, deserves the very best education. Our commitment to excellence is unwavering. Our educators and staff are not just mentors; they are dedicated champions of student success. They work tirelessly to create a nurturing environment



rapidly changing global landscape. The FNVLC's philosophy ensures that students become knowledgeable, culturally aware individuals ready to face future challenges.

### Unbounded Possibilities

The future of learning is boundless, and the First Nation Virtual Learning Centre (FNVLC) is poised to embrace it fully. Venturing into uncharted territories, FNVLC is expanding its virtual content to include a wide range of subjects, interactive virtual field trips, engaging digitized learning experiences, and personalized learning paths tailored to our approach, a fusion of tangible tradition and the Cloud's ethereal possibilities, offers qualitative experiences unmatched in Turtle Island (Canada). At the forefront of curriculum and instructional design, we take immense pride in our academically rigorous program, deeply infused with Indigenous Ways of Knowing, encompassing Language, Traditions, Culture, Practices, Values, and Morals.

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### Governance within our Nation

With unwavering support from Hereditary Chief Sydney Lee Halcrow and Lifetime Councillor Debbie Chalifoux and Councillor Pamela Halcrow, we operate in alignment with our Nation's Governance Codes and the Sovereign and Inherent Rights of Nehiyawak people.



### Nehiyawak Pimachihowin (Way of Life)

A distinctive feature of our institution is the integration of LAWF (Land, Air, Water and Fire) teachings into our instructional programs and education processes. Nehiyawak teachings hold equal importance alongside Alberta Education coursework, guiding our students on a path of identity discovery and a balanced approach to indigenous and non-indigenous ways of knowing.

Our Nehiyawewin immersion program lays the foundation for the revitalization of our language within our school, Nation, and territory. Our cultural and land-based programs immerse students in the Nehiyawak way of life and ways of knowing. Furthermore, we offer a top-notch Quality Daily Physical Education Program, running in conjunction with our Sports Academy and Indigenous Fine Arts Academy, tailored for students. We firmly believe in achieving academic excellence in harmony with athletic pursuits as a vital aspect of lifelong learning.

***more on page 17***

that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and cultural enrichment.

### Inclusivity Beyond Borders

As we look to the future, our commitment to virtual education remains steadfast. Through our reliable learning 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 learning is not limited by location or circumstance. Our focus is to extend educational opportunities to all corners of our vast and diverse Turtle Island.

### Venturing into the Future

The future of education is boundless, and at FNVLC, we are poised to embrace it fully. We're venturing into uncharted territories, expanding our virtual content to encompass a wide range of subjects. Our focus includes interactive virtual field trips that transport students to far-flung places, digitized learning experiences that make education engaging and fun, and personalized learning paths that cater to individual needs and aspirations. The possibilities are limitless, and we're determined to explore them all.

### Join Us in the Journey

Welcome to a new era of learning, where the possibilities are as boundless as the sky. We invite you to join us on this transformative journey of discovery, learning, and cultural celebration. Together, we can define lifelong learning and empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and visionaries.

***"Lifelong Learning  
for First Nation Students  
and Beyond"***



# Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate Specialized Academies moving forward

Kapawe'no First Nation - At KFN Collegiate, we continue to forward with our specialized academies. Comprising four pillar academies – Arts, Music, Sports, and LAWF (Land, Air, Water, Fire) – Buffalo Bay Academy embodies our vision of nurturing holistic learning, allowing our students to thrive as nêhiyawak individuals.

**Our Vision and Mission:** We are committed to enriching lives through holistic learning and empowering nêhiyawak for lifelong success, providing our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in all aspects of life. Our academies foster creativity, physical wellness, and environmental stewardship while celebrating and embracing cultural heritage.

We envision academies under our KFN Collegiate schools (Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School and Buffalo Bay Academy) as a focus of holistic learning, where the boundless potential of each student is ignited through a balanced blend of arts, music, sports, and LAWF interactions. Our goal is to provide a well-rounded learning that transcends the conventional boundaries of academics, fostering balance in the lives of our students as they embrace their identity as nêhiyawak.

