

Cree, or nêhiyawêwin as is it called is traditionally an oral language, one where one remembers how specific actions are remembered through protocol. Protocol requires specific template of how information is going to be transferred, and retained by the individual without writing it down. We encourage a view of language as not only a medium of instruction, but as “the life blood of a people,” with the capacity to carry “the spirit of the past to the children of the present” Language is widely understood by Indigenous Peoples as the vehicle for the intergenerational transmission of knowledge, culture, spirituality and identity.

It will be taught in the “Y” dialect as that is the most commonly spoken dialect within the region and in Saskatchewan.

We can’t wait to meet with you and your family when we begin this program.



### An Effective Kindergarten Program Incorporates the Principles of Early Learning

In an effective Kindergarten classroom, a flexible, dynamic environment stimulates inquiry, facilitates play, and inspires curiosity. As children interact with their environment, they come to understand the world in which they live and learn. A well-planned environment can enrich and expand children’s experiences, and support their growth and development.(2)



I am excited about the opportunity to make space for Cree Language at John Diefenbaker Public School. In being asked to write of the importance of this program to our community, I need to reflect on conversations with my father and a gentleman named Norm Fleury at a cultural camp called Onikaniwak (Cree word meaning “for those who lead”). My own ancestry is of Ukrainian decent and my dad worked very hard to keep the Ukrainian language alive within our family. He would often tell stories or jokes and then translate the story or joke to English. My sister and I would often look at each other and wonder how this was humorous. My dad’s response was always the same; you need to understand the language for it to be funny. It was unique to the culture.



tānsi, I will be the Cree Language Kindergarten teacher this fall. The implementation of an Indigenous language program in our school division honors the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action as well as the diversity that exists in our community of Prince Albert. We are a community that has a rich Cree culture and to be able to balance that with a sense of pride in preserving our language in the school setting is monumental. As a Cree person, I have had the privilege of growing up hearing my parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles speak in Cree to one another. I look forward to sharing my knowledge of the Cree language and seeing the holistic development that this program will bring to our children, families, and city.  
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Cree Language Program



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nêhiyaw pîkiskwēwin nêhiyawēwin  
tawaw



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