



MARK R. ISFELD SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Tansi! I would like to acknowledge we are on the unceded traditional territory of the Puntledge, E'iksan and K'omoks People. My name is Jeannie McDonald and I am one of two Indigenous Support Workers here at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School. My family heritage is Cree & Metis from Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan on my Mother's side. On my father's side we are Norwegian and Dutch. I have two children and am a proud hockey mom. I have lived on the Island since January 2017 and am truly grateful for the privilege to live, work and play in this beautiful territory. The Island has brought many teachings that have changed the life of not only myself but my family and the students we support here at the school.

I look forward to getting to know our newest students as well as continue building relationships with our existing students. We have made many changes to how we do things here at school, but many other things will remain the same. We will work to create a sense of community in our school by providing multiple opportunities to participate in events as well as create a welcoming environment where our students will feel supported. The culture keepers in my life have reminded me that this is a time for us to reflect. It is an opportunity to connect with the traditional teachings of many of our Indigenous Nations through the relationships of the natural world deepening the connections to these teachings for you, your family and your community (the spiritual, physical, emotional and mental). Finding strength in traditional stories of resilience to see that our people have endured and come through incredible times to be stronger. We are planning to provide opportunities for many teachings to our students in collaboration with our culture keepers, Ni'Noxsola, and Cultural Presenters.

We plan to support our Indigenous Students academic education by maintaining contact with our students and building rapport with teachers. As the year progresses, we will support opportunities for students to advocate and lead. It is my hope that parents will feel free to contact myself or Filipe Andrade, our other Indigenous Support Worker, if there are any questions or concerns. I am extremely grateful and appreciative to have become a part of the teachings offered here in the valley and our schools. I look forward to another great school year!

Jeannie McDonald
Indigenous Support Worker
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Mark R. Isfeld Secondary
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