



SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK EDUCATION

Supporting every Sagamok citizen to reach their full potential.



BIIDAABAN
KINOOMAAGEGAMIK



Miinke Giizis (July) ~ Mnoomini Giizis (August) ~ Waab'bagaa Giizis (September)
Dgwaagik (Fall) Edition - **September 2025** - Education Newsletter

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SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK
EDUCATION

Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik - Daycare
Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik - Elementary
Lifelong Learning Centre
Education Supports



Back To School



Aanii, bindiigen! Welcome to the Dagwaagi edition of the Education Newsletter.

This edition contains stories and updates from Miinke Giizis (July), Manoomini Giizis (August) and Waab'bagaa Giizis (September).

While still cherishing the fun and freedom that summer entails, the Departments of Education have been readying themselves for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Biidaaban classrooms are decorated to reflect the fall season, the cafeteria menu includes freshly harvested items from Maa Jiig Chi Ge Win, and the floors are polished to a glossy sheen, awaiting the screech of new shoes as students gleefully bound in. The halls will become alive once again with laughter and voices chattering excitedly from the swiftly moving children keen to see and share their stories with friends and teachers.

While most of the teaching staff remain familiar, there are a few new faces on campus for the 2025-2026 school year. Bindiigen! Welcome! With faces sporting optimistic smiles, students and teachers join together to reacquaint each other with schedules, commitments, and responsibilities, easing their way into the new term.

We look forward to the upcoming Fall Harvest and the diverse activities provided to our students through land-based programs and learning. September drifts in with the briskness of outdoor temperatures and leaves haphazardly floating on autumn breezes. With a series of culturally significant field trips and celebrations of heritage, the school year is off to a running start – great preparation for the Annual Biidaaban Track Meet in October! There is lots of exciting stuff on the horizon.

We hope you may even get the chance to get outdoors bird watching this Fall! *Coming Soon* - Check out our new language revitalization resource, an on-line, interactive book with practice questions to help any learner develop Anishinaabemowin language knowledge. The first book is about Bineshii - Birds! You will find this resource on our website very soon, www.SagamokEducation.ca, under Sagamok Language Learning.

Mino Dagwaagi, Happy Fall everyone, and let the stories begin anew!
Wishing everyone a wonderful 2025-2026 school year.



Director's Reflections

Vance McPherson, Director of Education

Early in September, Bradley Trudeau, host of Sagamok's *Bimaadiziwin Radio: The Sagamok Hour* asked me what I was most looking forward to this year for Sagamok students.

It was hard to know where to begin.

The Biidaaban curriculum is being re-envisioned to reflect the seasons and Sagamok's traditional practices, with faculty conceiving it less like the Western "linear" model and adopting a more cyclic approach. For the students' day to day, this will result in additional exposure to learning and skill-building that is more relevant to Sagamok, and an education plan that fosters a sense of place and identity by its very nature.

At a time when there is a province-wide teacher shortage, Biidaaban, for the second year in a row, has started the year with a full complement of OCT-certified faculty, and an enviable level of support from educational assistants, Anishinaabemowin speakers, and visiting Elders.

Early in the year, some students will journey to the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation in M'Chigeeng to study Z'Gamok artifacts; others will attend an RHT Gathering in Sault Ste Marie; others will accompany Biidaaban's own Eagle Staff to ceremony on Manitoulin Island. We have boosted support for literacy and special education this year, and we've added the critical role of Student Mental Wellness Specialist (welcome Raven Hammond!) to address mental health in the school, starting with the bullying challenges identified by Sagamok's Elders. All of this will get going before Fall Harvest.

It's going to be another awesome year for Espanola High School Spartans, too. Faculty have expanded certain Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) courses to include leadership, community, and cultural components, allowing Sagamok students to earn credit while pursuing deeper involvement within the Sagamok community. EHS co-op and dual credit programs continue to offer innovative alternative pathways for learners, a new space for a gathering circle has been added to the campus, and EHS offerings have grown to include a new hair and cosmetology program.

Our Daycare, of course, operates all year round, and now is a popular time for enrollments. We started supporting the Daycare with land-based learning, language learning, and visiting Elder last year, and are looking to grow the language programming there in the coming year.

The Lifelong Learning Centre has, over the course of the summer, offered courses critical for the mining industry, forest fire fighting, and a very successful youth program.

It is an exciting time to be a student of any age in Sagamok Education!



Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik Daycare



MEET THE TEAM!

Left to Right: Rachel Toulouse (Daycare Manager), Keara Isaac (Registered Early Childhood Educator/RECE), Heidi Southwind (RECE), Priscilla Abitong (Cook), Jolene Eshkakogan (RECE), Tiffany Bell (RECE), Whitney Pregent (Executive Assistant)

Absent: Charmaine Abitong (RECE), Cassandra Toulouse (RECE), Ieshia Owl (Cook/Classroom Assistant), and Velma Toulouse (Custodian)



Anishinaabemowin at Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik

Learning our Language in July, August & September



Animals

Bizhiki - Cow



Gookoosh - Pig



Baakaakwenh - Chicken



Migizi - Eagle



Mooz - Moose



Waawaashkeshi - Deer



Waaboos - Rabbit



Bezhigoozhii - Horse



Things

Nibiish - Water



Miinan - Blueberries



Nshwaaswi - Eight



Skwaandem - Door



Aasmaatig - Wall



Mchisag - Floor



Doopwin - Table

Pabwin - Chair



Expressions

Gzhaate gojiing - It's hot outside



Ggiizhiitaa na? - Are you ready?



