



News Release

Two middle school students recognized for their outstanding leadership by receiving the Honouring Spirit - Indigenous Student Award

For immediate release – December 2, 2020

Red Deer, AB Two Grade 6 students, Ava Littlechild and Muna Castle from St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School received Honourable Mentions - Honouring Spirit - Indigenous Student Awards for their leadership and inspiration. This award is given to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education path and embrace their own gifts and potential, while celebrating the ways of their people.

Both students were nominated in the Spring by their former school administrators.

“Ava is a kind and caring student who strives to do her best and try new things. She is an excellent role model for other Indigenous youth as she continually develops pride in her culture and works towards deepening her understanding of her cultural traditions,” said her former Principal, Chris Andrew at Maryview School.

“Muna enjoys learning and sharing about her culture. She is an excellent role model through the way she interacts with staff and students,” said former School Counsellor, Wendy Lynch at St. Teresa of Avila School.

“It is essential to recognize First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who embrace their cultural identity, model leadership and are committed to pursuing their educational path. We are honoured to have the opportunity to celebrate Ava and Muna on their achievements,” said Selena Frizzley, Coordinator of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Support Team at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

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For more information on the Honouring Spirit – Indigenous Student Award from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), please visit

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/indigenous-awareness/indigenous-student-award#:~:text=The%20Honouring%20Spirit%3A%20Indigenous%20Student,the%20ways%20of%20their%20people.>

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,360 students in 20 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds, as well as an at-home learning program. It also supports the learning of over 1095 students in a Traditional Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

For more information, contact:

Communications Department
Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
P: 403-343-1055 Ext. 310147
E: communications@rdcrs.ca
W: www.rdcrs.ca