

***DATES TO REMEMBER***

December:

- 11—Hurricanes Game and Silent Auction
- 12—Cookie dough order pick up
- 16—Swimming
- 17—Assembly @ 9:30 a.m.
- 17—Christmas Lunch 12:30
- 19—Gift of Time
- 20—PJ Day
- 23—Jan 3—No School

January:

- 6—Classes Resume
- 9—Ribbon Skirt/Ribbon Shirt Day
- 20—Council Mtg @ 6 p.m.
- 22—Hot Lunch Cut Off
- 23—Family Gym Night
- 28—Assembly
- 28—Jersey Day
- 29—Hot Lunch Day
- 31—No School

Dear Buchanan Families,

It's hard to believe that November has ended and the New Year is almost upon us. Quality learning takes place each day as students, staff, and parents work together in our school community. A hearty thank you goes out to all parents who supported fundraising events and attended parent/teacher interviews. We could not be as successful without your continuous support!

As December begins, our thoughts now turn to ways of celebrating the season together as a school community as well as with our families. We look forward to many school-wide celebrations this month. Our Christmas Show is on Thursday, December 5, followed by our Buchanan night at the Hurricanes Game on Wednesday, December 11. We hope you will be able to attend both events.

We are also excited to have our annual "Gifts" the week prior to break. We start with the "Gift of Fun" with Buchanan Grade Level Swimming at the YMCA on Monday, December 16. We also have our Courage Awards and our Third Annual "Gift of Yum" Buchanan Turkey Dinner, sponsored by LA Catering on Tuesday, December 17. On Thursday, December 19, students and staff get the Gift of Time and PJ Day on Friday, December 20. We look forward to having some special time with our students this final week of 2024.

All of our staff wishes you a very Merry Christmas as you celebrate this holiday season with family and friends. We look forward to learning more together in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Lenee Fyfe & Bob White  
Your Administrative Team



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## Hurricanes Night/ Silent Auction – December 11, 2024



We are very excited to announce our next fundraising event. We are having a Buchanan night at the Hurricanes game on Wednesday, December 11. Our Grade 4/5 Select Choir will be performing O'Canada this evening. All Choir and Leadership members will receive a free ticket.

During the game we will also have a silent auction table and gift card raffle. We have secured some amazing items such as: signed Hurricanes jersey, Oakley sunglasses, Google Home Mini, snowshoe set, gift baskets, game sets and more! If you are able to approach businesses for auction item donations or gift card donations, please contact the office for a letter to provide to the business. Please drop off any gift card donations or silent auction donations to the school office by Monday, December 9. All funds raised this evening will go directly into classrooms.



### **Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick-Up**

Please pick up your cookie dough order on:

**Thursday, December 12 between 3 – 4 p.m. at the gym door on the west side of school**

If you are unable to make it during this time, you need to e-mail to [Lenee.Fyfe@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:Lenee.Fyfe@lethsd.ab.ca) to make alternate arrangements.

The school cannot be held responsible for items not picked up as we don't always have room to store multiple frozen items.

### **Gift of Fun – December 16 (Swimming at the YMCA)**



We are excited to wrap up 2024 with Grade Level swimming at the YMCA. All students will swim on Monday, December 16.

Kindergarten **MUST** have one parent/ guardian attend. Grade 1 parents/ guardians are strongly encouraged to attend.

**Please return the permission forms.** Thank-you to parents/ guardians who have handed theirs in already.



# MISAMIKO'KOMIAATO'S

DECEMBER 2024



## BLACKFOOT

monthly

## VALUE

Generosity

Aahsitapaitapiisinni



## SAVE THE DATE

### December:

December 10th: Niitsitapi Landscapes Part 3 10:30-11:30

December 21st: Winter solstice

December 21st: Last day of classes

December 25th: A'ssitapio'ohkannakaatsiks: Horn Society

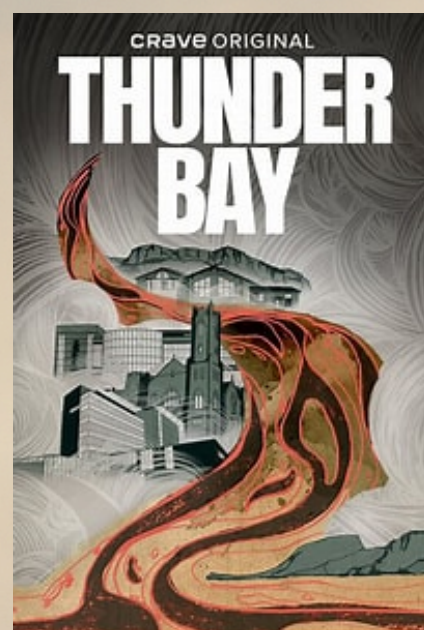
Traditional Powwow @6:00pm- Standoff, AB

### January:

January 9th: Ribbon skirt/shirt day

## IF YOU'RE INTERESTED...

A four part documentary series streaming on Crave, about the murders of Indigenous people in the city of Thunder Bay, Ontario and the systemic racism which allowed it occur.



