Veterans' Week 2026

Theme: Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in the Middle East
Web: https://veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/get-involved/canadian-armed-forces-around-world/canadian-armed-forces-middle-east

Background:

School Goals:

1. Build educational programming that better reflects what students experience in conventional middle and high schools, within our limitations and parameters.
2. Continued focus on building a school identity around the culturally grounded logo which encapsulates the powerful spirit, resilience and grace of the name QELENSEN Á, LEN.

Core Competencies:

Communication	Thinking	Personal & Social
- Communicating & Collaborating	- Critical & Reflective Thinking	- Personal Awareness & Responsibility - Positive Personal & Cultural Identity - Social Awareness & Responsibility

First Peoples Principles of Learning:

- ☐ Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.
- ■ Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).
- ■ Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.
- ■ Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.
- ■ Learning recognizes the role of Indigenous knowledge.
- ■ Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.
- ■ Learning involves patience and time.
- ■ Learning requires exploration of one's identity.
- ☐ Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.

Assumptions:

1. Daily in-class connections help build and scaffold the learning and reflection.
2. Daily Announcements of the activity intent and focus help situate the learning.
3. Values a trauma informed approach by focusing on impact of action, rather than the act of war itself.
4. Curricular time used at off-site activity/assembly can be made more equitable by having weeklong activities in other blocks.
5. Week's schedule is based on equity of timetable.

In-school Communication:

1. Emails to classroom teams.
2. Daily Announcements.

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Week's Activities: Thur 5 – Wed 11 Nov 26

Date	Focus	Resource
Thur **A & D** Blocks	Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in the Middle East	**Background:** The Gulf War of the early 1990s was an important chapter in Canada's military history. More than 4,000 Canadians served in the Persian Gulf region in 1990-1991 as part of a Coalition of countries. Their goal was to remove the invading forces of Iraq from neighboring Kuwait. Canadians also served in peacekeeping and embargo enforcement efforts in the region after the war. This was the first conflict where Canadian women played an active combat role. (Veterans Affairs Canada). ***Canada Remembers the Gulf War*** **Video:** 7:19/7:26 min (Veterans Affairs Canada) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dT7_kNT7mnA
Fri **B & E** Blocks	Indigenous Veterans Day (Sun 8 Nov)	**Background:** Chief Joseph Dreaver was a Veteran of both the First and Second World Wars. He made significant contributions as a soldier, a Veteran and a leader in the Indigenous community. He was also "Grandpa Joe" to his family. Explore the symbolic meaning hidden in the painting "Dreaver" by artist Mike Holden. You will learn more about his life and the history of military service by Indigenous people in Canada. (Veterans Affairs Canada). ***My Grandpa Joe: Learning about Indigenous Veterans through art*** **Video:** 5:06/5:13 min (Veterans Affairs Canada) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2Z6RSKbrw0
Mon **C & D** Blocks	Guest Speaker: LCol A. James	***Different Faces of Leadership*** **Block C:** 11:30 – 11:55 AM; Rm 108 & 109 **Block D:** 12:30 – 1:00 PM; Rm 108 & 109
Tue **A & E** Blocks	Canadian Women in Uniform	**Background:** Learn how women's roles and opportunities in the Canadian military have changed over time. From Nursing Sisters in muddy field tents, to flying fighter jets, commanding warships and serving as Chief of the Defence Staff. Discover how women helped challenge stereotypes, overcome barriers and shape the Canadian Armed Forces we know today (Veterans Affairs Canada). ***Her story: Canadian women in uniform*** **Video:** 5:30/5:39 min (Veterans Affairs Canada) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2Z6RSKbrw0
Wed	Remembrance Day	Students encouraged to attend ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Park