Aaniish ezhiyaayin nongo? - How are you feeling today?



Welcome Preschoolers!

Summer Transition Program

July 21 - August 8, 2025

Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik welcomed Preschoolers from Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik - Daycare. The 'soon-to-be' students in September were bussed to Biidaaban to take part in a 3-week transitional program, which allows the children an opportunity to adapt to their new school environment, teacher, classroom, peers, and learning tools.

The program took place from July 21 to August 8, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and was supported by Administrative Staff and Early Learning 1 Teacher, Terri Abitong.



Summer Transition Program



July 21 - August 8



From Daycare to Biidaaban

Summer Fun Day!

On August 7, from 10:00-11:30am, Aasgaabwitwindwaa Binoojiinhik Wiin ni gshkiwewziwaat (ABWNG) which means 'Supporting our children, as they continue towards the future', held a Summer Fun Day that welcomed any and all Sagamok families. You may be more familiar with ABWNG as School Health Support Services, which was their former name. Same people and same great services! The festivities included a variety of outdoor games/stations set up in the former Biidaaban playground area, offering a safe, fenced-in area for kids and families to freely participate in the fun and games.

Some of the games included: water balloons, water gusher/cup race, plinko, cup toss, obstacle course with sponge squeeze/race to fill the cup, hatchet throw, and of course the playground equipment was a big hit for friends from Daycare who were shuttled by bus to the event.

Ice-cream cones, freezies, suckers, popcorn and snacks fueled the kids participating and were welcome treats on the warm, sunny day! Staff representatives expressed how the Fun Day was only one of many themed events this group provides to the community, however, this was in fact the First of its kind! When talking with staff members, they expressed that 'the focus of today's event was to offer a fun outlet for kids of all ages, to improve or maintain gross motor, locomotor, object control, and stability skills, as well as encourage cognitive and social development, as well as thought leadership skills' – all under the guise of summer fun games and outdoor activities.



Event organizers and operators on hand were:

Aissa (Occupational Therapy Assistant/Physiotherapy Assistant (OTA/PTA), Brandy (Intake Worker), Tanya (Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Consultant and CDA-Speech Therapy Assistant), Morgan (ASD and Developmental Services Worker), Reagan (ASD and Developmental Services Worker), Hannah (CDA-Speech Therapy Assistant), and Cate (Sagamok Care Coordinator).

They outlined their personal roles with Aasgaabwitwindwaa Binoojiinhik Wiin ni Gshkiwewziwaat (ABWNG) and the services that are offered by all the qualified professionals on the team:

- Speech & Language Therapy
- Psychoeducational Assessments
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Developmental Services and Intervention
- Autism and Sensory Integration Support Services
- Complex Case Management



These services are provided to families here in Sagamok and are conducted through visits to the Daycare 3-times per week, as well as to students full-time, 5-days a week, at Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik for children in Early Learning through to Grade 8. Tanya described her team as “a hub of clinical services” that offers specialized services directly to multiple daycares and schools within the communities they support, respecting cultural traditions, values, and the language.

The team, and organization, supports four communities across the region, including Wikwemikoong, Birch Island, M'Chigeeng, and Sagamok and along with all the above-mentioned services, offers two dedicated Clinical and School Psychologists! Tanya and Cate reported that they typically offer 30–60 minute sessions of therapy, and since 2018 have served between 200-300 students in Sagamok. Awesome work by this dedicated team! Chi miigwech everyone for a fun day in the sun and for bringing your valuable services right here to Sagamok students!





Daycare Water Fun Day August 15, 2025

Daycare Friends enjoyed some splishing and splashing and a day to just be. If you're a fan of Zac Brown Band you may relate his song to the fun and freedom of a day like this. Children learn so much from being outdoors, experimenting with different objects used to collect and transfer liquids or solids (Water/Sand) and positive feelings this type of free play offers. Sunshine, fresh air, a bouncy castle to run, jump, and slide on, making mudcakes, playing together, sand between your toes and everywhere else!, blowing bubbles – enjoying simple pleasures. Plus, sharing a cool treat with friends on a hot day – chocolate covered blueberries and 'yogourt cones.'

To be a kid again...can you recall days like this?



Grandparents' Lunch

To celebrate Grandparents Day on September 14, Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik hosted a Grandparents Luncheon in their honour. On the afternoon of September 5, Grandparents arrived at the Daycare to share lunch with their favourite Daycare Friend (grandchild), which was a feast of fettucini alfredo, garlic bread, and ceasar salad, including seasonal 'home-made' apple pie! It was an enjoyable change of pace for the children, grandparents, and staff.





Preschool Graduation



On the afternoon of August 14, families, caregivers, grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins, friends, staff and let's not forget - the graduates themselves -- met at the Daycare for a gathering to celebrate the Preschool Graduates of 2025!