Phenomenal new Blackfoot Resource. A whole section on land-based learning with information about plants, birds, insects, landscapes, important places, months, and seasons!

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Did you know the ATA has a number of Indigenous workshops that can be booked online?



The Alberta Teachers' Association

# I'TAAMOMAHKATOYIKSISTSIKO

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



# INDIGENOUS EDUCATION IN THE NEW YEAR

## IMPORTANT!

Over the past few months, the Indigenous Education team has developed a plan for the upcoming year that will affect the roles of Miss Morrow and Mrs. Big Bull. As we transition towards focusing more on curriculum development, professional learning, and resource building, we will also be supporting our Middle School Indigenous students through the Good Movement initiative. As a result, our availability may be less flexible than in the past.

In an effort to build capacity and confidence, we have facilitated activities such as the Buffalo Kit and the Inuit Kit in classrooms over the past few years. We believe that you, as capable educators, are ready to take on the responsibility of leading these activities.

The Buffalo Kit includes a comprehensive teacher guide, and should you have any questions, we are happy to provide support. The Inuit Kit is available through Jacobi in the CRC, and the Buffalo Kit can be booked by emailing either Miss Morrow or Mrs. Big Bull.

## NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Grade 1 Learns how to have fun with nature learning about traditional Blackfoot games



Wilson paints Métis Dot Art poppies for Indigenous Veterans Day



Grade 3's learn about Indigenous games, art, and make their own land acknowledgement



Mrs. Big Bull and Miss. Morrow visited LCI to share their stories



Coalbanks learns about the word for Lethbridge in Blackfoot, "Sikoohtokoki" which means Black Rock aka Coal and saw some amazing Indigenous dances



Buchanan learns about Moccasins and works on a collaborative school project



Lakie's school entrance!



Behind the scenes photo with Elder Julius, Mr. Tail Feathers, Miss. Morrow, & Mrs. Big Bull



Grade 4 at Nicholas Sheran learns about moccasins and does Métis dot art



Ms. Staples class at Fleetwood makes mini moccasins



Kindergarten at Agnes Davidson learns about the sharing circle and made their own talking sticks



Grade 2 & 4 make collaborative art for their learning commons





# Multicultural & Diversity Newsletter

Dec 2024

*Dec 3*

*International Day of Persons with Disabilities (UN)*

Dec 3 is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities, and draw attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessible society for all.

- Wikipedia



*Dec 8*

*Bodhi Day (Buddhist)*



In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called "Rohatsu" and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a Rohatsu sesshin, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.

*Dec 12*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)*

An important religious festival in Mexico. It commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to Christianity, in 1531. Processions, dances, and visits are led to her Mexico City shrine.





# Multicultural & Diversity Newsletter

Dec 2024

## Universal Human Rights Month (UN)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN in 1948 as a response to the Nazi holocaust and to set a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations, rich and poor alike, are to be measured. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, and the rights to work and education. Everyone is entitled to these rights without discrimination.



## Dec 1

### Rosa Parks Day (USA)



Rosa Louise McCauley Parks (Feb 4, 1913 - Oct 24, 2005) was an American activist in the civil rights movement. This day commemorates the arrest of Rosa in 1955 for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to the end of segregation. The United States Congress has honoured her as the "first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement".

## Dec 2

### International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (UN)

This is a yearly event organized by the United Nations General Assembly. The United Nations emphasizes the fight against slavery as part of its commitment to human rights, recognizing that slavery is a grave violation. Slavery, in its modern form, remains a global problem, affecting over one million children trafficked each year for cheap labour or sexual exploitation. This Day serves as a reminder and a call to action to end slavery in all its forms.

- Wikipedia







# Multicultural & Diversity Newsletter

Dec 2024

Dec 25

Christmas Day (Christian)



This Day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth over 2000 years ago. Customs include lighting candles, exchanging gifts, and using evergreen decorations to celebrate this day, the most widely observed Christian festival of the year. In most communities, it is a family day.

Dec 25 - Jan 2  
Hanukkah (Jewish)

The "Festival of Lights" is celebrated for eight days. In 2024, the festival begins on Wednesday, Dec 25, at sundown. About 164 B.C., Maccabees, a small group of Jews fighting for religious freedom won victory over the Syrians. The legend goes that to rededicate the temple, they found only enough consecrated oil to re-light the candelabra for one day. Miraculously, it remained lit for eight days. An eight-candle menorah is lit, with a place for the ninth, used to light the others. Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the holy Temple and the altar.



## OTHER HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

- Dec 5 - Discovery Day (Haiti)
- Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Day (USA)
- Dec 16 - Day of Reconciliation (South Africa)
- Dec 26 - Boxing Day (Canada, Ireland, UK)
- Dec 26-Jan 1 - Kwanzaa (African American/Canadian)
- Dec 30 - Rizal Day (Philippines)
- Dec 31 - Omisoka (Japan)

## Reference

*Multicultural Calendar 2024.*  
Sheena Singh, Creative Cultural Communications,  
Toronto, ON.