

## Student Role Models for September



**Madison — Gr. 12**

Nadleh Whut'en

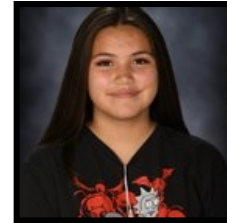
"Participates with Nadleh Whut'en singles/drummers/dancers. Strong Leadership skills, role model for younger students"



**Chaylean — Gr. 8**

Saik'uz First Nation

"Is a kind, respectful, strong young lady, very curious to learn about her culture. Is open minded and not afraid to stand up for what is correct."



**Tina — Gr. 11**

Lake Babine Nation

"Consistently attends class, is always respectful and has a good work ethic. Cooks for the class and is helpful to other students."

## District Principals Message

Hadi,

I would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday. The upcoming Winter is the time in our seasonal rounds, traditionally, that we would gather and share stories. I want each of you to think of your favourite storytellers. Mine were my Great Auntie Catherine and my Grandfather John. My Auntie was my Carrier Language Teacher at Sowchea Elementary. She would tell the best stories! My Grandfather told me stories from his own Irish culture. For the longest time I believed in Leprechauns and Fairies. The first book I bought myself was from a garage sale at the age of 12 and I fell in love with Author V.C. Andrews. What are your most cherished story memories? My favourite book as an educator is Taan's Moons by Alison Gear. This book is the perfect recipe for engaging Indigenous people into your classroom. Mesiy and stay safe.

Leona Prince

## Helpful Resources and Links

### Links to Order First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Books and Resources:

- [Strong Nations](#)
- [Good Minds](#)

### BC and Local Authors and Story Tellers:

Monique Grey-Smith

- [Find Monique online](#)
- [Watch and Listen to her books](#)
- [Watch her TedXLangleyEd](#)

Eden Robinson

- [Find at penguinrandomhouse.ca](#)
- [UBC Alumni Page](#)

Cecilia John

- [Watch "Fall in Saik'uz" Reading](#)
- [Find Books and Information at strongnations.com](#)

### Canadian Authors and Story Tellers:

Richard Van Camp

- [Three Feathers](#)
- [Three Questions with Richard](#)

## Story Feature: Monkey Beach by Eden Robinson

Five hundred miles north of Vancouver is Kitamaat, an Indian reservation in the homeland of the Haisla people. Growing up a tough, wild tomboy, swimming, fighting, and fishing in a remote village where the land slips into the green ocean on the edge of the world, Lisamarie has always been different. Haunting, funny, and vividly poignant, *Monkey Beach* gives full scope to Robinson's startling ability to make bedfellows of comedy and the dark underside of life. Informed as much by its lush living wilderness as by the humanity of its colorful characters, *Monkey Beach* is a profoundly moving story

about childhood and the pain of growing older—a multilayered tale of family grief and redemption. [Click here for movie trailer.](#)



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## Did you know?

“Throughout history, Aboriginal societies in North America have relied on the oral transmission of stories, histories, lessons and other knowledge to maintain a historical record and sustain their cultures and identities. According to scholars Renée Hulan and Renate Eigenbrod, oral traditions are “the means by which knowledge is reproduced, preserved and conveyed from generation to generation. Oral traditions form the foundation of Aboriginal societies, connecting speaker and listener in communal experience and uniting past and present in memory.”

My favourite quote on the Oral Tradition comes from Stephen J. Augustine who captures it so well:

“The Elders would serve as mnemonic pegs to each other. They will be speaking individually uninterrupted in a circle one after another. When each Elder spoke they were conscious that other Elders would serve as ‘peer reviewer’ [and so] they did not delve into subject matter that would be questionable. They did joke with each other and they told stories, some true and some a bit exaggerated but in the end the result was a collective memory. This is the part which is exciting because when each Elder arrived they brought with them a piece of the knowledge puzzle. They had to reach back to the teachings of their parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents. These teachings were shared in the circle and these constituted a reconnaissance of collective memory and knowledge. In the end the Elders left with a knowledge that was built by the collectivity.” See more on the Oral Tradition at : [Oral Traditions \(ubc.ca\)](http://OralTraditions(ubc.ca))

## Stellar Connections: Explorations in Cultural Astronomy

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/nVny6LnTOLg>

Stories are often used in the humanities in education. Use this resource to explore the science from an Indigenous perspective using story. Cultural astronomy, also referred to as archaeoastronomy or ethnoastronomy, explores the distinctive ways that astronomy is culturally embedded in the practices and traditions of various peoples.

