

# The Office of First Nation Education Newsletter

Issue #1, 2018-2019 OCT 23, 2018



Office of First Nation Education

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

## MIND OVER METAL WELDING CAMPS

This summer, the Office of First Nation Education in partnership with the Canadian Welding Bureau Foundation, Natoagenag (Eel Ground First Nation), and Esgenoopetij School hosted two Mind over Metal camps for middle school students. While these are certainly not the first welding camps we have held, these are the first to be hosted by First Nation communities in the new welding stations that were built last year.



Students learned the safe use of hand and power tools, GMAW basics, proper use of fire hydrants and safety equipment and had the opportunity to build their own projects. Students at Natoagenag were treated to healthy meals provided by the community as well as a final Barbecue where families were invited. In both communities, First Nation welders were identified to assist with leading the camps. Community members were also instrumental in ensuring that the students arrived safely to the camp-sites, were provided meals, and ensured the welding stations were operational.



## CMEC Symposium on Indigenizing Teacher Education

Over the summer, the Office of First Nation Education organized New Brunswick's representation at the CMEC Symposium on Indigenizing Teacher Education. Our delegation consisted of a Mi'kmaq Elder, a Wolastoqey student and representatives from Université de Moncton, UNB, STU and Crandall as well as a learning specialist.



Participants engaged in discussions on cultural safety in teacher education programs, Indigenous contributions in reviving Indigenous languages, the treaty relationship as a model for future relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, supports for Indigenous students in university environments, addressing the TRC calls to action in teacher education and many other topics. Participants also heard from an Elders panel discussing the importance of making changes for future generations and from an Indigenous student panel which shared their experiences in public schools and universities.



## CULTURAL IMMERSION CAMPS

This summer, the Office of First Nation Education, in partnership with the Mi'kmaq Wolastoqey Centre at UNB, hosted a week-long cultural immersion camp for New Brunswick teachers. The camp hosted twenty teachers who were divided into four clans. The camp focused on many aspects of Wolastoqey history and traditions, including sunrise ceremonies, songs, storytelling, basket making, and a sweat lodge ceremony. Teachers made a trip to Tobique First Nation, and explored Wolastoq (the St. John River) by boat. The purpose of these camps is to familiarize non-Indigenous teachers with cultures of First Nation students. Next year, we plan to hold cultural immersion camps in both Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq territory.



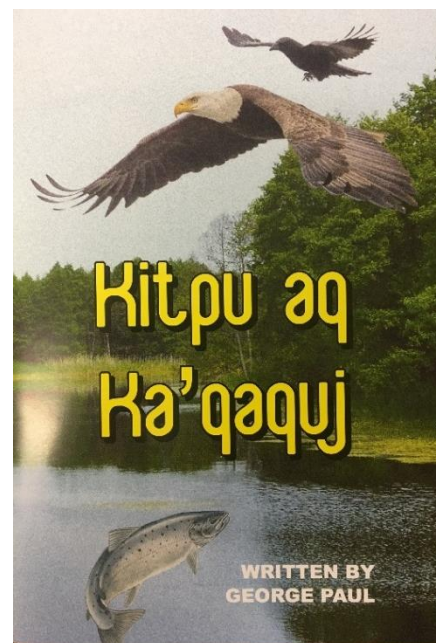
## Green-Technology House Build

This summer, skilled trades teachers from across the province participated in the construction of a state-of-the-art, energy efficient house build for Natoagenag. The project, sponsored by the Office of First Nation Education and many partners, trained teachers in the construction of an environmentally friendly heating system and installation of solar energy panels. This house is the first of its kind in the Maritimes and will be donated to a family in need.



## The Eagle and the Crow

The Office of First Nation Education printed and distributed a book by Elder George Paul from Metepenagiag. The book, Kitpu aq Ka'qaquj (The Eagle and the Crow) is included in the Grade 1 First Nation Literacy Lesson Plans Set (available on the One site) and is also suitable for other grades. The book is available in both Mi'kmaq and English. We have a few copies available for educators who would like to use this resource in their classrooms. For more information, contact [Craig.Williamson@gnb.ca](mailto:Craig.Williamson@gnb.ca) or [Bill.Patrick@gnb.ca](mailto:Bill.Patrick@gnb.ca).



## Incorporating an Indigenous Worldview into Educational Support Services Professional Learning

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, the Office of First Nation Education offered an online professional learning opportunity for Guidance Counsellors, Social Workers, Psychologists, Cultural Transition Workers and other support staff on working in culturally-responsive ways with First Nation students.

