



KTCEA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

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Important Dates



Family Friday

National Family Day

KTCEA Convention

Day in-lieu of parent interviews

Inclusive Education Week

KTCEA's Got Talent competition

PD Inclusive Education

Regional PD

KTCEA Spelling Bee

Good Friday

Spring Break

First day back from Spring Break

Family Friday

Family Friday

Victoria Day

National Indigenous Peoples Day

Last day for students

Last day for staff



New Teacher Orientation

We held our new teacher orientation on August 28 & 29 to welcome all of our new teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. **Each day included presentations, games and activities to help them learn about KTCEA.**



Outreach School Updates

Outreach School has now opened campus locations in all KTCEA communities and **offers Adult Education Programming** for adults not currently attending school or those who wish to complete or upgrade high school courses in an alternate setting for ages 21 and older. **There is no age limit.**



Adult Education

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LEARN

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kōhpikin
GROW

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kakaskihtān
SUCCEED

KTCEA Outreach Schools

offer Adult Education programming for adults currently not attending school or those who wish to complete or upgrade high school courses in an alternate setting for ages 21 and older. There is no age limit.

Apply Today!



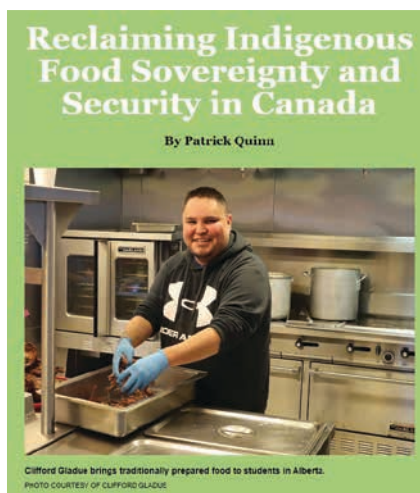
780-649-3103
• ktcea.ca •



KTCEA Food Services Manager and Foods Program Highlighted in Winds of Change Magazine Article

Our Food Services Manager, Clifford Gladue, is highlighted in the nationally distributed magazine, Winds of Change. The article focuses on career and educational advancement for Indigenous people in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Clifford discusses revitalizing traditional food practices and promoting nutrient-rich meals sourced from hunted animals, steering away from less healthy processed foods. Industrial development has disrupted the crucial link to traditional foods, contributing to health issues among Indigenous communities. We take pride in being an example of Indigenous initiatives reclaiming food sovereignty, as featured in the article. Join us in celebrating this impactful showcase of Indigenous efforts for food sovereignty and community well-being!



KTCEA Sports

The Traditional Games competition at the Loon Skin camping grounds in September set an exciting tone for the year. The defending champions, CJS Nighthawks, gave their best effort but ultimately finished in 4th place, while the Whitefish Warriors were bested by the Kateri School Eagles.

The cross-country races in October held in Little Buffalo were a highlight, drawing over 200 students from our five nations. Each participant was awarded a medal, with winners receiving plaques. Additionally, there were 15 draws for \$50 gift cards, giving everyone a chance to win. The Warriors triumphed in the dodgeball championship against the Elizabeth Quintal School Kodiaks. The mid season volleyball tournament champions were the Kateri Eagles for high school boys and girls, Cadotte Coyotes for junior high girls, and EQS Kodiaks for jr high boys.

In November, Team Alberta North brought their expertise in Arctic Sports and Dene Games to Atikameg school, conducting clinics on the 16th. Special recognition goes to the Grade 4, 5, and 6 students from Whitefish School, who not only secured the Floor Hockey Banner but also triumphed in the KTCEA Stanley, following a spirited final against the EQS Kodiaks. Kudos to the Kateri School senior teams, Clarence Jaycox School junior boys, and Cadotte Lake School junior girls for being crowned KTCEA Volleyball champions. **Their dedication and teamwork were evident on the court.**

The Battle of the Bands was another occasion for celebration, with six volleyball teams participating with students from our high schools who excelled in the competition. **Noteworthy achievements by the Kateri Eagles and Little Buffalo girls volleyball teams deserve special mention.**



Addressing your Concerns and Complaints

It has come to our attention that some parents may be unsure about the appropriate steps to take when faced with a complaint or concern related to school matters.

