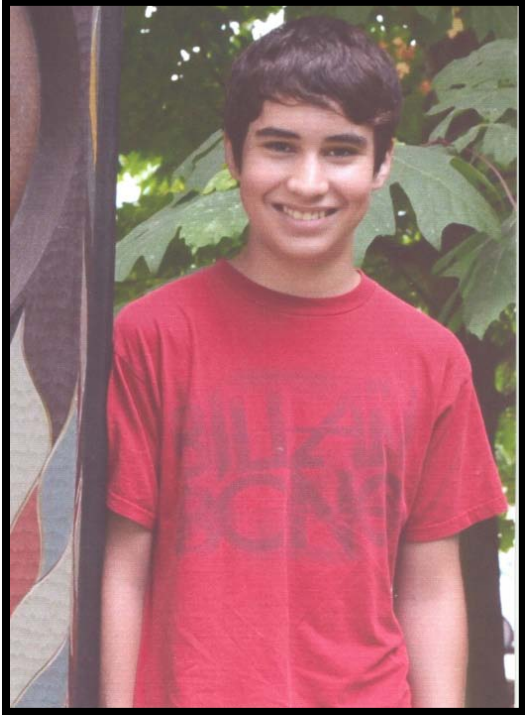


JEREMY SMITH

FIRST NATIONS ROLE MODEL 2013



Jeremy is a proud member of the Stone Band (Yunesit'in). He is a grade 10 student who attends Williams Lake Secondary School.

Jeremy is on the Honor Roll and Work Ethic distinction lists as well as the Principal's list. Some of his academic grades are Pre-Calculus 11 at 100% and Biology 11 at 89%. Jeremy enjoys school and says that he finds it challenging and fun. He also participates on the school soccer team. This year Jeremy won a \$750.00 Bursary from the Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY). In the future he hopes to get into a career for computer engineering or computer programming at either Simon Fraser University or the University of British Columbia.

Patsy Grinder, Chilcotin Language Teacher shares that Jeremy is a very respectful young man who has good knowledge of his First Nations culture. He comes from a large family of Chilcotin historians which gives him the knowledge about his Chilcotin history.

Leslie Sheppard, Resource Teacher says that Jeremy is a positive peer tutor and Role Model for her class. He is a talented and diligent young man. He is very strong in

both personal and social situations.

In his spare time Jeremy volunteers his time to help other students with their homework. He enjoys swimming in the winter and soccer in the summer. He has played soccer since grade 8 and was on the U14 Rep team last year.

Jeremy's First Nations culture is very important to him. He gives thanks to his Grandmother who he says was the most inspirational figure he has had in his life. He says that she was always hard working and determined and that she taught him to do the same. He helps his Elders with gardening and other chores when he visits. He spends a lot of time at Yunesit'in during the summer. He helps his family with work around the house, including taking care of animals and maintaining the garden. Jeremy likes to help out fishing and hunting with his uncle. He especially loves Fish Lake as it is a very cultural place to him.

Jeremy is proud to share that he leads a healthy lifestyle free from drugs and alcohol. He stays active and eats healthy. He says that being a Role Model means to be a positive figure that others can look up to.

Jeremy gives thanks to his family, friends and teachers as well as the Yunesit'in Band, especially Chief Russell Ross who encouraged him to run for First Nations Role Model.



School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
First Nations Education Department
First Nations Education Committee

Heather WolfEar

FIRST NATIONS ROLE MODEL 2013



Heather is a proud member of the Siksika Nation in Alberta. She is a grade 9 student at 100 Mile Junior Secondary School in the French Immersion program. Heather is an honor roll student with her top subjects being mathematics and science.

French Immersion Teacher David Henderson shares that while Heather's strongest suit is her academics she also challenges herself in figure skating, gymnastics and soccer. She has represented her school in basketball and volleyball. In addition, Heather is creatively expressive. This year she is playing the parts of Maurice and Madame de la Grande Bouche in her school's presentation of *Beauty and the Beast*. She is a positive young lady with a strong work ethic. In the future Heather plans to pursue her ultimate goal of becoming a pediatric doctor.

First Nations Classroom Support Worker, Joanne Gagnon has known Heather for the past four years. She says that Heather has always displayed quality leadership skills such as being trustworthy, honest, and that of being a dedicated friend who is loyal to her peers. As a Role Model Heather would encourage Aboriginal students to strive to be the best they can.

Heather embraces her First Nations culture by practicing it in many ways. In September she won the crown of Siksika Jr. Princess for the Siksika Nation. This entailed a six day competition of how well you know your culture and native way of life. Heather is the lead singer for her drum group "Sweet Water". It is an all female drum group and they sing songs from Siksika Alberta. Heather is also a champion dancer and loves to participate in Pow Wows. Heather shares that her Mother, Deanna WolfEar is one of her biggest inspirations who encourages Heather to do what she does. She is Heather's rock, boss, and most importantly she is my best friend. She makes all my outfits and my beadwork, she is truly amazing.

Heather says that she wanted to become a Role Model because she believes sharing her culture and way of life should be through song, dance, and education. She gives thanks to so many friends and family who have taught her how to love others and accept anyone no matter the conditions. Her Uncle who taught her the old way of life and how to talk in her native tongue and for giving Heather her real name of "Manakii Makoyi Thoukii" translated means 'beginning of a new day'. It was her grandmothers' (Heather WolfEar) name. She got the transfer from her uncle who meant the world to her. As a First Nations Role Model, Heather hopes to make her brother Andrew Rintoul proud as he was First Nations Role Model 2003 for School District 27. Lately she has been learning about the Shuswap culture and way of life by attending traditional sweats which she found to be simply breathtaking. Many of the Shuswap people have told her stories of their culture and have even taught her how to fish for salmon by dip netting. She has learned to gut the fish and eventually smoke them. Once again she would like to thank her Mother for knowing these good people and allowing her to endure these experiences. Heather believes that being a Role Model involves so much more than just being a great person. She said that you need to surround yourself with those who help you achieve your goals. She likes to surround herself with girls and boys who make the honor roll and treat others with the equality everyone deserves. Heather is proud to say that she is First Nations, that she is drug and alcohol free. The only parties she attends are supervised birthday parties. She would like to thank her Mom for giving her rules and morals to go by.



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