



Phone: 204-786-5631
Fax: 204-783-6473
email: hjm@wsd1.org

**Hugh John Macdonald
School
567 Bannatyne Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3A 0G8**

www.winnipegsd.ca/schools/hughjohnmacdonald

Mrs. J. Scott
Principal
Mr. J. Ferguson
Vice-Principal

November 15, 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Community,

To ensure our school is inclusive and culturally responsive we are integrating First Nation, Métis, and Inuit perspectives into school planning and programming in partnership with the school community. This includes welcoming all students to learn about the significant role of Indigenous values in the spirit of reconciliation.

One of the most commonly shared experiences is the tradition of smudging. Smudging involves burning sage to cleanse the mind, body, spirit. It allows all participants a chance to become mindful, centred, and move forward with positive intentions.

This letter is to notify smudging will be introduced and ongoing as a part of learning processes throughout the school year. Staff, students, and community are invited to participate and support in building an atmosphere of respect, understanding, and inclusivity. While smudging does not usually pose a health risk, we will ensure smudging will take place in well-ventilated designated areas using an appropriate amount of sage. Alternate arrangements may be made for those that may have health challenges such as severe asthma and respiratory issues. Smudging is always voluntary. If you would like more information on smudging, please refer to the Smudging Protocol and Guidelines for School Divisions or contact your school for further information.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Scott
School Principal