DIBAAJMOWIN

March
2024

A Message from the KEB

Boozhoo gakina awiiya,

This season of spring brings exciting new ventures and new opportunities. We continue to work alongside the First Nations with kindness and humility, and we look ahead to continued partnerships and strengthened collaboration with education stakeholders in many areas of education.

These past few months have been filled with the work of the Gtigaandan Miikanaawan Anishnaabemang initiative through visits to communities, survey collection, and language planning meetings. We also hosted our third in-person Language Teachers Professional Learning Circle, where friendships, mentorships, and hope for young people are taking root.

Along with new beginnings, comes endings, and as we wind down on this fiscal year, we express gratitude to the financial team and the Negotiations Team for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the Participating First Nations, as we move into a new agreement with Canada and into a new fiscal year.

Chi miigwech to all!

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)

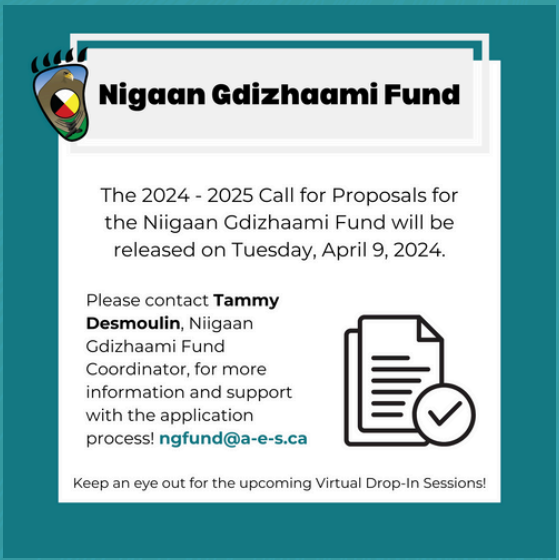
Language and Culture



On February 13, 2024, over 25 participants spent the day together working in small groups to share resources and ideas to implement into the language classroom.
In the morning session, language teachers spent time sharing resources with each other that help support student learning through lessons, games, classroom routines, and community involvement.

In the afternoon, teachers were provided with a storybook that can be used as a resource to teach Anishinaabemowin. The teachers spent time brainstorming how they could use this book in their classroom and various extension activities that could be developed. Each teacher left with a copy of one of the books used to add to their classroom library.

A fourth Language Teachers Professional Learning Circle is being planned for later this Spring.



Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund

The Call for Proposals for the 2024-2025 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund year will open on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Deadline to apply will be Friday, May 10, 2024.

If you wish to discuss proposal ideas with the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Coordinator, please do not hesitate to reach out to Tammy Desmoulin at ngfund@a-e-s.ca.

AES Student Information System

The KEB will be hosting an information session on April for PFNs that are interested in learning more about PowerSchool, which is an online Student Information System (SIS) licensed to the KEB, for the AES.

PowerSchool is a tool that offers AES schools a platform to communicate student performance, provide secure records management, and to facilitate compliance reporting and analytics.

The system is maintained by the KEB, and AES schools that opt to use the system are supported by the KEB's SIS Coordinator. Some of the supports the KEB provides includes:

- initializing school set-ups
- offering in-person and virtual training to school administrators and teachers; and
- providing a daily help desk for SIS users.

AES schools that are currently using PowerSchool can track student information such as grades, assignments, and attendance. They are also able to create Individual Education Plans, report cards, and many other documents.

Data collection plays a key function in ensuring the system is up to date and meets the needs of each school. It is with the patience and understanding of the PFNs, that the KEB staff continue to make strong progress towards the goal of bringing AES schools together in a common platform that will prove to offer a positive future for online learning, student well-being, and unified data collection.

DID YOU KNOW?

