



## The Open Minds Team

The Greater Essex County District School Board has a dedicated team working toward the goals below. In this newsletter you can also find more information about each team member and the work they do.

Supporting First Nations Métis and Inuit Students	
<b>Goal</b>	
<b>Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of learning environments that engage the Indigenous learner</li> <li>Increase the graduation rate of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students</li> <li>Improve First Nation, Métis, and Inuit student achievement</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for meaningful First Nations, Métis and Inuit student involvement through the learning environment (school, social, &amp; classroom)</li> <li>Engage students in activities that will encourage them emotionally, intellectually and physically</li> </ul>
<b>Transitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aid First Nations, Métis and Inuit students to move confidently and successfully from one educational stage to another.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home to school / Junior to Intermediate / Elementary to Secondary / Secondary to Post-Secondary</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Well-being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support First Nations, Métis and Inuit students to develop an individual sense of physical, social-emotional, and cultural balance</li> </ul>
Supporting Educators/Staff	
<b>Goal</b>	
<b>Building Awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide professional development opportunities that enable teachers and board leaders to increase their knowledge and awareness of Indigenous cultures, histories, traditions, and perspectives and enhance their capacity to support Indigenous learners more effectively</li> <li>Increase the number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies courses offered.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate professional development opportunities for teaching staff to assist them in incorporating culturally appropriate pedagogy into practice to support Indigenous student achievement, well-being, and success.</li> </ul>

## First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Support Workers

FNMI Student Support Workers work directly with First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Students, their families, and school staff on matters related to student achievement, cultural inclusiveness, and building trusting relationships. Our goals are to assist the First Nations, Métis, & Inuit students by helping to improve student achievement, provide cultural learning opportunities, create greater opportunities for success in education and help foster an understanding and an appreciation for Indigenous peoples in our school communities.

Adrian Klein  
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Support Worker  
Adrian.Klein@publicboard.ca  
(519) 255-3200 ext.10829

Boozhoo/Sheko:Í (Hello/Greetings),  
My name is Adrian Klein, and I will be working as a First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Support Worker for the 2020/2021 school year. I am a proud member of the Ojibwe and Oneida Nations. First Nations culture has been a part of my life since a very young age. I feel it is important to incorporate a cultural aspect in both academic and everyday life. I feel it is important to share the cultural knowledge I have acquired over the years with everyone who is willing to learn, especially the younger generation. I have many years' experience working with urban Indigenous youth. I feel providing cultural learning opportunities will help guide them on a good path toward success. I am looking forward to meeting the students and families and provide support needed for students to achieve their educational goals.

**If your child attends any of the following schools, please contact Adrian Klein.**

WEEKLY	MONTHLY	AS REQUESTED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walkerville</li> <li>King Edward</li> <li>Prince Edward</li> <li>Belle River Public School</li> <li>Forest Glade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Amherst</li> <li>Tecumseh Vista Public School</li> <li>Hugh Beaton</li> <li>F.W. Begley</li> <li>Hetherington</li> <li>Riverside</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Suzuki</li> <li>Eastwood</li> <li>Parkview</li> <li>Princess Elizabeth</li> <li>Amherstburg</li> <li>Anderdon</li> <li>Malden Central</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D.M. Eagle</li> <li>Tecumseh Vista Secondary</li> <li>A.V. Graham</li> <li>Belle River Secondary</li> <li>Centennial Central</li> <li>Lakeshore Discovery</li> </ul>

**October Schedule for Adrian Klein ( Support will be provided virtually unless otherwise requested)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13	14	15	16
Thanksgiving	Forest Glade AM King Edward PM	Belle River All day	Riverside AM TVA Elementary PM	Walkerville AM Prince Edward PM
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. Virtual School Meeting Link <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian">http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian</a>				
19	20	21	22	23
Walkerville AM Prince Edward PM	Riverside AM King Edward PM	Belle River All Day	Beaton AM Forest Glade PM	Belle River DHS Prince Edward PM
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. Virtual School Meeting Link <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian">http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian</a>				
26	27	28	29	30
Walkerville AM Prince Edward PM	Amherst AM King Edward PM	Belle River All Day	Hetherington AM Forest Glade PM	Walkerville AM Begley PM
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. Virtual School Meeting Link <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian">http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian</a>				