With the classrooms decked out in red, black, and gold streamers and balloons, a New York themed backdrop, fancy red-carpet entrance, the classic "Pomp and Circumstance Graduation Walking March" song played as the graduating friends entered the gathering hall. Each child was individually announced amidst smiles, applause, and proud faces surrounding them on all sides. Some friends were shy, some were carried, some walked with pride, and others with frivolity, but they all made their way to centre stage at the front of the room. Onlookers beamed as they took in the young Daycare friends in their blue graduation caps and dressed up in fancy clothes reserved for special occasions such as this.

Daycare staff did an amazing job of arranging the special details to make this day a memorable one for everyone in attendance! Gift bags were presented to each graduate in turn, and once everyone had received acknowledgement and congratulation cheers, guests were invited to join together for a full-course turkey dinner. A colour-coordinated cake with matching cupcakes, a *Sagamok Home Baked* creation, made a delicious dessert to 'cap off' the event.

Chi miigwech to Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik for hosting this beautiful event and providing an unforgettable celebration and send-off for our little friends and their families transitioning from Daycare to Biidaaban in September. Chi miigwech to all Daycare Staff for providing the children with loving care, nurturing, and for supporting developmental milestones during their time at the Daycare.





Photo credit: Tiffany Bell

Blackberry picking; August 21, 2025 - This morning we decided to go see if the blackberries were ready to be picked. Our preschoolers found some, but most were still red, they did try both to see what they tasted like. They also put some in the bowl to take back into our playground. -Tiffany



Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik



Truth & Reconciliation
Spirit Week - September 22 - 26, 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
 Ribbon Skirt & Shirt Day	 Moccasin Day	 Indigenous T-Shirt Apparel Day
Thursday	Friday	
 TRC Baseball Tourney (postponed-TBD)	 Terry Fox Walk & BBQ	

Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik
Shki Waase-aaban Binoojiinh Gamik.

SEVERE FOOD ALLERGY

Nuts or Peanuts are absolutely **NOT permitted** in the School or Day Care.

Please do not bring nuts, or any product that contains nuts, to Biidaaban or Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Biidaabaan Kinoomaagegamik

Community Members are Welcome During Lunch Hour- 12 PM - 1 PM
Please Sign in at the Office

From October 6th to October 10th

oh ya...



Reminder to all parents and caregivers to **return any permission or registration forms** if you haven't already.

Also, **please return the Photo Consent form**. We would love to include your child in the education newsletter or website and require your permission.



Gathering of the Eagle Staffs

Grade 8's Travel to M'Chigeeng First Nation

Surrounding schools were invited to attend the Gathering of the Eagle Staffs held at the Powwow grounds in M'Chigeeng First Nation. Each school (approximately 8-10) arrived at the site with their school staff and stand. The sacred fire burned brightly and invitingly at the inner circle.

Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik was represented by the Grade 8 students, their teacher Mr. Kevin Maracle, support staff, Ms. Jeanette Steinke, and Land-Based Lead, Michael Abitong. Staff and students were dressed in ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts to celebrate and honour this special occasion.

The schools gathered around the sacred fire; the ceremony began with an opening prayer and song. Each school was invited independently to come forward to the inner circle and place their school staff in its stand. Once Biidaaban was called, the staff carrier, Michael Abitong, called forward a student chosen as the candidate to carry the school staff to the inner circle and present it. This student

was selected for their demonstration of commitment to their community, respect, responsibility, and how to conduct themselves as part of a team for the greater good of all. Michael passed the staff to Markai Sakakeesic, who proudly presented it and placed it alongside the others. Each staff was unique to its school and region.

Various organizations and community agencies were on site offering information display booths for students to visit and learn about the services available to them. Some vendors were also on-site offering culturally unique and hand-crafted items. It was an engaging ceremony for students and teachers alike, as well as for all community/family members who were in attendance. Miigwech to all who were involved in the collaborative efforts to bring together area schools and demonstrate this cultural solidarity through ceremony.

Photography/video recording was not permitted during this ceremony.



Happy 1st Birthday,



**BIIDAABAN
KINOOMAAGEGAMIK**
BUILT 2023
1666 TOULOUSE BAY ROAD
SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK



Enkweshkaager
Reception Office
Kinoomaageazik Enj
Aagaabwifanwing
Student Support
Enigaanzik
Principal Office
Aankaach Enigaanzik
Vice Principal





Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik!



Biidaaban & EHS Awards

Let us take this opportunity to congratulate all the students of Sagamok for their achievements this year! Education is a gift and a privilege afforded to few, so it is with great pride that Sagamok Anishnawbek Education acknowledges the dedication of all students along with their family/caregiver members, on attaining this achievement. Lighting the Path to Your Future begins with you, but the Education Department is here to support you on your path to reaching your full potential.

Many don't realize that education is about so much more than studying, writing tests, completing assignments, and receiving grades. That, in itself, is no small feat, but education also requires learning more about yourself, where your strengths and weaknesses lie, where your interests are, and working hard and applying yourself to balance these competencies. It also requires working with others, resolving conflicts/disagreements, acknowledging differences and embracing them, and doing so while attempting to follow the principles of the 7 Grandfather Teachings. We commend you for putting forth this effort for yourself and for your community! You are on your own path to greatness and a life path that you are destined to fulfill with your unique talents and capabilities.

