

May 26, 2016

ENVIRONMENT MAGAZINE LAUNCH

Prairie Valley School Division is proud to announce the magazine launch of *Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak: Our Young People Speak: The Environment Edition*, which focuses on respect for Mother Earth, natural balance in nature, and the impacts of living respectfully on the land, the foundation of many First Nations and Métis worldviews. The launch will be celebrated today at the Treaty 4 Governance Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle from 10:15 am to 2:00 pm with a magazine unveiling at approximately 11:30 am. See attached for the program.

The Environment Edition, the fifth magazine in the series, was written and developed entirely by Grade 10 students from nine schools as a year-long project for students to improve literacy and writing skills while learning about the environment from First Nations and Métis knowledge keepers. The participating schools are Balcarres Community School, Bert Fox Community High School, Chief Kahkewistahaw, Grenfell Community High School, Indian Head High School, Kakisiwew School, Kelliher School, Milestone School and Nakoda Oyade Education Centre.

The students began the project in February, gathering at Balcarres Community School to hear elders and resource people speak about the environment according to First Nations and Métis worldviews. This magazine is a collection of student writing, poetry and art on what they heard and learned in response to those teachings. It will be a teaching and learning resource for educators and students in Prairie Valley School Division and the other participating schools.

The experience taught Sydney Swan of Indian Head High School that everything on the earth has a spirit and that we are all connected. "We all come from Mother Earth; we are her children. We need to protect the environment since we are all connected."

First Nations and Métis Education Consultant, Reila Bird, says the benefits of the project extend beyond the classroom. "Connecting young people to the knowledge keepers in their communities fosters the natural bond between young and old people—a long valued tradition in the First Nations and Métis cultures as well other cultures."

The Ministry of Education chose the second magazine, *The Healing Edition* (2013), as a recommended resource for English Language Arts 30. The other three editions are *The Leadership Edition* (2012), *The Treaty Edition* (2014) and *The Holistic Edition* (2015). Contact Prairie Valley School Division at 306-949-3366 to purchase copies.

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