<p><b>Meet your Support Worker!</b> <b>Walkerville Family of Schools</b> <b>October 20<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 PM-4:30 PM</b> Students and parents are welcome to sign on for a meet and greet with your FNMI Student Support worker! <b>Link to Join:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/walkervillemeet">http://bit.ly/walkervillemeet</a></p>	<p><b>Meet your Support Worker!</b> <b>Riverside &amp; General Amherst Family of Schools</b> <b>October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 3:30 PM- 4:30PM</b> Students and parents are welcome to sign on for a meet and greet with your FNMI Student Support worker! <b>Link to Join:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/riversidemeet">http://bit.ly/riversidemeet</a></p>	<p><b>Meet your Support Worker!</b> <b>Belle River &amp; Tecumseh Family of Schools</b> <b>October 27<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 PM – 4:30PM</b> Students and parents are welcome to sign on for a meet and greet with your FNMI Student Support worker! <b>Link to Join:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/bellerivermeet">http://bit.ly/bellerivermeet</a></p>
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## November Schedule for Adrian Klein

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
Walkerville AM Prince Edward PM	Forest Glade AM King Edward PM	Belle River All Day	TVA Elementary AM Forest Glade PM	Walkerville AM Prince Edward PM
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from <b>2:30pm-3:15pm</b> daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian">http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian</a>				
9	10	11	12	13
Walkerville AM Prince Edward PM	King Edward AM Forest Glade PM	Belle River All Day	Beaton AM Forest Glade PM	Walkerville AM Begley PM
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from <b>2:30pm-3:15pm</b> daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian">http://bit.ly/virtualAdrian</a>				

## Adrian's Weekly Virtual Events

**Details regarding the sessions and when they will take place will be sent to families and students.**

## Virtual Pow Wow fitness

Part of living a healthy lifestyle is staying active. These sessions incorporate Indigenous song and dance into a fitness activity. Students will also learn the significance of Pow Wow dance styles. Combining cultural learning and fitness will create a fun activity for the students.

## Treaty Awareness - Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>

The 1<sup>st</sup> week of November has been designated 'Treaty Awareness Week'. Students will learn the importance of the Treaties and the rights Indigenous people have within those Treaties.

## NOTES

[illegible]

Brieanne John  
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Support Worker  
[Brieanne.john@publicboard.ca](mailto:Brieanne.john@publicboard.ca)  
(519) 255-3200 ext. 40150  
Sheko:lí (Greetings):

Kaliwahloluks ní:yukyáts, Ohkwa:lí niwaki'taló:t, On'yota'a:ká niwakuhutsyó:t. My name is Brieanne John and I am a member of the bear clan from the Oneida Nation of the Thames. I am active in my culture and continue to grow my knowledge and understanding of both my own and other cultures. I have an educational background in Psychology and I am eager to continue learning what I can do to better assist my students and families. This will be my fourth year working with the GECD SB, and I currently hold the 'First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Student Support Workers & Cultural and Community Outreach' position. I look forward to continuing in this role and nourishing a trust that will allow parents and students to view me as somebody with their best interests at heart.

**If your child attends any of the following schools, please contact Brieanne John.**

WEEKLY	MONTHLY	AS REQUESTED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herman Secondary</li> <li>Coronation</li> <li>Ford City</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Maxwell</li> <li>William G. Davis</li> <li>PASS/Agency</li> <li>Kingsville Public School</li> <li>Harrow Public School</li> <li>Herman Elementary</li> <li>Talbot Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kingsville DHS</li> <li>Jack Miner/Pelee Island</li> <li>Essex DHS &amp; Essex Public School</li> <li>Colchester North</li> <li>Gosfield North</li> <li>Leamington DHS</li> <li>East Mersea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gore Hill</li> <li>MD Bennie</li> <li>Mount Carmel-Blytheswood</li> <li>Queen Elizabeth</li> <li>Western</li> <li>Maryvale</li> <li>Roseville</li> </ul>