Among Early Learning 2 graduates, Special Achievement Awards went to:

- Donovan A for Highest Average;
- Zayden A for Anishinaabemowin;
- Maverick S for Performance; and
- Cassidy B and Donovan A for Athletics

Special Certificates of Achievement were awarded to:

- Donovan A for Math and Literacy
- Cassidy B for Music
- Jarlett A for Science
- Cohen M for Art; and
- Mathias P for On the Land

In Grade 8, the following graduates were honoured with Special Achievement, Certificate, and Memorial Awards:

- Anderson B for Overall Highest Average;
- Haven S for Anishinaabemowin;
- Lincoln S for Performance;
- Brooklyn T and Anderson B for Athletics;
- Anderson B for Math;
- Haven S for History;
- Aminah B-T for Science and Geography
- Anderson B for Literacy
- Aminah B-T for Art
- Shay-Lynn T-H for Music
- Garrett S for On the Land
- Mikayla T for Citizenship
- and Rylee T received the Spirit Award!

The Memorial Awards were presented as follows:

Phyllis Toulouse Memorial Award:

Aminah B-T

Dorothy Hope Toulouse Memorial Award:

Anderson B

Dominic Eshkakogan Memorial Award:

Mikayla T

Ethan Eshkakogan Memorial Award:

Haven S

May Ann Trudeau Memorial Award:

Shay-Lynn T-H

Jennifer Christine Keysis Memorial Award:

Emily T

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics in Memory of Barbara and Kenny Conway:

Emmie L

Trades Memorial Award in Memory of Kenny Conway:

Jayce P



Awards & Recognition of Achievement

The following students were recognized with these Year End Awards. From Early Learning 1 up to Grade 7 and in that order, the following students received recognition awards in the following categories:

Highest Overall Average: Kierynn C, Sage S, Hilary L, Paislee S, Kinsley C, Aurora S, Avery T, Teirney F

Anishnaabemowin: Richard O, Maryn E, Opie P, Roman A, Cruz P, Charlise E, Gavin E, Maci S

Math: Kierynn C, Tiana F-M, Hilary L, Liam S, Kingston D-P, Logan N-G, Layla W, Teirney F

Literacy: Zavery B, Leah T, Ariana O, Roman A, Kinsley C, Rayvina O-B, Zebulon B, Charlotte W

Social Studies and History: Soriya S-J, Jsaper R-S, Roman A, Hazel-Lynn A, Aurora S, Avery T, Parker A

Science: Roman B, Chance N, Opie P, Remy A, Hazel-lynn A, Kulez E, Gavin E, Carly A

Art: Kehlanis H-D, Reyna T, Jasper R-S, Arden, Kassiya W, Leisa P, Zebulon B, Ryder T

Music: Harper J, Soriya S-J, Ariana O, Ilianna W, Ionkhihawison H-D, Leisa P, Avery T, Caius J

Land-Based: River A, Archer F, Hunter P, Tucker T-S, Cruz P, Tristen B, Donte L, Cooper T

Performance Award: Primary Division Emberly E, and Junior Division Emma O

Athletic Award: Primary - Liam S – male and Ilianna W – female; and Junior - Layla W – female and Gavin E - male

Douglas Abitong Memorial Award - Hilary L

Staff Choice Award - Aminah B-T

Congratulations to the following Espanola High School students from Sagamok who received recognition Awards or Bursaries from the following:

Espanola Horticultural Society Bursary:

Dominic L

McGregor Bay Association-Louis Polk Award:

Gavin R

UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service Bursary:

Quentin S

Desjardins Bursary:

Vilena T

Indigenous Student Success Awards were awarded to the following students:

Bravery: Rayne B-P

Humility: Connor S

Love: Quentin S

Respect: Dominic L

Truth: Vilena T

Congratulations to ALL our graduating students from Sagamok with a big NAH-HA and Grad 'Caps off' in recognition of your dedication, effort, and success in your education and life journey so far! Keep up the great work! We are excited to see where your dreams and determination lead you!

**For the privacy of our members, only the students' given first name was included in this article.*

Biidaaban Hosts Daycare Transition Program



The Summer Transition Program was held over three weeks with varying times and days, to ease young Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik Friends into their new learning environment, while still attending daycare and enjoying the summer. From July 22 to August 8, preschool friends from the daycare were invited to attend a Summer Transition Program at Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik. Students were picked up by bus and attended Biidaaban on alternating days, participating in a half or full day of programming each week. The preschoolers were accompanied by Early Learning Teacher, Ms. Thereasa Abitong, and Education Assistants who support the classroom.

Inquisitive and tentative, young learners hugged their caregivers at the Biidaaban entrance and were

led down the big hallway to locate what will be their new classroom come September. A welcome poster decorated the doorway, and each student received a warm and caring greeting from staff as they entered the classroom. The steps towards creating a positive learning experience for the children were being implemented with great care.

A variety of blocks, tracks, playdough table, discovery centres, role-playing props like a café and kitchen, educational videos, and electronic device programs offered many exciting and interesting options for students to explore. Each learner could engage with and utilize the instructional time and opportunity to prepare themselves for elementary school life in their own way. Snack time was, of course, incorporated into the day's activities, along with story time, circle time, worksheets, an introduction to the gymnasium with physical activity time, and time in the outdoor playground. Overall, the children adapted well and appeared to enjoy their new surroundings and teachers.



