

International Education Week: November 16-20

With COVID-19 restrictions, our school communities are not able to welcome international students as they typically would. According to the Canadian Bureau for International Education, this is a week to showcase the impact that international education has in preparing students for the world.

Luckily, there are still many examples in Chinook's Edge schools of opportunities for learning about distinct cultures and different lived experiences, and seeing the world through multiple perspectives.

Caring and compassion for Innisfail High duo



Kelly Jobs could be a witness to intolerance every day, being a person of colour who works with a student with Down Syndrome. Happily, the opposite is true.

"I've worked at three different Chinook's Edge schools - Poplar Ridge, Delburne and now Innisfail High - and I have felt a great deal of respect in each," said Kelly.

"Truly, for the most part I think my skin colour is irrelevant. There have been a few learning moments that I've encountered with students the odd time, when they've needed reminders about racial comments. But overall, I think there is a lot of respect for diversity."

Where Kelly witnesses that respect most is when she sees how students interact with Renee.

"She has always attended Innisfail schools, and the school community is very supportive of her. Students are even protective of her, insisting on kindness towards her.

"I think kids by nature are accepting, and young people see social justice and tolerance issues as very important. I watch them seek each other out on the playground and they're just wanting to play - issues of race or abilities aren't part of that. They're not confused about relating to one another."

Kelly also feels a high level of respect for her role in Chinook's Edge.

"In this division, we're all the same in that we all care about kids. It doesn't matter if you're an EA or a teacher - we're all treated well. Everyone matters just as much as the other.

"I've seen that in the PD opportunities we are continually provided. Last spring when schools were closed, I was taking up to four PD sessions through Division Office, and participating in a book study. By providing all kinds of resources and opportunities, Chinook's Edge is showing how important their staff are - but most importantly how important their students are."

International Day for Tolerance is November 16

For Innisfail High student Renee Robinson and her EA Kelly Jobs, each day is filled with understanding and compassion.

Welcome! When she's not serving in her leadership role as Principal of École John Wilson Elementary School, or standing in a blizzard to supervise bus students, Angela Warke is volunteering on Innisfail's newly formed Welcoming & Inclusive Community committee.

"I volunteered for the role because I really believe Innisfail is a great community. I'm happy to be part of something that creates an even stronger connection between school and community."



Bullying Awareness Week

"This year has been especially tough because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"More than ever, it's critical we show each other compassion and care," reads a joint statement from Adriana LaGrange (Minister of Education) and Leela Sharon Aheer (Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women).

To read the full media release, please visit the Alberta Education website.