The professional learning session includes modules on the following: The Impacts of Colonization on First Nation Students, Understanding Intergenerational Trauma, The Economic Promise of First Nation Students (in partnership with JEDI), and First Nation Perspectives on Wellness.

The online professional learning session is available on the portal. Email [Bill.Patrick@gnb.ca](mailto:Bill.Patrick@gnb.ca) for further information.



## Treaty Education Grade 3 Resource



The Treaty Education, Grade 3 Resource has been distributed to schools across the province and is also available through the One Site Educational Resources Hub. We also have print copies available. The French language translation has also been complete and will be published soon. Over the coming months, the grade four and five books will also be made available. Please contact [Bill.Patrick@gnb.ca](mailto:Bill.Patrick@gnb.ca) for more information.

### Educational Resources Hub

We are continuing to work on the accessibility of First Nation content available on the Educational Resources Hub (on the One Site). New tags have been added to make it easier for educators to locate resources by using keywords as well as by reviewing all resources available by grade level and by subject level. We have also added two new language options, Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq as search options.

Do you have something that you would like to see on the Educational Resources Hub, or do you have a resource you'd like to share? If so, please contact [Craig.Williamson@gnb.ca](mailto:Craig.Williamson@gnb.ca)

### Online Language Courses

Online Introductory Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqey Latuwewakon courses for community members have launched for the school year! Please contact [Ron.Tremblay2@gmail.com](mailto:Ron.Tremblay2@gmail.com) for Wolastoqey or [GordonFrancis30@gmail.com](mailto:GordonFrancis30@gmail.com) for Mi'kmaw.

## Orange Shirt Day 2018

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad attended the St. Joseph Mission Residential School for one year in 1973-1974 when she was only six years old. On her first day at the school, she was stripped and the new orange sweater her grandmother had bought for her was taken away. She said that the experience robbed her of the excitement of starting school and left her feeling worthless. Webstad now works to encourage meaningful discussions about residential schools and their legacy.

September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year has been declared Orange Shirt Day to recognize the harm that the Indian Residential School System did to children's self-esteem and well being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

Schools across New Brunswick observed Orange Shirt Day on either September 28 or the following Monday, September 30. Resources were made available on the Educational Resources Hub in both English and French. The New Brunswick Public Service was also encouraged to wear an orange shirt on September 28 in recognition of the important day.

### Professional Learning provided by the Office of First Nation Education

Each year, the Office of First Nation Education provides dozens of professional learning opportunities for pre-service and in-services teachers and other school personnel. So far this year, we have presented at the Summer Learning co-hosted by The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and UNB, Research Conference at STU and this fall at the NBTA for in service teachers with fewer than 5 years experience. We will also be presenting at the APSEA conference in Halifax this week. For more information, or to request professional learning from our office, please contact [Sacha.Dewolf@gnb.ca](mailto:Sacha.Dewolf@gnb.ca)



## NEWS FROM ANGLOPHONE SOUTH

### First Nations Culture and Heritage Week

A high school in ASD-S organized a whole week of events last spring to learn more about First Nations culture and heritage. The entire school engaged in a study of The Secret Path. This week culminated in a visit by several First Nation Elders.

### Indigenous Understandings and Heritage

An elementary school in the district held events last spring which focused on Indigenous understandings and heritage. This school hosted a performance by Sisters of the Drum.

### ASD-S teachers to Attend Lecture by Dr. Marie Batiste

Several teachers from the district will travel to UNB Fredericton campus on October 18 to hear Indigenous Scholar Dr. Marie Batiste deliver the conference keynote address and Otilia Chareka Memorial Lecture on the theme: Treaties, Histories and Cognitive Justice.



### The Moose Hide Campaign in ASD-S

Several schools in the district have participated in the Moose Hide Campaign. Elder Graydon Nicholas attended an assembly to share his stories with staff and students. The Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children.

### Stonehammer UNESCO Student Project

ASD-S, in collaboration with Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark has launched a district-wide project to engage students of all levels and schools in the investigation of the presence of First Nations Peoples in southern New Brunswick. Students will research the agricultural-residential school at Sussex Vale, the Brothers Islands #18, treaties and more.

### Wolastoqiyik Artist to Conduct Workshop for Teachers

Wolastoqiyik artist, Natalie Sappier (Samaqani Cocahq) will be conducting a workshop for ASD-S art and music teachers on October 17. Following the sharing of her art and music, Natalie will address questions from teachers regarding effective teaching vs. the cultural appropriation of Wolastoqey art and music.

