

Beading @ WCOS—Mr. Robertson

On March 8, Josephine Small joined us for an educational afternoon of beading. With great patience and care, Ms. Small taught the students how to make their own beaded rings from scratch. After the initial learning curve, once the kids got going, they did a fantastic job.

Beading is a cultural art form that holds great significance for Indigenous communities. Across history, the practice of beading has been widely recognized by Indigenous peoples as a means of recording and translating cultural knowledge, and of promoting wellness.



Our staff is participating in a book study. We're reading "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer and sharing our reflections.



Raven's Nest



April 2023



Kerry Wood Nature Centre Field Trip—Mr. Robertson

On Monday, March 13, we enjoyed a field trip to Kerry Wood Nature Centre in Red Deer. The kids were wonderful ambassadors of the school, actively and willingly taking part in every activity that was planned for them. Included in the day were the following learning opportunities:

- Snowshoeing - This is a low-impact muscle-building exercise, and the most difficult part was actually fastening the snowshoes. Through hiking the trails in the snowshoes, clearing an area for a game, and then the actual game itself, the kids (and teachers) proved themselves to be very agile. They all have excellent balance.
- Lunch - After a most excellent Boston Pizza lunch, the kids were given the opportunity to explore the Nature Centre. There were many "ah-ha!" moments as they learned about the Red Deer River and its effect on Central Alberta.
- Endangered Species & Conservation program - Our guide led us through an activity discussing and identifying what level of threat certain animals fell under, followed by the kids placing themselves in the footsteps of the animals to see what being endangered feels like. We wrapped up the day by heading back outside to identify the many footprints left behind by all of the creatures that live in the Red Deer River Valley.



WCO School Council News

The West County Outreach is a haven for students needing unique learning programs. Whether they are there for a few classes or full-time, the support and atmosphere offered by the teachers and administration is enabling our children to succeed. But the space offered to our growing school is small and the yard at the rear of the building is in desperate need of renovations. The School Society, a collective of parents, is working to revamp the space into a functional area.

The scope of the project is large; we are completing some this year and finishing the rest next spring. Our plans include renovating of the basketball area with fence repair, re-painting poles and patching cement. Beautifying the area with new gravel, flower beds and painting a mural of the school symbol on the sea can. Building a deck to span the two back doors with a seating area. These renovations will enable the school to have a usable area for school events, lunch BBQ's, on-site physical education classes, etc.



We would love to have the help of other parents in our fundraising (bottle drive is coming up in April), renovation event (day of planting and painting in June) or joining us in the School Society (next meeting is April 17th 4:45pm at the school).

Thank-you from the WCO School Council.
Carolyn LeBrun
Secretary

Leadership Conference— Ms. Holliday

Four students were chosen from differing grade levels to attend the Horizons Leadership Conference at HJ Cody School in Sylvan Lake on March 16. Motivational speakers Chris Gray and Ryan Straz provided inspirational speeches about goal setting and perseverance. The students spent the afternoon in activities with students attending from other schools, before gathering at the end of the day. Pizza lunch and cotton candy were popular, and the students had an opportunity to take photos and ask questions of the speakers. It was a full and engaging day!