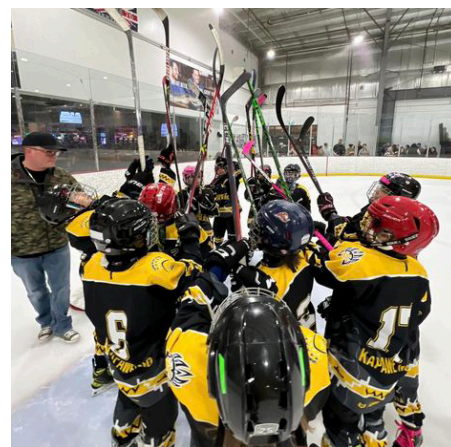
Our Specialized Academy's mission is that we are committed to joint empowerment of our students for lifelong success by offering a comprehensive curriculum enriched with the wisdom of our Nêhiyawak pimacihowin. Our



carry forward the rich cultural balance of the nêhiyawak. Our commitment to holistic learning extends beyond the classroom, preparing our students for a fulfilling and balanced life enriched by arts, music, sports, and a deep connection to the land.

dedicated teachers and instructors serve as mentors, guiding students on their journey towards advanced learning. We believe that the fusion of traditional values with modern knowledge equips our students with the tools they need to excel academically, culturally, and personally.

Through our academies, we aspire to cultivate well-rounded individuals who not only achieve academic excellence but also



## KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION CONSULTATION

Phone: 780-751-3714

Cellphone: 780-523-6366

Email: [kfnconsultation@gamil.com](mailto:kfnconsultation@gamil.com)

Michelle Knibb, ICRCC Manager and KFN Liaison





**KAPAWE'NO NEHIYAWAK SCHOOL...** *from page 8*

students, parents, and employees, recognizing them as our most valuable assets within the Kapawe'no First Nation School Authority.

Our multi-talented staff, including Pow Wow Dancers, Olympians, Qualified coaches, Varsity Team Players, musicians, actors, and more, actively participate in the Alberta Junior and Senior high school Athletic Association, Alberta Native Sports programs, Band Concerts, Pow Wows, Drama Productions, and beyond. We have gained recognition as a school where talent thrives, and knowledge continually expands. Our staff are deeply engaged in coaching, mentoring, training, and supporting the activities of our Sports Academy and Fine Arts/Music Academy teams.

*"In the mosaic of talents, we cultivate a vibrant tapestry of achievement and creativity."*



Starting every November, we are among the select few schools in Alberta to implement a four-day work week, continuing until after Spring Break in April. Our school delivery

model embodies the Seven Grandfather and Grandmother Teachings of Love, Respect, Humility, Wisdom, Obedience, Truth, and Honesty.

Each day we embark on a new day of learning, guided by the belief that learning commences nine months before birth and endures until nine months after one "crosses" the river to the other side.

*"Our journey is guided by timeless teachings, and our destination is knowledge."*

**Online about us**

Check out our website at [www.kfncollegiate.ca](http://www.kfncollegiate.ca) and for more information, and also you can check out our Facebook site for Kapawe'no First Nation School: [Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate](#)





## BBA STUDENT COUNCIL FUNDRAISER CAFE



<p>CHICKEN FINGERS \$8.00</p> <p>BUFFALO FINGERS \$8.00</p> <p>RIBS \$8.00</p> <p>HOT WINGS \$8.00</p> <p>FRIES SM-\$5.00, LG-\$7.00</p> <p>GRAVY \$0.75</p> <p>SM POUTINE \$6.00</p>	<p>LG POUTINE \$8.00</p> <p>ONION RINGS \$8.00</p> <p>CHIPS \$1.00</p> <p>WATER \$1.50</p> <p>POP \$1.50</p> <p>JUICE \$1.00</p>
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## Are you looking for another way to finish school?

