

# Family Literacy Fun

Saskatchewan School Library Association

THE MEDIUM – WINTER 2016

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St. Michael School



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## Saskatchewan School Library Association

At St. Michael School here in Prince Albert, we are always looking for engaging and fun ways to connect our students and their families to Literacy. One way we do this is our Family Literacy Evenings. This school year we celebrated four Family Literacy Evenings. All have been well attended and a huge success. It is so nice to see our students and families coming out to celebrate literacy, especially on a cold winter evening in February.

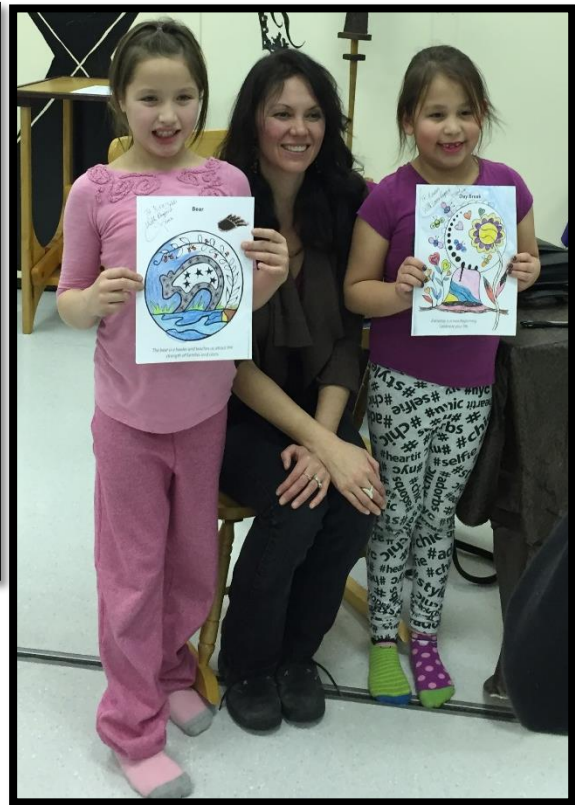
To celebrate Aboriginal Storytelling month in February we invited Métis teacher, author, and artist Leah Dorian, as well as teacher and artist Jenn Brown to join us for a Family Literacy Evening. The theme for the evening was *“Celebrating the Artist in all of Us”*.

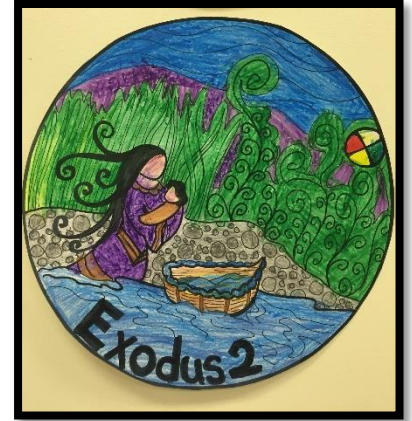
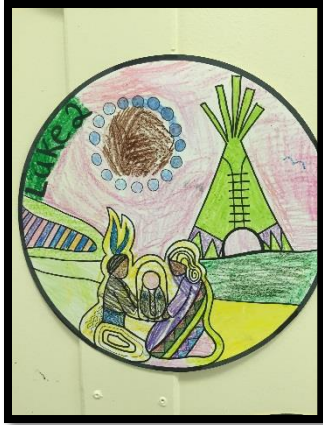
The evening started with introductions and a traditional offering of tobacco to our special guests. Leah Dorian shared her newest project with us the *Mother Earth Colouring and Activity Book*. The students were excited to meet someone who created a book. As Leah shared her stories and inspirations, we all enjoyed a snack of bannock, fruit, juice and tea.

Next it was time to get up, move, and create. Jenn Brown led everyone in a beautiful community art project in the style of Leah’s artwork. The students and families danced along to fiddle music as they moved from one project to the next adding their own special touch. With smiles and laughter everyone jigged around the room. The final result was beautiful! It was a wonderful sense of community as the smallest toddler added their artistic touch, and even Kokum picked up a crayon to add her design.

Now it was time to visit, and many families and students wanted to visit with Leah, and get a picture or two. Some of the more energetic students continued to dance away as we played a game of “Musical Rugs” to the fiddle music.

The evening came to an end with a few draws for Leah’s books, and Art Themed Family Baskets. Every family received a book as a parting gift. It was a wonderful evening of stories, music, art, food and fun!





1. If you would like more information about Leah Dorian's work you can check out her website at [www.leahdorian.ca](http://www.leahdorian.ca) . If you would like more information about our Literacy Evenings I can be reached at [lorianne.stiglitz@pacsd.ca](mailto:lorianne.stiglitz@pacsd.ca)