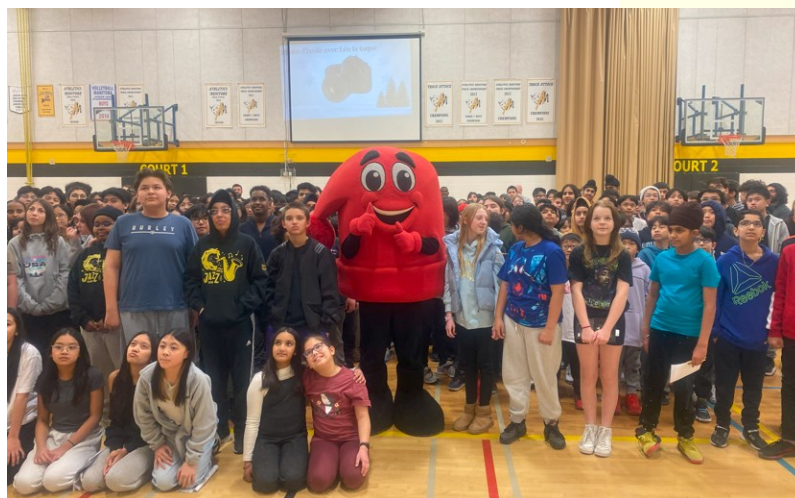


June 2024

Report to the Community

École Leila North Community School



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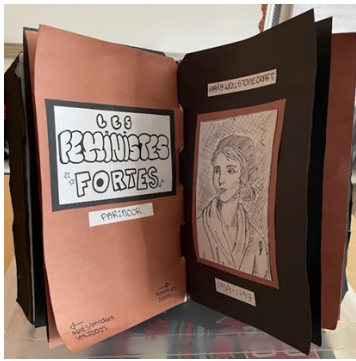
At Leila North we aim to provide engaging learning opportunities for our students to develop in the areas of numeracy and literacy through the middle years philosophy.

As a school, one of our goals is to enhance education for sustainable development. We hope that students will acquire and demonstrate knowledge and skills, attitudes and life practices that contribute to the future both locally and globally, while addressing the pillars of culture, social justice, and sustainability.

At Leila North we celebrate diversity and strive to build a community that is proud of their identity and understands and appreciates the cultures in our local community.

We continuously work to provide a safe and caring school where all who enter our building are welcome, feel safe, represented, and valued.

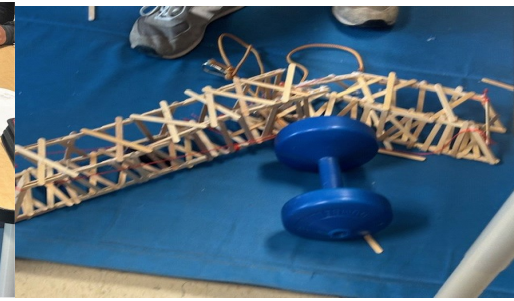
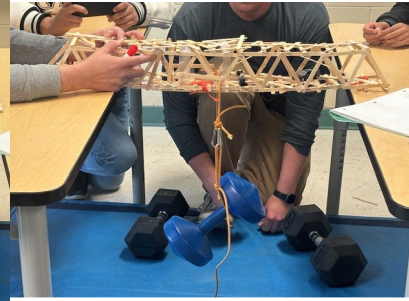
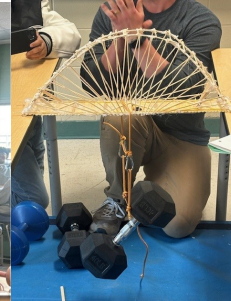
Leila North is committed to working towards Reconciliation.



These independent projects allowed student to dive deep into research to discover interesting facts about topics of their choice. They represented their learning in creative ways.

Getting "Smartie" with Fractions

Students used Smarties from our food rescue program to see what fractions of colors were in each box and then converted the results into equivalent fractions.



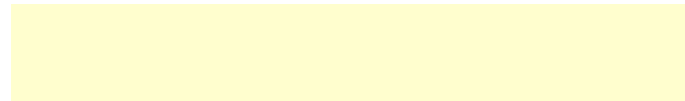
Students designed and built bridges based on what they learned in Science on forces and structures. They then tested their designs to see which one could hold the most weight.



