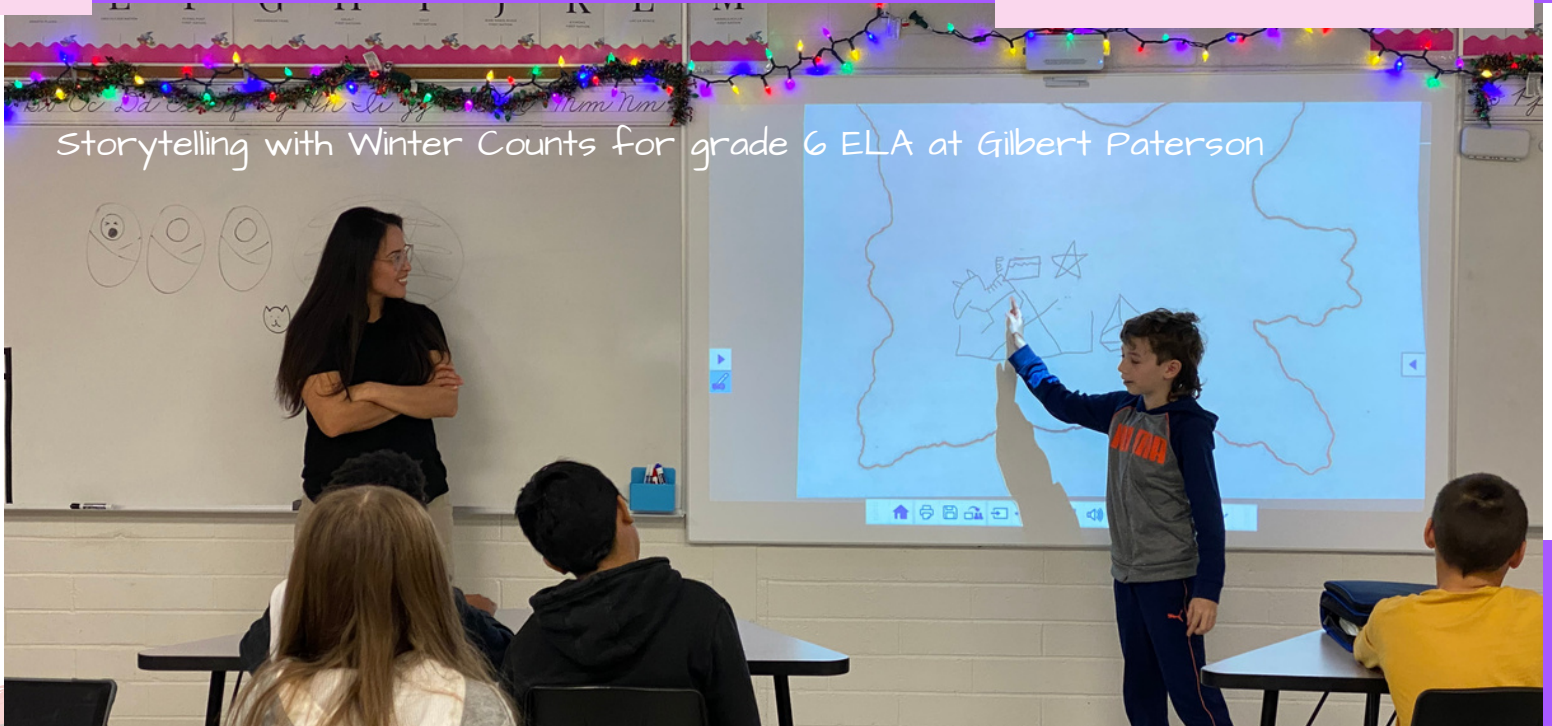


# OMAHKSIKI'SOOM (O-MAH-GSEE-KII-SO-M)

“Old Moon”

JANUARY 2024  
INDIGENOUS  
EDUCATION  
NEWSLETTER



Storytelling with Winter Counts for grade 6 ELA at Gilbert Paterson

## OKI TO OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

A message from Mrs. Christiansen:



We ended 2023 with a bang! Our middle school Indigenous Education schedule was filled with a lot of wonderful learning opportunities for students and staff!

