



Kinuso School takes top honours at the Alberta Peace Regional Student Hand Games Tournament

For immediate release
June 21, 2010

KINUSO, AB – Kinuso School added another feather in its cap of accomplishments earlier this month by capturing a first and second place finish at the Alberta Peace Regional Student Hand Games Tournament, hosted by Driftpile School June 5 to 6. The school's elementary team (coached by Jennifer Churchill) showed its dominance at the recent two-day competition by going undefeated en route to a solid first place result.



Back row: Ms. Jennifer Churchill (elementary coach), Jazmin Giroux, Ian Sloan, Darrien Delorme, Viola Giroux (elementary captain), Angelica Giroux (junior/senior high captain), Misty Bourque-Twin, Phaton Davis, Mrs. Gwena Cunningham (junior/senior high coach) **Front row:** Keaneena Bellerose, Steven Cardinal and Kage Chalifoux

They were joined on the podium by Kinuso's junior/senior high team (led by coach Gwena Cunningham) which, despite losing a couple of draws, still managed to pick up a very respectable second place finish (behind Grimshaw) in their respective division.

"The cultural values that are taught during the games include honesty, respect, sharing and kindness," says Cunningham. "The students had a great time during the tournament. They met new people, practiced the values and were involved in real competition. We are extremely proud of them and what they accomplished."

For their outstanding performances, the elementary team was awarded a championship banner and team jackets, while the junior high team was presented with hoodies.

"Both teams displayed excellent sportsmanship and skill throughout the hand games competition," says Chester Auger, School Culture Support Coach for High Prairie School Division. "The tournament was very well organized and Driftpile School was an excellent host." Complementing the weekend event was Native dance performances and a round dance on Saturday, June 5 in addition to a special evening supper and breakfast the following morning. Prior to the tournament, Kinuso School students were introduced to Cultural Hand Games as part of their Cree class.

"We spent a few weeks reviewing the history of hand games and the values which participating in hand games teach. We also took the opportunity to teach the French students how to play the game," Cunningham adds.

A total of six elementary teams and six junior/senior high teams participated at the Alberta Peace Regional Student Hand Games Competition from Kinuso, Driftpile, Grimshaw, Sturgeon Lake, High Prairie and McLennan.

-30-

For more information please contact HPSD No. 48 Superintendent Mrs. Laura Poloz or HPSD Communications Officer Kevin Laliberte at 780-523-3337.