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KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION COLLEGIATE

MAY 15TH, 2025 ISSUE

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Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate

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Student Athletes Played for High Prairie Minor Ball this Weekend

Kapawe'no First Nation - This past weekend, our student athletes from KFN Collegiate played for High Prairie Minor Ball. We had participants in the U11 and U13 categories.

In the U11 group, Brett (Grade 4) and Sam (Grade 5) hit the ball well and reached the bases. In U13, Henlee (Grade 7) performed well in all areas. Ashlyn, a Grade 6 female player, competed with the boys. It was a weekend of great ball and teamwork.



Empowering nêhiyawak for Lifelong Success through Kitohcikiwin (Music)

Kapawe'no First Nation - KFN Collegiate is proud of the Kitohcikiwin Academy, focused on empowering our students for lifelong learning success. Kitohcikiwin embodies the KFN Collegiate's commitment to nurturing holistic learning, allowing students to grow. Despite facing challenges this school year, including temporary disruptions due to environmental concerns in the former classroom,

more on page 3



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KAPAWE'NO NÊHIYAWAK SCHOOL

K-6

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

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



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KIKSKITITAN SERIES: Teachers and Staff Collaborate on Lesson Plans for Kihew's Skyward Teachings of Sakihitowin: Heartbeats Above the Land

Kapawe'no First Nation - In nēhiyawēwin introduction, high above the forest, ancestral stories weave through the air as piwayisak (birds) gather. Led by kihew (eagle), they include ahasiw (raven), waskahikan piwayisis (sparrow), kehkehk (hawk), and oho (owl).

Beneath the forest canopy, they prepare for lessons on sakihitowin (Love), embracing the rich narratives of their world. Simultaneously, we meet during lunch with teachers and staff at both schools to develop activities for this first book of seven, enhancing this cultural exchange.

In nēhiyawēwin, we learn from kihew about sunlight, which is more than warmth. It's a metaphor for sakihitowin, a lesson imbued



with the essence of love. This narrative invites readers to see sunlight as a symbol of love, urging them to draw parallels between nature's warmth and human experiences of love. In crafting lessons inspired by these narratives, teachers and staff develop ways

to explore these profound connections. This fosters deeper engagement, encouraging students to see and feel sakihitowin in everyday interactions, much like the sunlight that guides kihew's insights and friendships above the sacred lands.

Empowering nēhiyawak for Lifelong Success through Kitohcikiwin (Music) from page 1

moving to a temporary space, the revitalized program aligns with the vision which is dedication to excellence.

In the vastness of kitohcikiwin (music), it flows like the rhythm of life itself. The sound of nikamon (song) echoes through the trees, accompanied by the deep beat of a paskwāwin (drum). As voices blend in harmony, nikamowin (singing) fills the air with joy.

The sweet notes of a okitohcikew (violin) and a kitohcikanis (flute) dance together, creating a melody. This melody is guided by the keen kiskeyitamowin (knowledge) of a sipwehamakew (conductor). The takahkwewetitawn (tapping) of feet adds depth, while a iskewonikamow (woman singer) graces the harmony with elegance. The sounds linger, creating a cistawehtin



Courtesy from the Kapawe'no Kiskinawhamatowin Masinahikan Ver7-2025

(echo) in the listener's mind, inspiring a nimihitowin (dance) of spirits, inviting all to a soulful pihtokwewin (entrance) to the world of music. The Music Program balance traditional drumming and nēhiyawak music traditions with contemporary wind, brass, and

percussion instruments. This fusion creates a vibrant and culturally immersive musical journey, paying homage to our nation's heritage while embracing modern musical elements.

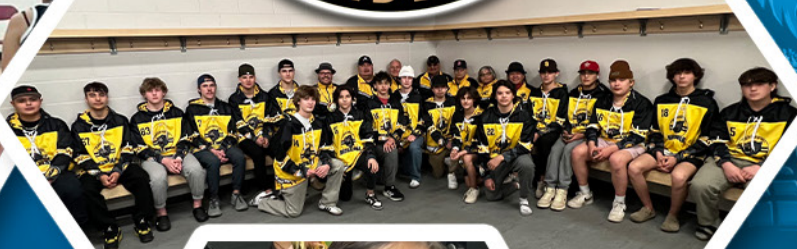


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Spring Brings Renewed Learning in Outdoor Tipi Classroom

Kapawe'no First Nation - As spring breathes new life into the land, the outdoor tipi classroom becomes a vibrant hub for Nêhiyawak learning and engagement. Welcoming students from Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School, this space hosts dynamic nêhiyawak pimachimowin and sharing circles. Elder Knowledge Keeper Don Cunningham and Coordinator Scott Courtorielle lead these sessions, imparting traditional wisdom and fostering a deep connection to the land.

