

June 2021

Dear Gwen,

Another year has passed and we continue to be grateful for the presence of our Metis Elder, Bryce Mercredi and his role in our learning. This year, he shared time in a number of classes at Queneesh. Mine was once again blessed to have him regularly visit and participate in our learning.

With our Covid protocols, Moshum was not able to come into the class, but we had plenty of opportunities for outdoor learning that he participated within. We went for many walks into our neighbouring woods. Moshum led sensory based activities to nudge students into being more observant in the woods and with nature. We made models of Indigenous artifacts using local natural resources and Moshum acted as our Museum Curator. He also brought some tools that he was gifted with from his time in Indonesia.



Moshum walked with us to the Sandwick Cenotaph where we were joined by a Metis Veteran and learned of Indigenous contribution to Canada's many peace keeping situations and wars. He came with us to Trent River and showed us how to gold pan as part of our learning on BC's Gold Rush and our learning about immigration. Moshum also shared with us a lesson on Respecting Elders which we have referred to throughout our year. As part of our Metis Culture study, Moshum shared many artifacts and Metis sashes that he has been gifted. This was of particular interest to the students. Moshum also came tree planting with us at Headquarters Townsite and to our yearly beach day where he shared his knowledge of many sea critters and how they were harvested and used by Indigenous people in the past and present. Moshum also joined us at Village Park for disc golf!





When the discovery of the 215 students who were buried at the Kamloops residential school, our class had a talking circle to share information about what we had heard, and discuss our thoughts and feelings. Our Moshum was there with us as we grappled with the enormity of what was discovered and the impact on families. We were so grateful for his connection and presence.

Every year our Moshum is with us, our roots deepen and we grow and stretch in our understanding of Indigenous culture and history.

For myself as a teacher, I find that each year creates more opportunities for me to learn how to weave Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into my daily teaching. Bryce has been part of my classes for the past three years. Each year I feel stronger and more confident within my teaching. Our kids look for Moshum and very much appreciate his presence and time with us. He is a gift! Thank you for sharing



him with us!

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