

DIBAAJ MOWIN

July
2024

A Message from the KEB

Boozhoo gakina awiyya,

As we approach the end of the 2023-2024 Academic year, we want to acknowledge all upcoming graduations and graduates for their hard work in achieving their educational goals. This month, we have also been highlighting the work of dedicated educators who have contributed to Anishinabek student success and bimaadziwin through their efforts to include language and culture in student support.

This summer, many students will be participating in Reach Ahead programs to earn a high school credit before the start of the next school year. This will include language classes, outdoor education classes, career and civics classes.

Chi miigwech to all!



Last 2 months in Review

Acronym Guide

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

★ Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP)

Language and Culture

Gashkibijiganan!

I am at the Ojibway as a Second Language Regional Meeting in Springwater, Ontario and I am watching this language champion. He has taken his place at the front, and he is ready to share. I know this champion personally and know why he was called on to speak. He has a lot to share. In his opening he acknowledges spirit and begins from a place of humility. That is so important.

Jeff has been sharing language as long as I can remember. He is one of those we find ourselves depending on as the fluent speaker populations in our communities' shifts. He is out there on the front-line full of words and fluency, tirelessly working for language acquisition. I credit him with teaching me to think in terms of the numbers that we can create and to stop talking about deficits. Just stop talking and act.

"It is our responsibility to bring it back to where we started" he says. After all I notice, if we look around, we are the only ones here to do the work. This is a right now thing. It's not an over there somewhere in time thing. It is right now. Right here. Yes, we are the ones here who can respond; we are response- able.

Everywhere lately I listen to people lament that school language classes did not do enough to create speakers. Jeff firmly tells us that we can do more and acknowledges the importance of education partnerships and allies in the work language teaching. I think as well as being a right now thing, it's also an all-hands-on-deck thing. Simcoe County District School Board and the Ministry of Education have partnered to host the event. It is good to share responsibility and successful practices, there are many allies in the room, and it is a good thing.

Gashkibijiganan! "What will I put into my bundle today?". This is what Jeff wants us to ask ourselves. I think back to his call to create speakers. As he brings up a slide with years attached, I wonder how many speakers we will create here in this region. I wonder how many you can help create in your community in 5 years, in 10 years. He invites us to think forward. I know there are a few who want to try in my community - with the right support. I also know there are many who will not become speakers. They would however work to learn and speak a bit of small talk or understand more words in ceremony or prayer.

So, pause with me and consider, what's in yours today? What's is in your language bundle and who around you are committed to helping. Gashkibijiganan ! What a great phrase to learn. I will ask myself this. I hope a few of you will join me.

-Greer Atkinson, Language Strategy Project Coordinator

Educator Spotlight

Carole Bouffard

Carole Bouffard's passion for Indigenous education has inspired others to follow in her footsteps, integrating her teachings and ways of being into various courses and activities within the school community. She also guides her students in fabricating moccasins, mukluks, and ribbon skirts, and organizes educational outings.



Carole, a true pioneer, was the first in offering the French course "Discovering the Contemporary Voices of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit," exclusively featuring works by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit authors in Ontario. With over 20 years of teaching experience at École secondaire Saint-Joseph in Wawa Ontario, she has made a positive impact on her students as well as the community. Carole's initiatives and work are done in the spirit of collaboration with Michipicoten First Nation. Carole is a beacon of light who guides effortlessly, always with her heart and passion. She is a true role model for both students and staff at CSC Nouvelon, and we are immensely proud of her!

Victor Pitawanakwat

Special Constable Victor Pitawanakwat is a dedicated worker who has taught Walking the Path in schools throughout the island for many years. Residing in Whitefish River First Nation, Victor is employed with the UCCM Anishnaabe Police in M'Chigeeng.

He is committed to helping the future generations of young children to live the good life and to know their culture. Victor maintains his commitment to those he teaches by continuing to offer guidance to youth to walk the right path as they grow. Victor has many teachings to offer and has made a prosperous impact on the youth of his community in his uniquely fruitful efforts.



**ANISHINABEK
EDUCATION SYSTEM**

★ **New Staff**

We are excited to welcome new staff to the KEB team!

