



ÉCOLE GLENMORE SCHOOL

(S.D. #23, Central Okanagan)
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May 28, 2017 - Learning Log

Dear GME Parents and Guardians;

RE: Celebrating Personal and Cultural Identity

We are entering into the season of many celebrations at GME! Thank you to all the volunteers who organized and helped at the Family Fun night celebration on Friday evening. That was a wonderful event to celebrate our GME community identity.

On June 16, all students at GME will have the opportunity to participate in a celebration of Aboriginal Culture. Students will be in groups and travel around to six different stations, which include: dance, salmon fishing and tasting, storytelling and bannock tasting, pow wow drumming, stick games, and regalia making. Our groups will be multi-age and have either a morning or afternoon rotation. Together we will have a common beginning and end. There will be visitors helping with the teachings. We are thankful to our Aboriginal Advocate, Ms. Rose Alexis for taking a lead on this celebration!

Leading up to this celebration of personal and cultural identity, we will have teaching times for all students so that they can better understand what happens and why at the June 16 Celebration.

At this Cultural Event there will be a Smudge. To clarify, a smudge is used to purify an area and involves burning sage and/or sweetgrass in a specific area for a short period of time. The staff, students and public may smell the scent because the air vents system circulates throughout the building; however, our smudge will take place outside on the school field. (There is not enough smoke to set off any smoke alarms.) This advance notice is to inform staff and students with sensitive allergies time, so that they will have the opportunity to stay clear of the area for a short period of time. Ms. Alexis will be teaching our GME community about the smudging prior to the June 16 event. There will also be teaching on regalia by visitors from Vancouver Island on June 7. Ms. Alexis will help us to prepare our staff and students prior to the event to ensure the most learning and enjoyment for all.

We welcome you to volunteer to help with your child's group. All parents are also welcome to participate in the teachings that day.

A shift in our transformed BC curriculum is a focus on our indigenous BC cultures and understanding of place and personal and cultural identity. The event on June 16 is a celebration of all the learning about indigenous cultures we have done as a community this year. Ms. Alexis has been extremely helpful in promoting pride in indigenous heritage and we are thankful that she is a part of our leadership team at GME.

Hope you are enjoying fun in the sun,
Wendy Briggs
Principal