



Dear Guardians of Eagle River Secondary Students,

As you may know, June 21<sup>st</sup> is [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#). At Eagle River, we will be celebrating with a school-wide event centred around a showing of the film, *The Grizzlies*, during class-time on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June**.

This film deals with suicide and is rated 14A; however, it is as uplifting as it is unflinching. Within the Canadian population, First Nations and Inuit people have the highest rates of suicide-related behaviours. This is a direct response to the unique conditions birthed from colonialism, marginalization, institutionalized trauma, structural violence, racism, and prejudice. This film shares a powerful message of hope and resilience with its unique mix of humour and honesty. Feel free to watch the trailer by clicking [here](#) and also browse the official [film](https://www.thegrizzliesmovie.com/) site at <https://www.thegrizzliesmovie.com/>.

As educators, we have the great privilege and deep responsibility of working with youth. This film is an invitation to engage in a conversation about the power of resilient, hopeful and inspiring Inuit youth. We will witness strength born out of friendship and family. The constant message of this film reflects the importance of working together to move through tough times. This movie tells us clearly that suicide is *never* the answer.

We will be following the viewing with staff facilitated sharing circles (much as we did last year after the showing of Indian Horse) and then a school-wide lunch including locally-made bannock. In case you are interested in viewing the film yourselves, there will be a public community viewing, hosted by **our Eagle River Film Club, the evening of June 19<sup>th</sup> in the ERS gym with concessions available for purchase**.

Please complete and return the attached form to the office only if you **DO NOT** give consent for your child to participate in the film viewing and associated school-wide events.

Thank you,

Mark Marino  
Principal, Eagle River Secondary

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I do not consent for my child to participate in the school-wide showing of The Grizzlies film and activities on Wednesday 19th June 2019:

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_