

St. Gabriel School celebrates learning with Treaty 6 medal installation

St. Gabriel School students, staff and community held a Treaty 6 medal installation ceremony to recognize progress along their journey of learning about treaties and the need for reconciliation and healing.

Community leaders from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the town of Biggar joined Board of Education Chair Diane Boyko and the Catholic-school community for the celebration on June 2.

Throughout the process of planning for this special event, school staff and the school community had the opportunity to grow in knowledge of treaty relationships. “We’re all on a learning and healing journey together,” said Rick Garchinski, the principal at St. Gabriel School. “There is a bit of an awakening within our community—within our province and across the country. We are fortunate to have the expertise of our elders, knowledge keepers and members of the division’s First Nations Métis and Inuit Education team to come in to teach and guide us as we learn more about treaties, residential schools, and historical relationships with Indigenous peoples in Canada. It’s important that we walk along this journey together to move forward.”

“Reconciliation with God and others is such an important part of our Catholic faith. We are called to take care of brothers and sisters, and seek to restore broken relationships” said Garchinski. “We undertook studying and learning more about treaties. We brought in speakers to come and share their knowledge of treaties and how we can grow in understanding of our own treaty relationships.”

Throughout the celebration, St. Gabriel students shared what they had learned—First Nations and Métis cultures and histories, the spirit and intent of treaties, treaty relationships, treaty promises and provisions, and the historical context of treaties—through music, dance, art and various presentations.

As a multi-year initiative that began in 2018, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools plans to have Treaty 6 medals installed at all 50 schools in the division as a tangible sign and reminder of the commitment to truth and reconciliation

- 30 -

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