Balanced under the tipi, students experience the richness of nêhiyawêwin and traditions in an immersive setting. This unique learning approach encourages students to embrace being nêhiyawak while learning practical, cultural, and spiritual lessons in unity and respect. With nature as a backdrop, the tipi classroom exemplifies the seamless integration of nêhiyawak knowledge and ancestral learning.





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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 miyotahson ekwa ka mayotin 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 kamahtowin 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.



Celebrating Nehiyawisik Nistam through Kitohcikiwin

Kapawe'no First Nation - On Friday, May 9, our Muskwak Sr. drum group sang a beautiful song dedicated to our mothers and kokums of our students. The heartfelt performance filled the space with love and appreciation, making it a memorable occasion for everyone present. It was a wonderful way to honor the important role that mothers and grandmothers play in our lives.

We wish all mothers and kohkom's nehiyawisik nistam (a happy Mother's Day). This celebration allows us to express our deep gratitude for their wisdom, and love. Their support is invaluable, and we are grateful for everything they do for us.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE VIDEO
(OPEN IN FACE BOOK APP)



Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew Speaks in Nêhiyawêwin (Cree) at Manitoba Legislature for Spirit Bear Day

Screenshot from: CBC News Manitoba YouTube

Red River, Turtle Island / Treaty 1 - In a historic moment at the Manitoba Legislature, Premier Wab Kinew delivered a speech in nêhiyawêwin to honour Spirit Bear Day. The event brought attention to the pressing issues surrounding First Nation rights and recognition, with Kinew's remarks honoring the legacy of Jordan River Anderson, a young nêhiyasis (boy) from Norway House Cree Nation.

Kinew's commitment to advocating for change was a central focus of the day. The day marked a significant step toward truth and reconciliation, reinforcing the commitment to address historical injustices. The message



SCAN THE QR CODE
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in nêhiyawêwin in the Manitoba Legislature emphasized the importance of continuing this

work to create a better future for First Nations, through the prairies and beyond.



**KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION LIFELONG LEARNING
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kiskêyih tamowin
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GRADES 7-12

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Celebrating Birthdays Through the Drum Beat at Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School



Kapawe'no First Nation - At Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School, we take pride in celebrating life through gathering and sound of drumming. Our Muskwak Srs sang a beautiful Happy Birthday song during a grade 3 class along with a round dance to celebrate our birthdays, creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere for all.

The combination of singing and dancing during birthday celebrations honours our students. It's a cherished time that highlights the importance of nation building and the joy of celebrating life together, fostering a sense of belonging and connection among students.



Ms. Thunder Prepares Students through Powwow Dancing

Kapawe'no First Nation - Ms. Thunder, our Kindergarten and powwow club teacher, is preparing for the powwow season and the annual graduation powwow. She works outside with female students, teaching them about powwow protocols and dance.



The students learn essential skills related to dance, song, and attire, fostering a deeper connection to nehiyawak pimachimowin.

This experience builds pride as they get ready to participate in the upcoming powwow season.



**KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION
CONSULTATION**

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Email: kfnconsultation@gamil.com
Michelle Knibb, ICRC Manager and KFN Liaison



Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate Sovereign Foods Program – Spring Update

Kapawe'no First Nation - We're excited to share that the Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate Sovereign Foods Program is off to a strong start this season! Our team has successfully expanded our growing space by constructing new raised garden beds and creating our own nutrient-rich soil blend, setting a strong foundation for a productive year.

Students from all grade levels have been enthusiastically engaged in every stage of the process, from sowing seeds to planting seedlings, gaining valuable hands-on experience in sustainable food production. Currently, we have a thriving bed of lettuce and an assortment of herbs, including parsley and basil.

