



So here we are in the latter part of August 2021, and the summer heat is finally abating. I remember my late husband saying – what is the point of getting air conditioning – we only get a few days of REALLY hot weather !!!!



Red Road had their Back to School event last Thursday; and I was told that everyone participated heartily; and made it truly worthwhile for our community at THE ORANGE HUB. There were haircuts-backpacks full of awesome school supplies-door prizes-pancakes, sausages, refreshments-makeovers-gently used clothing-community resources-games-facepainting-AND FUN!!! There were 175 children and families in attendance. Our formal partners joined in from Family Futures FRN, Bent Arrow FRN; as well as THE ORANGE HUBBITES (new word), Yellowhead Tribal College Education Program, and West Jasper Place FRN. How great is that!! PARTICIPATION !! That’s how we make our communities well!!!

August 19, 2021 was also the last day of our Summer Kids Camp. So as we move through the rest of the month, there are a few field trips...and lots of preparation for our September gatherings; and a return to our *prepandemic* fall activities at the schools.

We have a female Volleyball coach who is looking to get a team organized for the next Indigenous games here in the province; and of course our longhouse activity will resume the first week in October, 2021.

Due to the rising numbers in COVID *again*, we will be wearing our masks; and continuing to encourage people to be vaccinated. All Red Road staff are vaccinated. The Director remembers growing up, when people still visibly suffered from the scars of small pox. Such horrific diseases. Such sorrow that our folks have been through. Are there many to blame? Absolutely, if one wishes to dwell in the blame game; frankly, I never found it a useful passage of time. However; holding the government accountable for on-going genocidal activities; (whether the activity comes in the form of racism, missing and murdered Indigenous women, infanticide, or wanton discriminatory acts); holding those responsible is paramount. *What is truly unfortunate*, is that most of the perpetrators of these horrific acts, are no longer alive. Therefore; we reconcile, reconcile, reconcile...so we do not fall into the Pedagogy of the Oppressed; and turn and oppress others; especially those we love. Because a child is born of a nasty parent, does not mean that child will be nasty...two wrongs don’t make a right. None of this is easy; however, our holy people knew how to do this, and they suffered much more than us. Keeping warm and having enough food for our families was a full time occupation. Which wolf do we feed?