### Wolastoqey Dance

A school in the district invited Possesom Paul to introduce students to Wolastoqey dance last spring.



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## NEWS FROM ANGLOPHONE EAST

### Recognizing Traditional Territory

For the first time in our district, a school's website home page has changed their location to say: "High School is located on traditional Mi'kmaq territory in the West End of Moncton". This change was put into effect last spring. Many high schools included a territorial acknowledgement at the beginning of their graduation ceremonies in June. This fall our District collaborated with Anglophone North to provide a written acknowledgement to all district leadership and schools.

### Orange Shirt Day

A plethora of Reconciliation activities took place across our district on September 28th. From our entire District Office staff wearing Orange t-shirts to Elder visits - there was a range of acknowledgements to ensure that we remember. Art projects, cultural fairs, guest speakers, students and staff wearing orange, book clubs, daily announcements, classrooms incorporating Education for Reconciliation lessons into their learning, drum making, dream catcher making, musical presentations, videos, the list goes on and on. We will continue to build on the lessons learned on this day by furthering our cultural competence district.

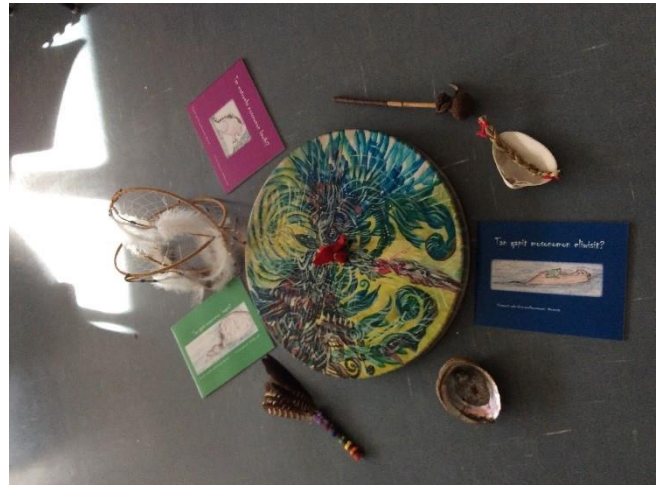


### Upcoming Powwow

Schools have been invited to attend the Powwow being hosted by Mount Allison University on the 18th of October. There are currently over 100 students signed up to attend.

### First Nations Education Champions

Each school has a 'Champion' that will act as a liaison and advocate for First Nations Education for his/her staff. They are coming together formally as a group on the 24th of October and will be participating in a smudging ceremony, Talking Circle and rotating through five professional learning 'Sharing Circles' with Elders, First Nations students, teachers and community members.



Several teachers are bringing Sharing Circles into their classrooms in innovative ways! Here you see stories (written by Elders from NB), a drum, smudge kit, sweetgrass and dreamcatcher used by teachers in the district.

### First Nations Book Club

One of our high schools has chosen a list of 10 different books that have Indigenous content as an upcoming teaching and learning opportunity for their students. Stay tuned for more!

### Treaty Education

Grade 3 and 4 teachers are incorporating the new grade 3 Treaty Education into their programs. This new curriculum will continue to unfold for grades 4 through 8 and teachers are doing a fabulous job with these resources

## Art Projects Across the District

Walking into many schools in our district means seeing incredible pieces of artwork. Many schools continue to grow their First Nations Art lessons and have beautiful projects on the go or completed.



## Mi'kmaq History Month

Several middle school classrooms are using the Mi'kmaq resources from NB and NS to embed historical and cultural learnings into ELA, FILA, social studies and science. This integrated approach leads to deep learning opportunities for our students and staff alike!

## Elder Visits

A local Elder was the special guest for an entire middle school population. She shared stories, history, music and her cultural knowledge with a very engaged and appreciative group of youth. A smudging ceremony and Sharing Circle at one of our high schools left students moved and filled with gratitude. This group of approximately 50 students could not get enough of their Elder and are reaching out on a personal level to get further involved in learning about their culture.

## New Resources for Teachers

Two Kindergarten classes at different schools are collaborating on a Play Based unit entitled 'Seven Sacred Teachings' - this innovative teachers will be using puppets, Storytelling, nature and a variety of resources to teach through play.

## United Nations Youth Summit

A local high school will be hosting an Indigenous Youth United Nations Summit in the coming Spring. Youth delegates will be invited from communities around the province to work together on Indigenous Issues facing our youth today.