The students in rooms 7 and 30 took monthly trips to the Millenium Library this year. Students planned their days, and once there had the choice to work on whatever they wanted and access the library's many resources. Lunch in the food court was always the highlight of the day!

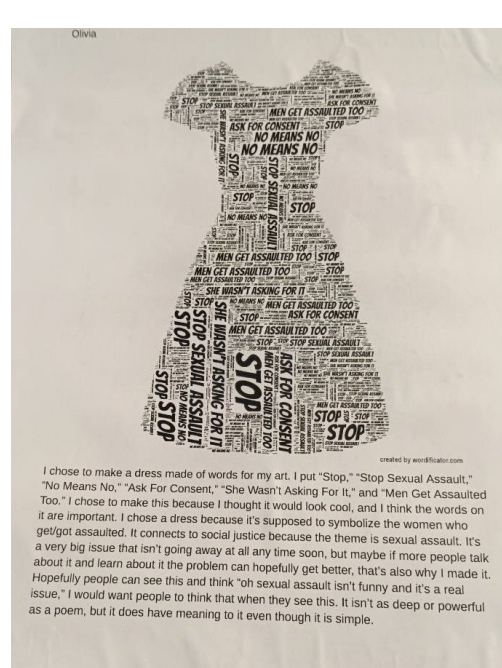
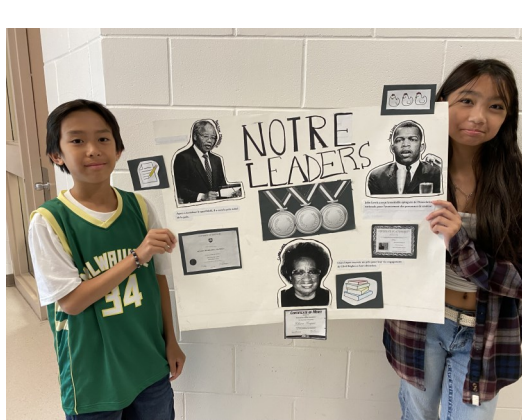


These students embarked on an enriching journey through a book club focused on Indigenous issues, aligning with our work in our Social Studies class. Each group delved into thought-provoking literature that illuminates diverse perspectives and histories. Through these reading, student not only gained deeper insights but also fostered empathy, crucial in our collective pursuit of understanding, respect and our own paths to reconciliation. This initiative not only enriched our academic understanding but also nurtured a spirit of inclusivity and appreciation for Indigenous cultures.



As part of regular math learning students learned and studied a variety of strategy games over the year. Many of these games came from different areas of the world, like Hnefatafl which hails from Scandinavian countries, or Len Choa from Thailand. The goal for the students was to understand the game's ruleset before eventually developing their own algorithms to guarantee victory. Sometimes we were successful and sometimes not, but there was always a lot of mathematical learning that took place!





July

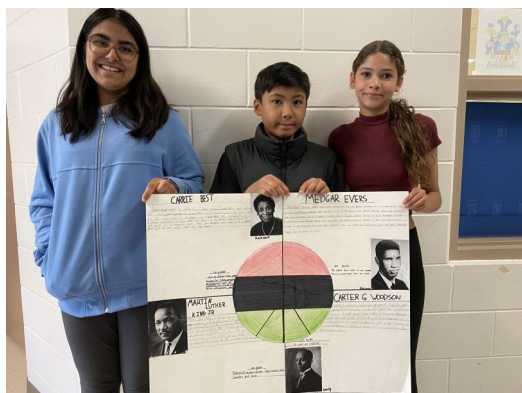
Social Justice Poem

C
alling everyone, everywhere
L
and and all life
I
f everyone did their part.....
M
ake the world better
A
ct now
T
ake the time to learn and change
E
nd forest fires, hurricanes, ice melting

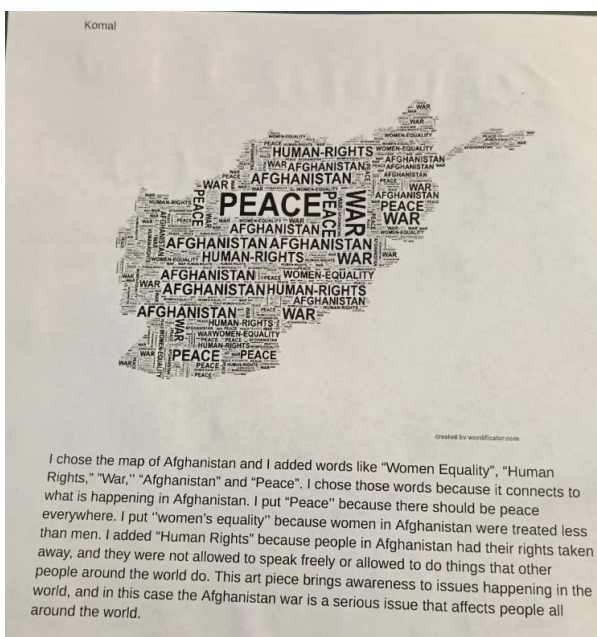
C
ome together
H
ope for our future
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lternate resources
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ew ideas
G
laciers melting polar bears dying
E
ach community can make a difference

I made an acrostic that talks about climate change. I chose it because I thought it was the easiest. I think that this connects to social justice because climate change is really affecting everyone. It doesn't just affect us but also the animals. A lot of animals are suffering from climate change due to all the extreme weather events.

These students completed a research project on anti-racism leaders in history. They learned how to look for keywords in sources and how to communicate these words in their own sentences.



These students explored the social constructs of the world, discrimination, marginalization, and the need for social justice. Their project was to create a creative representation of a social justice issue.

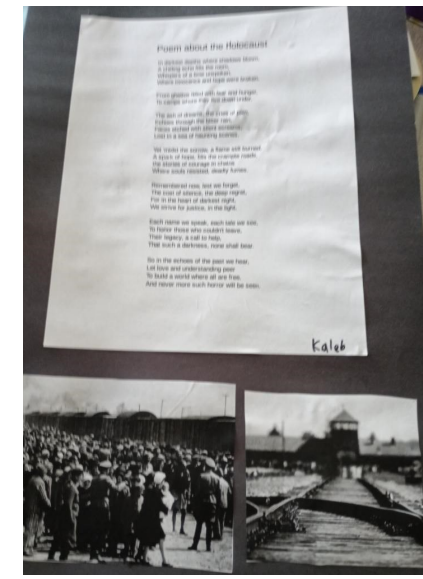
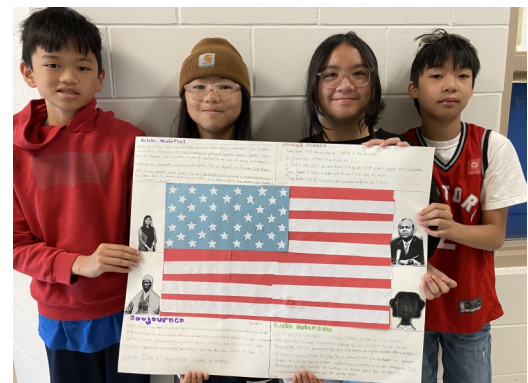


Social Justice Poem

By Miguel

W
hen people are divided.
A
gainst one another.
R
isking people's lives for things not worth the death.
F
ighting for their nation.
A
conflict that can lead to hate towards one another
R
evenge can lead to many things like conflict.
E
very year war is ongoing, big or small.

Warfare is a large part of our history and culture. No matter how much we hate that fact we cannot just brush it away. We cannot change/hide the past but we can stop it from happening again. If we learn from our mistakes we can prevent these conflicts and tragedies from happening again. This poem explains parts of warfare.





With specialized approved glasses, students from Leila North were able to view the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.

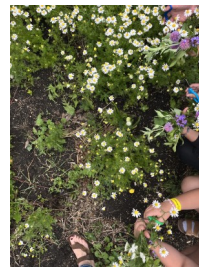
Students had fun celebrating the Festival du Voyageur and learning at the Aki Center this winter. They made a traditional meal of pea soup and bannock and learnt how to start a fire. This involved learning how to chop wood, use flint and steel and stack wood so that it would catch fire and stay lit.



A group of grade 6 girls attended *Unlocking the Toolkit* event this year. They learned about women's roles in the trade industry and got to try their hands at carpentry, welding, plumbing, mechanics and more.



Making Jam with local/foraged ingredients - rhubarb from our school garden, foraged chokecherries and raspberries donated through the second harvest program



Herb bouquets from our school grounds

Students visited the Indigenous gardens at the Assiniboine park on a field trip.



Honey bee frames from our roof top.



Students have helped to prepare the honey to share as gifts to guests in our building.



Tocino— a student choice recipe.



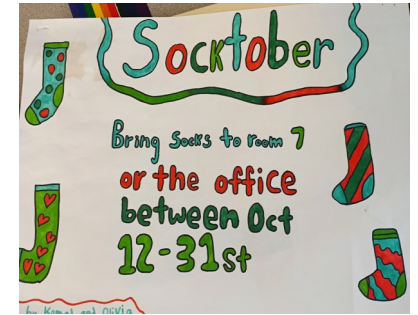
Many students enjoy feeding our hens treats. Watermelon is one of their favorites.



This April we organized a community cleanup. The whole school worked really hard, and we picked up over 844 lbs of garbage!



Leila North showed her compassion and caring by participating in Socktober. Two big boxes of socks were delivered to Main Street Project to help those in need.



In D & D club, students have been learning how to create characters and play in made up worlds. This club has allowed students to stretch their imaginations, learn to be empathetic for their fellow humans at the table, understand the successes of a failure, test out a new identity and story write while using funny voices, making jokes with friends, meeting new people in the school, drawing maps and existing in a world with very few rules.



Clothing Swap

Students from Room 27 collected clothes from students and the community and organized a clothing swap. After clothing was collected, it was washed and sorted then laid out like a thrift shop for students to shop at. Many students were able to find 'new to them' articles to add to their wardrobe and Leila North prevented some clothes from being thrown into the landfill.





Students made and donated over 300 sandwiches to Community 204

Our grade 8 students were involved in a Snow Angels program. This program provided our community with snow removal from driveways and sidewalks. Students were randomly assigned to residences needing assistance with snow removal. Even though some days were quite cold, the students were more than willing to go out and get the job done. Not only did this opportunity provide the students the chance to give back to the community, but also fostered greater care to lend a helping hand to our neighbours.



Mr. Fife's Home Economics Class prepared "Foods from the Heart" – a culinary journey that connects us to our families, communities, and cultures. "Foods from the Heart" was conceived as a celebration of cultural diversity through the universal language of food. Our students selected and prepared dishes from their personal lives and shared them with their peers, developing a deeper appreciation and celebration of the diverse food traditions that make our world a vibrant and beautiful place.

Harvesting basil that was grown in the classroom





Amita Khandpur's Grades 7/8 class at École Leila North Community School has volunteered at Harvest Manitoba, the Manitoba Children's Museum and Théâtre Cercle Molière.

Students learn about volunteering by doing it



AARON EPP VOLUNTEERS

"She (Khandpur) always tells us before every outing about the importance of giving back to the community," adds Jaanvi Sharma, another Grade 7 student. "Because we take so much, it's important to give back."

Camilla Cano had never volunteered before the class went to Théâtre Cercle Molière, where they helped staff prepare for a fundraising event.

Camilla got the impression that the staff always have a lot of work to do.

"I felt happy that I got to help them out," she says.

For Gursimran Bhenpal, volunteering at Harvest Manitoba has been one of the biggest highlights.

During one of their visits, the students made cards to go into bags of food headed to remote communities. The cards had positive messages on them, like "You are enough," and "You are powerful."

"It felt like we were making a difference, and that we were the reasons they (the recipients) had a smile on their face," Gursimran says.

For Brendan Mayuga, the best

part about volunteering at Harvest Manitoba was sorting and bagging food.

"It helps get the energy out of me, because I have too much energy," he says.

Khandpur says the purpose of field trips is to create experiences that enhance the everyday learning students do in the classroom.

She organizes field trips that involve volunteering because it allows her students to learn while doing hands-on activities.

At Harvest Manitoba, the class learned about food insecurity — a lesson that has stuck with them.

"At any moment, you could suddenly be one of those families that have to rely on the food bank," Liam says.

Volunteering as a class has the students considering where they might want to volunteer on their own in the future.

Jaanvi would like to do it at a hospital.

"When I was little, I was a doctor," she says. "I'd be one anymore, but I'd be the people who need help."

Zoe Iledan is interested in volunteering with an organization that helps communities recover after natural disasters.

She is adamant that helping others means taking action.

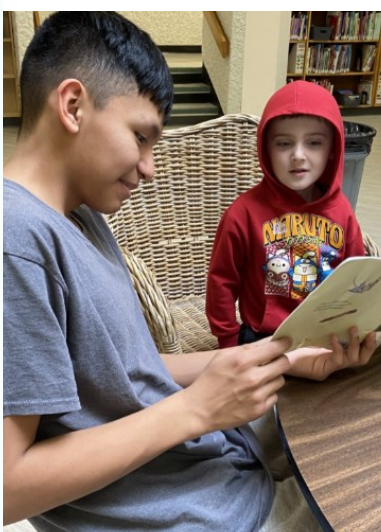
"I feel helping out means volunteering, and not taking out your phone and making a video saying, 'Let's help the planet,'" Zoe says. "Volunteering means taking a tiny step or a big step to make a difference."

Khandpur leads by example, as an avid volunteer.

In the last 10 years, she's volunteered with numerous organizations, including Festival du Voyageur, the Winnipeg Folk Festival, the Shine On Festival of Music and Art and Jazz Winnipeg.

This is her 18th year teaching and the first time she's incorporated volunteering into the classroom.

"I'm trying to teach them that



Leila North students embraced the opportunities to volunteer in the community





Our student dance groups performed at the evening in honour of Lydia Heidrich and at Seven Oaks Dance day.



Leila North celebrated Diwali by using potatoes and onions from our Second Harvest program and made pakoras for the entire school (a deep fried snack of potatoes and onions coated with a spiced mixture). Community and traditions were celebrated by having our *Dadis* (grandmothers), *Masis* (aunts) and *Moms* come help chop and fry these delicious snacks making this a true family affair! Our Bhangra dancers performed a beautiful dance and our Diwali group of student organizers presented at an assembly to teach the students and teachers alike the traditions and celebrations of Diwali.

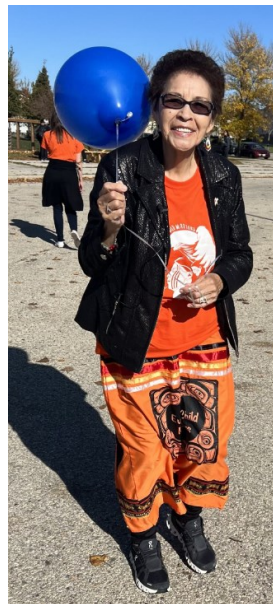


Our whole school attended the staff vs. students hockey game at Maples arena.





