

First Nations Studies

Newsletter



Message from the Coordinator

Richanda E. Kaquatosh

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In November 2010, just before Christmas, we received a huge donation of clothing from NEWTHREADS of HOPE, who received substantial funding from the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation. First Nations Studies was nominated as a recipient and we gratefully accepted. We received over 1000 items of brand new clothing for our First Nations families in Milwaukee. During the months of November and December, we had over 25 volunteers from the First Nations Community joined together to wrap the clothing for our "Secret Santa" night held at the Kosciuszko Complex on December 20, 2010. We had volunteers from Indian Community School (ICS), Southeastern Oneida Tribal Services, HoChunk Milwaukee Branch Office, Potawatomi Casino, Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation, friends and family of First Nations Studies employees and parents from MPS and ICS. This was truly a community effort and I was personally humbled by the outpouring of community support. We even had a professional photographer, Jim Kelly, who donated most of his time for this event. The real Santa sent two of his helpers to play Mr. and Mrs. Santa. Mrs. Santa from Mayfair Mall was played by Raejean Kanter and Santa was played by Peter Colorez III from our Division of Safety here at the Kosciuszko Complex. We had over 450 families attend. The remaining clothing was donated to the Sigenauk Center where we refer our families in need.

Over the last two months I have been looking at the data and profiles of our First Nations students in MPS. I discovered that we have a large number of gifted and talented students in MPS. This is significant when our population in the district is 900 students. I am currently working with Shahanna McKinney-Baldwin, coordinator of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Gifted and Talented programs for MPS, to set up workshops for these students. In addition, I met with the representatives from the Gates Millennium Foundation, Oxford University and College Horizons, who are recruiting our high school students who qualify for their scholarships and mentoring programs. These three programs have been working with First Nations youth throughout the United States and now have our students under their radar. Their programs offer our children scholarships to universities and colleges that they may not have considered. Ms. McKinney-Baldwin has also offered to speak at Gather and Feast 20 that has been rescheduled for May 17, 2011, at Serb Hall regarding Gifted and Talented students and the similar behaviors of students who are identified as special education students. Please call our office for more details and to sign up for the workshop.

Please watch for our needs assessment survey in the mail. We would like your feedback and suggestions on services you would like to see in the upcoming year. If you return your survey to our office, you will be entered into a drawing for Indian Summer Winter Pow Wow tickets, Indian Summer Gift Certificates, First Nations clothing, a DVD player and many many more items. Please include your name and phone number so we can contact you when you win!

In closing I would like you to know that we need your support and cooperation in the education of your child. We are all in this together. Please call our office to sign up for our upcoming family reading workshop in April. We will once again be helping all of our students to build their own library at home with book donations from Children's Service Society of Wisconsin. This will be our 4th year for this event. This year we have our very own Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, Dr. Gregory Thornton, visiting this event. Stop in for a free hamburger or free hot dog and meet our new superintendent!

First Nations Studies, MPS' mission is to produce a positive influence for First Nations students, families and community by providing academic assistance, cultural awareness using factual/accurate materials, special education workshops, support for families, professional development, community development and foster partnerships with urban community agencies. First Nations Studies turns to the seven sacred teachings of Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth to develop a more confident, successful and well-adjusted First Nations people.

-written by First Nations Studies, MPS team

September 2010

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Santa's Secret Special Visit

Jude Westergard

Over 450 First Nations families visited with Mr. and Mrs. Santa on Monday, December 20, 2010, at the Kosciuszko Complex from 4:00-7:00 PM for our first ever *Secret Santa* event. Children were excited and some even a bit scared to meet the Clausess, but after a few cookies and some lemonade the atmosphere turned festive. Each family member, not just the children, was able to choose new clothing and footwear from *NewThreads of Hope*, *new clothes for new opportunities*. Everyone left with a smile and a personally selected brand new item. First Nations Studies was very fortunate to be selected by *NewThreads of Hope* to distribute these beautiful new items to the First Nations community. *NewThreads of Hope* is funded by the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation.

Volunteers from various First Nations organizations in the Milwaukee area, First Nations Program staff and friends of First Nations Studies' staff donated hundreds of hours to prepare the items, set up the tables for distribution and clean up after for the Secret Santa Party. Our families were very grateful for the opportunity to receive new clothing and footwear and impressed with the exceptional quality and the wide selection of the items.

This event helped to make the holidays a little happier for not just the families who received the items but also for the volunteers who unselfishly gave their precious time to make this event so successful and fun! A special thanks to *NewThreads of Hope* and the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation for sponsoring our Secret Santa evening. We enjoyed planning and presenting this program and hope to be able to have Santa and Mrs. Claus and the free, new clothing back again next year.

Summer Community Resource Fair

Wednesday, April 20th 2-7pm
at

Indian Community School

10405 W. St. Martins Road
Franklin, WI 53132

Join us and get your resources for summer programming for youth and other community resources.

We will have many organizations here to greet you, including...

First Nations Studies
Gerald L Ignace Indian Health Clinic
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
Milwaukee Recreation Department
Children's Outing Association
Urban Ecology Center
Flowering Tree

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact
Cindy—ICS FRC Coordinator at 414-525-6117 or Heather—VISTA at 414-525-6122**



Secret Santa
December 2010