**We have Kapawe'no Kaskihtayanih:  
Innovative Learning for  
Diverse Student Needs**

Kapawe'no First Nation through the KFN Collegiate has launched the Kapawe'no Kaskihtayanih, formerly known as Outreach/Adult Learning, aimed at providing flexible educational options for students in grades 7-12. With the Alberta Education School number S.2351, the program caters to students seeking alternatives to traditional classroom settings. The program features two distinct learning streams: in-person (April 2025) and virtual independent learning, ensuring that educational pathways align with individual needs and circumstances.

The in-person stream (April 2025) will invite students to attend classes on-site, where they can work on assignments with direct teacher support. Conversely, the virtual independent learning stream offers greater freedom, allowing students to study and complete coursework online at their own pace, with assistance from educators available on specified days. This blend of learning formats ensures that students who face challenges such as attendance issues, coping difficulties, or learning obstacles can find a supportive environment to succeed.

The Kaskihtayanih program also provides tailored high school courses through three streams: Academic, Practical, and Knowledge and Employability, along with a variety of electives. The Academic stream is specifically designed for students aiming for higher education, offering a challenging curriculum focused on critical thinking and advanced



skills. By addressing the unique needs of junior high and high school students, Kapawe'no Kaskihtayanih is committed to fostering an inclusive and enriching educational experience that empowers students to achieve their academic and career goals.



Email us today at:  
[admin@kfnlearning.ca](mailto:admin@kfnlearning.ca)

Register today at:  
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"When I can."



KAPAWE'NO KASKIHTAYANIH:  
**INNOVATIVE  
LEARNING  
FOR DIVERSE  
STUDENT NEEDS**



[www.kfncollegiate.ca/outreach](https://www.kfncollegiate.ca/outreach)



# Kindergarten and Grade 1 Students Engage in Learning Through Nehiyawak Circles

Kapawe'no First Nation - Students from Kindergarten and Grade 1 are actively using centres and Nehiyawak circles as part of their learning experience with Ms. Thunder. The centres serve as designated areas where students have engaged in various activities, including reading, math, and art. This approach fosters collaboration and hands-on engagement among the students.

The Nehiyawak circles allow students to explore nēhiyawēwin and nehiyawak pimachimowin through interactive activities and group discussions which as been amazing. Ms. Thunder encourages participation and creativity, helping the young learners connect with their culture and each other in meaningful



ways. By integrating centres and Nehiyawak circles, students benefit from diverse, hands-

on experiences and collaborative learning opportunities.

## KASKAPATEW PEKISKWEWIN "SMOKE SIGNALS" from page 12

*"In the rhythm of our cultural heartbeat, we find excellence both in mind and body."*

### Life Long Learning

Our school adheres to Alberta Education's guidelines for instructional hours, ensuring a minimum of 950 hours for elementary and junior high student instruction and 1000 hours of instruction for high school. Our flexible school timetable allows for a four-day school week during the winter months (November to April), providing our students with extended weekends to explore, participate in activities, engage in cultural practices, and build upon traditions.

*"Learning knows no bounds; it spans generations, seasons, and beyond."*

As a federally funded, Alberta and EKC Accredited,

First Nation-owned and operated school, we prioritize the well-being of our students, parents, and employees, recognizing them as our most valuable assets within the Kapawe'no First Nation School Authority.

Our multi-talented staff, including Pow Wow Dancers, Olympians, Qualified coaches, Varsity Team Players, musicians, actors, and more, actively participate in the Alberta Junior and Senior high school Athletic Association, Alberta Native Sports programs, Band Concerts, Pow Wows, Drama Productions, and beyond. We have gained recognition as a school where talent thrives, and knowledge continually expands. Our staff are deeply engaged in coaching, mentoring, training, and supporting the activities of our Sports Academy and Fine Arts/Music Academy teams.

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*"Our journey is guided by timeless teachings, and our destination is knowledge."*

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# Pink Shirt Day at Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School: Promoting Kindness and Anti-Bullying

Kapawe'no First Nation – On Pink Shirt Day, Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School came together to support an important initiative against bullying, led by Principals and our great teachers. The day was dedicated to raising awareness about the effects of bullying and the importance of fostering a supportive environment. Students and staff wore pink shirts to symbolize their commitment to kindness and solidarity, creating a united front against bullying in the school.