## Engaging First Nations Youth

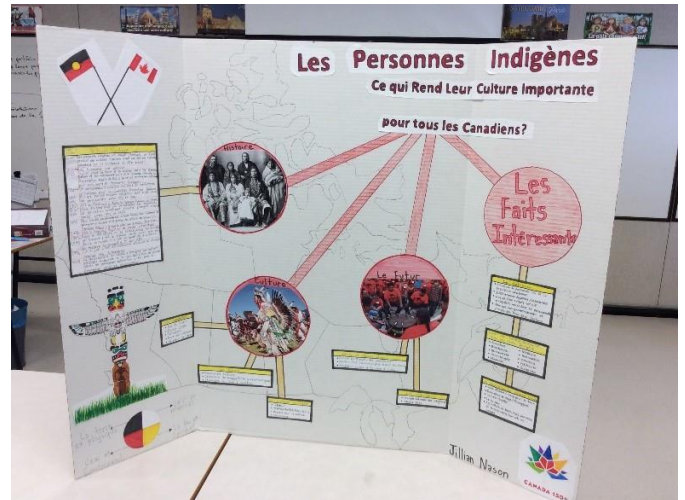
There are many student leaders who are working on amazing projects at their schools through using Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Learning. The First Nations coordinator is putting together a youth group to discuss issues important to Indigenous youth and seek their voice in our work as a First Nations Education coalition.

## Education for Reconciliation

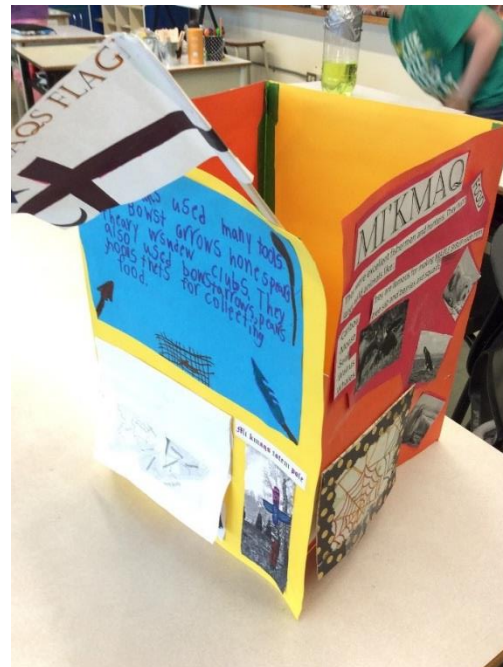
Grade 9 teachers received training last year on the new supplement for the Grade 9 'Canadian identities' social studies program. They are currently incorporating this into their classroom with cross curricular and/or project based learning opportunities.

## Student Projects:

### Science Grade 9



### Social Studies Grade 5



# NEWS FROM ANGLOPHONE NORTH

## Multi School Mawiomi

Every elementary, middle and high school in the Bathurst, Dalhousie and Campbellton areas participated in a Mawiomi (Powwow) experience hosted at three different locations.



## Opening Day for Teachers

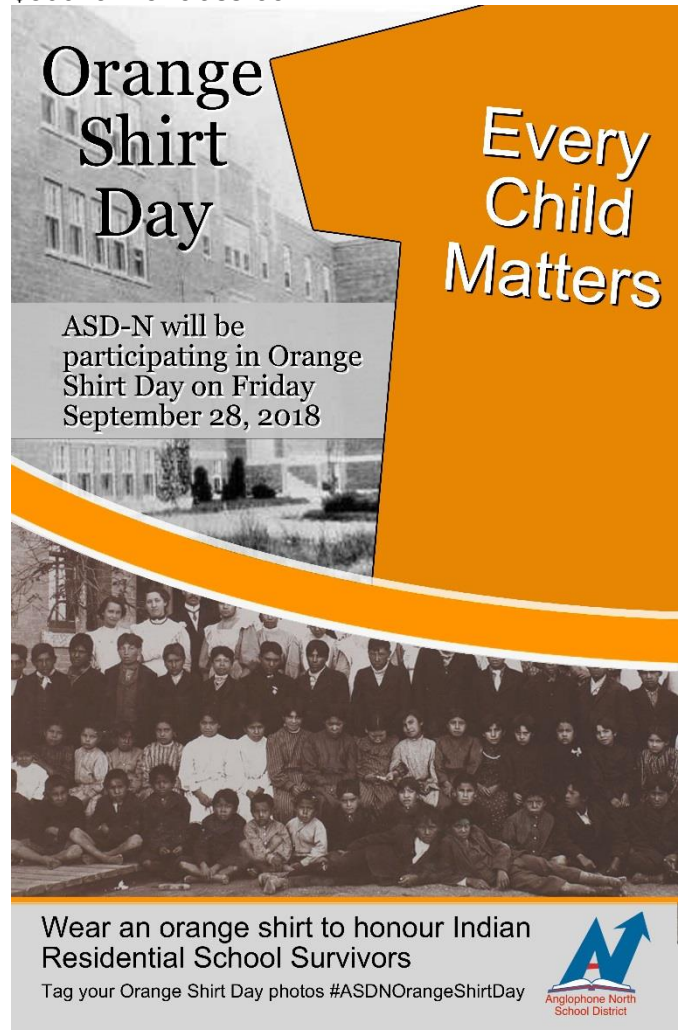
In August, half-day session on the grade 3 Treaty Education resource from the department to further promote the use of the resource. This included classroom follow up by request from teachers. Purchased “100 Years of Loss” resource kit for all high schools in ASD-N. The resource kits were distributed to schools and PL sessions for high school teachers on the resource was completed during Opening Day for teachers.