While students need to adjust to new environments and daily learning as a normal part of growing up, some of the Daycare staff commented during the Spring Transition Day that they were preparing themselves as well as they 'transition' from having these young students in their care for the better part of three years, to watching them grow into the next phase of their education and personal development journey. It seems that learning is lifelong and continuous, whether you are a student or an educator!





The Summer Transition Program allowed young daycare friends to reacquaint themselves on their new turf, with the start of school in September just around the corner. Education staff attended to the future Biidaaban students; helping them to adjust and settle into a new routine and style of learning, while incorporating familiar things into the educational aspects of the program, and free play exploration.

A pizza party was held on the last day to celebrate the young students' success! Chi miigwech to Ms. Thereasa (Terri), supporting staff, administrative staff, and bus drivers for supporting this summer program. Miigwech to the Daycare as well for collaborating on the organization and promotion, ensuring the success of the program and assisting with the children's preparedness as they graduate to Biidaaban life.



Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) of 1850 Gathering: Commemorating 175 Years of Treaty



On September 8, the Gr. 8 students attended the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 Gathering: Commemorating 175 Years of Treaty, in Sault Ste. Marie. They listened to Fire and Pipe Teachings in the lodge and had some fun playing an interactive game of Kahoot. The day was full of fun and interesting learning.
Submitted by: Charlene Morrison



Back to School 2025-2026



September 3, 2025

First Day Back to School!

September signifies 'back to school' for most of those involved in education. And 'back to school' means a whole host of things --- summer fun and family activities to be cherished and recounted, the shifting of weather patterns from hot and sunny to cool and overcast, new books, paper, pens, shoes and backpacks ready, excitement and trepidation that comes with learning, and personal growth beginning anew.

What will the school year entail? How will I respond and adjust to it? Positive things are in store for our students who are supported by nurturing, dedicated education specialists, devoted to teaching and leading by exemplifying Anishinaabe Aadziwin and the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

At the time of this newsletter production, the sky reflects the varying colours of a gwiingwiish, and the foliage, tinged by the frosty mornings appear to be made of leather. Fluff from the shedding cattails drifts freely, and leaves on the silver birch shrubs flicker their flashy undersides. The autumn wind chills our days and evenings rapidly. The air is crisp and clear in our lungs, shifting our focus towards preparation for the harsher climate to come. As with every season, every change, something new and undiscovered awaits our gaze, our awareness, and our acknowledgement.

Staff line the entrance and hallway to welcome Biidaaban students back to school. Ms. Becky (Principal) stands in wait as the first line greeter of the buses as they roll up to the school, carrying eager, excited, and slightly nervous students. Students hop down the bus steps and race to hug Principal Becky as she smiles warmly and returns their excitement in a welcoming embrace. Some show her their new hairstyle, their new shoes 'all the way from Toronto!', their colourful, multi-themed backpacks, all the while spewing stories of summer break. They race to the front doors where staff wait to help them locate their home room teacher and receive a timetable. As students proceed through the grand entrance doors, embarking on the next chapter of their learning journey, smiles are broad, and eyes are bright.

It is natural for some to meet the changes occurring with tears and trepidation; first day jitters were a reality for more than a few students – and caregivers, too! Parents dropping off their child for the first time at Biidaaban, giving 'one more hug' before departing the classroom and leaving their crying baby in the capable care of the Early Learning staff. Educators are also experiencing a mixture of emotions as the new year starts – Daycare Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) wave goodbye as they proudly watch the pre-schoolers from their classrooms, move on to Biidaaban (and the rest of their life) having nurtured and cared for them the past 3+ years. And Biidaaban staff search the sea of faces for familiar Grade 8's who have spent the past 10 years in each other's presence, only to recall that these students are embarking on a high school adventure. Oh yes, changing tides touches many shores.

As the school community embarks on the 2025-26 academic year, the hope is that everyone is returning feeling refreshed and ready to learn and discover new things. Let us see where our journey takes us, be open to new ideas and growth, and be available to support each other as we navigate our own personal pathway.

Miigwech to education staff who have prepared the classrooms, the school, and themselves in anticipation of students' return, and for creating a welcoming, comfortable environment for students and parents to ease into absorbing the many changes and newness of their learning environment. Good luck to everyone and have a great school year!



Meet the Teachers BBQ

The sunny afternoon of September 11th offered perfect conditions for 'It's Not a Party Without Us' bouncy castles, snow cones, candy floss, and barbecued hotdogs, sausages, and hamburgers prepared by the cafeteria staff.

Parents and caregivers were invited to a family-centric 'meet and greet' with Biidaaban teachers and staff.

This event was a fun, welcoming way of introducing the school facilities and allowing educators to meet with family members of students in their care this year. It was beneficial for everyone involved, and a positive way to start the school year off. Parents, grandparents, caregivers, aunties, uncles, cousins, friends, students, and staff, dropped by to say Aanii, introduce themselves and, in some cases, even brought along their family pet! Actually, getting acquainted with the family fur baby is a great idea since students often share stories about their beloved pets with their teachers! Seeing them in person allows the teacher to connect with the student, and for the student to have a level of comfort as they reacquaint with school schedules. A hamster named Astrid the Destroyer and Kenzie the Dog were among these special visitors. Family and Caregiver involvement is an integral part of the fabric and success of Biidaaban, and staff welcome

community participation and supportive interaction within the classrooms, school, and at hosted events.

