**Activities for schools to help celebrate National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2017**

* Teach a lesson from First Nation Art Lessons (new resource sent to schools this year)
* Teach a lesson from First Nation Literacy Lessons resource.
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* Teach children about some of the foods which originated from our Aboriginal neighbours like corn. Corn is now eaten in many different ways: corn soup, corn chowder, corn syrup, corn meal, corn on the cob, corn nib lets, corn oil, and popcorn. Show children corn seeds, and corn on the cob and explain how it is turned into syrup, meal, oil and popped.
* Learn the Mi’kmaq honour song written by George Paul from Metepenagiag which is sung all across Canada and internationally. You tube video, **Honor Song of the Mi'kmaq (Sing-along)** with lyrics, phonetic lyric and English translation.
* Look at contributions of Aboriginal people in Canada. See attached.
* Learn about current Indigenous heroes/heroines in Canada: Rita Joe (poet from NS), Richard Wagamese (author) Wab Kinew (actor, musician, reporter), Tribe Called Red (band), Sid Bobb (actor, children’s shows) Buffy Saint Marie ( singer) Candy Palmater (from Eel River Bar, NB, host of her own CBC radio show), George Paul (Metepenagiag, author, artist, musician), Roger Simon (world renowned artist from Elsipogtog) Thomas Clair (artist and entertainer from Elsipgtog).
* Make Lusginigan, (Mi’kmaq bread similar to bannock). Organize a Lusginigan making contest with taste testing and voting.
* Students can research and create posters entitled “Reasons to Celebrate Aboriginal Day”
* Do a quiz on Indigenous history/culture with your students.
* Invite an Indigenous guest speaker, e.g., an Elder, to speak on local history, contemporary issues and contributions.
* Aboriginal arts and crafts display or workshop.
* Indigenous language workshop for Mi’kmaq websites are : First Nation helpdesk, Mikmaqonline.org
* Play traditional or contemporary games (e.g. waltes, lacrosse, hockey)
* Prepare a display of items such as treaties, arts and books.
* Storytelling sessions
* Invite Indigenous dancers and singers to perform
* Field trips to local Indigenous historic sites and or communities.
* Skype or penpal with an Indigenous school

The following site is a wonderful resource of information for teachers on the Mi’kmaq

<https://novascotia.ca/abor/education/other-resources/>