



2023

Indigenous Role Model

Sky Johnson | Lake City Secondary

Sky is a proud member of Esk'etemc (Alkali Band) who has lived in her community all her life with her Great Aunt and Uncle. She learned to gather medicine and berries from her Great Grandmother and to hunt and fish in the traditional ways from her brothers. Her Grandfather is a pipe carrier who teaches her many of the traditional ways. She gives thanks to her family for teaching her to be a respectful young woman and supporting her in everything she does. Today she mentors others to learn the Shuswap language and culture.

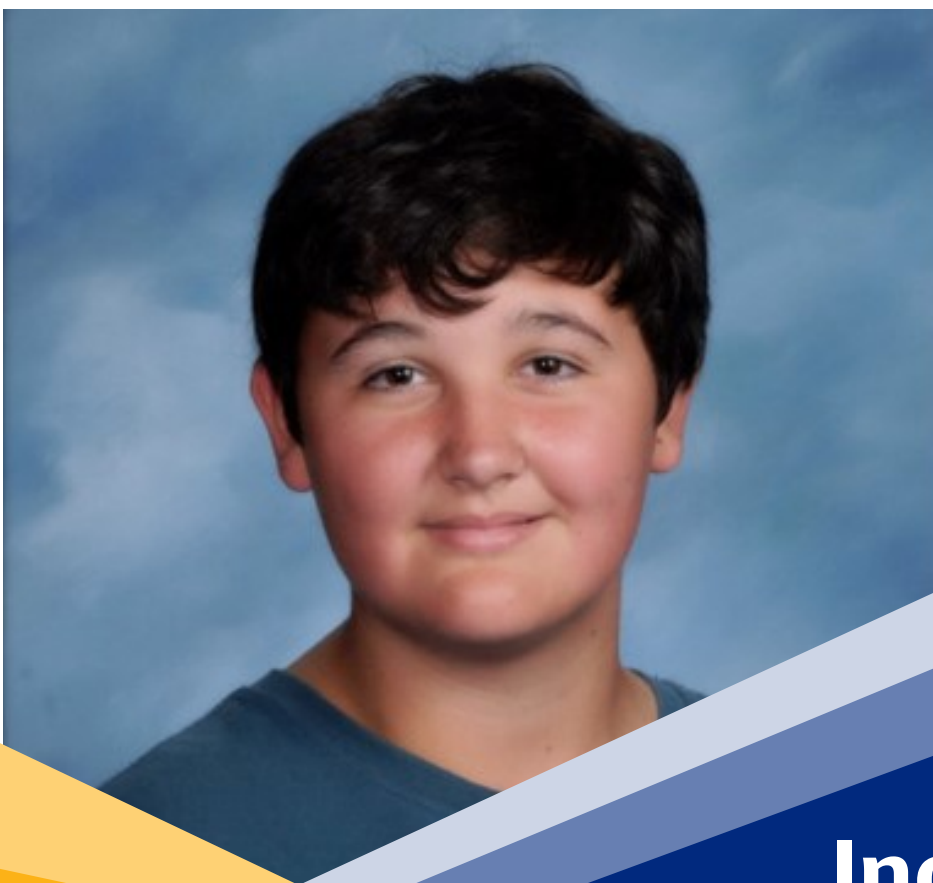
Sky has been pow wow dancing since she was a baby and has a great passion towards jingle dancing. She has won several dance competitions at the pow wows. She also enjoys sports like soccer, basketball and gymnastics. In 2021, her Esk'etemc Youth Soccer team took part in the Alberta Indigenous Games.

"Her zest for life and her courage are two things I admire most about her; she has taught me to 'feel the fear and go for it'. I am so proud of the person Sky is today".

- Andrea Charleyboy, Family Friend

Sky is culturally oriented; she believes in traditional ceremonies. "I love representing who I am and where I come from. I'm not ashamed to be Native. As Role Model, I will wear the crown with pride, and I will speak with confidence".

Sky knows the importance of teaching and sharing her culture with youth and believes it is her turn to pass on her knowledge to others.



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Indigenous Role Model

Tyson Michel | Columneetza Jr. Secondary

Tyson is a proud member of the Nak'azdli Band, a part of the Dakelh (Carrier) Nation located in Fort St. James, BC. Tyson is thankful to learn the traditions of hunting with his father each fall and provide for his family. He enjoys the smell of the woods and looks forward to finding new hunting territories, attending more cultural gatherings, and learning how to make moccasins!

Spending time with family is important to Tyson. He takes care of his many nieces and nephews, and when the family dog had puppies, Tyson took charge! He kept record of the costs, and actively sought out appropriate homes for the puppies. Not a small feat!

During his time at Columneetza, he has achieved academic success in both Science and Physical Education and staff have noted his positive impact on other students.

"I witness his kindness and joy that he spreads. I am proud to be a part of Tyson's educational journey to witness his greatness emerge and the light that he brings to the world." – Jordy Moise, Indigenous Support Worker

Tyson sees himself as a good-hearted person. "I have never been mean to anyone on purpose. I always want people to feel good about themselves or that I could be the someone they need if a problem arises."

In the future, Tyson plans to go to university and obtain a Business Degree.