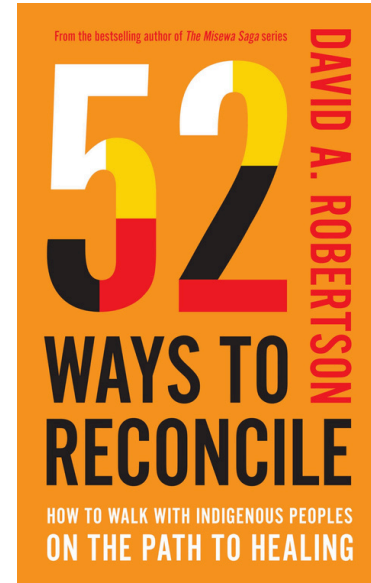


2026 - 2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR




SEPTEMBER

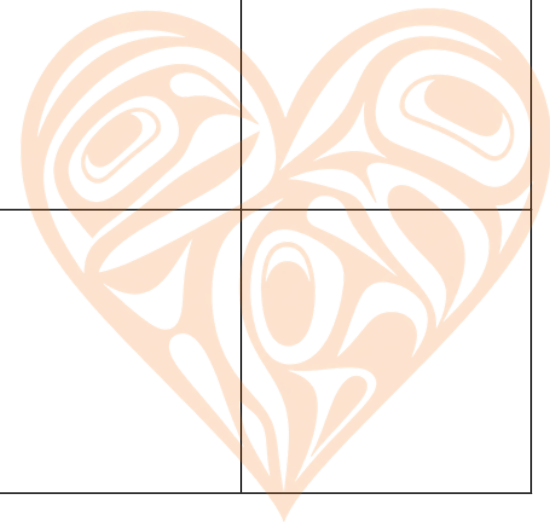
NOTES:



Ideas for This Month...

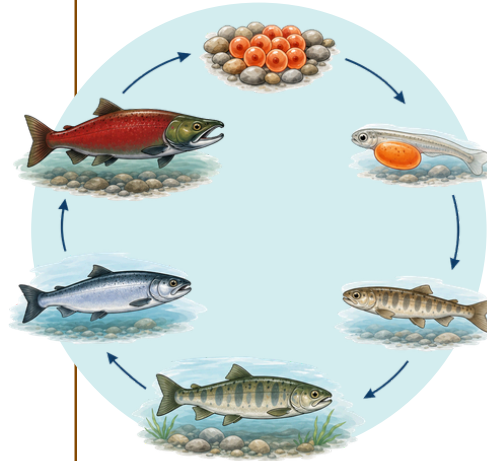
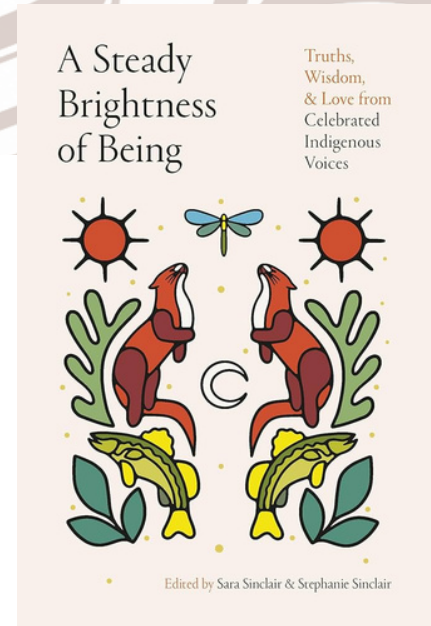
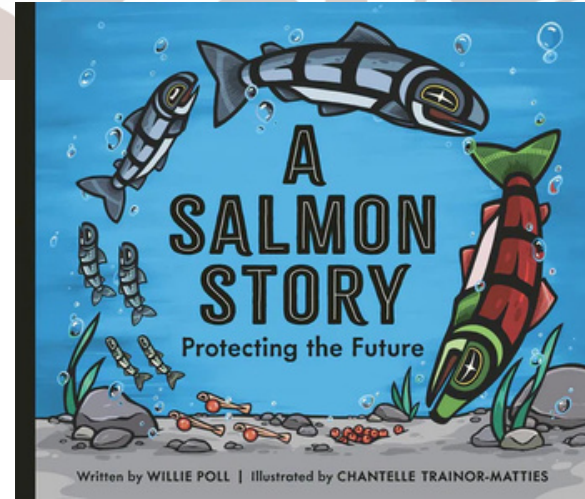
- Learn and drum the Lekwungen Celebration Song
- Begin learning, activities, and conversations connected to Orange Shirt Day
- Acknowledge and learn about the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations
- **DID YOU KNOW?** Of the 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, 7 are directly connected to education.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 LABOUR DAY	8 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	22 <i>Fall Equinox</i>	23	24	25	26	27
28	29  <i>Orange Shirt Day in School</i>	30 TRC DAY				



OCTOBER


NOTES:



Ideas for This Month...