*Invitations to facilitate the Kairos Blanket Exercise for school staff which happened August 29<sup>th</sup>*



## Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day was commemorated across ASD-N with participation in every school! In preparation for Orange Shirt Day resources were distributed to every teacher in the district. Presentations were made at various schools for elementary, middle and high school. ASD-N had schools and teachers register their classrooms for a chance to win a prize. A Grade 2/3 teacher, won \$300 for her classroom!




**Orange Shirt Day**

**Every Child Matters**

ASD-N will be participating in Orange Shirt Day on Friday September 28, 2018

Wear an orange shirt to honour Indian Residential School Survivors

Tag your Orange Shirt Day photos #ASDNOrangeShirtDay



## Community Partnerships

1. Native Studies student's shared letters with residential school Survivors as part of their OSD lessons and as an act of reconciliation.
2. Assisting a grade 10 international student with their writing competition by providing information, access to Survivors and guidance, the topic chosen is residential schools and their impacts.
3. Native Education Advisory Teams (NEAT) were reconvened at some ASD-N high schools for the 2018-19 school year.

## Treaty Day and Mi'kmaq History Month

Resources for Treaty Day and Mi'kmaq history month were distributed to all teachers. Collaborated with Guidance team/ESST to generate ideas on topics we can collaborate on. ASD-N will be working on the topic of MMIW&G with the high schools in the northern part of ASD-N through this collaboration.

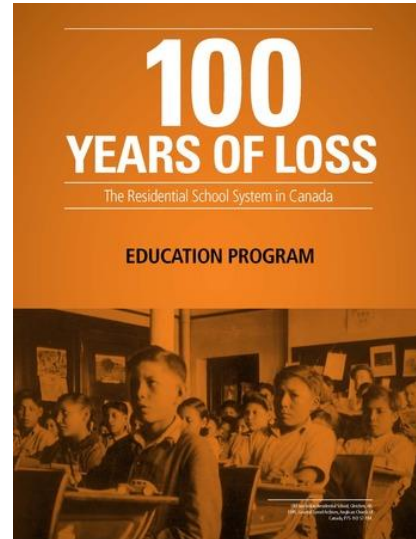
## ASD-N Next 150 Challenge

To promote the 94 Call to Action from the TRC, ASD-N introduced an initiative "ASD-N Next 150 Challenge". This challenge is proposal based and teachers can apply for up to \$500 to do acts of a reconciliation and promote the learning of Indigenous Peoples.

*The First Nation Education Team in ASD-N selected "Keeper N Me" by Richard Wagamese for its annual book study. 46 teachers registered to participate which greatly surpassed the number of participants for last year's book study.*

## Elder in Residence

Elder support has been secured for two K-8 schools in ASD-N. Students will get the opportunity to work with a Mi'kmaq Elder for one day a week for a five-week period. This started during the last week of September. ASD-N hopes to get Elders in more schools consistently in the future.



## Take Me Outside Challenge

As part of ASD-N's "Take Me Outside Challenge" initiative, First Nation Education Leads have assisted in the planning of activities with elementary grade one and two students and other First Nation themed lesson plans for October 24th's "Take Me Outside Challenge."