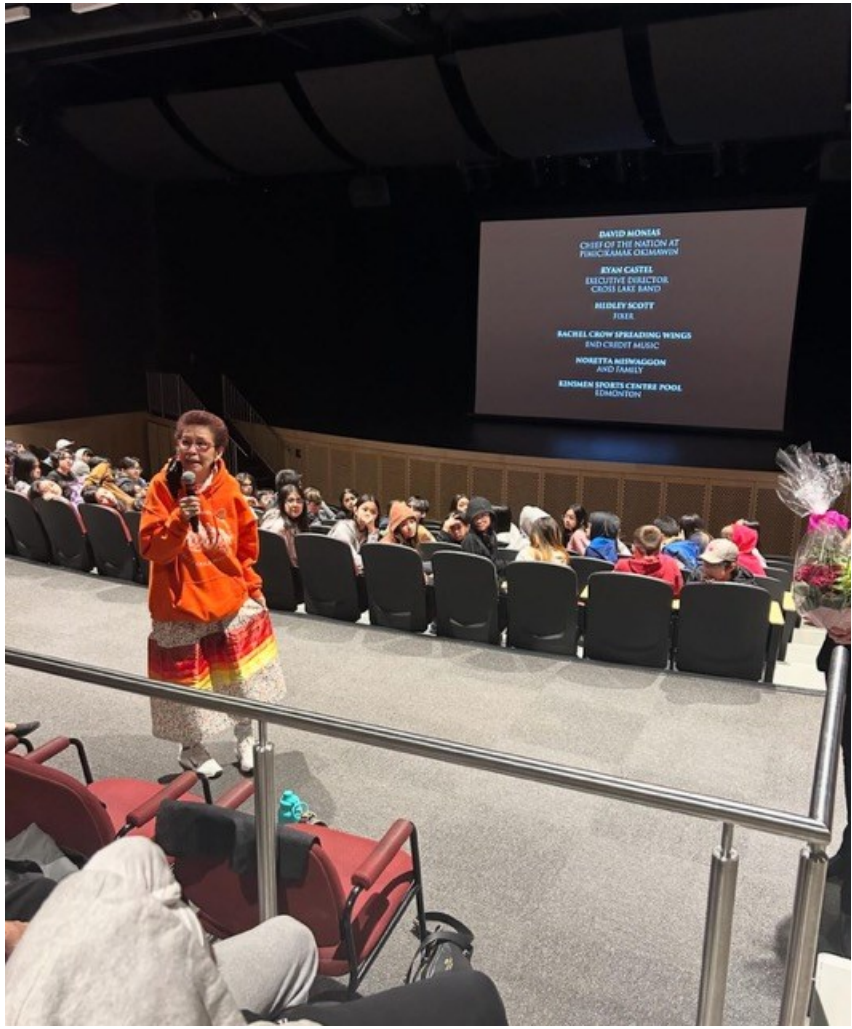
Through our work and learning with Elder Betty, the 94 Calls to Action and the graphic novel *The Secret Path*, our grade 7/8 French Immersion class has been on a journey to understand the past and the major events that have shaped the world in which our Indigenous people live today. Students represented their learning through an identity art piece, where they made artistic choices to show their understanding, who they are and where they are going as Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens.



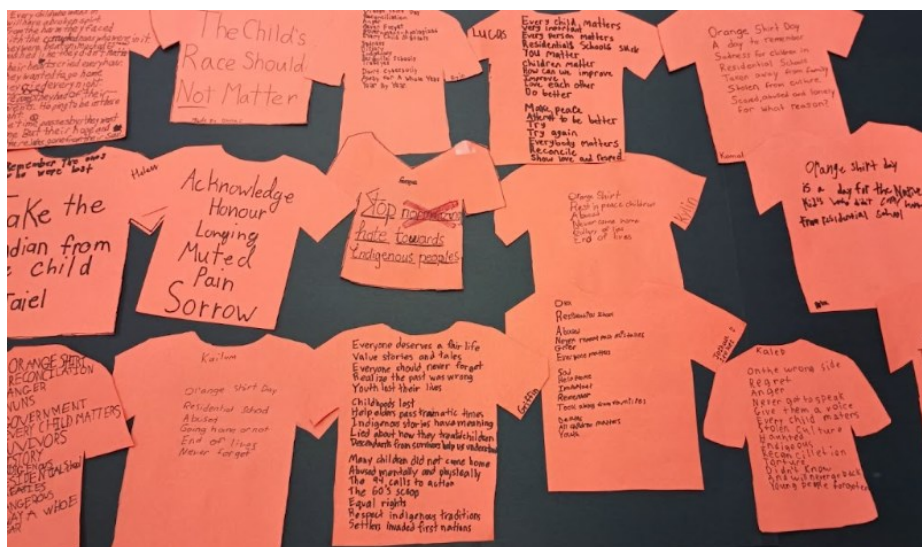


As a school we went to SOPAC to watch *Return to the Falls*. This is a harrowing and heartfelt story of our Elder Betty Ross and her journey towards Truth and Reconciliation.