To ensure that everyone is informed and can effectively address any issues that may arise, we kindly ask you to take a moment to review the information provided on the poster. **This poster outlines the correct procedures for reporting and resolving concerns.**

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school administration or the designated contact person mentioned on the poster.

KTCEA believes that open communication and a clear understanding of our complaint resolution process are essential for maintaining a positive and productive school environment. Your cooperation and involvement in this matter are greatly appreciated.





KTCEA Representative on the Minister's Youth Council

Let's give a big round of applause to **Tanisha Nahachick**, our KTCEA representative who is a Grade 11 student from Little Buffalo School! She **was chosen among 39 outstanding students out of 180 applicants to be part of the prestigious Minister's Youth Council (MYC) for the 2023/24 term.**

Tanisha had an amazing start to the weekend at the MYC meeting in Edmonton from October 13th to the 15th. They began with a meeting between the youth council members and the Minister of Education, the Honorable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education. The council members discussed how they can make a positive impact in their schools and communities. Tanisha made sure her voice was heard!

Elder Sheri-Lynn Jondreaux shared indigenous teachings and answered questions from council members. Minister Nicolaides formally appointed the council members by presenting them with the Ministerial Order.

The MYC engaged in various activities, including informative sessions at 44 Capital Boulevard where they learned about the K-12 education system and honed their communication skills. Minister Nicolaides joined them for an inspiring afternoon, touring the Legislature building and consultation sessions on career pathways and life and home maintenance skills.

To wrap up the day, the council enjoyed a dinner at the Edmonton Coast Plaza Hotel, followed by a fireside chat led by two returning MYC members.

KTCEA Student Mental Health Summit

SUMMIT SNAPSHOT

110

Students

6

Breakout Sessions

1

Keynote Speaker

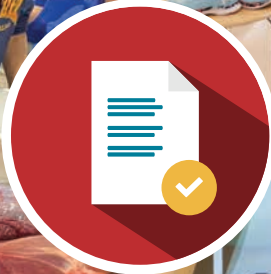
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Elders

November 3, 2023 KTCEA held its first Student Mental Health Summit. Six elders were set up at their own table, and they participated in the entire event. An overview of the summit and Indigenous Wellness circles from Alexia Miron and Sam Kahlil from Jack.org began the morning. The elders table was available to students throughout the day. The afternoon breakout sessions included presenters from KTC Health, KTCEA (land based learning & P.E./Wellness), AHS and Jack.org. Students participated in various mindful activities and learned about mental health tips, healthy relationships, and self-care. The day closed with a dinner and keynote speaker, Cody Demarais, from Limitless Gear.

SPONSORED BY:





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Community Report 2022–2023



Release of the 2022-2023 Community Report

**We are proud to present the KTEA
Community Report for 2022-2023!**

This Report is a testament to our shared commitment and achievements made in the face of challenges throughout the year. Our sincere appreciation to our outstanding teachers, dedicated staff, enthusiastic students, and supportive parents for their continued dedication to the success of our students. The report can be found on our website or paper copies in your community's school/health centre/band office.

Community Meetings

From November 27 to 30, we held community meetings at each of our schools to discuss the community report and hear from the community. **Thanks to everyone who came out and shared their feedback!**



Land-based Learning Camp

From November 28th to December 1st, students selected by our schools from grades 7, 8, and 9 embarked on a memorable journey to Mihkowapikwaniy Camp. For four action-packed days, **they dove into the world of experiential learning with a focus on winter survival skills.** Students learned how to care for themselves and others on the land.



