

May 26, 2015

HOLISTIC MAGAZINE LAUNCH

Prairie Valley School Division is proud to announce the magazine launch of *Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak: Our Young People Speak: The Holistic Edition*. The magazine is the culmination of a year-long project to improve student literacy and writing skills while learning about holistic wellbeing from First Nations and Métis communities. The launch will be celebrated today at the Treaty 4 Governance Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with a magazine unveiling at 11:30 am.

The Holistic Edition, the fourth magazine in the series, was created by Grade 10 students from seven schools: Balcarres, Bert Fox, Chief Kahkewistahaw, Grenfell, Kakisiwew, Nakoda Oyade Education Centre and Kelliher. "Holistic means having balance within yourself," says student Gordon Redcalf of Bert Fox Community High in Fort Qu'Appelle. For student Sydney Akapew of Balcarres Community School, holistic living means "keeping a balanced life and connecting with everything and everyone."

Community engagement and celebrating First Nations worldviews are at the core of this writing project. The students began the project in February, gathering at Balcarres Community School to hear elders and resource people speak about holistic philosophies. This magazine is a collection of student writing, poetry and art on what they heard and learned in response to those teachings. "You need to be well balanced in all areas of your life," says Alex Louison, a student at Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School. "When a person finds balance, you become healthier."

The magazine will be a teaching and learning resource for educators and students in Prairie Valley School Division and the participating schools. The Ministry of Education chose the second edition, *The Healing Edition* (2013), as a recommended resource for English Language Arts 30. The other two editions are *The Leadership Edition* (2012) and *The Healing Edition* (2014). Contact the division at 306-949-3366 to order copies.

First Nations and Métis Education Coordinator Sandy Pinay Schindler says the benefits of the project extend beyond the classroom. "The importance of connecting youth to the respected knowledge keepers in their communities cannot be overstated. This is the traditional way of learning in many First Nations communities – now and for millennia."

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Leadership in Learning and Life