Charles Goulais
I.T Coordinator

Raven Koostachin
Summer Student

Kile George
Summer Student

Walter Quinlan
Communications
Officer

John Gray
Summer Student

Cynthia
Wemigwans
Language
Lead

Hunter Pizzale
Summer Student

Tehya Restoule
Summer Student

Eva Brown
Communications
Manager

★ Regional Education Council Highlights

Region 1



In May, the Grade 5/6 class of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Endzhigkinoohmaading had an amazing time experiencing smelt fishing at Little Gravel River! The students were full of excitement as they grabbed their nets and headed straight for the water. They caught some smelts, which was such a thrilling moment for them. It was great to see them learning and having fun outdoors!

Region 2

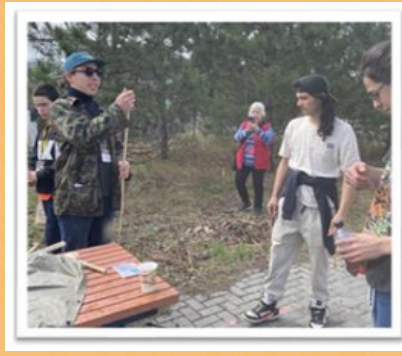
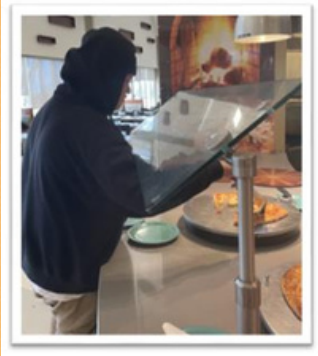
On the weekend of May 4 & 5, 2024, youth from the communities of Region 2 had an opportunity to gather and experience post-secondary student life all while learning Anishinaabemowin, traditional teachings and land-based arts. As one of the identified priorities of the Regional Education Council 2, a youth gathering was held at the campus and residence of Laurentian University, located in Sudbury, ON. The theme of the gathering was, “Maanjsdoodaa Dkopjigan – Building Our Bundles,” with a focus on traditional, land-based arts which contributed to the gifts of the student’s spiritual, mental and physical bundles.

Secondary and post-secondary students, were put into groups and took in various workshops on campus that included rattle making, quill earrings, birch bark biting, fish skin tanning, pine needle baskets and spruce gum glue. The participants learned first-hand what arts can be created with the materials provided by Shakagamik Kwe and how this contributes to Mino Bimaadziwin or living the good life. In the evening, they had the opportunity to hear Anishinaabe Star Teachings with Will Morin, while experiencing the Laurentian University Planetarium.

We look forward to another AES/KEB Youth Gathering happening this summer, where they will have an opportunity to connect with youth from the other Regions of the AES/KEB! Chi Miigwech to the staff of the Laurentian University Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre as great hosts, to all our facilitators and to all participants and to those who assisted with the planning and organization of this first time gathering; you all helped contribute to its success.

(Photos below)

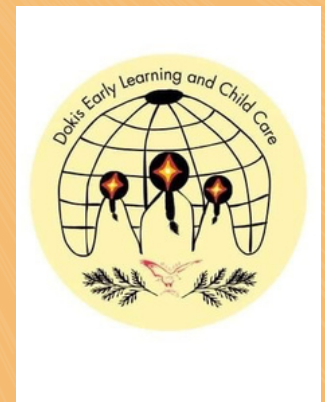




Region 3

Dokis First Nation

On April 6, 2024, Dokis First Nation held an open house for their new daycare called Dokis Early Learning & Childcare (DELIC) that officially opened on April 9, 2024. The open house gave the community and children an opportunity to come in to celebrate this new addition to the community! Currently, DELIC is unlicensed and only has five spots available for children but is planning to expand by building a licensed daycare attached to the current school to make sure every child has access to quality childcare! The DELIC has one supervisor, one Registered Early Childhood Educator, one childcare staff, and one custodian!