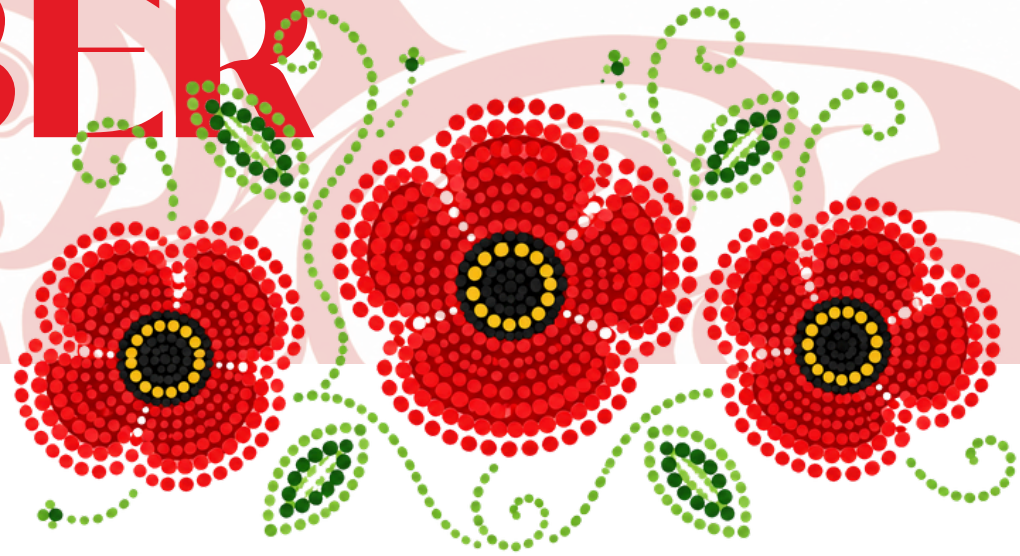
- Introduce students to the traditional game of Lahal
- Celebrate the Month of Giving Thanks – a time to reflect on gratitude and thankfulness
- Explore activities and learning connected to the salmon spawning cycle

DID YOU KNOW? SD61 has approximately 1,500 identified Indigenous students within the district.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12  THANKSGIVING	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31  Halloween	

NOVEMBER



NOTES:



Ideas for This Month...

- Learn about Indigenous veterans and heroes such as Francis Pegahmagabow and Tom Longboat
- Explore activities such connected to Métis People, such as Mètis Dot Art, Ribbon Skirts, or Mètis Sashes
- Learn about Louis Riel and his connection to Indigenous resilience and leadership

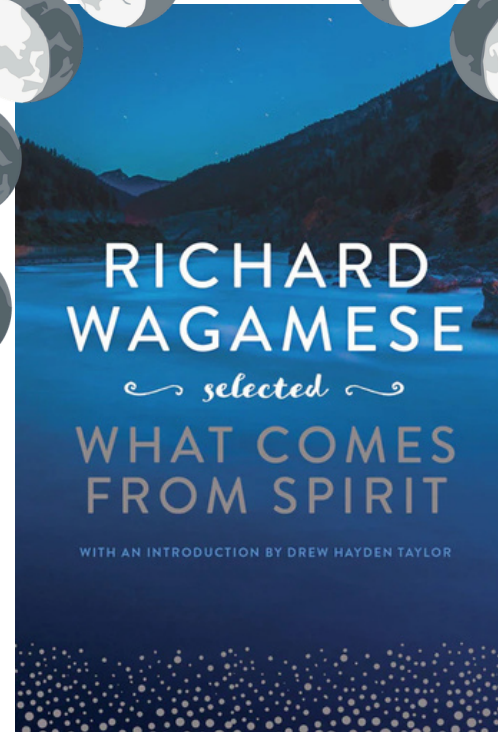
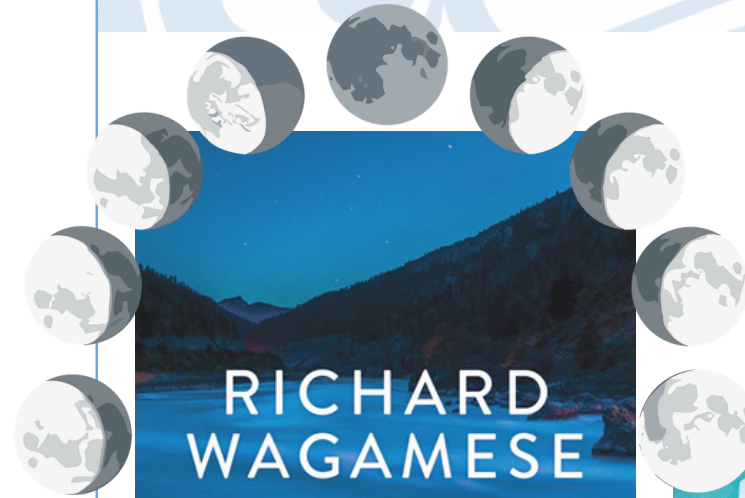
DID YOU KNOW? Indigenous veterans made significant contributions during both World Wars, yet many did not receive equal recognition or benefits upon returning home.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Indigenous Veterans Day</i>
9	10	11  REMEMBRANCE DAY	12	13	14	15
16 <i>SD61 Métis Week</i>  <i>Louis Riel Day of Remembrance</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 INDIGENOUS FOCUSED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	28	29
30						