In the classrooms, families casually dropped by to meet the teachers and view the learning space, many of which were colourfully decorated in a fall theme. Classroom doors have been customized with students' names, welcome signs including the teacher's name, and bulletin boards are waiting to display the first back to school projects.

Staff members, Stephanie, Marlene, and Lindsay were among greeters at the entrance to the school where they had a table displaying helpful takeaways for visitors. Colleen Toulouse, Student Success Program Coordinator, introduced families to a revolving carousel



information station featuring artifacts [to touch and inspect] used by voyagers and indigenous peoples of the 1600s to 1800s era. The historical significance of the fur trade as it relates to First Nation peoples, is, as Colleen shared, an upcoming unit to be presented to each grade level, supported by Sagamok's Historical Researcher, Allen Toulouse, and Land-Based Lead Michael Abitong.

Meet the Teacher BBQ was a great way to begin the new school year, bringing together families and school staff to get to know each other in a casual setting.



KIDS OUTING TO urbanAir ADVENTURE PARK

October 3
October 17

AGES 6-12

REGISTER NOW!

Deanna Southwind | 705-863-2657
Darian Jones | 705-863-0759

www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com



YOUTH GOLFING

Ages 12-24

- September 26
- October 3
- October 10

Stone Ridge Golf Course
Elliot Lake
Transportation Provided

Register Now!
abitong_carson@sagamok.ca



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

We Need You Here!

When you miss 2 days a month
you miss 20 days a year
you miss 136 hours a year
you miss 8,160 minutes a year



That's 272 episodes of your favourite show, and **we miss you!**

Biidaaban Sunrise Ceremony

Biidaaban staff, along with the Director of Education, Vance McPherson, and Cultural Worker, Wayne Southwind, gathered on September 2nd -- the day before the scheduled start-up of school -- in the newly constructed arbor behind Biidaaban.

All those present were invited to reflect and share their intentions for the upcoming school year. The morning awakened as everyone clustered inside and surrounding the arbour. There was a sense of tranquility in the cool morning air. The soft, radiant light of the sun made its way over top of Biidaaban, touching the arbor with its warmth. A multitude of soft blues and yellows spread across the sky above, adding to the gathering's serenity. Birdlife was in abundance, the Gwiingwiish (Bluejay) making its presence known in the surrounding forest with its distinct screech. Gaagaakshiinh (Ravens) cawed overhead, dipping down for a closer look at the arbor, its inhabitants, and the ceremony taking place. Jigjigneshiinh (Chickadees) dropped by for a fleeting visit, while the crackling skoode (fire) emanated warmth and light to help lead the educators in a good way.

Wayne performed the ceremony, having prepared the arbor with the traditional items, and with assistance from land-based lead, Michael Abitong, who maintained the sacred fire and provided traditional sage smudge to everyone who wished to cleanse themselves prior to the ceremony beginning. Wayne opened the sunrise ceremony with a prayer in Anishinaabemowin, translating to English afterwards, and then performed an honor song accompanied by his drumming. Wayne, wearing his customary orange ribbon shirt that he reserves for events where children are the focus, reflected to those gathered:



"Welcome to everyone here today. I'm excited and proud to see everyone here attending this ceremony, preparing themselves and the school for the new school year. It's wonderful to see all of you dedicated to education and lighting the path for our students' learning over this next year and beyond."

Wayne's reflection also included thoughts on the importance of providing this nurturing and safe space for children to access education, which will support them in their personal growth and lives. The group was invited to take some semaa (tobacco) from the bowl that circulated, and to hold it in their hand during the ceremony so that they could place their intentions within it to later deposit in the sacred fire as their offering. The sacred gift of water was shared, as well as strawberries. "Nourishment from Mother Earth to keep us grounded, connected, moving in a good way forward", Wayne imparted.

Wayne performed the pipe ceremony, during which time [he commented later] that the birdsong always tends to stop completely; quite astonishingly. He offered the pipe to the education leadership first, after which Michael circled around to lay the pipe on the shoulder of attendees to provide them with encouragement, support, and guidance offered by the pipe.



The flames flickered on mesmerizingly throughout this time of deep reflection. The eagle wing was offered as an opportunity for any individual present to offer their intention or personal thoughts aloud during the ceremony. Principal Becky opted to start and recalled some of her personal health struggles a year prior during the same timeframe, citing her gratitude for recovery and support received from education staff and community. She exclaimed her excitement towards the upcoming school year and the availability of wonderful and dedicated teaching staff. She also provided a powerful encouragement for everyone to do their best, to be patient with the children and with each other, and to recall the seven grandfather teachings as they make their way through the school year in a good way. Intentions offered from others who decided to share aloud, varied from expressing gratitude, looking forward to seeing how they can positively impact a child's life and learning, and asking for guidance to do the right things, the best things in the interest of the children and families. Others yet reflected on the shift of once familiar students changing from elementary to secondary school or even post-secondary, with these members offering the intention that things go smoothly and as best as possible for these students.

