



Eva Bereti Cree Leadership Academy

The new Cree Bilingual program at Our Lady of Peace Elementary will be named after an Aboriginal elder and long-term employee of the Edmonton Catholic School District. Eva Bereti is an Aboriginal elder who has worked with the Edmonton Catholic School District for 32 years as a counselor for native students, a coordinator of initiatives in native Education, a cultural coordinator and also as a classroom instructor for native studies and arts.

“Eva truly believes that each child is given a special talent and she guides students to develop that talent and become a leader. She also keeps the native culture alive,” said Kathy Kiss, Principal of Our Lady of Peace Elementary.

Eva is a mother, grandmother and elder. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Woman of the Year Award from the Business and Professional Women’s Club, the Cultural Achievement Award from the City of Edmonton and an Achievement Award from the Alberta Native Women’s Society. Eva is also recognized in the Canadian Encyclopedia as a strong Aboriginal woman who has survived breast cancer through traditional healing.

The Eva Bereti Cree Leadership Academy will open with Kindergarten in September at Our Lady of Peace Elementary. The Academy will focus on cultural understanding as well as promoting a positive self-image and leadership skills for Aboriginal youth. Cultural events and teachings will be integrated into the Catholic program of studies. Over 40% of students at Our Lady of Peace are of Aboriginal origin so the school is the ideal site for this Academy.

When asked about her vision for the Eva Bereti Cree Academy, Eva had this to say: “I want this kindergarten to be a start; to build hope for the future. If children know their language they will understand their culture. And with encouragement from their parents, children, our future leaders, will have a good mind and a strong spirit.”

The Eva Bereti Cree Academy is one of two Cree Bilingual programs in the Edmonton Catholic School District. St. Francis of Assisi Elementary offers Cree Bilingual for Kindergarten to Grade 2 students and will add Grade 3 in September.

For more information call:

LORI NAGY

- Manager of Media & Public Relations
- 780 441-6189 (office)
- 780 991-6363 (cell)