DECEMBER

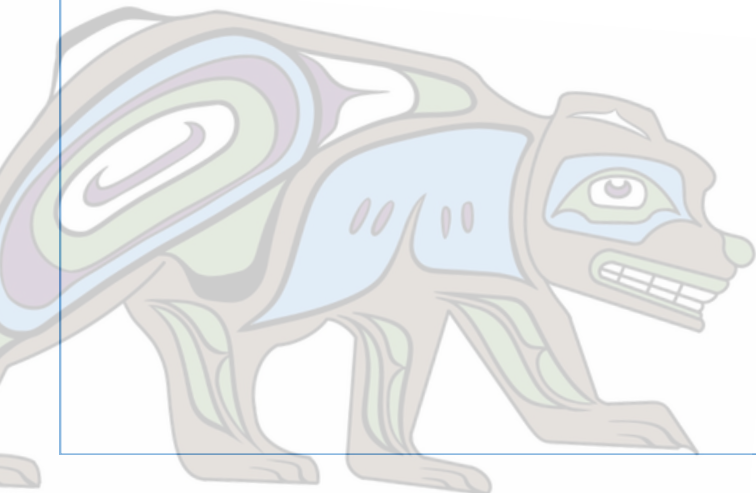
NOTES:



Ideas for This Month...

- Learn about the Spirit of Alliance Animals and their teachings
- Begin activities connected to seasonal rounds and moon kits
- Introduce examples of Indigenous resilience and brilliance, such as Wab Kinew and Shina Novalinga

DID YOU KNOW? Winter is traditionally a time for Indigenous storytelling. During the colder months, communities gather to share teachings, histories, and oral traditions passed down from Elders to youth.



