



*Dare to Dream It;  
Work to Achieve It*  
😊

*Attitude of Gratitude*

Left to Right: Top, Natoaganeg Education Director Chief George Ginnish, Vice Principal Scott Jamieson, FN Student Neil Linklater, FN Student Cyrus Jerome, English Lead Jeff Wilson, ASDN FN Education Lead Elizabeth Price. Middle, FN Education Teacher & Resource Support Gina Taylor, FN Guidance Jennifer Dedam. Bottom, ASDN FN Education Subject Coordinator Matt Sweezey, FN PATHS Coordinator Terry Ann Larry, FN Student Aliyah Vicaire, Math Lead Hollie Keenan, ASDN FN Education Lead Katrina Claire, FN Cultural Transition Coordinator Ashley Julian, and Esgehoopetitj Education Coordinator Sabrina Ward.

### Miramichi Valley High School

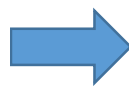
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# Kwe' piskwa' aqq pjilasi MVHS

This year our First Nation students and staff are working to improve the school's atmosphere and is becoming more culturally inclusive. This is our first community newsletter to highlight semester one cultural activities. We plan to publish another newsletter in January and a recap newsletter in June. Our hope to include student voices in future publications, and highlight student achievements.

## SCHOOL / HOME Newsletter (Semester I)

Our MVHS N.E.A.T. Committee



## MVHS Cultural Room upgrade



The Cultural area extends into the hall way, during lunch students come down here to purchase food, sit, relax in a safe place, and we offer cultural crafts and activities for students to get involved in. Students also have access to computers, printers, and supplies.

## MVHS upcoming Events

*Together we can  
make a difference*

### Wikumkewiku's – September

#### What's Happening:



Wikumkewiku's – September (Moose Calling Moon)						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Boomerang Day Gr. 9's	6 First Day for Grade 10,11, 12 students	7	8 Mentorship Lunch for Gr. 9'	9
10	11	12	13 Rock Your Mocs -RYM Wednesdays	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 RYM AARAO NEAT Meeting	21	22	23
24	25 Survivor Week Begins MVHS Open House	26 Student Pictures	27 RYM Student Pictures PL – Half Day for Students	28	29 Orange Shirt Day, Honor Walk & Birthday Cake	30

September 30<sup>th</sup> was chosen for Orange Shirt day because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes and sent to Residential schools. Orange shirt day is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. Orange shirt day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

**MVHS First Nations Mentorship/Transition Program** is for students entering into grade 9, students are paired with staff members to establish supportive adult connections and motivation. On Friday September 8, First Nations Grade 9 students were invited to have pizza and pita pit lunch to meet and greet their mentors.

#### AARAO Visit – Atlantic Association of Registrars and Admissions Officers

Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> was our AARAO (College/University) visit from 8:45am-11am in the cafeteria and 7pm-8:30pm in the evening. All students and parents were invited in the evening.

**Rock Your Mocs Wednesday's**, National RYM's is November 15<sup>th</sup> across Turtle Island. The Rock Your Mocs movement is a worldwide initiative. Participants can post their photos for everyone to enjoy using the hashtags: #RYM2017 #RockYourMocs #ROCKURMOCS #Moccasins

**Residential School Survivor Week – Orange Shirt Day** is an opportunity to display the 100 Years of Loss educational panels, information on schools that the students prepared, a display table of books in the MVHS library, and Orange Shirt Day. This year's Orange shirt day falls on Friday Sept 29. **MVHS** held an honoring walk, birthday cake, and gave out orange shirts to 30 shirts in a random school draw, everyday this week we stood for a moment of silence.

**Native Education Advisory Team – NEAT** is made up of members from MVHS, FN Student Committee, Esgenoopetitj, Natoaganeg, Metepenagiag, human resources, and Education district members. This committee is designed to help and support First Nations youth educationally and spiritually in a culturally relevant way.

