



BERNIE WOLFE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

95 Bournais Drive
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2C 3Z2
Phone: 204-958-6532 Fax: 667-9871
email: bw@retsd.mb.ca

Elizabeth Linton
Principal

Andy Hirst
Vice-Principal

Smudging Permission

Name: _____ Homeroom teacher: _____

_____, has permission to participate, on a
(Student)
voluntary basis, in the Smudging gatherings that take place at Bernie Wolfe
Community School.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)



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November 8th, 2018

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Bernie Wolfe Community School and RETSD recognizes and respects the important contributions made by Indigenous Nations here on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe. Understanding that Indigenous Education is a priority mandated by Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, Bernie Wolfe Community School will provide all students with an opportunity to learn through Land Based Pedagogy.

To successfully reach this mandated priority, Bernie Wolfe Community School will strive to strengthen the sense of belonging and pride among diverse Nations originally from these lands and further deepening the understanding of those experiencing this learning. Many diverse worldviews have a holistic process where learning takes place across spiritual, physical, emotional and mental dimensions. This way of learning considers relationships and experiences of the past, present and future as interconnected. In supporting this work in our school, Bernie Wolfe Community School will begin offering voluntary smudging for students, staff and Bernie Wolfe Community School members.

Smudging is a tradition, common among many Nations of people, which involves burning of one or more plants, (often called medicines) gathered from the earth. The medicines used in various ceremonies are tobacco, sage, cedar and sweetgrass. We will be using Sage. Smudging allows people to stop, slow down, become mindful and centered. This allows people to remember, connect, and be grounded in the event, task, or purpose at hand. Smudging also allows people to let go of something negative. The forms of smudging will vary from Nation to Nation but are considered by all to be a way of cleansing oneself. Smudging is part of "the way things are done" and is part of living a good life.

A smudge is led by a person who carries the knowledge and teachings from diverse Nations. That person may be an Elder, cultural teacher, a young person or staff person who carries the teachings of smudging. It can be a parent/guardian; or relative. We will be using a cast iron pan, and the smoke is shared forward with a feather. When we smudge, we first cleanse our hands with the smoke as if we were washing our hands. We then draw the smoke over our heads, eyes, ears, mouth, and our bodies. These actions remind us to think good thoughts, see good actions, hear good sounds, speak good words, and show the good of who we are. Students are encouraged to smudge the way they feel comfortable.

The information above was adapted from teachers in the community and the **Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning Smudging Protocol and Guidelines for School Divisions (2014)**.

Bernie Wolfe Community School is very excited to once again provide a smudging opportunity for all interested students, staff and community members. We are looking forward to building on the successes from last year. Smudging is for anyone interested, regardless of their age, gender, or cultural background. Smudging is always voluntary and does require permission. If your child would like to participate on a voluntary basis in smudging at Bernie Wolfe Community