By this point, the sun had risen well above the roofline of Biidaaban, illuminating everyone in its path with energy and warmth. The sunrise ceremony offered a positive opportunity to 'break in' the arbor on this, its first official ceremony. A gathering such as this reminds us of the importance of community being committed to the development and well-being of the upcoming generation. We have a responsibility to instil in them a sense of pride, using Anishinaabe Aadziwin throughout our teaching and support of students. To complete the ceremony, everyone circled the skoode (fire) to release their semaa (tobacco) intentions into the flames, which were carried upwards on the smoke.

A full hot breakfast awaited Biidaaban staff and honoured guests back at the cafeteria, prepared on-site by the cooking staff, fueling the teaching staff for their full day of professional development which lay ahead. Miigwech to Wayne for leading the annual sunrise ceremony, allowing an opportunity for Biidaaban staff to offer up their intentions for 2025-2026. It was a peaceful time of reflection and guidance-seeking in preparation for a brand-new school year.

Gimaa's Welcome Circle

On the morning of September 12, Gimaa Toulouse, wearing an ornate, purple-flowered ribbon shirt, visited the staff and students of Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik. He was invited to attend the school for his traditional yearly visit. (Last year, the Grand Opening of the new Biidaaban school took the place of the Welcome Circle). The students and staff, now entering a brand-new school year, were personally greeted by Gimaa with a customary handshake and welcome. As students entered the gym by grade, they formed a circle around the gym's perimeter after receiving their handshake and greeting from Gimaa. It was both inspirational and moving to see the entire school population gathered in one communal place to meet with Gimaa Toulouse. Some students were meeting Gimaa 'up close and personal' for the first time! His warm and welcoming smile lit up his face, placing everyone at ease with a special sense of acknowledgement.



A drumming song and opening prayer started the event off in a good way. Principal Becky Toulouse welcomed everyone to the Welcome Circle with Gimaa and provided some thoughtful opening remarks. Michael Abitong followed with some commentary in Anishinaabemowin, then translated it into English. He encouraged the students to use their Anishinaabe language, to speak it openly, to take pride in their culture and themselves, and to live their lives in a good way, following the seven Grandfather Teachings. Michael imparted to the students how fortunate they were to receive the gift of education, how the teachers and helpers were here to support them throughout the school year, and to respect and appreciate the effort and thought that goes into their education experiences. Michael rallied the students with a thunderous 'Aanii Biidaaban students', eliciting an equally loud 'Aanii' response, cheers, and enthusiasm circling around the room. The energy was alive and well in the school.

Chief Toulouse took to the centre of the circle and shared some encouraging sentiments and knowledge with everyone present, beginning first in Anishinaabemowin and then switching to English. Students listened intently as the Chief spoke, and his words carried the message about the importance of maintaining the Anishinaabe language, culture, traditions, valuing and protecting the animals, water, territorial lands, the students themselves, and recognizing everything is an integral part of the world; each with special abilities and purpose. He encouraged the students to always seek the path they chose to walk and to make good choices as they moved along that path, knowing they were supported by friends, teachers, family, caregivers, Elders, and the community. There is strength in community and in Anishinaabe culture and ways, and he requested that students continue to be the stewards/ambassadors of these traditions.

Gimaa was presented with a gift by a student, on behalf of the Biidaaban staff and students, in recognition of his welcoming them to the new school year and sharing his insights with them. Miigwech, miigwech, miigwech. The gathering came to a close, and students filed out of the gym past Gimaa and returned to classroom instruction, carrying with them a warm fire within, ignited by a personal greeting from their Gimaa, and the positive, uplifting sentiments shared with them by leadership on this special occasion.



Maa Jiig Chi Ge Win - Starting to Root Greenhouse Projects throughout Sagamok Education Miigwech Adam & Angela White!



Fruit trees planted and bearing apples!, flower boxes built, installed, and filled, and tomatoes planted and producing at the Lifelong Learning Centre.



Here's Adam standing beside the fruit trees prior to transplant.



Biidaaban students participated in transplanting and growing vegetables for home gardens!



Rows of trees planted at Biidaaban! Miigwech to volunteers involved and LRE for acquiring grants!



The Daycare received a planter box at their entry sign for planting flowers and adding beauty.



Lifelong Learning Centre



**Secondary & Post Secondary Services
including application and funding support**

Waawaasnoode | Adult Education
Instructor support | Learning space | Computer lab
(attain your Ontario Secondary School Diploma)

**Indigenous Skills Employment Training Program (ISETp)
including application and funding opportunities**

**Guidance & Career Coaches, Resume & Cover Letter
assistance, Aptitude Research, Sponsorship,
Personal or Professional Development Programs**





Claudette Jones
Manager of Lifelong
Learning Centre

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Most apprenticeships require your Grade 12!

Stop by Sagamok's Lifelong Learning Centre
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717 Sagamok Road



Back Row, L-R: Tracey Stoneypoint
Guidance & Career Coach

Josephine Toulouse
High School Guidance & Career Coach

Front Row, L-R: Edie Fairburn
Guidance & Career Coach

Lorna Sinobert
Guidance & Career Coach

Lorrie Ann Linklater
Guidance & Career Coach

Kristy Bennett
Intake Coordinator

Fire 1 Training

The Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) organized a training program covering the fundamentals of firefighting, through an agency called FIRE 1. Dedicated to helping communities and founded in 2013, FIRE 1 has a mandate “to educate and train at the safest and highest quality level possible in forest fire suppression, mitigation and prevention.”



