

DIBAAJ MOWIN

January

2023

A Message from the Director of Education

Boozhoo Indinawe maaganidog,

The month of January is already at a close and we find ourselves in the fast lane of a new year. With each new year, many of us look inward to set out new goals and resolutions for ourselves. Similarly, the staff and Board of the KEB look inward at all that we will set out to achieve over the next twelve months.

There are many priorities to continue working towards in 2023, at a system-wide level and in each individual community. As we head into Mukwa Giizis (Bear Moon - February), we look forward to meeting with leadership and the regional councils, sharing new tools and resources with communities, and continuing to support the many projects and initiatives that are currently in development.

Wishing to all a good start to the new year!



Franklin "Shining Turtle" Paibomsai
Director of Education



Last 2 months in Review

Acronym Guide

- AES** - Anishinabek Education System
- KEB** - Kinoomaadziwin Education Body
- DSB** - District School Board
- REC** - Regional Education Council
- PFN** - Participating First Nation

★ Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP)

Addressing Racism and Inequity in Schools

On January 26, 2023, the AES launched a new tool for students, parents, and families to report incidents of anti-Indigenous racism that take place in education settings. The AES Reporting Racism Tool was created in response to requests from the First Nations to offer support to families when faced with incidents of racism. An information session will be hosted on Wednesday, February 8, from 6:00-6:45 pm. The session is open to everyone and will provide participants with some background on why the tool was developed and what happens when an incident of racism is reported. To find more information on the work of the AES Addressing Racism Committee, please visit: www.aes-keb.com/addressingracism.



The flyer is for an information session about the AES Reporting Racism Tool. It features the AES logo and the title 'Reporting Racism Tool'. The session is on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, from 6:00 to 6:45 PM. It includes a QR code and a link to the reporting form: <https://forms.office.com/r/yisB26k6ZC>. The flyer also has an icon of two people talking.

Joint Master Education Agreement Committee



This body oversees the work of the MYAP and ensures alignment with the Master Education Agreement. The JMEAC reports to the parties of the MYAP, and it develops quarterly reports which provide updates, challenges, and solutions about the activities and initiatives of the MYAP. The co-chairs of JMEAC are the Director of Education of the KEB and the Director of the Indigenous Education Office of the Ministry of Education. The committee meets quarterly, and a sub-working group of the JMEAC, called the Technical Table, manages the work of the MYAP and each project within it. It provides reports and recommendations to the JMEAC, as required.

AES Youth Leadership

There is some exciting activity happening this spring for youth! To kick off the new year, the KEB is hosting a series of virtual Youth Leadership workshops for youth between the ages of 13-25. These sessions are platforms for youth to connect with each other and to learn more about the AES Youth Council. The virtual workshops will lead up to the first ever AES Youth Council election in April 2023!

Here are some things to know about the AES Youth Council.

01

Why is the AES Youth Council important?



- Includes youth voices in decision making
- Creates balance in representation
- Involves youth in the development of the AES

02

Why should you Join the AES Youth Council?



- Advocate for youth education priorities in your community
- Support other Indigenous students
- Help adults understand youth experiences
- Gain a passion for Indigenous education

03

How can it benefit you?



- Connect with youth from all over Ontario
- Build leadership skills (problem solving, communication, confidence, etc.)
- Opportunity to travel to AES events!

The next Youth Leadership workshop is scheduled on February 15, from 6:00-8:00 pm. We invite all youth to register to learn more about how you can join the AES Youth Council and have your voice heard!

For more information contact Marie Chalykoff at marie.chalykoff@a-e-s.ca



Building Relationships through Pedagogy

Decolonizing Education

The second annual AES collaboration event was held on January 20, 2023 with more than 100 people joining into the conversations on decolonizing education systems and land-based learning through Anishinaabe Aadziwin (Anishinaabe Ways of Being) and Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin (Anishinaabe Health and Well-being).

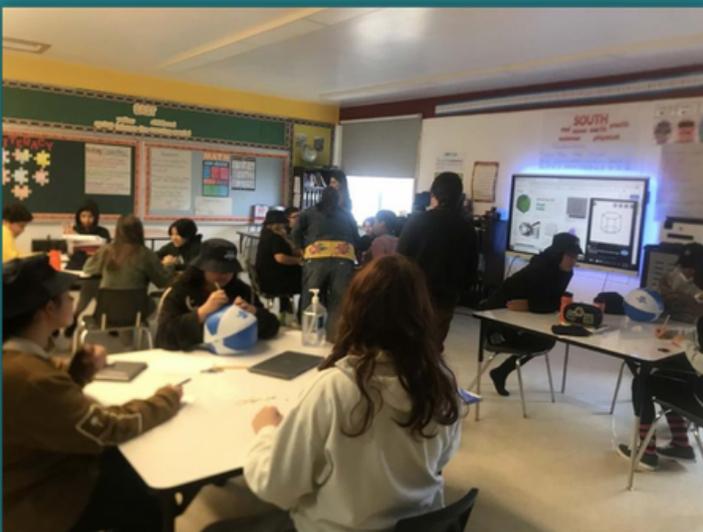
The event's keynote speaker was Geraldine King, a Senior Advisor for Indigenous Curriculum and Pedagogy at McGill University. Geraldine was joined by three other panel speakers: P Pamala Agawa, Colinda Clyne, and Katriina Butschler.