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
BEFORE WINTER BREAK

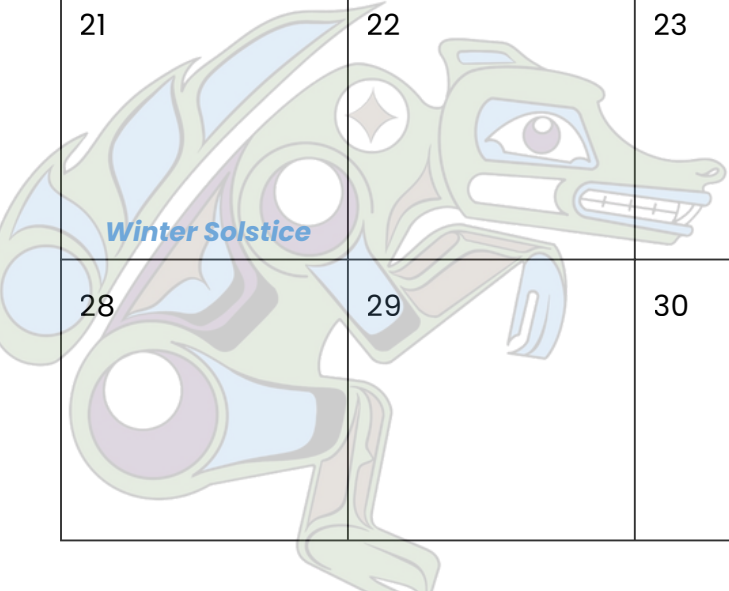
Winter Solstice

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

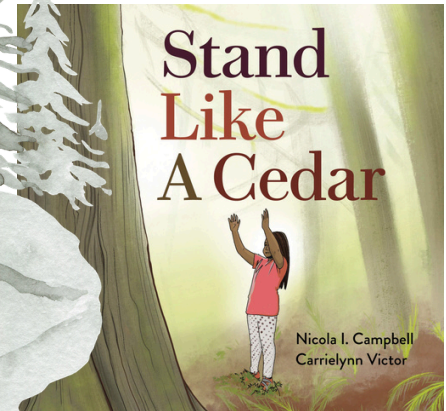
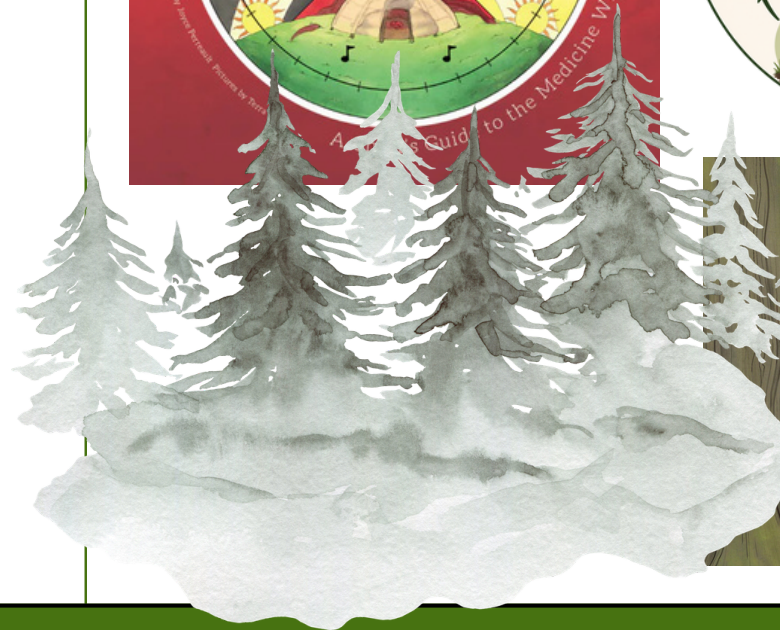
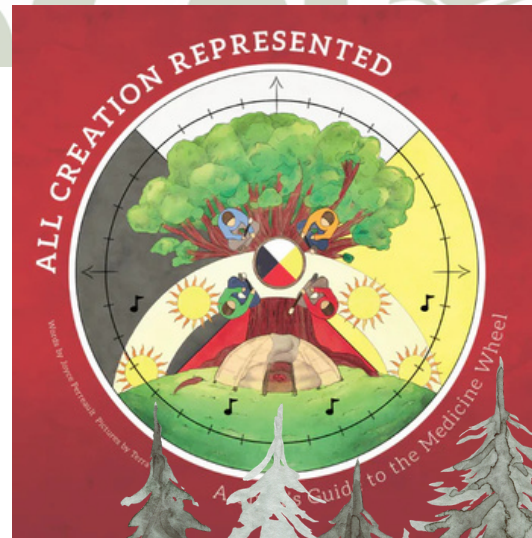
Boxing Day

New Years Eve



JANUARY

NOTES:



Ideas for This Month...

- Learn about the teachings of the Medicine Wheel
- Participate in a Spindle Whorl Tour
- Begin conversations around local language awareness

DID YOU KNOW? The cedar tree is known as the Tree of Life for many Indigenous Peoples on the West Coast. Can you think of all the ways cedar has been used?

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2	3
4  SCHOOL RE-OPENS AFTER WINTER BREAK <i>National Ribbon Skirt Day</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBURARY


NOTES:



Ideas for This Month...

- Engage with oral stories and teachings such as How Raven Stole the Sun or How Beaver Got It's Tail
- Explore the importance of circles and cycles in Indigenous cultures... how many can you think of right away? So many of them we see and go through on a daily bases.
- Participate in Arctic Games and learn about traditional Inuit physical activities and their meanings

DID YOU KNOW? Starting next month, each activity in the Inuit Games will highlight a traditional survival skill that was essential for life in the Arctic. These games were designed to build strength, endurance, and skills needed for hunting, travel, and survival in harsh northern conditions.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	13	14 <i>Valentines Day</i> 
15 FAMILY DAY <i>Louis Riel Day</i>	16	17	18 <i>IED Lahal Tournament</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>Indigenous Teachers Day</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH



NOTES:



Ideas For This Month...

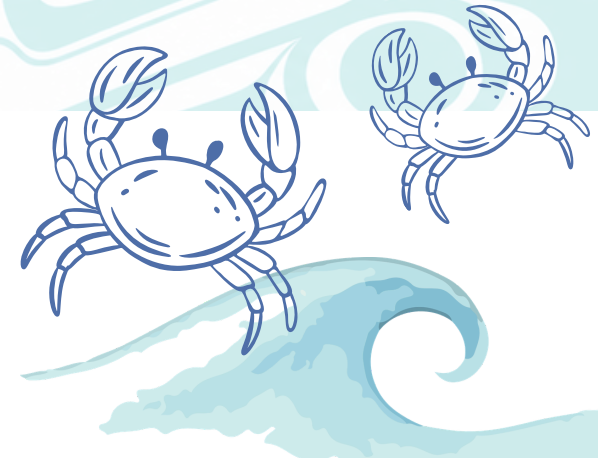
- Learn about local plants and trees such as the Dogwood Fern, Gary Oak, or Salal
- Celebrate the Spring Equinox through drumming and singing the Spirit Bear song
- Drum and sing the Water Blessing song and read We Are Water Protectors to honour Water Day and the importance of protecting it

DID YOU KNOW: Drumming is the heartbeat of Mother Earth

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
 World Water Day				LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE SPRING BREAK	 <i>Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Awareness Day</i> Spring Equinox	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				GOOD FRIDAY		
29	30	31				
EASTER MONDAY 		SCHOOL RE-OPENS AFTER SPRING BREAK <i>National Indigenous Language Day</i>				

APRIL

NOTES:



Ideas for This Month...

