

Smudging in Schools

Lakehead Public Schools

Your Children Our Students The Future

www.lakeheadschoools.ca

A Smudging Ceremony will take place in our School on:

What is Smudging?

- Smudging is a ritual cleansing ceremony practiced by Native North American peoples;
- One or more of the sacred medicines are burned: Tobacco, Cedar, Sage, and Sweetgrass;
- Smudging happens when hosting an Aboriginal community event, meeting and/or inviting Elder(s) or Aboriginal artist(s) to schools;
- People smudge: regalia, drums, themselves, room/area, and other items;
- Participation in smudging is voluntary – if you do not wish to or are unable to participate in smudging, you may step back or not stand up.



Aboriginal Presence in Our Schools
Anishinaape Pimaatisiwin
Kikinoomaakewikamikong

Why is a Smudging Ceremony Conducted?

- To bring about a sense of grounding, direction and connection;
- To see, feel, think and act with clarity;
- To help create a positive mindset;
- To cleanse/purify a person, place or object of negative energies, feelings or thoughts.



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How is a Smudging Ceremony Conducted?

- Sacred medicine(s) will be burned in a natural vessel – clay bowl, abalone shell, etc.
- An eagle feather or hands are put in the smoke which is then brought onto the body;
- Participants may remove any metal (rings, watches, glasses, etc.) prior to the smudging ceremony.



Integrity Acceptance Responsibility
Empathy Respect

3.1.7.

The Principal shall issue a letter to staff, parents/guardians and students of the school to notify them of the smudging ceremony and invite direct communication of health or environmental concerns.

*For more information, please see Smudging Ceremonies Practice, 2007
Lakehead District School Board*