



News Release

The Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award goes to nine students from across the Division

For immediate release – June 28, 2021

Nine First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students from across the Division were recognized for their strength and commitment to their education. The following students received an honourable mention for how they embrace their own and potential while celebrating the ways of their people:

- Nora Penner, Grade 6 student at École Camille J. Lerouge School
- Coda Nepoose, Grade 4 student at St. Martin de Porres School
- Zander Cardinal, Grade 5 student St. Teresa of Avila School
- Aiyanna Two Horns, Grade 5 student at St. Teresa of Avila School
- Tegan Lenfesty, Grade 5 student at St. Teresa of Avila School
- Melaine Leclerc, Grade 4 student at École Our Lady of the Rosary School
- Nevaeh Goodrunning, Grade 6 student at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School
- Matthew Switzer, Grade 7 student at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School
- One student unable to be identified due to FOIP

“We feel honoured to have the opportunity to celebrate these exceptional students for their leadership, courage and commitment to their education and culture,” said Selena Frizzley, coordinator of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Support Team at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

“We are proud of every one of these students for bringing their culture into our schools and celebrating the ways of their people. As a school Division, we are so grateful to learn about Indigenous culture, heritage and achievements as we continue to work towards the Truth and Reconciliation calls for action,” said Superintendent Kathleen Finnigan at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

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For more information on the Honouring Spirit – Indigenous Student Award from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), please visit

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/indigenous-awareness/indigenous-student-award#:~:text=The%20Honouring%20Spirit%3A%20Indigenous%20Student,the%20ways%20of%20their%20people.>

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,360 students in 20 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds, as well as an at-home learning program. It also supports the learning of over 1095 students in a Traditional Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

For more information, contact:

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