- Learn about local flowers such as Nootka Rose, Chocolate Lily, and Woolly Sunflower
- Explore traditional tea harvesting practices and how plants are gathered and prepared
- Learn about clam digging and its importance as a traditional food harvesting practice along the coast

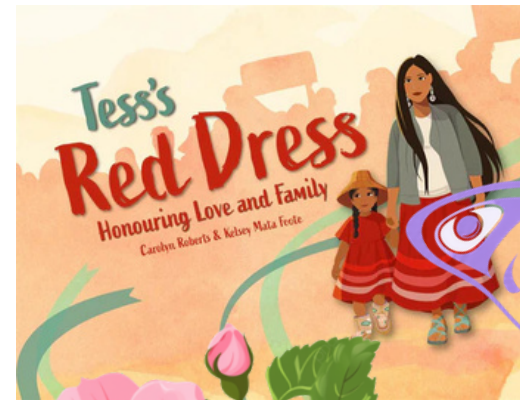
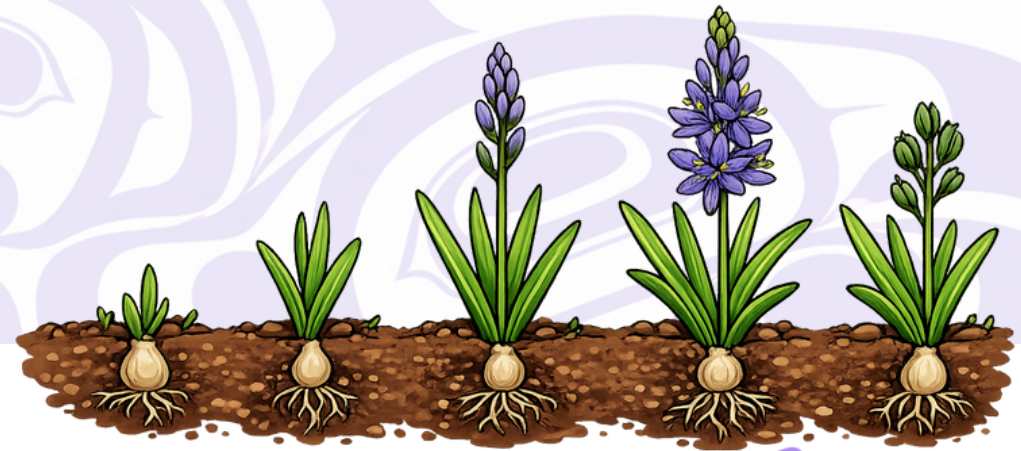
DID YOU KNOW? Fire is used in some Indigenous communities as a cultural practice to care for the land. Controlled burning helps renew ecosystems, support plant growth, and reduce wildfire risk.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Indigenous Nurses Day</i>	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



MAY



NOTES:



Ideas for This Month...

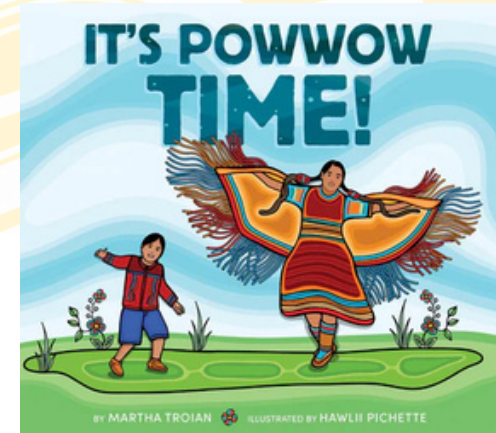
- Learn about camas and its importance as a traditional food and its role in Indigenous land stewardship
- Explore the Moose Hide Campaign, how it began, and its ongoing work to address violence against women, girls, and Two-Spirit people
- Honour Red Dress Day by having conversations and reading *Tess's Red Dress*

DID YOU KNOW: The Indigenous Education Department has been apart of SD61 since 1979... 48 years

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1	1	2
3	4	5  <i>Red Dress Day</i>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14  <i>Moose Hide Campaign Day</i>	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY	22	23
24 VICTORIA DAY	25	26	27	28	29	30 31


JUNE

NOTES:



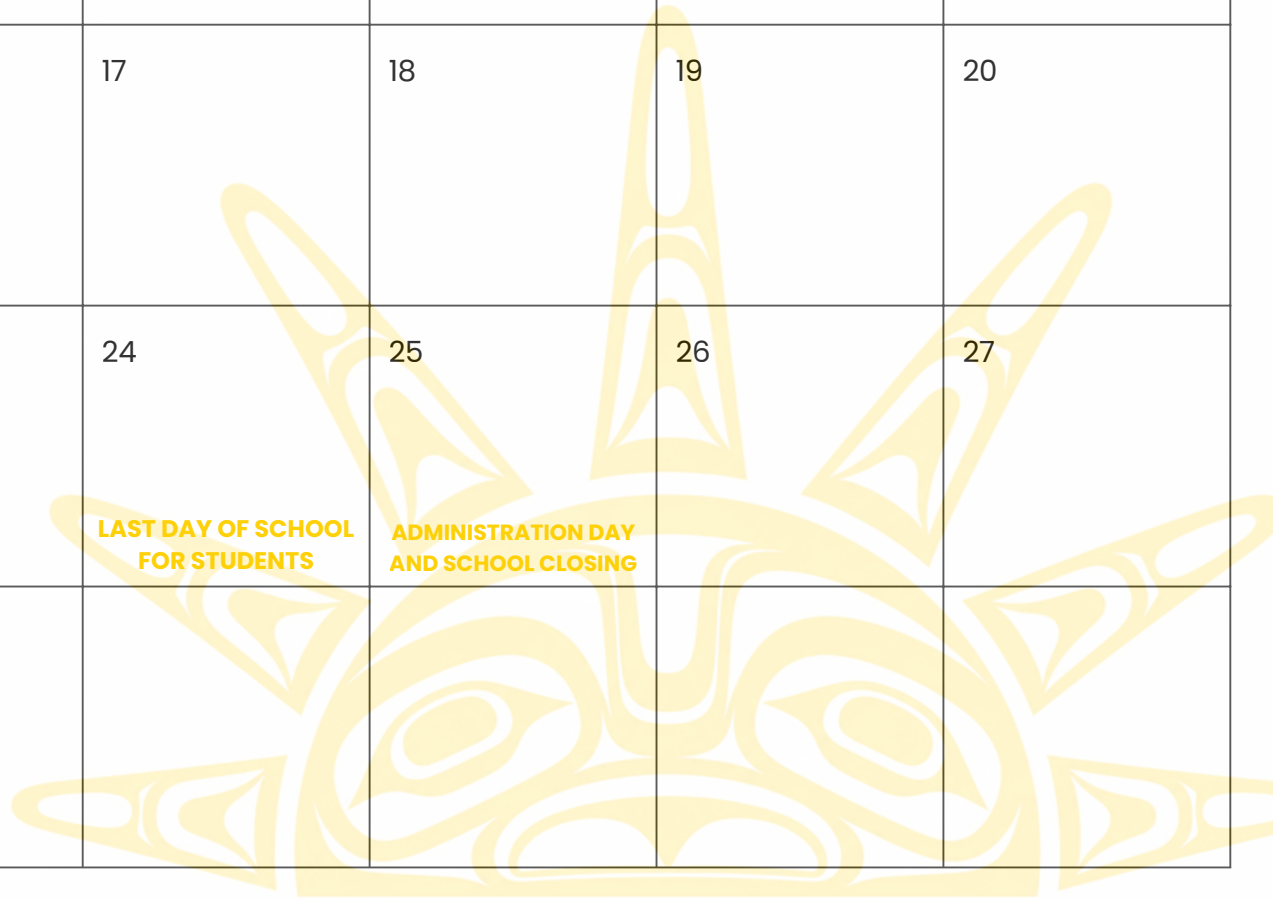
Ideas for This Month...

- It is Powwow season—learn more about this cultural event, including the dancing and the drumming
 - Set up an Indigenous People's Month Display
 - Celebrate Pride Month by learning about and uplifting Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ voices and experiences
- DID YOU KNOW?** Powwows are celebrations that bring people together through dance, song, and community connection, and each style of dance and regalia carries its own meaning and teachings.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3 <i>IED Graduation</i>	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>Summer Solstice</i> <i>National Indigenous Peoples Day</i>	22	23	24 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	25 ADMINISTRATION DAY AND SCHOOL CLOSING	26	27
28  <i>Pride Day</i>	29	30				



