



Cedarbrae School

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September 8, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The focus of school is to be a place of learning. The inclusion of relevant cultural and traditional knowledge and practices in schools can positively impact student success. As part of our ongoing learning, students at Cedarbrae School will have opportunities to participate in unique learning opportunities about the traditional practice of smudge throughout the 2025-26 school year. The practice of smudge is an opportunity for students and staff to learn about Indigenous worldviews and perspectives, whether participating or simply observing.

Smudge involves burning a small amount of dried plant such as sage, sweetgrass or cedar inside a cast-iron dish or abalone shell. Smudge will be offered in the morning (organic as the students come off the bus - get dropped off - or as per student request) as a good way to start the day and during a planned smudge when participants sit in a circle. During a circle smudge, participants sit and listen to the Elder/facilitator offer teachings about the practice and its role in historical and contemporary Indigenous communities. The smudge bowl may be passed around the circle as part of this traditional way of opening or beginning time together. Participation in smudge is informed, voluntary, and always connected to learning. If, for any reason, a student is not participating in the experiential learning, the teacher will ensure that associated learning outcomes are available.

The inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and experiences in classrooms is supported and encouraged by:

- The Education Act, Section 16: Provincial regulations for schools. This learning experience connects directly to Section 16: Diversity & Respect
- Teaching Quality Standard: Professional standard which all Alberta teachers are expected to meet. This learning experience connects directly to: Applying Foundational Knowledge about First Nations, Métis, & Inuit
- Alberta's Education for Reconciliation: This experience connects to various outcomes in the Alberta Programs of Study which demonstrates Alberta's commitment to First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences in curriculum

We are honoured to offer this learning opportunity to our students. For additional information and questions please contact your student's classroom teacher, school administration, or Ms. Jodie.

Warm Regards,

Leanne Murphy

Principal, Cedarbrae School

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