Sons and daughters of my race,  
Who are today gathered under one roof,  
Follow in the steps of your ancestors,  
Remain obedient to the faith,  
Preserve the customs left by your ancestors,  
And above all,  
keep your language.  

Traditional Métis Blessing

Core Michif Language Program

2019 is the International Year of Indigenous Languages. We are proud to share that on June 24th the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools’ Board of Trustees approved the development and implementation of a K-8 Core Michif Language Program at St. Michael Community School! This decision was made with an overwhelmingly positive response from our parents, community members and the broader Métis community. Students will receive 100 minutes of instruction following the provincial outcomes provided in the new Core Michif curriculum. Our primary focus is northern Michif however we will honour all Michif used by our students and community members. The Northern Michif app created by Gabriel Dumont Institute has been a very valuable tool for our instructors. Our K-3 students are receiving instruction from Vanessa Gardiner who has been working hard to create games, flashcards, songs and more to inspire and motivate students. Gr 4-8 students receive their instruction from Sam LaMontagne. Central Urban Métis Federation Inc is providing the funds for this additional language instruction position. An important aspect of any language program is the inclusion of culture and we are working with our school Elder, Mary Morin and the Métis community to ensure our students have an opportunity to use their Michif in cultural settings. The program has only been running since mid-September but already we are hearing a significant amount of Michif being spoken in the halls by our students and staff. A big marrsi to Sandra Laliberte and Louise Oelke for all of their support!

The Gabriel Dumont Institute’s List of Michif Resources can be found at:

https://gdins.org/metis-culture/publishing/michif-resources/
Fifth Year for Urban Métis Program

St. Michael Community School is in its fifth year of incorporating Métis culture, history and perspectives into all aspects of our school environment. Since its inception we have created a Michif Cultural Room filled with teacher resources, a Grade 6-8 Fiddle program, a jigging group, a student-designed St. Michael School sash, and two Métis fiddling CDs! We are proud of our staff as they actualize our locally developed Métis Education Model and honour our monthly themes through meaningful connections to the curriculum. Our students receive a quality learning experience with an additional lens that honours Métis worldview and challenges them to open their hearts and minds to other ways of knowing, being and doing. We are grateful to all our partners who support us and give of their time, energy, prayers and resources. It takes a community to raise a child but it also takes a community to vision, plan and implement culturally responsive programs that impact students physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. We look forward to future endeavors that honour our heritage and engage our students and community members.

Kohkom Mary Morin joined our staff full time last June. She is a real blessing to our school as she shares her gifts and talents with our students and staff. Mary has been supporting our Core Michif program, helping students feel a sense of belonging through smudging, tea times and making herself available for conversation when it’s needed. She also makes the best bannock ever!

We are proud of our new St. Michael Métis Education Model and are happy to share information about it. Additional information can be found on our school website: www.gscs.ca/studentsandfamilies/schools/MIC
Métis Cultural Days

St. Michael staff and students were pleased to be able to participate in CUMFTI's second annual Métis Culture Days at the Western Development Museum on September 6th. Our students not only visited the many workshops that were offered throughout the day but our fiddlers also performed on stage as well. We also brought along our school prospector tent to share the story of the road allowance people in Saskatchewan. Our staff were also honoured to attend the evening Gala Dinner and Auction.
Out and About in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division

Sam LaMontagne has been busy supporting schools across our division in the inclusion of Métis content and perspectives. As schools identify Métis education as a priority in their Learning Improvement Plans, Sam works along side staff to help them actualize their goals. Last year Sam supported ten elementary schools with over fifty classrooms, and four high schools with four classrooms. Sam co-taught with over fifty teachers and over one thousand students! The demand this year has increased and Sam is busier than ever! Lesson plans and resources that are developed are shared with the division through our system portal. To help teachers achieve their grade specific curricular outcomes our team developed “I Can” Statements to support Métis education. They are also available on our system portal.

Cooper Skjeie’s Gr 7/8 class had an opportunity to visit the Métis Nation – Sask office to meet with President Glen McCallum to discuss Métis governance and contemporary issues. Marrsi to President McCallum and Elder Norman Fleury for sharing with our students!