Thank you to staff and students for a wonderful first year!

I look forward to our next school visit in the new year!

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Then & Now!

- National Ribbon Skirt Day  
Jan 4 
- Lethbridge School Division celebrates Ribbon Skirt Day  
Jan 11
- James Gladstone appointed as first Indigenous Senator in Canada  
Jan 31, 1958 

Looking for more Key Moments in Indigenous History?





Sheldon Day Chief teaches students to drum at G.S. Lakie

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS!

Check out what our Middle School's did this month!



Blackfoot storytelling for grade 8 Drama at Wilson Middle School.

We continued with our Blackfoot Astronomy Science lesson at [Gilbert Paterson](#) this month! Students learned Blackfoot star stories and how to tell the time using the stars!

The Indigenous Education team facilitated a Blanket Exercise to grade 7 social classes at [Gilbert Paterson](#) to learn about Canada's history with Indigenous people.

The Pisspsksiiksi (Falcon) lunch group at [Senator Joyce Fairbairn](#) played Indigenous games! Mrs. Christiansen maintains her title in the leg wrestle.

Ms. Holthe's grade 8 Drama class performed Blackfoot legends at [Wilson Middle School](#) for their storytelling unit!

Students from [G.S. Lakie's](#) Soyiipiksiiks (Water animals) group learned to drum with Sheldon Day Chief! Check out their new logo! -->



# NATIONAL RIBBON SKIRT DAY! JAN 4TH

**JANUARY 11 FOR OUR DIVISION!**  
**Why do we have a national day celebrating ribbon skirts?**

In late 2020, 10-year-old Isabella Kulak from Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan showed up for her school's formal wear day wearing her ribbon skirt, handmade for her by her aunt Farrah Sanderson. She was proud to represent her Ojibway traditions with the beautifully designed garment, but her pride turned to shame when she was told that her ribbon skirt did not count as formal wear. Rather than staying quiet about the incident, Isabella spoke up, sparking a national wave of support for her and her ribbon skirt. That outpouring of support and attention led to an apology from Isabella's school and, in 2022, a bill put forward by Senator Mary Jane McCallum that recognizes January 4th as National Ribbon Skirt Day.



Blanket Exercise at Gilbert Paterson for Social 7 lesson on Canadian/Indigenous history

[Click here for more information on:](#)

- What is a ribbon skirt?**
- Where did ribbon skirts come from?**
- Who can wear a ribbon skirt?**
- What is the modern day significance of the ribbon skirt?**



Indigenous Games with Senator Joyce Fairbairn

# INDIGENOUS MATHEMATICIAN HIGHLIGHT!

# Mary G. Ross

Cherokee

**Known as the first Native American woman engineer**



Mary G. Ross was part of the original engineering team at Lockheed's Missile Systems Division, where she worked on a number of defense systems, and contributed to space exploration efforts with her work relating to the Apollo program, the Polaris reentry vehicle, and interplanetary space probes. She is known as the ***first Native American woman engineer.***

When she was 16, Ross enrolled in Northeastern State Teachers' College in Tahlequah. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1928, at age 20. She received her master's degree from the Colorado State Teachers College in Greeley, Colorado in 1938, taking "every astronomy class they had." In 1942, she was hired by Lockheed Martin as a mathematician. It was there that she was encouraged to earn her professional certification in aeronautical engineering from UCLA in 1949, after which she broke new ground as one of the 40 founding members of the top-secret Skunk Works team. Her work on the team included developing initial design concepts for interplanetary space travel (including flyby missions to Venus and Mars) and satellites including the Agena rocket.

Full Story...



# INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE NEWS NOW!

## Lily Gladstone Blackfeet, Nez Perce

Made history at the Golden Globes becoming the ceremony's first Indigenous nominee in the category of Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Motion Picture for 'Killers of the Flower Moon'



[Full Story...](#)



## INDIGENOUS INFLUENCER MOMENT

Share a little Native comedy with your class with  
**Brett Mooswa!**

**Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation**