Pride Day



JULY

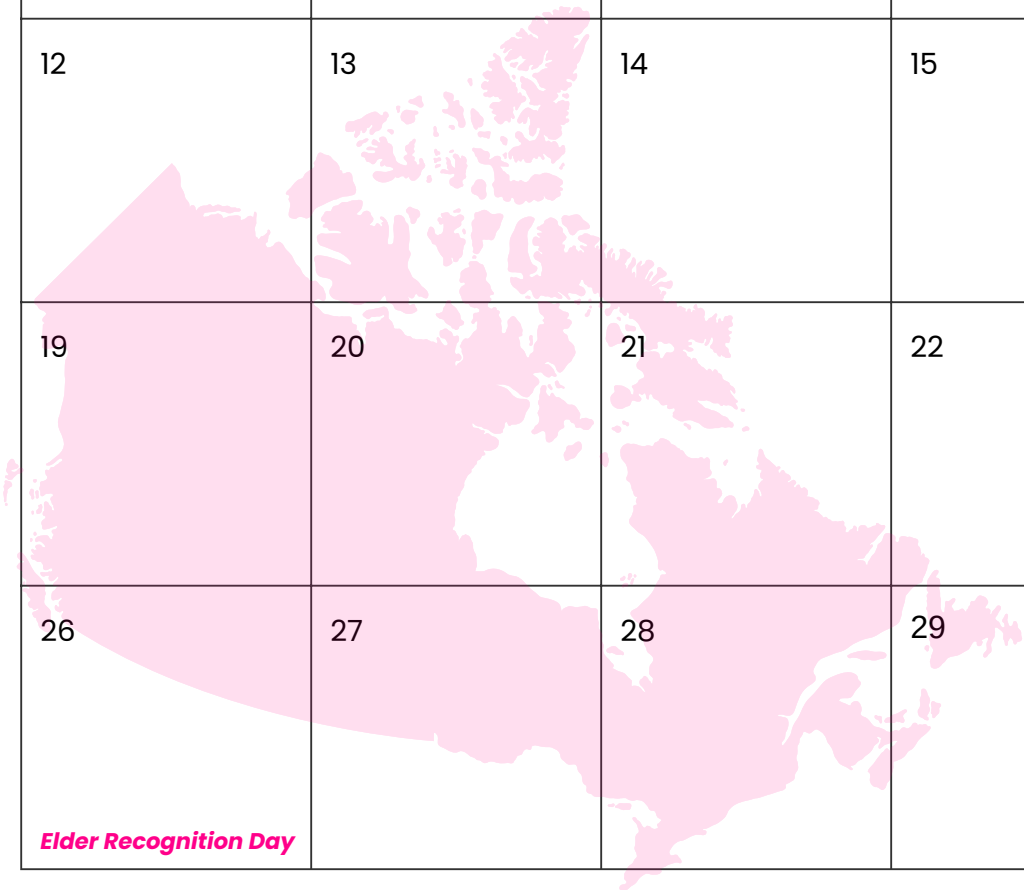
NOTES:



DID YOU KNOW: Nunavut means "our land" in the Inuit language, Inuktitut and About 85% of Nunavut's population is Inuit, making it the most Indigenous-majority jurisdiction in Canada.

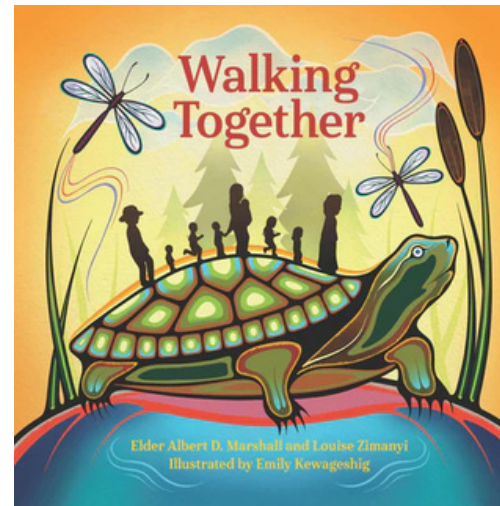
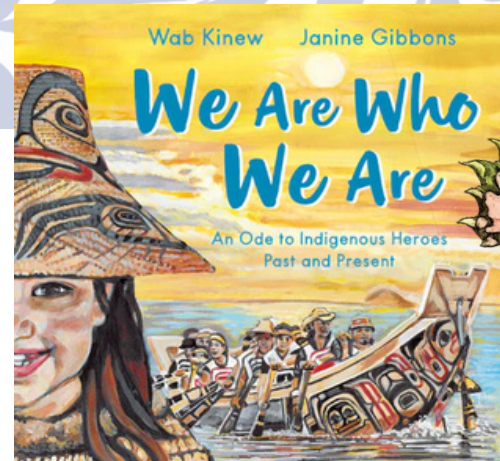
DID YOU KNOW: Traditional cedar canoes built by Indigenous peoples on Canada's West Coast could sometimes carry up to 60 people. On the East Coast, birchbark canoes were lighter and designed for travel through rivers and lakes, typically carrying up to 12 people.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1  CANADA DAY	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9  Nunavut Day	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Elder Recognition Day	27	28	29	30	31	