Region 4

The Kinoomaagewin 2 Land-based Learning Sessions continue to take place in Region 4. Session 2 planning meetings are happening, which involve community-based project teams gathering in PFNs to create a plan for a land-based learning resource. The teams are composed of community members, First Nation education staff, school boards and non-governmental organization representatives (i.e. environmental, land stewards, etc.). The most recent community team meeting took place in Scugog Island First Nation on April 30, 2024. Participants included MSIFN staff and community, DDSB Indigenous Education Department and community/school board partners, Bawaajigewin and Indigenize. They spent the day conceptualizing what “land-based” learning looks like and how it can be implemented in meaningful, student-centered and community-driven ways in school board and community settings.

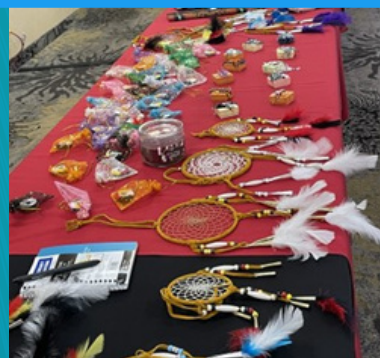
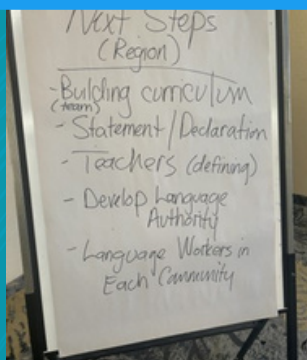


Region 1 Gathering (Hannah O'Donnell)

On May 3rd, the Participating First Nations within Regional Education Council 1 had their Niinwind Nitaa Anishinaabemowin, We Are the Language Gathering. Keynote speaker James Vukelich spoke to attendees about the 7 Grandfather Teachings and how they help us lead mino-bimaadiziwin, the good life.

Small group discussions followed, and each group shared their discussion findings with everyone in attendance. The day was filled with meaningful exchanges, ideas for Anishinaabemowin revitalization, and regional goals. Chi miigwech to everyone who contributed to this wonderful gathering!

(pics below)



Parent and Caregiver Special Education Modules



Boozhoo, Aanii, Koolamasi & Welcome!

As a parent you play a crucial role in supporting and advocating for your child's unique learning needs. We believe that by working together, parents and educators can create an inclusive and supportive environment in which every child can thrive. These modules aim to empower you with knowledge, strategies, and resources to help your child to succeed. They are designed to prepare you for conversations with school representatives and help you make informed decisions to be the best advocate for your child on their learning journey.



Parent and Caregiver Special Education Modules

The modules below are divided into 3 areas of special education support for your child. Each module includes culturally enriched ideas, strategies and resources for you to draw upon during this important journey. Please select the area you would like to begin with.

Supporting
Your Child's
Learning
Needs

IPRC
Identification,
Placement, & Review
Committee/Circle

IEP
Individual
Education Plan

Anishinabek Education System Scholarship Awards Update

Miigwech to everyone who took the time to submit their scholarship applications. Our scholarship reviewal committee is in the process of reviewing applications for the AES scholarship awards. These scholarships will go to our outstanding students and educators within the Anishinabek Education System.

We have 3 categories of scholarship awards:

Academic Achievement Scholarships:

- This award will go to students who has exhibited an improved or consistent academic performance and who demonstrated personal commitment to their educational achievements.

Muriel Sawyer Nishnaabemwin Memorial Scholarships:

- This award will go to secondary students of the Anishinabek Education System who are dedicated to learning a traditional Indigenous language of the Anishnabek family, and who show perseverance and innovation in their learning journey.

Educator Excellence Awards:

- This award will be given to recipients who play an exceptional role in educating Anishinabek students, who positively impact the well-being of Anishinabek youth, and who encourage students to pursue their individual talents and interests.



All applications have been accepted. Our scholarship committee is currently reviewing applications.

Successful applicants will be notified by July 15th, 2024



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 Student Success Manager at the KEB paige.fortier@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

Annual General Meeting

August 21, 2024

8:00 AM- 2:30 PM

White Fish River First Nation,
Ontario

Youth Gathering

August 14 & 15, 2024

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

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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/>