FNMI École Parkdale School Plan 2014 -2015 School Year

## Focus

The focus of our FNMI School Plan is to engage our FNMI families within our school and enlighten our school community on culture, by infusing it into our daily operations at École Parkdale. We want to focus on success for all of our FNMI families by offering support for our students and parents/guardians.

## Goals

**Goal 1: Increase Cultural Awareness**

It has been expressed by employees of our school and families to be more aware of the Aboriginal Culture. Last year this was done by educating staff on smudging ceremonies, and hosting a variety of cultural events for staff and families to take part in. This year we plan to take a few extra steps, to increase the cultural awareness in our school. This year the Maskwacîs Wahkotowin Liaison will be providing cultural information/facts on our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people at all of our assemblies, staff meetings, and in our monthly newsletters. We will also continue to increase cultural awareness through the involvement of Elders and the Community members by sharing cultural teaching in our school.

**Goal 2: Increasing First Nation Student Success and Increasing Family Involvement**

The Maskwacîs Wahkotowin Liaison and Family School Liaison work very closely with one another to provide many different programs to help with student success. We focus on some basic needs such as providing breakfast and lunch to our students who are without that day. Other programs being offered include Powwow Dance/Drumming, and Cree Club offer our First Nation students and non-First Nations students a chance to participate in enriching cultural activities. Smudging is also offered in the morning for all students and families to participate in upon entry to our school, which is used as a positive encouragement to start their day.

## Strategies

CREE CLUB

* Powwow Dance Group – meet approximately once every two weeks, and more prior to performances.
* Powwow Drumming Group – meet once a week from November to June. Thursday after school from 3:30 to 4:30
* Beading and Crafts – Starting in January
* Elder story telling – Starting in January
* Cree Language Instruction – still working on finding an instructor

PARENT SUPPORTS

* Cultural Advisory Parent Group – meet once a month – starting in November
* Parent Art Night
* Parent and Child Cooking Nights
* Cultural Teachings for parents

STAFF SUPPORTS

* Presentations in classes – as requested by teachers
* Finding presenters for certain topics as requested for by teachers
* Being available to answer questions and support students

SCHOOL SUPPORTS

* Daily smudging – offered from 8:40 to 8:50 am
* Putting up information on the Parent Bulletin Board
* Finding culturally relevant art work for display in the school
* Helping with the Cree Language and displaying certain words in Cree
* Be a support for any FNMI student or parent that needs the support
* Transport parents to school for meetings or events

## Impact

* Staff member stated “I don’t know what you guys are doing different this year, but the First Nations parents are coming in to the school to visit not complain” – October 2013
* Parent – “There is a more welcoming environment at the school” – November 2013
* There is approximately 50 students smudging a day – half of them are not FNMI students
* A parent registered their children at our school because of the cultural programming that we have at the school.
* Staff members have comments about the positive impact of the drumming group, comments about being happy that we have Cree Language Instruction
* French Immersion Parent was happy that non-First Nations students could partake in Powwow dancing
* Parents are happy that students can smudge at school because it takes stress off of their morning routine to help them get their children to school on time.