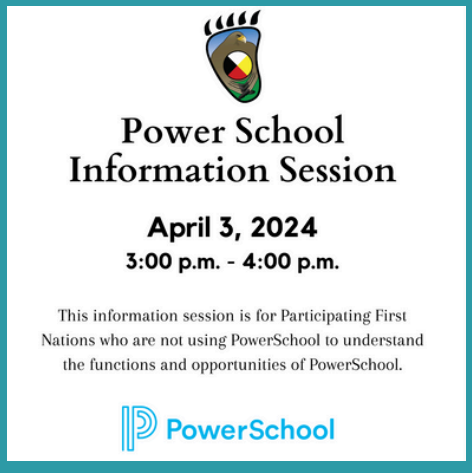
There are currently five schools utilizing the PowerSchool SIS. They are:

- Shawanosowe School
- Nbisiing Secondary School
- Waabgon Gamig School
- Christian Island Elementary School
- KEB Virtual Secondary School

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT POWERSCHOOL?

Join us for a session on April 3, 2024 at 3:00 pm. Please contact Julian Cote, SIS Coordinator to request a meeting invitation.

julian.cote@a-e-s.ca | 705-477-2576



New Staff



Executive Administrative Assistant

Boozhoo! My name is Tracy Paul. I am excited to begin my new journey with the KEB as the new Executive Administrative Assistant. I am a member of Fort William First Nation, located in Thunder Bay.

My husband and I relocated to North Bay several years ago for his career. Much of my career has been spent working at the executive and administrative levels of organizations, post-secondary institutions, and First Nations governance.

I look forward to providing my skill set and supports to the KEB team and the Board of Directors. I am thankful for the opportunity to learn more about our Anishinabek language, culture, and community initiatives through the KEB.

Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, fishing, hunting, camping, harvesting berries during the summer and maple syrup during the spring.



Special Education Coordinator

My name is Danya Skworchinski and I am so honoured to be part of the KEB team as the Special Education Coordinator. I was born and raised in the community of Longlac, Ontario, then received my psychology major and teaching degree from Lakehead University.

Since then, I have obtained my Special Education Specialist, ABA for Educators certification, and Teaching Students with ASD additional qualifications. Over the past 15 years, I have taught in many rural communities across Northwestern Ontario in a variety of roles, with the last six of those years as the Special Education teacher in Marathon, Ontario.

I am a passionate advocate for the diverse needs of all learners, and I strive to create a collaborative approach for students requiring additional support. My most cherished role is being the mother of two young children, guiding them alongside my husband, on their journey.

I very much look forward to connecting with, and supporting, the students, staff, and families within the AES.

Regional Education Council Highlights

Region 1

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg marked a historic milestone with the opening of the new Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Endzhi-gkinoohmaading! The student body celebrated the opening of the new school on February 12, 2024, with a parade that welcomed students, parents, teachers, leadership, and community members!



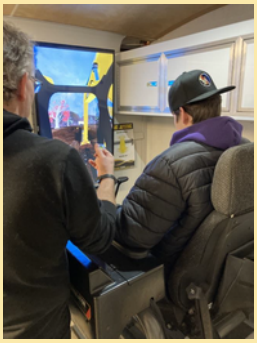


Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg students and staff embraced and encourage Pink Shirt Day!





Long Lake #58 First Nation's , Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School welcomed Randy from Origins working with our students on Heavy Equipment Simulators.





Biinjitiwaabiik Zaaging Anishinaabek's Spirit Bay School celebrated school spirit with a 'Jersey Day'.

Looking great in the white and blue!

Region 2

The communities of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek have after-school support available for their students at a tutoring centre and library.
In Aundeck Omni Kaning, students can be bussed directly to the Enji Kinomagziwad Gamik tutoring centre where they receive tutoring support from a certified teacher from Monday to Thursday evenings. Each night is scheduled to assist students in specific grades.



In Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Snack & Homework Club nights are held one evening a week at the community Kendaasii-Gamik (library) with the Education Support Worker. The club is open to all students each Wednesday from 4-6 pm. Those in attendance can receive snacks and fresh fruit, access to laptops, assistance with homework, essay editing or even just a listening ear to share thoughts and ideas.

Region 3



The monthly gatherings at Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik, known as "Aambe Baajmindaa" meaning, "Let's Talk/Inclusive of Everyone," are beautiful and enriching school gatherings centered around the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Beginning with a smudge and the heartfelt songs of the little spirit singers sets a tone of community and unity. Reciting the school prayer in Anishinaabe further grounds the gathering in cultural tradition and spirituality.