Elder Betty has provided our school with guidance and support as we learn and live Truth and Reconciliation. Our school is featured in the film and we feel privileged to have Elder Betty as a member of our Leila community.



To celebrate Truth and Reconciliation Day at Leila North, school-wide activities were arranged with our intention of Every Child Matters, and by listening to the wisdom of our Elder. Elder Betty said that she would love to see our children play. Our classes incorporated team building games, boardgames, sport games, and other varieties to promote community and having fun at school while learning. High School Cultural Credit students prepared and played Indigenous games with some of our grade 8 classes. Throughout the day, staff and students had the opportunity to roast marshmallows over the fire in front of the school. All students and staff contributed to our Truth and Reconciliation Day by helping to create multiple paper star blanket for our school. The designs shared a beautiful display of messages, images, and reflections of learning that happened throughout the week.





Mr. Fife and Ms. Lita Fontaine guided a group of dedicated girls through the art of sewing Ribbon skirts. The girls selected their fabrics and ribbons that spoke to their identity, fostering creativity and individual expression. These skirts hold deep cultural significance with Indigenous communities, symbolizing resilience, identity, and heritage. The culmination of their efforts was wearing their handmade Ribbon skirts to the 7 Oaks Powwow.



Leila North students and staff were fortunate again this year to work with Demian Lawrenchuk, executive director of Food Matters Manitoba. The students participated in a variety of activities including: listening to stories and lessons; fire-keeping; sweetgrass teachings; skinning hides and harvesting meat and grease from animals including bear, caribou, coyote, goose and beaver. The students learned about medicines and were able to sample some natural teas. One of the great highlights was cooking various meats in the kitchen and on the outdoor fires. Congratulations to Tia and Avery from Mr. Roy's class who won the "Best Seasoning" contest! Demian has been a strong Indigenous leader and we appreciate all of his support for our students on their journeys toward positive emotional and physical health, environmental stewardship, cultural confidence, practical skills and growth in Indigenous knowledge.



Our school's 19th musical, **Fame Jr.**, was performed six times at SOPAC, between March 19th and March 21st. The show featured 65 students as cast performers or part of a behind-the-scenes crew. The students auditioned and rehearsed their roles tirelessly to provide our community with a memorable theatre experience.





Leila North is proud to have a co-curricular Jazz band and Jazz choir program. This year, our Jazz choir and Jazz bands participated in the Brandon University Jazz Festival (BUJF). The BUJF is Manitoba's largest Jazz festival for school groups. The overnight trip provides students the opportunity to perform for and watch other school groups, receive adjudication from industry professionals and attend an evening Jazz concert. Music trips such as the Brandon Jazz Festival offer enjoyable, educational experiences and form memories that enhance community bonds.





Arts in the Park was a lovely way to celebrate the arts. Our bands, Jazz bands and choirs performed over the two days. The weather interrupted one of the performance days, but we were able to have an evening concert so they could share their hard work in a performance.



This year Ms. Brown and Mr. Tsui took 44 grade 8 students to perform at the Moose Jaw Band and Choral Festival from May 13-16th. This trip was a valuable experience with our grade 8 musicians learning from world class educators and making unforgettable memories. Congratulations and BRAVO to the musicians who participated in the trip!





École Leila North celebrated the French and Métis culture this year by having a full day of activities where students learned about the Voyageur history, as well as participated in traditional games and activities that taught them about pastimes practiced by the Voyageurs. There were also two phenomenal French musical concerts by the Raine Hamilton Trio and a solo performance by Daniel Peloquin-Hopefner.



Leila North students learned about wheelchair basketball from Manitoba Hall of Famer Joey Johnson. He has 3 gold medals and 1 silver from the Paralympic games. Students were invited to try the sport where they had a lot of fun learning the rules, discovering the additional challenges of playing in a wheelchair, and working up a sweat.



Students from grade 7 and 8 French Immersion wrote an original play called *Le Miroir*, in French, and performed it in front of our French immersion peers, including all of Leila North's French Immersion students, as well as students from ESOMS and Garden City at SOPAC and, for the first time ever as a school group at the Festival Théâtre Jeunesse, a French Theatre competition for young people.



Leila Lions play many sports!