## MVHS First Nation Resources

### First Nations Student Committee

- Zarak Ward
- Neil Linklater
- Cyrus Jerome
- Aliyah Vicaire

Math Help	Hollie.Keenan@nbed.nb.ca
Literacy Help	Jeff.Wilson@nbed.nb.ca
Cultural Transition Coordinator and Guidance Support	Ashley.Julian@nbed.nb.ca
Guidance	Jennifer.Dedam@nbed.nb.ca
Native Education Teacher Resource Support for Natoaganeg	Gina.Taylor@nbed.nb.ca
Two Education Assistants	Tammy.Richardson@nbed.nb.ca Noreen.McAllister@nbed.nb.ca

### Teepee Set Up and Moose Meat Sloppy Joe Fundraiser

MVHS is asking for moose meat burger donations for our Sloppy Joe fundraiser, the funds will go to next year's mentorship and transition program for grade 9 students.

Please contact Gina Taylor with donated moose burger. [Gina.Taylor@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:Gina.Taylor@nbed.nb.ca). We will be inviting elders to MVHS to assist First Nations students in setting up our Teepee skirt in the Cultural area common area outdoors.

## Wikewiku's – October Mikmaq History Month

### What's Happening:

Wikewiku's – October (Animal fattening moon)						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1 Treaty Day	2 FN option to take day off	3	4 RYM Sisters in Spirit Red Dress Campaign	5	6 Bonar Law High School Mawio'mi	7
8	9 Thanks Giving Monday Holiday	10 FNEII Education	11 RYM FNEII Ed Conference	12 FNEII Education	13	14
15	16	17 Talking Circles	18 RYM Progress Reports for Students Teepee Set Up & Moose meet Sloppy Joe fundraiser	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 RYM PL – Half Day for Students	26	27	28
29	30	31				



**Sisters and Spirit – October 4<sup>th</sup>** MVHS will honor the status of women in Canada and the Native Women's Association of Canada's movement to honor murdered and missing women, men and children. Research provides that there are more than 582 missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. MVHS will smudge and honor the red dresses with the strong women's song and hang the dresses around the school as a silent vigil.

**Talking Circles** Bobby Sylliboy and Rick Dedam are creating safe spaces for First Nation students by providing talking circles for each grade level. They anticipate to provide four talking circles throughout the school year.



### National Rock Your Mocs Day –

**November 15** students and Staff will receive a cultural gift for rocking their Moccasins on this day.

### White Ribbon Day – November 23 (November 25)

Together, MVHS is building a future free from violence and abuse, the FN student committee supports White ribbon's vital prevention work in schools, workplaces and communities. November 25 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and this day will involve hanging posters around MVHS with white ribbons and the hashtag #StandUpSpeakOut on Nov 23



## Keptekewiku's – November

### What's Happening:

Keptekewiku's – November (River Freezing Moon)						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1 RYM	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 RYM	9	10	11
12	13 Remembrance Day Holiday	14	15 RYM National Rock Your Mocs Day Across Turtle Island	16	17	18
19	20	21 Talking Circles	22 Report Card Day	23 #StandUp #SpeakOut White Ribbon Day ---- Parent Teacher Interviews 4pm-6pm	24 Parent Teacher Interviews 9am-11:30am	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### Making Waves

**Workshops** is relationship violence prevention program. Students will engage in workshops to learn about abuse in relationships, healthy and unhealthy behaviors, social media, self-esteem, effective communication, personal boundaries, and how to help friends involved in difficult relationships.

### Post-Secondary Career Application Event

will invite Gr 12 students to apply to post-secondary institutions and careers. A lunch presentation by recruitment officers and ed directors. We will then help FN students in applying for post-secondary/careers online. We encourage students to apply to more than one institution and we anticipate securing funding for application fees for students in financial need.

## Kesikewiku's – December

### What's Happening:

Kesikewiku's – December (The great month)						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Making Waves Workshops	5 Making Waves Workshops	6 Making Waves Workshops	7 Making Waves Workshops	8	9
10	11	12 Post Secondary application	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Christmas Break Begins	23
24 Nipi Alasut-mamk	25 Nuelewimk	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 Pusu'puna'ne					