The events featured discussions and activities that encouraged students to reflect on their behavior and the impact of their words. Participants shared stories and strategies for promoting kindness, emphasizing the importance of standing up for one another. Together, we reinforced the message that



everyone deserves respect and support. This day was a powerful reminder of the school's dedication to creating a safe and

inclusive atmosphere for all students. Great work Lakeshore Regional Police Serve for the sunglasses!



## LEARN

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GRANDFATHER DRUM

DRUM MAKING AND  
PAINTING OF DRUMS

HAND RATTLES WITH OUR  
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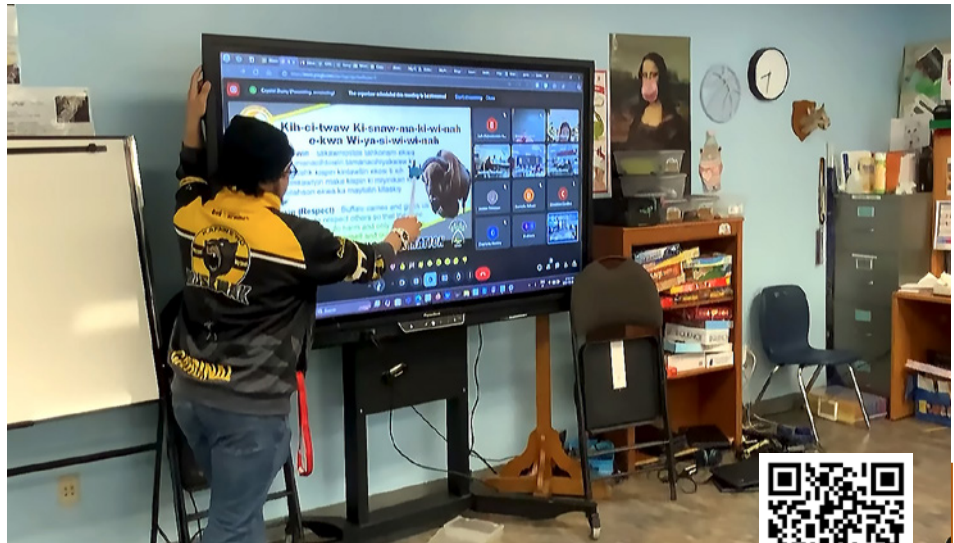
For inquiries, please contact:  
(780) 751-0008  
admin@kfncollegiate.ca



# The Importance of Manacihitowin on Pink Shirt Day at KFN Collegiate

Kapawe'no First Nation – On an important day at KFN Collegiate and its schools, like Pink Shirt Day, the values of manacihitowin, or respect, resonate deeply. The message is clear: we must honor and care for one another while recognizing the responsibility we have towards our land. When we demonstrate respect, it nurtures relationships and fosters a supportive community.

The concept of manacihitowin teaches us that respect is mutual; when we respect others, we invite respect in return. Harmful actions only serve to damage our connections and the environment around us. By embracing respect, we can create a positive atmosphere for all, ensuring that kindness prevails over bullying every day.



Scan the code to watch the video, opens in facebook >



## Manacihitowin (Respect)

*sakawmostos tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw manacihitowin tamanacihiyakwaw ki totimnawahk kispin kintawitin ekosi ti sih kanawapimkawayin maka kispin ki miyininan ka miytotahson ekwa ka maytotin kitaskiy*

Buffalo carries and gives us the gift of respect, to respect others so that they see you respect them. If you do harm and only do good for yourself, you harm yourself and our land.

## Enhancing Physical Fitness Through Plyometrics and Calisthenics at KFN Collegiate

Kapawe'no First Nation - At KFN Collegiate, the athletic program has introduced a structured plyometrics and calisthenics program under the guidance of Mr. Brian Thomas and our strength and conditioning coach, Mr. Sandy Laughlin. This initiative focuses on developing the students' athletic performance and enhancing their overall fitness.

The program includes targeted exercises designed to build strength, agility, and coordination. By introducing these techniques into the physical activities



curriculum, it aims to foster a greater appreciation for physical fitness and

encourage lifelong healthy habits among students.



# Buffalo Bay Academy Holds Pink Shirt Day Event with Lakeshore Regional Police Services

Kapawe'no First Nation – At Buffalo Bay Academy, for grades 7-12, held a sharing circle to honor Pink Shirt Day. Lakeshore Regional Police Service participated in the circle, focusing on promoting kindness and addressing bullying. The sharing circle provided students with an opportunity to engage in open discussions.



Lakeshore Regional Police Service discussed and educated students about the dangers of smoking and vaping while reminding them of the importance of kindness and respect. This collaboration reinforced the message that a supportive school environment is essential for everyone's well-being.

## sakihitowin (Love)

- kihew tahkonam ekwa kimikonaw sakihitowin kisawmakonow tanisi ta isi miyo pimacihoyah, tanihsoh kamakoyah kihmamtonicikanaw ekwa miyo otinikewin ekwa sakihitowin
- Eagle carries and gives us the gift of love, teaches us how to make a good life, to help us think good and to show others respect and love.

# Buffalo Bay Academy student Mya McLeod inspires her peers with important life skills

Kapawe'no First Nation - Mya McLeod, grand daughter of Lilian Lacombe (Halcrow) is developing important life skills this semester by taking on the responsibility of keeping our sensory room clean for all students. What started as a small task is quickly turning into a valuable skill, and soon she'll be able to manage it all efficiently and effectively.

This experience not only helps Mya learn about responsibility and organization, but it also sets a great example for her peers. A clean sensory room benefits our whole school community by providing a welcoming and supportive environment for students who need it. We're so proud of her progress and the positive impact she's making!





# Muskwak Juniors Embrace Pimachimowin through Drumming

Kapawe'no First Nation – Every morning, like clockwork, at the Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School the Muskwak Juniors gather to sing and drum with the grandfather drum, showcasing their determination to live pimachimowin, the Cree way of life. Led by Mr. Cory Cardinal and Mr. Scott Courtorielle, the songs highlights the importance of pimachimowin and nation connection.

The drumming sessions allow students to connect with their heritage while fostering unity and resilience. Through the songs, the Muskwak Juniors embody the spirit of their ancestors, strengthening their commitment to honor their traditions each day.



Scan the code to watch the video, opens in facebook >



## Grade 5 student Sam Lay Inspires Grade 1 Students with Muskwak Song

Kapawe'no First Nation – Fifth grader Sam Lay from Ms. Sam Tomkins' class is teaching the Muskwak Song to first graders at Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School. This initiative highlights Sam's young leadership and commitment to sharing pimachimowin with younger students.

Sam's lessons have created excitement among the first graders and fostered a sense of nation building. By engaging them in music, Sam is not only promoting pimachimowin but also encouraging creativity and connection among peers.





## Buffalo Bay Academy Men's Basketball Team Prepares for Game in Whitefish



Kapawe'no First Nation - The Buffalo Bay Academy Senior Muskwak men's basketball team is set to compete against a rival school in Whitefish today after school. This matchup is an important part of the season, as the team seeks to improve their development and build momentum moving forward.

The athletes have prepared diligently for this game, focusing on strategy, teamwork, and skill development. Coaches Rod Sutherland and Brian Thomas and players are optimistic about their chances for victory and are determined to put forth their best effort on the court.