Lead Instructor Dave Cowan, along with Unit Instructor Clark Lemon of FIRE 1, delivered two days of training to program registrants in one of the newly furnished classrooms in the LLC. The program saw approximately a dozen participants from Sagamok and the region, with some attending from Atikameksheng. Some of the attendees are volunteer firefighters from within the community, others looking for recertification to meet industry safety guidelines, and others still looking to have the practical knowledge on how to save their house in the event of a fire.

The two-day program is a course designed to train individuals in firefighting and/or prevention skills, along with proper gear, developing familiarity with items commonly used, portable pump operation, and the importance of working together for safety and efficiency. Following a day of in-class instruction and demonstration, as well as exposure to terminology and equipment used in the realm of firefighting, the two trainers and their students travelled to Little Lake for some hands-on learning ‘in the field.’

Dave, having worked for 37 years with the Fire Management Program of the MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry), and Clark, having 35 years of service with Northern Development MNRF, are both



experienced and confident leading groups through the training. They demonstrated proper techniques for pump assembly and operation, including priming and pull-starting (this requires a great deal of strength and coordination!). With safety boots and helmets on, each adult student tried their hand at placing and priming the portable pump in Little Lake, utilizing the nearby bush as the backdrop for the hose spray.

Instruction continued in the outdoor classroom throughout the afternoon of the hot, sunny day, with Dave and Clark interspersing stories from their years of service amidst the formal training. They shared that they met on the job and worked together for 30+ years. Dave mentioned, “firefighters are a very close-knit group,” so friendships continue well beyond when the career finishes. “A lot of enjoyment from fighting fires comes from the camaraderie with the other firefighters”, Dave remarked. Dave and Clark are both retired from active duty but enjoy playing a role in helping students achieve their certification goals and helping communities build a team of trained individuals within the community, to be better prepared for circumstances where firefighting is involved.

Miigwech for coming to Sagamok to deliver this program, Fire 1. Chi miigwech to all our volunteer firefighters in Sagamok for dedicating your time to fire education and prevention in our community. You play an important role in the safety and wellbeing of all residents.

Let us Celebrate Sagamok's 2025 Graduates!



Celebrating Our 2025 Graduates

Sagamok's Lifelong Learning Centre recently held the Secondary School, College and University graduation ceremony to honour our special graduates from Sagamok! The ceremony was held at a new location this year, the gym at Biidaaban, which offers more space and the comfort of Air Conditioning! This was a gathering of family, friends and graduates, all present to celebrate Sagamok's remarkable students on their achievements!

From the Education Department and Lifelong Learning Centre staff, as well as Sagamok's Guidance and Career Coaches, we share a round of applause and heartfelt congratulations to ALL of the graduates of the Class of 2025! Your demonstration of hard-work, perseverance, dedication, and resilience proves that dreams can become reality if you put in the effort!

The ceremony, organized by Josephine, Lorna, Tracey, Edie, Lorrie Ann, and Claudette, with assistance from numerous others in the education community, saw the gymnasium decorated in purple and gold for this year's theme of "Igniting the Path to Your Future". The Master of Ceremonies and Member of the Education Committee, Marjorie Owl, announced the entry of the graduates as well as when they came onto the stage to receive their gifts and awards. The Opening Prayer was provided by Patricia Trudeau. Miigwech Patricia for providing this special component of the ceremony. And miigwech to Darcy Trudeau & Terrance McNichol for drumming and performing the Honour Song to greet our graduates! Welcoming Remarks were provided by Director of Education – Vance McPherson. Keynote Speakers included College representative – Jacinta Eshkakogan – and the University representative– Cheyenne Sego.

Let's offer a 'Graduation Roll Call Shout out' to our Sagamok students who successfully received their diploma, degree, and honourable distinctions.

Graduating from Secondary School we celebrate the following students: Ainsley, Buddy, Honey, Juanita, Rayne, Drew, Aiden, Waasi-aaban-anakwot, Memphis, Nicole, Annabelle, Niimki, Danyelle, Dominic, Rowan, Preston, Savannah, Amber, Jayden, Miranda, Carter, Connor, Quentin Jr., Tallulah, Vaydah, Vilena, Christopher and Connor.

The following high school students received Awards or Bursaries:

The Espanola Horticultural Society Bursary went to Dominic, The McGregor Bay Association--Louis Polk Award went to Gavin, The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service Bursary was awarded to Quentin, and a Desjardins Bursary was awarded to Vilena!

Indigenous Student Success Awards were presented to the following students:

Bravery was awarded to Rayne, Humility went to Connor, the Award for Love was given to Quentin, the Respect award went to Dominic, and the award for Truth was presented to Vilena! Congratulations to all of our Secondary School Graduates! We look forward to seeing where you channel your energies next! Good luck on your future path.

The following graduates earned a diploma from College programs! Miranda, Liam, Alyssa, Krystal, Felicia, Asia, Emma, Jacinta, Logan, Samantha, Vincent, Byron, