

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AT LEILA NORTH

2020-2021

Welcome Elder Betty Ross and Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story

At Leila North
we are Com-
mitted to
Truth and
Reconcilliation.

This year, we welcomed Elder Betty Ross to École Leila North Community School with an open mind and a kind heart. A humble approach to sharing her truth that captures the essence of her own personal holocaust towards the transformation, acceptance, and education of Residential Schools.

“Bringing love and peace to people who may share a similar story.”

She is the narrative behind a National Best-selling graphic novel ***Sugar Falls: a residential school story by David Alexander Robertson and Scott B. Henderson.*** In addition, Elder Betty Ross’s story titled ***Kewan-Ochiy? Why?*** is published in the book ***Did you see Us?: Re-union, Remembrance, and Reclamation at an Urban Residential School a collection of works by Survivors of The Assiniboia Indian Residential School.***

A close relationship with her father helped Elder Betty Ross gain the courage to uncover her life, living within two residential schools from 1953 to 1968. She speaks highly of her family, past generations, her four children and a growing number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoys traditional foods, chamomile tea and every year looks forward to a nostalgic Christmas season. Her role as a Community Elder is staying intact with her Indigenous heritage in an urban setting.

Speaking her *first language* Cree grounds her holistically. She changed her name to Elder Betty Ross in the late memory of her relative Helen Betty Osborne. Together they shared many loving recollections of big dreams, laughter, and wellbeing. Her dream job would have been a Psychologist because she feels the human mind intrigues imagination.



Learning Ojibwe (W.O.W.)

“Leila North continues to commit to help restore, support, and strengthen indigenous language to further our reconciliation efforts highlighted in the TRC calls to action.”

Boozhoo and Aaniin! Leila North continues to commit to help restore, support, and strengthen indigenous language to further our reconciliation efforts highlighted in the TRC calls to action. One action we took this year was introducing an Ojibwe Word of the Week. In daily announcements, staff and students learned ways to incorporate the new words into their day and were left with challenges to try and use the words in daily conversations. We were even able to learn words that aligned with other school themes, like “I love to Read” month and the word for book or ‘mazinaa’igan’; or for Earth Day week with the word for Earth being ‘aki’. Students made a display for the words every week and added their own unique creative design to showcase the word. We look forward to learning more words and phrases next year!



Pow Wow Club

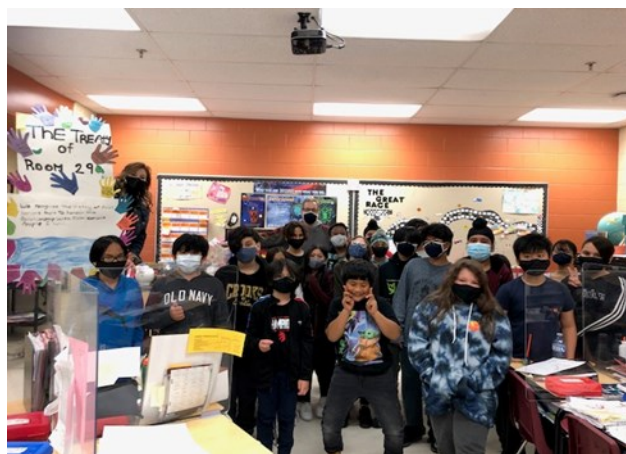
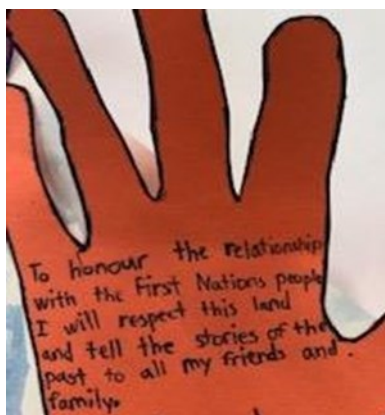


This year, students from Leila North participated in Pow Wow Club where they were able to learn and experience different cultural teachings, activities, and opportunities. This year was extra special as we had a guest teacher, Bella, from the Aboriginal School of Dance come spend her time with us every two weeks to help learn and prepare for our virtual Pow Wow celebration. Bella’s knowledge, stories, and expertise helped create a fun safe place to learn new styles of dance, new language words, and an opportunity to practice with others. We look forward to next year and the opportunity to continue to participate in the graduation Pow Wow.

We Are All Treaty People



This year, the students from Mrs. Biggar's grade six classroom (Biggar's Bunch) created a "Class Treaty". They explored Indigenous artists, art and literature. They learned about the birth of our nation, Canada's history, and the sharing of the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe peoples. They connected their past to their present as they gained an understanding about residential schools, First Nation's Peoples, and the land they live on and go to school each day is Treaty One land. They shared treaty stories and The Seven Teachings. They reflected about how they would like to continue their "Journey on Mother Earth". What is our role in Reconciliation? The students proudly designed their "We Are All Treaty People" posters. Biggar's Bunch then put their heads and "hands" together to create our Class Treaty for Room 29. As long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow, We Are All Treaty



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**We're on social
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