Participants at the event had the opportunity to break into smaller groups for focused discussions, and took part in live surveys to share their thoughts, experiences, and recommendations. Miigwech to the presenters, organizations, and participants who all made the event a success for the second year in a row!



The poster for the Anishinabek Education System Collaboration Event features the organization's logo at the top, which is a stylized bird or feather design. Below the logo, the title "Anishinabek Education System Collaboration Event" is written in bold, with "Collaboration Event" in a larger, teal font. Underneath, the subtitle "Building Relationships through Pedagogy" is displayed. The main text describes the event as a virtual collaboration focused on decolonizing education systems and land-based learning through Anishinaabe Aadziwin and Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin. It lists the keynote speaker, Geraldine King, and three panel guest speakers: Pamala Agawa, Colinda Clyne, and Katriina Butschler. The event date is January 20, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. A "REGISTER NOW" button is prominently displayed, with a small icon of a hand clicking on it. At the bottom, contact information for Greer Atkinson and Lisa Wabegijig is provided.

Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund



The Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund project called Anishinaabemowin Motivator, in Beausoleil First Nation, has resulted in more participation in events and more people reaching out for language resources.

Students recently attended a Language Conference titled "Honoring our Elders". At the conference, students and Elders learned about new innovative methods of teaching and learning Anishinaabemowin.

"We waited so long to have a program for the language".

-Beausoleil community member

★ KEB Celebrations

Employee Highlight

The KEB honoured the five-year service anniversary of Andrea Wemigwans, who started her journey with the organization on December 18, 2017. As the Executive Administrative Assistant, Andrea's role provides integral support to the Board of Directors and the Director of Education in an executive capacity. In addition, she ensures daily administrative support to the staff of the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body. Andrea fulfills her role with dedication, professionalism, and humour - always keeping her colleagues on their toes and laughing. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this inspiring youth event!



Team Building

The KEB staff took a pause during the holiday season and came together for an afternoon of festive activities! The team shared a meal and enjoyed some time together while crafting hand-painted signs in Anishinaabemowin. Throughout the month of December, the head office also collected food bank donations from staff, which were delivered to Nipissing First Nation's food bank before Christmas. Together, the team collected nearly 55lbs of food donations! Our remote staff also took part by offering donations to the local food banks in their regions.

Our staff is grateful for moments when we can come together and enjoy each other's company. Miigwech to our planning committee members who helped to make the afternoon so enjoyable!



★ Regional Education Council Highlights

Region 1

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Endzhi-gkinoohmaading is preparing for its new home for elementary students from, kindergarten to grade 8.

The construction on the new school started in spring of 2022 and is hoped to be completed by the summer of 2023. The construction of this new facility will provide a larger space that will eliminate the need for portables.

This modern teaching facility will be used as a launchpad for Biigtigong youth to begin the pursuit of their dreams, while also acting as a conduit where precious cultural heritage can be shared with the next generation.



Region 2

It's almost that time of year and the buzz in community is "Little NHL." It's the first year back and hockey players, families, and fans are getting ready for their big week!

In addition to the fun and exciting events happening, the communities of REC 2 are also focusing in on projects related to language, leadership development for youth, and relationship building. These are just some of the priorities for many of the communities in the region.

Where it comes to relationship building, some external partnerships have recently had positive outcomes for St. Joseph's Anishinabek School. They received a generous gift of donations for fishing tools and equipment from the Gore Bay Fish and Game Club. The students are excited to use the equipment this coming summer. Fish On!

KEB at Little NHL!

This year the AES will be attending the LNHL! Keep an eye out for us at our booth. We'll have some exciting information on upcoming events and a youth survey. Stop by to score some great AES swag!

Good luck to all the teams!



Region 3

Wasauksing Education Committee



(From left to right)

Lisa Wabegijig, Laura Pegahmagabow, Mike Kalfus, Donna Genereux, Jodi Contin, Pazhe Rice, Sherry Tabobondung, Cheryl Partridge (Elder).

