September in the Grade 5/6 Classroom

Henry Coaster Memorial School • Marten Falls

Our first month together was about building a strong start. We set our routines, spent time building our relationships, and spent as much time as we could learning on the land and from the knowledge keepers in our community



Friday morning fire ; our weekly sharing circle.

Friday Mornings Around the Fire

Every Friday morning, our class spends an hour on the aki together. Students harvest wigwaas and wood and build a fire. Then we sit around it in a sharing circle. We introduce ourselves in the language and share what is on our minds. It is a safe space: no one has to share, but everyone is encouraged to. This weekly practice builds connection and a sense of belonging in our class.



Harvesting wigwaas for our weekly fire.

Learning from Orville and Dave

This month, Orville and Dave shared teachings with our class about cedar, hoop dancing and the drum. Students joined a drum circle in the gym, learned about hoop dancing, and gathered in our classroom to listen and learn. Learning from community knowledge carriers is at the heart of how we want our class to learn. We are grateful to Orville and Dave for giving their time and knowledge to our students.



Drum circle teachings with Orville and Dave.



Orville and Dave sharing teachings in our classroom.

Language Class on the Land

Our class has Native Language every day on Zoom with Ms. Brenda. This month she also came to visit us in person, and we are lucky enough to take our language classes out on the land. Learning on the land makes a real difference. Students learn Oji-Cree vocabulary connected to the Aki around them, and they remember more when they learn it out on the land.



Native Language class on the land, along the river.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

For the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, our class read *Secret Path*, the story of Chanie. It is a powerful story. Together we paid respect to our ancestors and reflected on why home is so important to us, and how horrible it would feel to be taken away from it. We gave thanks for the things that make home special: our land, our ancestors, our families and our friends.

A Strong Start Together

September was about building the foundation for the year ahead. We set our classroom routines, set clear expectations together, and spent time getting to know each other. Strong relationships now will carry us through the year. Students also showed what it means to care for our home: our class cleaned up the playground together, treating the place we share with respect. On September 18th, the community came together at our Welcome Back to School BBQ to celebrate the new school year.



Building friendships and routines in our classroom.



Caring for our home — cleaning up the playground together.



Families and community at our Welcome Back BBQ, September 18th.

In the Classroom

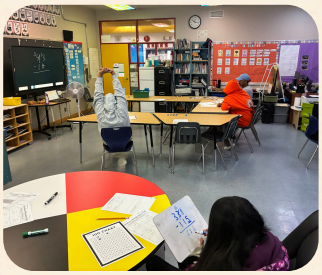
Math — Hands-on and concrete. Students built and measured Lego structures, worked together on math games, and practised on whiteboards. All of it builds strong foundations in number sense and operations.



Playing math based games

Literacy — Word study, grammar and comprehension, building a strong foundation so students grow as young readers.

Science — Our life systems unit started with the human body: its different parts, and how body systems work together and depend on each other.



Math Lesson

Our Focus for October

Literacy — Independent writing, helping students grow as storytellers. We're also continuing word study and working on reading fluency and automaticity

Math — More work on number sense and operations. We're learning decimals and why they matter in everyday life, then moving into fractions.

Science — Continuing life systems with the human body: the brain, heart, lungs, stomach and muscles.

Art — Building students' confidence and giving them the freedom to explore their creativity.

Thank you for sending your children to school each day.
— Sam Recke-Smith & Avtar Singh, Grade 5/6