## LEARNING AND SPEAKING NÊHIYAWÊWIN



More information, please contact Boh

email: [admin@kfncollegiate.ca](mailto:admin@kfncollegiate.ca)

phone: (780) 751-0008

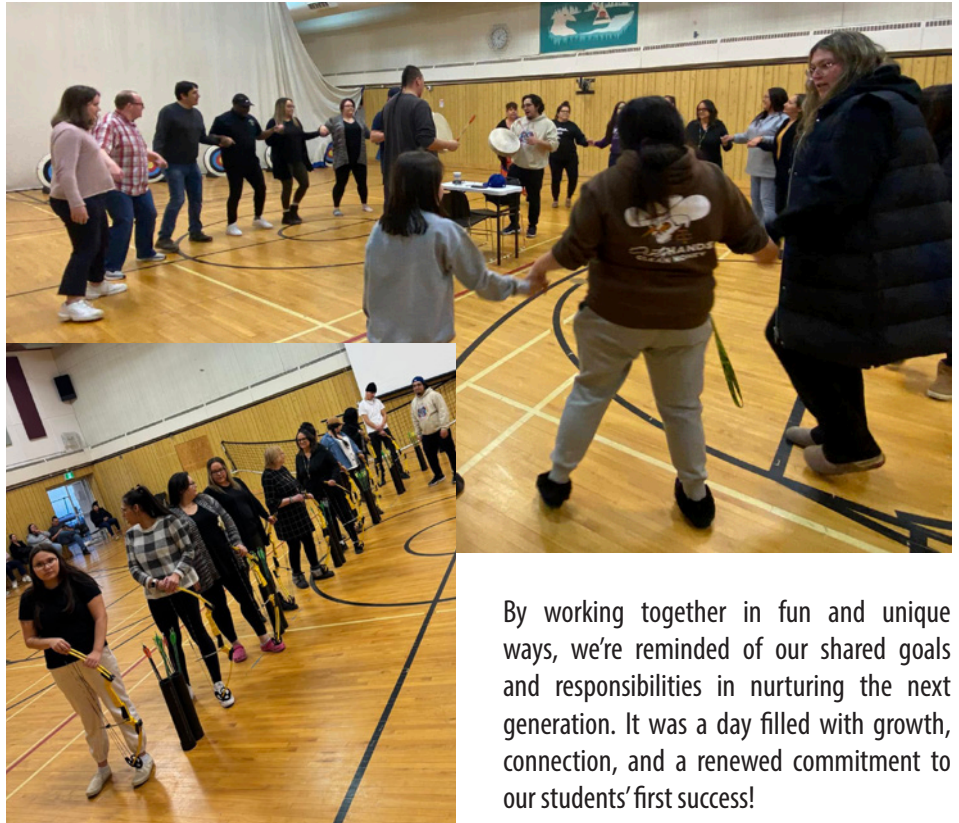


# Day Three Activities with Pimachimowin Keeps Staff Grounded and United

Kapawe'no First Nation - On the afternoon of day three, staff participated in a mini Round Dance led by our Pimachimowin team, including Mr. Cory Cardinal, Mr. Scott Courtorielle, and Mr. Tyler Mindel. This pimachimowin not only celebrated being nehiyawak but also brought everyone together in a shared experience.

Following the Round Dance, we engaged in a team-building archery session, guided by our Grade 3 teacher and certified archery instructor, Mr. Cory Cardinal.

These diverse experiences fostered learning, laughter, and collaboration, strengthening our KFN Collegiate, Nation and enhancing our collective impact on students. Engaging in these activities allows staff to connect with one another on a personal level, which builds trust and promotes a positive work environment.



By working together in fun and unique ways, we're reminded of our shared goals and responsibilities in nurturing the next generation. It was a day filled with growth, connection, and a renewed commitment to our students' first success!

## Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School Grade 4 Class Engages in Pink Shirt Day Activities



Kapawe'no First Nation - The Grade 4 class at Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School dedicated an entire day to engaging activities that celebrated their culture. Students participated in drumming sessions and worked on gathering stamps and signatures representing the Seven Sacred Grandmother and Grandfather Teachings, beautifully showcased on their pink shirts.

Special thanks to Ms. Sharkawi and Ms. Sutherland for their guidance and support throughout the day. Their efforts have inspired the students to connect with their way of life - pimachimowin and learn valuable teachings. Great job, everyone!





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kiskêyih tamowin wîhkâc yahki*

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## KASKAPATEW PEKISKWEWIN SMOKE SIGNALS



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INNOVATIVE LEARNING  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT KFN SCHOOL:

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 Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate

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