THEY ENGAGED IN AN ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES:

- Exploring our local watersheds with insights from the Slave Lake and Athabasca Watershed Council.
- Experiencing the magic of equine therapy.
- Play with Everactive Schools.
- Discovering local fur-bearing animals and learning their names in Cree.
- Listening to enthralling stories from our local elders.
- Mastering the art of snaring, weaving snares from locally foraged fibers.
- Gazing at the stars and unraveling the mysteries of the night sky.
- Playing local traditional games.
- Exploring creativity through watercolor painting and more.
- A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this camp a success! We're proud of our students for embracing this learning adventure.



Playground Project

The playground project was a collaboration between KTCEA, Emmanuel Christian Foundation, Edmonton Rotary Club, Cadotte Lake School and Woodland Cree First Nation.

The playground was originally installed in Banff National Park, the Emmanuel Christian Foundation picked it up, refurbished it, delivered and installed it with the help of Woodland Cree First Nation. KTCEA Operations and Maintenance team helped coordinate the delivery and installation of the fall protection surface (pea gravel) as well as the protective perimeter barrier.

Overall the project was a huge success and KTCEA will continue to work with Emmanuel Christian Foundation on 2 more playground sets. One for Clarence Jaycox and one for Atikameg School. Target install dates are May 2024.



Images courtesy of the WFCN Facebook page

School Highlights

ATIKAMEG SCHOOL

One of the highlights is student involvement with the chicken coop program. K-5 students went out to meet the chickens outside the school at their chicken coop. They fed them some seeds and gathered some eggs with their teacher Ms. Karen Copithorne. Afterwards the class was helped by the high school work experience students to crack the eggs for scrambling. They all got to enjoy a healthy organic snack afterwards. **Students also got to participate in preparing traditional foods for the monthly elders tea and lunch as well as the annual school community feast.** There was swimming in High Prairie for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 on October 1st. Elder's Tea was held on October 25. A Halloween Parade was held on October 30 in the morning and classes held parties in the afternoon.





CADOTTE LAKE SCHOOL

Congratulations to the junior high girls volleyball team who won gold in their KTCEA tournaments! Students enjoyed other out of school activities such as swimming for students whose attendance was at least 80%. As part of Land Based Learning, on Fridays, high school students prepare bannock for the entire school by gathering sticks & roasting bannock on sticks over the fire. In November, high school students got to make their own hand drums. **Thanks to the Nation's NNADAP worker Niomi Bellerose and Ryan Hiard for facilitating the workshop.** **Thanks to the help of volunteers, KTCEA, WCFN, Emmanuel Foundation & Rotary Club of Sherwood Park, Cadotte Lake School has installed a new playground.** The goal of CLS is to increase intentional acts of kindness in our school, thus decreasing the number of bullying incidents and to show our community what a great group of kids they are! Starting in January, school staff will be watching for best behaviour and all kids entered will be eligible for a monthly draw.

CLARENCE JAYCOX SCHOOL

Clarence Jaycox School was the host for the KTCEA Sports cross country race on October 19. **Congratulations to the cross country run winners: Sieana Okemow, Mason Caldwell, Treasure Lamouche (defending), Kaylen Letendre, Kylie Sawa (defending), and Kyler Aubichon (defending).** We want to thank councillor Heather McTaggart for inviting us to Bear Walk Traditional Camp where students enjoyed a scavenger hunt and lunch. There was a door decorating contest for Halloween with the K5, Grade 3, Grade 4 and Grade 7 getting a pizza party.



ELIZABETH QUINTAL SCHOOL

A school wide relay for students and staff was held on September 13 for Wellness Wednesday. The winners, team kinosewak, received a treat and certificates. Grades 7 and 8 went for a walk with the Principal and Gary and learned the history of the lake, community, ecosystems, trees, and plants. It was a great day for Land Based Learning! **The Grade 2,3, and 4 classes also enjoyed a few hours out of the classroom in September where they investigated animal habitats, observed beavers work on a tree, and collected beautiful leaves for an art piece.** Three of our students showed the value of giving by buying and handing out bubble gum to every student in school. Thank you to Tiara Okemow, Mya Netowastanum and Kelly Alook. EQS participated in the KTCEA Jr High and Sr High Traditional games and it made us proud to see their effort, willingness, and growth in their sportsmanlike conduct. Our track and field day was on September 26 where students competed in sack race, running long jump, high jump, and ball throw and 50m,

100m, and 200m dashes. Students had a walk for Orange Shirt Day in the community and made posters, and were taught by teachers about the importance of the day. Every child matters!