Community Visits

- Over the past few months, the REC Coordinators have made visits to First Nations within their respective regions. The purpose of the visits has been to provide updates on KEB matters that include, regional priorities, First Nation updates, support within the community, education priorities, regional projects, and more. These community visits have been key sources for collecting data, information, and priorities from the communities that will inform the negotiation of the next AES Fiscal Agreement with Canada. The Community Profiles Book Project Coordinator has also been in attendance at the community visits, to discuss the Community Book Project. So far, community visits have been made to Wasausking, Wahnapiatae, and a virtual visit with Magnetawan. Other community visits are being scheduled for February 2023.
- REC 3 would also like to announce that plans are in development for an in-person special meeting on Language and Culture in March 2023. The Language and Culture meeting will create the space for discussions on how we to begin building a language strategy for the Regional Education Council, what resources we currently have in our regions, and what we need. More information will be coming from the regional council soon.

Region 4

Region 4 is excited to begin two collaborative projects that include a land-based learning gathering planned for spring 2023 and the development of a language repository.

The goal of the gathering is to spend two days with District School Board partners and organizations that teach on the land. The first day will focus on listening and learning about best practices in First Nation and School Board partnerships that are centred on delivering land-based learning. After learning about successful practices, the second day will offer working sessions that enable participants to identify shared land-based learning opportunities for our students.

The language repository project is about having conversations and deciding amongst communities what an Indigenous language repository should look like. What is important to us when gathering content? What processes and content quality standards are needed? Subject matter experts will work with the region through each conversation, and the findings and recommendations will be brought forward to the planning phase.

Teaching language resources currently being developed to be distributed at conference



Cards for teaching language developed by Helen St Pierre Ban, Moose Deer Point First Nation.



Book for teaching language developed by Barbara McDonald Ban, Chippewas of Georgina Island

Student Advocacy Wins!

Lola Monague is a 17-year-old student of Beausoleil First Nation who recently took action to make improvements to the transportation situation for students in her community. Lola was frustrated with the difficult commute she and her peers faced to get to school each day.

Their morning typically starts with a ferry ride from Christian Island to Georgian Bay, where they then transfer onto a school bus to get to school. The bus was not well maintained, and when it wasn't available, the students resorted to taking taxis or arranging rides within the community. This caused students a lot of uncertainty about whether or not they would make it to school each day.

To address their transportation challenges, Lola started a petition that led to the students getting a new school bus that they are now using full time. This was just the first step for Lola in her hopes to improve community needs for youth. She is currently looking for new ways of bringing opportunities to her community starting with collaborating with Right To Play, which has coordinated land-based programs in the past for her community. She is a great example of leadership among our youth and the change that can be made.

[Click here for the Barrie Today News Article](#)



★ Job Opportunities



Longitudinal Research Project Proposal Writer (Request for Proposals)

Do you, or someone you know, have a background in research and evaluation? If yes, take a look at the job opportunity on our website!

We are currently seeking a proposal writer for a longitudinal research project that focuses on identifying and understanding the degree and direction of AES student achievement and well-being changes over time. Some of the project deliverables include:

engagement with the 23 PFNs to collect feedback on longitudinal research

support the development of a research framework for the AES

draft a longitudinal research proposal for submission to Canada

For more information, please follow us on Facebook and other socials or visit our website's employment opportunities: <https://aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities/>

★ Anishinaabemowin Resources

In preparation of the upcoming Valentine's Day celebration, the KEB is pleased to share this Anishinaabe language resource with all Participating First Nations of the AES.

As part of our ongoing efforts to support communities in language revitalization, the KEB is continuing to develop resources and tools that may be used by the Participating First Nations at your convenience.

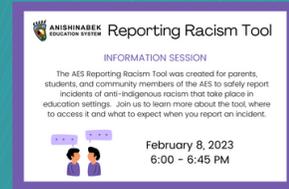
Click the image to download the booklet from our website!



★ Upcoming Events

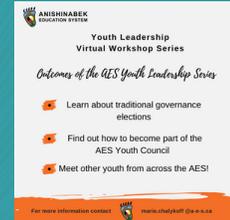
February 8, 2023

Reporting Racism Tool for Parents, Students and Families



February 15, 2023

Youth Leadership - Virtual Workshop Series



February 16, 2023

Special Education virtual series - Dr. Layla Hall Session #4:
Supporting Students with In-Utero Drug and Alcohol
Exposure



March 9, 2023

Special education virtual series - Dr. Layla Hall Session #5
Supporting Students with Learning Disability, ADHD, and
Behaviours that Challenge



March 15, 2023

Addressing Racism Series with Sandi Boucher

March 29, 2023

Addressing Racism Series with Sandi Boucher



To learn more about upcoming events at the AES and KEB, please follow us on Facebook and other socials or visit our website's event calendar:

<https://aes-keb.com/calendar/>