

**Grand River Film Festival/REEL Canada/Southwood Present:
Angry Inuk and The Grandfather Drum**

Southwood Secondary School has been fortunate enough to have been approached by the Grand River Film Festival and REEL Canada to offer a special presentation of *Angry Inuk* (documentary) and *The Grandfather Drum* (animated film) on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 27th (Periods A and B in the Big Gym). The director will also be here for a Q and A as part of this session.

A large focus of Southwood's Safe, Caring and Inclusive focus over the past years has been empathy: Helping build our students' capacity to understand others. This event has the potential to highlight and shift perspectives on aboriginal issues: An issue that has often has not been highlighted within our communities. Pre and post-viewing curriculum-related educational materials have been provided to those teachers whose classes will be in attendance.

Both films are "G" rated by Ontario rating standards and do contain images and references to hunting and the consumption of ingestants. This same information has also been sent home for parents/guardians for those students whose classes will be in attendance.

If you have any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Vida Collis
Principal

About the Films:

Angry Inuk follows a tech-savvy generation of Inuit as they campaign to challenge long-established perceptions of seal-hunting. Most commercial sealing is conducted by Inuit in the Arctic, but anti-sealing activism has created a perception of the industry that denies their cultural role in the seal market.

Although the film includes some graphic scenes of traditional hunting, skinning and meat preparation, these are included not for sensationalism, but to accurately document this important part Inuit culture. Ultimately, this film delivers important information to reframe a controversial topic as a cultural issue.

The Grandfather Drum is a unique animation follows the story of Naamowin's drum, a drum revered for its healing powers by the Anishinabek of the upper Berens River. Upon the death of his grandson, Naamowin builds a healing drum given to him in a dream that can restore life. However, the course of life for Indigenous people is about to change and returning the drum to Naamowin's family will prove very difficult.

About the Grand River Film Festival:

Celebrating and inspiring community through the shared experience of film, the Grand River Film Festival (GRFF) is an annual week-long festival dedicated to bringing bold, reflective and inspiring films to Waterloo Region (Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo).

GRFF offers the community a week of local, Canadian and international film hosted throughout the region, pairing screenings with panels consisting of directors, film professionals, local interest groups and notable guest speakers. GRFF recognizes the power of film to connect people and is thrilled to act as a vehicle for the community to build relationships and host meaningful conversations within the Waterloo Region.

In addition to festival week, and as part of our ongoing commitment to nurture and promote Canadian film talent, GRFF is proud to present the following programs:

- o **MCAP SHORT Shorts:** The highly successful competition is a forum for recognition and awards, and provides filmmakers an avenue to screen their films in a festival setting. Guest judges select the winning films awarded with cash and product prizes.

- o **Industry Sessions:** GRFF hosts a development program to provide resources and learning opportunities for filmmakers to grow artistically and deepen connections within the industry and across our community.

- o **Cin-E-merge:** This educational outreach series launched in 2013 to encourage an interest in the film industry with our region's youth. Cin-E-merge is committed to offering exciting and accessible programming for students to screen independent projects, learn from captivating presentations, and network with leading Canadian film and video industry professionals.

CIN-E-MERGE 2016

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2016, we also continue to further develop our educational outreach program. We are excited to begin a partnership with REEL CANADA and Cin-E-merge this year, and have scheduled to screen the feature film ANGRY INUK to local high schools. REEL CANADA is a travelling film festival established in 2005 with a mandate to expose students to the power and diversity of Canadian film and engage them in a conversation about what it means to be Canadian. With this partnership we are able to offer lesson plans in line with school curriculum, enhancing the breadth and impact of a film's screening, along with having tech and presentation support. Attached is the school presentation overview and 1 of 6 lesson plans available for teachers to further engage students with the film.