



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

Indigenous Education Newsletter

Indigenous Education SCCDSB Family and Community April 2019 News

Truth and Reconciliation in the Classroom

[Calls to Action](#) 62 and 63 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission emphasizes the need to include learning that builds student understanding of both the historical and contemporary stories and perspectives of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people while building intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect when laying out next steps towards Education for Reconciliation:

Call 62.i. - Education for Reconciliation (TRC Calls to Action)

"We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to make age-appropriate curriculum on ... Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions ... a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students."

Call 63.iii. - Education for Reconciliation (TRC Calls to Action)

"We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including ... building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect."

Schools Getting Involved

Engaging in Storytelling and Building Cultural Awareness

Beginning in December through to early March, classrooms across the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have been learning through story from community partners. Both elementary and secondary schools engaged in learning and many applied their understanding through hands on experiences involving the Arts: Visual Art, Drama, and Music. Through story and responding through the arts, opportunities were created for students to creatively think and to apply their understanding.

Grade 9 and 10 classes in the Arts Department at St. Patrick's Catholic High School worked together with Jeffrey "Red Dog" George and Moses Lunham from Kettle and Stony Point First Nation around the theme of "What's Your Story?". Students learned both the art techniques and the meaning behind the symbolism used in their art work. Moses taught the students that for every blade of grass there is a teaching and, through his art works, he demonstrates that for every brush stroke there is also a teaching. Red Dog taught the students to paint the truth. Through this process, all participants built relationships and reflected deeply on their own lives. *"I had a great time and learned so much. I learned what the images meant and how you can use symbols and colours to tell your story.."* (Student reflection)