AUGUST

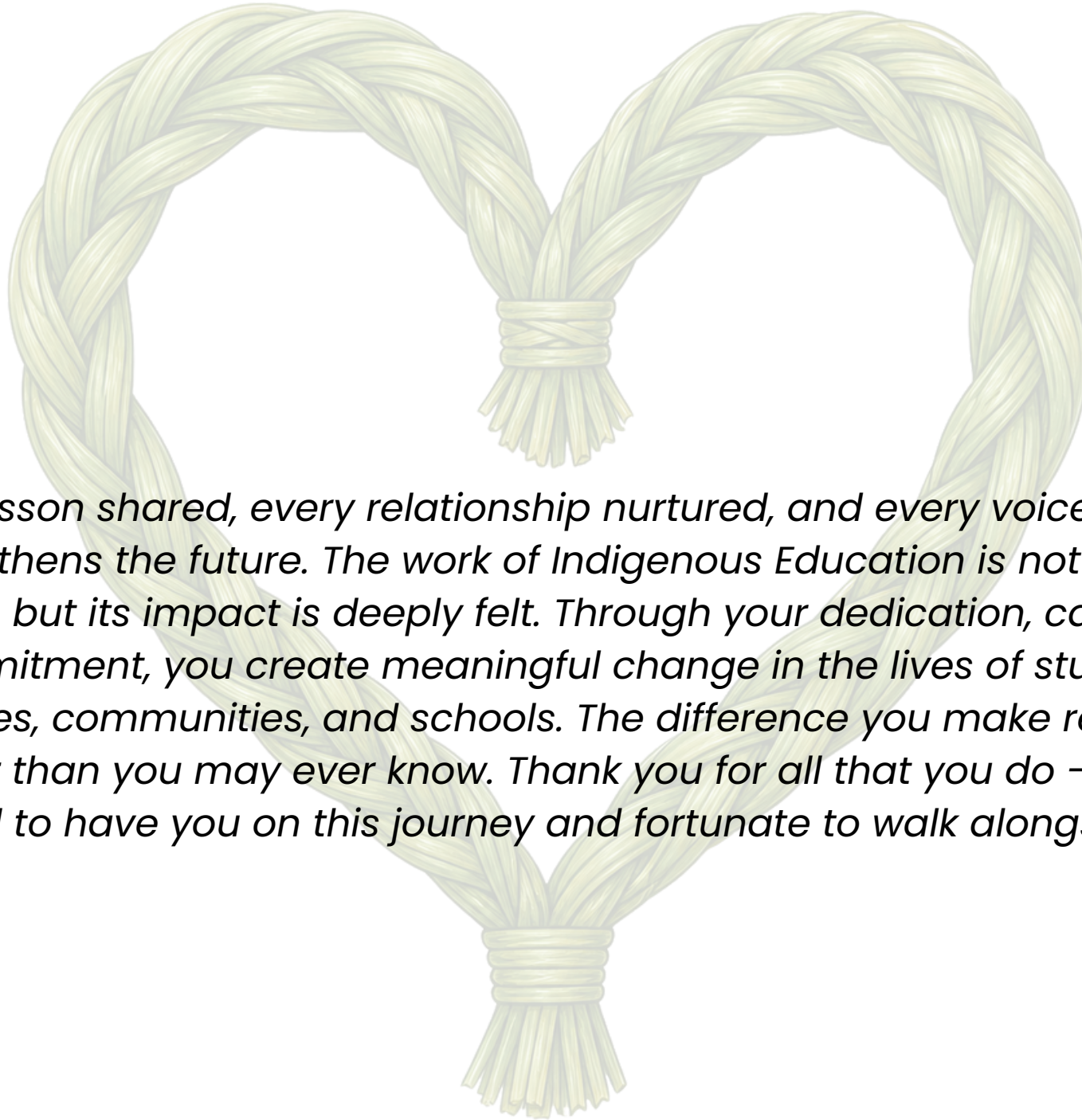
NOTES:



DID YOU KNOW: Did you know that British Columbia has the highest diversity of Indigenous languages in Canada? One reason is its geography. The province's rugged mountain ranges, valleys, and coastal inlets made travel and communication between communities more difficult in the past.

DID YOU KNOW: Indigenous Peoples in Canada are incredibly diverse, representing more than 600 First Nations communities, as well as distinct Inuit and Métis Nations, each with their own cultures, traditions, and histories.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2  BRITISH COLUMBIA DAY	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 <i>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Every lesson shared, every relationship nurtured, and every voice uplifted strengthens the future. The work of Indigenous Education is not always visible, but its impact is deeply felt. Through your dedication, care, and commitment, you create meaningful change in the lives of students, families, communities, and schools. The difference you make reaches farther than you may ever know. Thank you for all that you do - we are grateful to have you on this journey and fortunate to walk alongside you.