**Braiding Activity**

**Background:**

The purpose is to reinforce the importance of understanding indigenous perspectives and incorporating indigenous environmental knowledge with scientifically acquired knowledge. Braiding is important in Mikmaw culture. Students will make braids that they can keep to remind them to consider indigenous perspectives on nature.

**Preparation (Teacher):**

* Obtain thick yarn in Mikmaw seasonal colors (white, red, yellow, black).
* Obtain name tags. (Staples)
* Cut red, yellow and black yarn into pieces 15 - 20 cm long
* Cut white yarn into pieces 10 - 15 cm long.

**Procedure:**

* Have students work in pairs.
* Try to pair students who know how to braid with students who don’t.
* Pass out to each student two pieces of white and one piece each of red, yellow and black yarn. (Discuss the colors selected for this activity.)
* Students should tie the red, yellow and black strands together with one of their white pieces. (You may have to show some how to tie a double knot.)
* One member of a team holds the tied end while the other braids.
* When the “braider” reaches the end, they should use their other white strand to tie the braid together.
* Partners then switch roles.
* Finally, students can tie on name tags to one end using long ends of the white yarn. They can put their name on one side and a drawing on the other.