October 11 was the school spirit day, "Jersey day", where students had the opportunity to each lunch with their friends in the foyer. Congratulations to the EQS Kodiaks Junior High boys for being the mid season volleyball champions! EQS students also did well in the KTCEA cross country race where we had winners for boys grade 4, boys and girls in grade 5, grade 6, and grade 7! **Two junior high students had the opportunity to go to an Oilers game, one of which was Bryson Cardinal, who was chosen by a teacher because of his great attendance, goal setting and achievement in academics, and for his good behavior to others.**



KATERI SCHOOL

For Orange Shirt Day, students were taught about the importance of the Day for Truth and Reconciliation by the principals and teachers. Elder Flora shared about her life in residential school. Students participated in a talking circle and went on a walk while carrying their signs and wearing their orange shirts.

The Kateri Eagles volleyball teams were successful with both the Senior High girls and boys teams winning the mid season volleyball tournament in October.

There was a whole school assembly in recognition of Indigenous Veterans day. Ms. Theresa shared a memory from her grandfather who served in the army during World War 1. Trickster Theatre was in the school during the week of November 13 and it was great to see the enthusiasm from our students who were involved in the production. **Every class at the school had an opportunity to be a part of the show by acting and dancing on stage.**



LITTLE BUFFALO SCHOOL

Grade 1: Students are thriving, developing reading skills and problem-solving abilities. They're excited about an upcoming project in the Building Things Science Unit, where they'll build a rack using small sticks and string, and a visit from a community elder.

Grades 2-3: Pupils are hands on, learning 2D shapes and 3D objects, demonstrating perseverance and enthusiasm for learning.

Grade 3: A new initiative involving dance and class activities has significantly boosted students' confidence and class participation and has created a supportive and inclusive environment.

Grade 5: There has been a focus on classroom management, creative thinking, and conflict resolution skills. Remarkable academic progress has been made with a 40% improvement in math and 45% of students meeting or excelling in grade level reading standards, thanks to hands-on learning and a new reading program.

Grade 6: Students crafted traditional hand drums with Ms. Bunna and are preparing to paint them with traditional design. They were used in their Christmas concert performance.

Arctic Winter Dene Games 2024: Callen McDonald and Crosby Caribou represented our school at the games in Slave Lake in December, and tried out for 3 different Dene games events. Crosby was selected as an alternative for Team Alberta North and will go to Alaska representing Little Buffalo School and the community. Way to go Crosby!

Grade 7: Students have been learning how to bead and sew. Students combined indigenous arts and entrepreneurship, successfully funding their field trip through a sale of their beadwork and sewn items at the Christmas concert by selling 90% of their inventory. They not only raised money for their trip, but they connected with their culture and inspired many students to have their own sewing machine and beading supplies. It was amazing to see their creativity with their colour coordination and ideas be brought to life through art.

Grade 8: Significant achievements in math and science, with students engaging in practical circuit-building activities with the circuit toolbox.

Grade 10: Some students visited the Lubicon cultural camp and enjoyed outdoor activities and working with horses. The class also excelled in a battle of the bands event at Enoch. Despite academic challenges due to past learning gaps, efforts are being made to catch up. With a drop in attendance post-volleyball season, there are plans to participate in more tournaments to encourage regular attendance. The students are looking forward to more educational and sports activities.

Grade 11-12: The first 4 months of the 2023/2024 school year can be described by using the famous quote of Benjamin Franklin that is "involve me, and I learn". Our photography class has been an interesting one as students were very hands on and always ready with their camera and this was achieved because everyone was involved and ready to learn. The class has become the "unofficial" photographers for the school and capturing beautiful moments as they unfold.