Looking ahead, we're preparing to plant potatoes and transplant our tomato seedlings



into the garden. In addition, we've recently started sowing trays of tobacco, which we plan to cultivate throughout the summer.





GUITAR LESSONS

JOIN US!


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Kapawe'no First Nation Collegiate: A Strong Commitment to French Language Learning

Kapawe'no First Nation - Students in Grades 1, 2, 3, at Kapawe'no Nehiyewak School and Grade 10 at Buffalo Bay Academy have been diligently engaged in learning French this semester. "I am particularly proud of our elementary students, many of whom began with no prior experience in the language", said French Teacher Ms April Adamson.

In our elementary French classes, the focus has been on phonetics and graphemes. Students have been learning to accurately pronounce vowel and consonant sounds, as well as common sound combinations. This foundational work is helping them develop strong early language skills.



At the high school level, our Grade 10 students have been learning basic greetings and everyday vocabulary, equipping them with practical language tools for real-life communication.

Learning a new language presents many challenges, and we commend all of our students both elementary and secondary

for their enthusiasm, perseverance, and progress. They have truly risen to the occasion.



JOIN US!

MUSKIMUT PAKAHTOWAN
BASKETBALL

Those interested in participating or gaining more insight
can reach out to Brian Thomas at 780.751.0008



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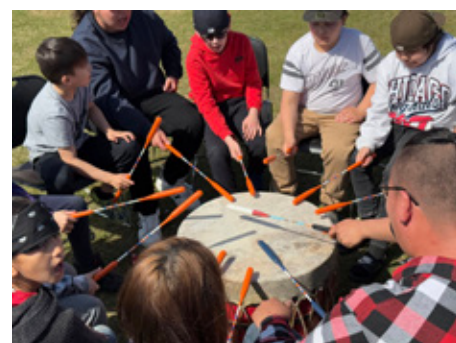
www.kfncollegiate.ca/virtual-learning

Red Dress Day: A Day of Remembrance and Solidarity at KFN Collegiate

Kapawe'no First Nation - On May 5, 2025, Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School and Buffalo Bay Academy participated in Red Dress Day, honoring and remembering missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited. This sacred event highlighted the persistent injustices faced by First Nations, serving as a moment of reflection and solidarity.

Students and staff participated by wearing red, symbolizing remembrance and respect. The day began with the Muskwak Jr drummers performing an honour song, followed by EKK Rod Willier offering an opening prayer from the eastern door. Our iskwewuk joined the circle from all four directions, enhancing awareness and importance of MMIWG.

To deepen the day's impact, red cloths were hung in each direction, symbolizing guidance and unity. Students also crafted red dresses, which were then displayed on the school fence as a testament to those lost. The day's events concluded with a walk around the schools, fostering reflection and nation engagement.



Mr. Joe Kavanagh's Students Still Very Actively Engaged In Their Courses

Kapawe'no First Nation - While it may be close to the end of the school year, Mr. Joe Kavanagh's students are still very actively engaged in their courses.

Our Biology 30 students have spent the last few weeks studying cell division and Mendelian genetics. We have been talking about chromosomes and genes, and learning how we (and other organisms) inherit these genes from our parents by looking at the DNA molecule and discussing reproduction. The diploma exam is on June 20th!

In Math 30-1, students have finished their exploration of exponential and logarithmic functions, making connections to where these apply in real life (such as population growth,



or the decrease in value of a car over time). We have now moved on to trigonometry, where students are learning a new system to measure angles called radians. They will then use this to solve problems and create graphs of the 3 primary trigonometric functions. We will then end our discussion of trigonometry by proving trigonometric identities.

The diploma exam is on June 17th!

For Science 24, students are working at their own pace and so are at different points in the curriculum. Some are studying chemistry in everyday life by looking at some important reactions, while others have moved on to studying energy use in everyday life and are

more on page 19



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ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS A WINNING BALANCE

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A Celebration of Love and Tradition: Grade 4 Mother's Day Event

Kapawe'no First Nation - Our Grade 4 Mother's Day event at Kapawe'no Nehiyawak School was a heartwarming and meaningful celebration, rooted in tradition, love, and the spirit of nation building. The event was a true success thanks to the efforts of our students and the presence of our honoured guests, including Lifetime Councillors Pam and Deb.