Each month, we have invited community leaders to share personal anecdotes about how the Grandfather Teachings influence their lives and add depth and real-world application to the teachings for our students. We also celebrate birthdays to foster a sense of community and belonging, while the community dance with the big drum provides a joyful conclusion to the gathering.

The last gathering of the school year will be on June 5th. It will focus on the teaching of Truth and highlight the interconnectedness of all the Grandfather Teachings. It promises to be a profound and enlightening experience, culminating the monthly gatherings with a deep understanding of the teachings' significance in daily life and community harmony before we break for summer.

Region 4



On February 26 & 27, 2024, 65 people gathered at Giiwedin Ki, north of Rama First Nation, to begin developing land-based learning projects. All 6 PFNs of the region were represented, as well as partnering school boards and agencies across region 4.

On the first night, participants gathered at Giiwedin Ki to the sounds of the Rama Youth Drum. Elder Myrna Watson offered prayers to open the gathering and guide the work.

Knowledge Keeper, Luana Harper-Shirt, also shared 13 Moons teachings with the group that night. The next day, Great Lakes Cultural Camps provided a demonstration of traditional and present-day Anishinaabe maple sugar practices at a sugar bush operated by Rama First Nation community members. Following the visit to the sugar bush, participants gathered back at Giiwedin Ki to engage in land-based learning project planning. Each planning group included community members and education staff, school board staff and teachers, and non-governmental environmental organizations. Their work will follow a medicine wheel planning cycle that also incorporates the teachings of the 13 moons.







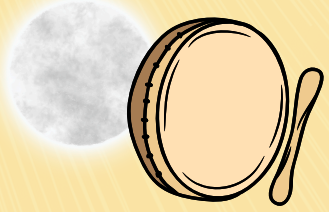














Attention all AES Students & Parents!!



Have you filled out your consent forms yet?
Your consent forms are important to the AES, no matter where you reside!

Contact your Director of Education at your First Nation for help, or the Data Management Officer at the KEB: tracy.hanzlik@a-e-s.ca.

You can also access the forms online, here:

https://aes-keb.com/consent-forms/

School staff at secondary and elementary schools in the AES recently took part in training on the assignment of Ontario Education Numbers (OENs) for their students. The training is offered annually, and this year we welcomed 12 school staff in total.

Curious about what an OEN is?

The OEN is a unique numerical identifier assigned to students.

- It is a nine-digit number
- It is randomly-generated and assigned
- It is tied to each student's personal information and is retained for life

The OEN application, policies and procedures were designed to protect personal information. By law, the OEN is to be used only for educational purposes.

Why does the OEN matter to the AES?

When the KEB Student Consent Form is filled out, it is important to include the OEN on the form because it enables the sharing of data to the KEB, which helps inform the development of programs and resources for AES students.

Upcoming Events

Special Education Sessions



Presentation #1

How to Understand and Apply Psychology Assessment Recommendations in the Elementary Classroom (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

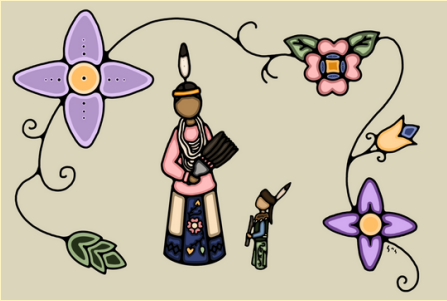
Elementary Focus (K-6)
Date: Wednesday, April 17th 2024
Time: 12pm-1pm

Presentation #2

How to Understand and Apply Psychology Assessment Recommendations in the Intermediate Classroom (Grades 7-12)

Intermediate/Secondary Focus
Date: Wednesday, April 24th 2024
Time: 12pm-1pm

Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum 2024



The 2024 Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum will be held on April 9 & 10, 2024 in Sudbury, Ontario. We look forward to gathering with all participants under the theme of **Leading in a Good Way**!

Kweji-kinoomaagzidaa (Let's Learn)!

Join us for monthly sessions on language and culture with guest speakers! The April and May session dates will be posted to our social media and website soon!

Follow US

To see all of our upcoming events at the AES and KEB, please follow us on Facebook or visit our website's event calendar! https://aes-keb.com/calendar/