



2024

INDIGENOUS ROLE MODEL

Jessi Crouch (Métis) | W.J. Mouat Secondary School

I have struggled a lot with my cultural identity because my father's side of the family was taught to hide their traditions. School and Indigenous programs were the only way I could learn about traditional teachings, such as making moccasins, beading and bracelets. I have been involved in W.J. Mouat's Thrive leadership since the beginning. I was the MC for the first annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and 2 Spirited People assembly. Last year, we honoured Truth and Reconciliation Day, and a monumental percentage of our student body joined us in wearing orange shirts. My most rewarding accomplishment was taking the wheel and bringing my dream to life in the form of the MMIW2S+ assembly. This assembly included a jingle dress dancer, a slideshow of the highway of tears, and honouring our Abbotsford Police Department. My achievements will outlive me; I have helped build a strong leadership group, educated hundreds of students about MMIW, and donated significantly to the Moose Hide campaign. My goal after high school is to become a Paramedic or a Firefighter. I am enrolled in the Secondary Junior Fire Academy, which will help me get into JIBC or Columbia Paramedic Academy and start my 5-year journey into becoming a Critical Care Paramedic.

Words of Wisdom: Learning and sharing your cultural heritage is a powerful way to inspire and lead your community towards a brighter future.



Indigenous
Education