We began our day by warmly welcoming our guests—mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends—at the door, where students greeted them with smiles and handed out programs. This act of Respect, one of the Seven Sacred Teachings, set the tone for the entire event. Respect teaches us to honor all of Creation, and the way our students interacted with our guests reflected that teaching beautifully.

The program opened with a heartfelt prayer and a performance by our Muskwak Senior drummers, creating a sacred and peaceful atmosphere. Love, the foundation of all teachings, was present throughout the day—expressed through the students' joyful service and care. Love reminds us to care for one another unconditionally, much like the love we receive from the women we honored. A light buffet of snacks was served by our dedicated student volunteers, who walked from table to table offering refreshments or stood at the buffet table serving. Their willingness to take responsibility and serve demonstrated Humility, the understanding that we are all equal and that helping others is a strength.

While our guests enjoyed lunch, they were treated to a slideshow titled "Our Year in Grade 4," highlighting some of the incredible moments from the school year: meet-the-teacher night, the Halloween party, cultural days in neighboring reserve, our Christmas



concert, land-based learning such as igloo building, winter activities, birthday parties, Easter egg hunt and exciting projects like "Natural Disasters of the World." Sharing these moments showed Honesty—the importance of being genuine and proud of who we are and what we've learned.

Afterward, the room was filled with laughter and learning during our special version of Bingo—Cree Bingo! As the caller announced Cree words, guests played for prizes based on one line, two lines, all around, or full



One of the most touching parts of the day was the gift presentation. Each mother received a heartfelt gift from their child—some homemade, others homegrown, and a few with a little extra store-bought flair. These gifts embodied Truth—the act of giving something meaningful from the heart, representing the truth of a child's gratitude and love for their caregiver.

Finally, we recognized our special guests, Councillors Pam and Deb, with flowers as a token of appreciation and Courage—thanking them for their leadership and support. Courage is the ability to face challenges with dignity, and we are grateful to have strong role models in our community who lead with this value.

Our Mother's Day event was not just a celebration; it was a reflection of who we are as a grade four family—one that holds fast to the Seven Sacred Teachings and lives them through our words, our actions, and our hearts.

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT

www.kfncollegiate.ca/kaskihtayanih



Student Athletes Continue to Train at Synthetic Ice Hockey District

Kapawe'no First Nation - Our student athletes continue to train at our Synthetic Ice District. Despite limited space, the Hockey Academy development remains strong. Today, students from Grade 5 and 6 focused on stick handling and playing in small areas, which enhances their skills effectively.

Training on ice at an arena is valuable, however the synthetic ice has proven to be equally effective for development. The focus on stick handling in confined spaces has offered significant benefits to the athletes, promoting growth in their overall game performance.





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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), Kwayaskitowin (Honesty), Iyiniisiwin (Wisdom) Tapahteyimisowin (Humility) and Tapwewin (Truth)

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 K-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.



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Alberta Education School Number S.2351



Buffalo Bay Academy Golf Program: Enhancing Skills and Competitiveness

Kapawe'no First Nation - The Buffalo Bay Academy's Sports Academy incorporates golf into its curriculum, with students training twice a week in the afternoons. Led by instructors Mr. Jorden Thiessen (Principle KFN School) and Mr. Cory Cardinal (grade 3 Teacher), and overseen by athletics director Mr. Brian Thomas, the program focuses on improving golf skills while promoting physical fitness.

Students engage in activities that enhance their understanding of core subjects: math, English, social studies, and sciences, ensuring a well-rounded development. The competitive golf team will not start practice rounds at the High Prairie Golf Club, fostering skill advancement and preparing them for competitions while instilling a lifelong appreciation for the sport.



Mr. Joe Kavanagh's Students Still Very Actively Engaged In Their Courses from page 13

learning some new ideas such as kinetic and potential energy. There is no diploma exam in this course.

Outside of the classroom:

- Students from grades 5 to 12 have attended a career fair in Red Earth Creek on May 15th. Students get to explore various careers found in this part of Alberta and around the province, while interacting with the speakers to learn more information if interested. It was followed by a supper to end off the day.
- Our Grade 12 graduates have been doing a lot of fundraising to support their graduation ceremony. Please keep an eye to the school's Facebook page for more information on these fundraisers so you can help support our graduates!



**KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION WELLNESS CENTRE
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