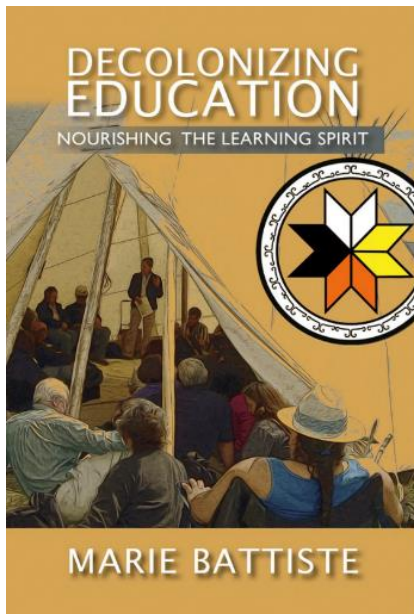


## Professional Learning for Enhancement employees

ASD-N provided enhancement employees in Miramichi/ Rexton areas with PL on Building Resiliency presented by ASD n's new Mental Health Mentor.

## School/ Community Collaboration Project

Connecting with Eel River Bar First Nation's health department, Child and Family Services cultural liaison and education department to generate collaboration project ideas for school and community.



## 4 Seasons of Reconciliation

Planning for the "4 Seasons of Reconciliation" resource has happened in preparation for grade 9 social studies and World Issues teachers to get a full day PL on this excellent resource. This PL was planned to further promote the use of this resource while also exposing teachers who missed the EECD training that took place in the spring of last year. This will take place at the end of October.

## L'nu Tell Me a Story

Collaboration with Early Childhood and a First Nation Community to continue the "L'nu Tell Me a Story" project, which first took place last year. This project has a Mi'kmaq Elder work with a daycare to share knowledge about Indigenous People over a period of 13 weeks. Last year this took place in Miramchi and Rexton but we are targeting the Northern part of ASD-N to continue this amazing project.

**Indspire National Gathering on Indigenous Education- ASD-N is sending 13 teachers to this national gathering from November 7-9.**

## Compass Conference

A First Nation Education Lead from ASD-N attended the NBTF Compass Conference and was also invited to be part of the NBTF Diversity Board.

## Traveling Supper Meetings

ASD-N is embarking on a new professional learning idea of traveling supper meetings. The idea is to capitalize on lectures series offered by universities. On October 18th 19 teachers will be traveling to hear Dr. Marie Battiste speak about decolonizing education



## News from Anglophone West

### **Kairos Blanket Exercise**

Schools across the district have participated in the Kairos Blanket Exercise throughout the summer. ASD-W also assisted the Office of First Nation Education with a Blanket Exercise held at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for summer students.

### **Orange Shirt Day**

Residential School survivors, Elders, and Traditional Dancers attended various schools for Orange Shirt Day to share their experiences. Staff and students were engaged in pre-learning as well as follow-up debriefing for these presentations. Many schools held assemblies and activities in honour of Orange Shirt day as well.

### **The Ghost of Violence Ballet**

ASD-W participated in the Ghost of Violence Ballet as a part of the Red Shawl Campaign to remember Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

### **Sisters in Spirit, Sweat Lodges and Medicine Walks**

ASD-W will be sending out a schedule of events to all schools in the district over the next few days with activities such as Sisters in Spirit, Sweat Lodges and Medicine Walks included. Traditional dancing lessons have begun in schools, and there has been a welcome back barbecue held in the communities.



### **Wolastoqey Flag Ceremonies**

Many schools are requesting Wolastoqey flags to fly or hang in their school buildings. Flag raising ceremonies are being held in recognition of the flag and the meaning of the flag. Wolastoqewi Grand Chief, Ron Tremblay re-created the flags and has been leading the ceremonies for staff and students.

### **Professional Learning Opportunities**

The Massey Lecture by Tanya Talaga was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on October 18. A book study on “Seven Fallen Fathers” was held last school year and the lecture was a perfect way to bring the book study full circle.

“Honouring our survivors” was held on October 11<sup>th</sup> at UNB. This included an educational panel of Residential School Survivors who shared their experiences.

A lecture by Dr. Marie Batiste was attended on October 18, 2018 at the Crown Plaza in Fredericton. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Dr. Ottilia Chareka Memorial Lecture in Education & Social Justice.

### **Braiding our Histories and Knowledge together**

This team consists of one full time staff member from each of the schools in the district. This staff member is the contact in the school for upcoming professional learning opportunities, curriculum, and other First Nation initiatives. It is the expectation that the committee will share with other staff members, at staff meetings, and will be the person to help organize learnings around First Nation culture within the buildings together with support from Enhancement Staff and the First Nation Subject Coordinators.