

ReconciliACTION in EIPS



October 12, 2016 written by [Kyla Sorel](#)



[Rudolph Hening Junior High](#) staff and students learning with [Elder Wilson Bearhead](#) in June, 2016.

Opening Notes

Welcome to our latest edition of **ReconciliACTION**, created for everyone supporting Truth and Reconciliation in [Elk Island Public Schools](#). Please share with all staff.

In 2016, the number of our schools requesting funding to support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, as well as Truth and Reconciliation initiatives, doubled compared to the year before. Well done! Projects for this year include literacy and numeracy supports, Elder supports, cultural engagement opportunities, graduation enhancement supports, and gold-standard initiatives like the Blanket Exercise and Project of Heart. Schools in EIPS will be eligible again this spring to submit requests for funding for the 2017/2018 school year so start your wishlists now.

If there is anything we can do to support your work with students, families and staff, please do not hesitate to contact me at kyla.sorel@eips.ca.

What We've Been Up To

I'd like to personally welcome a few new faces to our team. Anna Fiddler-Berteig is working as a teacher and graduation enhancement coach for Bev Facey Community High School and Salisbury Composite High School. Amanda Fayed wrote a project proposal to work as a collaborative teacher in eight schools facilitating Blanket Exercises and Project of Heart. Amanda will also be creating some Edmonton Public Schools inspired [Edukits](#) for EIPS schools. Jon Thomas is a Learning Services consultant and part of his portfolio includes Social Studies support. I will continue serving our team in the capacity of part-time consultant. We are extremely grateful to [Salisbury](#) for stepping up to offer us a classroom to house most of our team and resources for the 2016-2017 school year.

Last spring, Pam Sparklingeyes facilitated a [Kairos Blanket Exercise](#) for all leaders in EIPS and again for many central office staff this September. Since then, several school staffs have already participated and almost 100% of the remaining schools are booked for a staff Blanket Exercise this year.



EIPS teacher, [Anna Fiddler-Berteig](#) & long-time Sherwood Park resident and ECSD consultant, Pam Sparklingeyes.

Did you know?

Rudolph Hening is our first school to have completed Blanket Exercises for every single student - a goal they accomplished by the middle of September this year! Moving forward, they plan to

have the Blanket Exercise live in the Grade 7 program. Rudolph Hening and Fort Saskatchewan High School, along with several other schools, are also creating a relationship with an Elder and accessing his support on a regular basis for students and staff keen to build a connection and infuse Indigenous knowledge into current curriculum. A heartfelt thank you to Elder Wilson and to all of the schools leading the way by taking action to follow the new proposed TQS standards.

On October 25th, we will gather, listen, and learn with Charlene Bearhead, Education Lead for the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#). This session is currently at maximum registration but, with principal approval, you are still welcome to add your name to the [wait list](#). If you signed up but can no longer attend, please remove your name as soon as possible and email Linda Griffin so others are able to join us.

[RISE](#) (Reconciliation in Solidarity in Edmonton), will also be joining us for this special professional development day. I think RISE said it best: **“The journey before us is a long, challenging one but we are stronger as a community than we were a year ago. The more we gather, listen, and learn from each other, the easier the journey to reconciliation becomes.”**

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¹ "RISE - Reconciliation in Solidarity Edmonton | Facebook." 2015. 26 Sep. 2016
<<https://www.facebook.com/RISEdmonton/>>



Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School staff supporting [Orange Shirt Day](#), September 29, 2016.

School 'To-Dos'

- Know who your First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students are.** You can ask your powerschool person for a print out of names if you don't already have a list. Share this list with your team.

- Let me know about
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- any name changes for my contact list.

- Feel like getting inspired? Check out these 'must see' talks by [Cindy Blackstock](#) and [Wab Kinew](#) from the Pathways to Reconciliation Conference held in June, 2016.

- Consider watching or setting your PVR to capture Gord Downie's [The Secret Path](#) CBC television special on Sunday, October 23, 2016.

- Have a fantastic school year!



EIPS teacher, Amanda Fayed, with Campbelltown Project of Heart tiles, June 2016.