

During the weekend of Nov. 14-16, 19 students from Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) attended the annual Federation of Christian Athletes (FCA) volleyball tournament and youth rally in Lacombe, Alta. MANS students from Grades 6 to 9 participated with students from Adventist schools across Alberta—a first for the North American Division’s newest and most recently accredited academy.

“I learned that God was with us and that He brought all of the schools together for a reason,” said Brayden, a Grade 8 student at MANS, who enjoyed making new friends and improving his volleyball skills during the weekend filled with Christian fellowship and friendly competition.

The message of the rally focused on the importance of teamwork and the value of each player. Students were reminded that many diverse skills and talents make a strong and unified team, as emphasized in 1 Corinthians 12:12: “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ” (NKJV).

“Everyone is special and unique in their own way,” said Shaneek, a Grade 7 student at MANS, reflecting on the weekend’s message. “By working hard with your team, you can do great things.” One of the highlights for her was learning to work with her team and making friends with students from other schools.

“The weekend was a really great, amazing experience for me,” said Nathaniel, a Grade 9 MANS student, and team captain. “I had a lot of fun.”

MANS students certainly accomplished something to be proud of. The B division team played all exhibition games and remained undefeated until the first game of the playoffs, where they played strong to a third set, only to lose by three points. Students on the C Division team were awarded a silver medal after playing undefeated all the way to the finals, during which they lost by just a few points.

Janice Clark, MANS’s physical education teacher, said that since the tournament weekend, her students are eager to continue playing and practising their volleyball skills. At the students’ request, MANS has organized exhibition games for the students to participate in during lunch breaks.

Students are already looking forward to next year’s FCA volleyball weekend!

Volleyball Tournament and Youth Rally Teaches Lessons, Launches New Athletic Initiative at MANS



MANS PE teacher Janice Clark, pictured with MANS’s B Division team, has started a new lunchtime volleyball exhibition game series at MANS in response to student requests after the FCA tournament. In all, 19 Alberta Adventist school teams competed—the largest ever FCA tournament.



MANS Grade 4 teacher Russ Nielsen coached the C Division team in their silver medal win at the tournament.

As a student, Melissa Myers volunteered at the Maskwacis reserve church as part of CUC’s First Nations ministry group.