## October Schedule for Brieanne John ( Support will be provided virtually unless otherwise requested)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13	14	15	16
Thanksgiving	System Support (All day)	Coronation (All day)	Harrow PS (AM) Kingsville PS (PM)	Herman (AM) (link included below) Ford City (PM)
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. Virtual School Meeting Link <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI">http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI</a> Herman meetings: <a href="http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI">http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI</a>				
19	20	21	22	23
Herman (AM) (link included below) Ford City (PM)	System Support (All day)	Coronation (All day)	Maxwell (AM) Herman E. (PM)	Herman (AM) (link included below) Ford City (PM)
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. Virtual School Meeting Link <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI">http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI</a> Herman meetings: <a href="http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI">http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI</a>				
26	27	28	29	30
Herman (AM) (link included below) Ford City (PM)	System Support (All day)	Coronation (All day)	Davis (AM) PASS (PM) PAINT NIGHT WITH MOSES LUNHAM 4:30pm-6pm	Herman (AM) (link included below) Ford City (PM)
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. Virtual School Meeting Link <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI">http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI</a> Herman meetings: <a href="http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI">http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI</a>				

### Meet your Support Worker!

Students and parents are welcome to sign on for a meet and greet with your FNMI Student Support worker!

HERMAN Family of Schools	KINGSVILLE Family of Schools	LEAMINGTON/ESSEX Family of Schools	Virtual Paint Night with Moses Lunham
October 13 <sup>th</sup> 2020 – 3:30PM-4:30 PM Link to Join: <a href="http://bit.ly/hermanmeet">http://bit.ly/hermanmeet</a>	October 20 <sup>th</sup> – 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Link to Join: <a href="http://bit.ly/kingsvillemeet">http://bit.ly/kingsvillemeet</a>	October 27 <sup>th</sup> – 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Link to Join: <a href="http://bit.ly/meetleamingtonessex">http://bit.ly/meetleamingtonessex</a>	Open to students in Herman, Kingsville, Leamington, and Essex Family of Schools <b>Thursday, OCT.29<sup>th</sup></b> Join us for a virtual session with Moses Lunham where he will be guiding us through a 3-sisters themed painting. Younger students might need the support of a parent/guardian. <b>MUST Register in Advance</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/3sistersregister">http://bit.ly/3sistersregister</a>

## November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
<b>Herman (AM)</b> (link included below) <b>Ford City (PM)</b>	System Support (All day)	<b>Coronation (All day)</b>	System Support (8:30-2:30PM) <i>Talbot Trail (1PM-2PM)</i>	<b>Herman (AM)</b> (link included below) <b>Ford City (PM)</b>
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from <b>2:30pm-3:15pm</b> daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI">http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI</a> <b>Herman meetings:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI">http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI</a>				
9	10	11	12	13
<b>Herman (AM)</b> (link included below) <b>Ford City (PM)</b>	System Support (All day)	<b>Coronation (All day)</b>	<b>Harrow PS (AM)</b> <b>Kingsville PS (PM)</b>	<b>Herman (AM)</b> (link included below) <b>Ford City (PM)</b>
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from <b>2:30pm-3:15pm</b> daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI">http://bit.ly/virtualFNMI</a> <b>Herman meetings:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI">http://bit.ly/HermanFNMI</a>				

## Virtual Guided Paint Night with Moses Lunham

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**October 29th, 4:30-6PM**  
**via Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Open to First Nations, Metis, & Inuit  
students and families in the  
Herman, Kingsville, Essex, and Leamington  
Family of Schools

**Limited spaces available!**  
**You must register in advance.**

**Registration:** <http://bit.ly/3sistersregister>

**For more information, contact** [brienne.john@publicboard.ca](mailto:brienne.john@publicboard.ca)



Tyler White  
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Support Worker  
[Tyler.white@publicboard.ca](mailto:Tyler.white@publicboard.ca)  
(519) 255-3200 ext. 40152

Boozhoo/Sheko:Íí (Hello/Greetings),

I am an Oneida and Ojibwe from Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island First Nation). I am active in my culture, in both traditional and educational aspects. My educational background is law-oriented but I have also always liked working with First Nations, Métis, & Inuit youth. I previously worked with the Walpole Island Secondary School Program as a First Nations, Métis, & Inuit student support worker. At the GECDSD I have had the chance to work at different schools this past year and meet some amazing students. I look forward to working with students in person or online depending on their choice of schooling. It has been challenging these past few months but I am excited to be back in schools for the 2020-2021 school year where our 'Open Minds' team is working together to overcome the many different challenges we all face. Miigwech/ Yaw^ko.

**If your child attends any one of the following schools, please contact Tyler White.**

WEEKLY	MONTHLY	AS REQUESTED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marlborough Public School</li> <li>West Gate Public School</li> <li>Kennedy Collegiate Institute</li> <li>Queen Victoria Public School</li> <li>John Campbell Public School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lasalle Public School</li> <li>Northwood Public School</li> <li>Westview Freedom Academy</li> <li>Vincent Massey Secondary School</li> <li>McWilliam Public School</li> <li>Sandwich Secondary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Brock</li> <li>Dougall Public School</li> <li>Roseland Public School</li> <li>Glenwood Public School</li> <li>Sandwich West Public School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prince Andrew Public School</li> <li>Bellewood Public School</li> <li>Giles Campus</li> <li>Central Public School</li> <li>Southwood Public School</li> </ul>

## October Schedule for Tyler White ( Support will be provided virtually unless otherwise requested)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13	14	15	16
Thanksgiving	Kennedy (AM) Campbell (PM)	Marlborough (All Day)	Kennedy (AM) Lasalle (PM)	Westview (AM) West Gate (PM)
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b>				
19	20	21	22	23
West Gate (All DAY)	Kennedy (AM) Campbell (PM)	Marlborough (All Day)	Massey (AM)	Massey (AM) McWilliam (PM)
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b>				
26	27	28	29	30
Sandwich Secondary (AM) West Gate (PM)	Campbell (all Day)	Sandwich Secondary (AM) Marlborough (PM)	Kennedy (AM) Lasalle (PM)	Queen Victoria (All Day)
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from 2:30pm-3:15pm daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualTyler">http://bit.ly/virtualTyler</a>				

<p>Meet your Support Worker! <b>WESTVIEW Family of Schools</b> October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 – 3:30PM-4:30PM Students and parents are welcome to sign on for a meet and greet with your FNMI Student Support worker! <b>Link to Join:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/westviewMeet">http://bit.ly/westviewMeet</a></p>	<p>Meet your Support Worker! <b>KENNEDY Family of Schools</b> October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 3:30 PM-4:30PM Students and parents are welcome to sign on for a meet and greet with your FNMI Student Support worker! <b>Link to Join:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/kennedyMeet">http://bit.ly/kennedyMeet</a></p>	<p>Meet your Support Worker! <b>MASSEY/SANDWICH Family of Schools</b> October 29<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 PM – 4:30PM Students and parents are welcome to sign on for a meet and greet with your FNMI Student Support worker! <b>Link to Join:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/masseyMeet">http://bit.ly/masseyMeet</a></p>
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# November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
Westview (AM) West Gate (All Day)	Kennedy (AM) Campbell (PM)	Marlborough (All day)	Kennedy (AM) Northwood (PM)	Queen Victoria (AM) McWilliam (PM)
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from <b>2:30pm-3:15pm</b> daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualTyler">http://bit.ly/virtualTyler</a>				
9	10	11	12	13
West Gate (All Day) Virtual School (2:30-3:15)	Kennedy (AM) Campbell (PM)	Marlborough (All day)	Kennedy (AM) Lasalle (PM)	Queen Victoria (All Day)
Support to Virtual School Students will be provided from <b>2:30pm-3:15pm</b> daily Monday to Friday unless otherwise communicated. <b>Virtual School Meeting Link</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/virtualTyler">http://bit.ly/virtualTyler</a>				

## Tyler's Virtual Events

**Details regarding the sessions and when they will take place will be sent to families and students.**

Indigenous Music 'Virtual Meeting with Cedric Isaac and Family': Cedric will be talking about the Water Drum and the Rattle as well as sharing songs.

## NOTES

# Teacher Consultant for Indigenous Education

Tina DeCastro

Teacher Consultant of Indigenous Education

[Tina.decastro@publicboard.ca](mailto:Tina.decastro@publicboard.ca)

(519) 255-3200 ext. 10235

Ahnii/Shekoli/Hello,

I arrived on Turtle Island as a young girl from Portugal with my family. It is my own personal goal to be a helper, so that this generation and future generations understand the historical and current events that have impacted the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people on Turtle Island. I am extremely fortunate to work with a team of individuals dedicated to improving the educational experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students within our School Board. I have been a teacher with the GECDSB for 20 years and have spent six of those years dedicated to Indigenous Education. I see my primary role as creating spaces for Indigenous voices, perspectives and history to be shared and learned. It is my responsibility to listen to the community and continuously educate myself. Within my role, I provide staff and students opportunities to learn the true history of Turtle Island using authentic learning resources, experiences and Indigenous voices. I also work in our system to help others recognize and understand that equitable access to support does not mean *equal* access for Indigenous students. Equitable access means recognizing the systemic factors that shape Indigenous student realities, barriers, and needs and responding to these needs in a way that creates a fair and inclusive learning experience for them.

I look forward to continuing to listen and learn from students, parents/guardians and staff in order to do the work with an open mind and heart.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

## THE TEAM ALSO WORKS CLOSELY WITH TONI LAUZON

SOCIAL WORKER / ATTENDANCE COUNSELLOR

[Toni.lauzon@publicboard.ca](mailto:Toni.lauzon@publicboard.ca)

Kwe' teluisi/hello my name is Toni Lauzon. I hold Master's degrees in Sociology and Social Work from the University of Windsor. I am a Social Worker and Attendance Counsellor for the GECDSB. I am half-time assigned to Indigenous students in this role. I believe that every student has gifts that may be realized and built upon. I work with students and their families from a strength-based, person and community centered approach while using a combination of Indigenous principles and practices of healing and mainstream therapeutic interventions. I live and work from a place of awareness of the impacts of colonization and intergenerational trauma while recognizing the resilience and abilities of our communities. We all struggle from time to time, asking for help is one of the greatest strengths and abilities a person can possess.

I also wanted to share with you that I've been working with many families to access educational supports and services through Jordan's Principle. Jordan's Principle aims to ensure that all First Nations children under the age of 19, can access all public services for unmet needs without experiencing denials, delays or disruptions. So far we have been successful in supporting children in receiving psychoeducational assessments, technology (iPads, laptops), professional services (i.e. speech and language) and in exceptional cases, EA support staff.

If you have questions about Jordan's Principle or want more information about supports and services that are available through my Social Worker or Attendance Counselling role, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to supporting you and your children in any way I can.

Wela'lioq/thank you.



# Building Resilience

## Every Child Matters / Orange Shirt Day

September 30<sup>th</sup> marked Orange Shirt Day. On this day we remembered and honored Indigenous children who attended a Residential School across Canada. In the spirit of reconciliation, our communities banded together to share stories and to educate and create awareness of the impact Residential Schools imposed on Indigenous people.

Our Open Minds Team held a virtual event that featured Mr. Cecil Isaac of the Bkejwanong Territory, Walpole Island. He told the story of how Residential Schools impacted generations within his family and community. He shared how the connection to cultural teachings has helped build the resilience required to move forward.

**We would like to say Miigwech (Thank You) to Cecil for sharing his time and teachings with everyone who joined this event.**

## Virtual Language Classes

### ONEIDA Language Classes

Tuesday Evenings

4:30pm-5:30pm Starting **October 20<sup>th</sup>**

It is important that you register in advance to ensure any materials required for the classes can be sent to families in advance. <http://bit.ly/oneidaregister>

**Microsoft Teams** – Please go to the following link to join. <http://bit.ly/gecdsboneida>

If you have any questions, please contact [StoneHorse.Moore@publicboard.ca](mailto:StoneHorse.Moore@publicboard.ca)

### OJIBWE Language Classes

Tuesday And Wednesday Evenings

4:30pm-5:30pm Starting **October 20<sup>th</sup>**

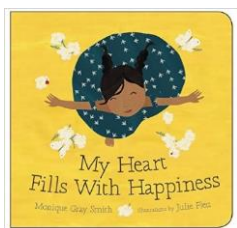
It is important that you register in advance to ensure any materials required for the classes can be sent to families in advance. <http://bit.ly/ojibweregister>

**Microsoft Teams** – Please go to the following link to join. <http://bit.ly/gecdsbOjibwe>

If you have any questions, please contact [esbikenh@gmail.com](mailto:esbikenh@gmail.com)

Please note that classes will not run if it is not a scheduled school day. (For example; Holidays)

# Supporting Transitions



## Early Years Virtual Visits

Every year, the Open Minds team does its best to make sure our students make smooth and successful transitions. In order to ensure our students know they have our support, we try to connect with early years students who identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit at the beginning of the school year. Considering this year's circumstances, the First Nations, Metis, & Inuit student support workers have been working to schedule virtual visits in each of the early years classrooms who have new Indigenous JK students to read aloud the story "My Heart Fills with Happiness." Even though this year looks so different, connecting with students and sharing stories with classes fill our hearts with happiness!

*Please note, for students who have opted for offline packages, your support worker will connect with you to do a reading of the story, please contact us and we would be happy to set something up.*

## Welcome to Grade 9

Each year the Open Minds Program offers a gift to students as a welcome for starting Grade 9. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Support Workers would also deliver the gift to each Grade 9 student at their school. Unfortunately we were not able to do that this year.

We still wanted to give the Grade 9's a gift so we decided to give them a welcome package to help them transition in this very different start to the new school year. The welcome package included:

- Hand sanitizer
- Mask
- \$15 Staples gift card
- Reusable water bottle
- Milk chocolate bar
- Student Support Worker contact information



While we were not able to bring these to the students personally, we wanted the students and families to know that the Student Support workers are still just an email or call away. We hope that all the grade 9 students had a smooth transition into their new school.

**The Open Minds team would like to thank the Kennedy family @ West Gate Public School for organizing, fundraising and donating the water bottles included in these packages.  
Your kindness is greatly appreciated!**

## Building Awareness

Supporting educators in teaching Indigenous content is another important priority of the Open Minds team. This year the work began with the following supports for educators.

- English teachers teaching the Grade 11 Indigenous Literature Course were provided with a pre-developed course that they could follow with their students using the D2L platform
- All educators were provided a resource link to appropriately address the very important topic of residential schools. You can view this collection of resources at the following link.  
<http://bit.ly/residentialschoolSWAY>
  - Many classrooms from Grades 5-12 participated in the live event hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. The full 90 minute program is now available on their website. <https://education.nctr.ca/>
  - Many primary classrooms joined Pamela Palmatar's podcast called **Warrior kids**.  
<https://warriorkidspodcast.com>
- All educators were provided a resource link to assist them with appropriately integrating Indigenous content into the classroom. You can view this collection of resources at the following link.  
<http://bit.ly/integrateSWAY>
- The GECD SB purchased a subscription to FNMIEAO which provides teachers access to their classroom resources. You can learn more about this organization at the following link.  
<http://fnmieao.com/>
- As part of our SHSM Speaker Series, we have booked Niigaan James Sinclair, Associate Professor, Dept. of Native Studies, University of Manitoba, to speak to interested GECD SB secondary students and teachers on the morning of October 28, 2020 (9 AM – 11 AM) via a virtual platform.

If you have any questions and/or comments regarding these resources or would like to assist with building awareness for our educators, please contact [tina.decastro@publicboard.ca](mailto:tina.decastro@publicboard.ca)

# Engagement

## Would you like to be more involved?

### Students...

#### OPEN MINDS Student Council

Applications are now being accepted for the Open Minds Student Council 2020-2021. We are looking for First Nations, Métis, & Inuit full-time students between grade 9-12 who are responsible, reliable, and willing to dedicate time each month for the Open Minds Student Council. Being on this council is an opportunity to create change and opportunities for all Indigenous students across the Greater Essex County District School Board. It is important for us to have as many voices and perspectives sitting on this council as possible. If you are interested and are willing to commit yourself to this, please follow the link below and complete the application:

<http://bit.ly/openminds2020>

If you have any questions, please contact Brienne John.

### Parents/Guardians

**Meet the OPEN Minds Team** and learn more about support and programming. We will also be sharing details regarding the Indigenous Education Advisory Council and how you too can become involved.

In order to accommodate as many parents/guardians as possible, we will be offering two virtual

'Meet the Open Minds Team' meetings on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Please see below for the links to join.

**Wednesday Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am** – Please join at the following link: <http://bit.ly/OpenMindsMeetAM>

**Wednesday Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30pm** – Please join at the following link: <http://bit.ly/OpenMindMeetPM>

## Indigenous Education Advisory Council

**This is an open invitation for all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Parents/Guardians**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Time:** 4:30pm—5:30pm

Please register by completing the following online form.

<http://bit.ly/gecdsbIEAC1>

**For regular updates and information please join the  
GECDSB Open Minds Program on facebook.**



If you would like to receive electronic copies of this newsletter or other communications from the Open Minds Program please let us know by signing up to our electronic mailing list.

<http://bit.ly/FNMlelectronicmail>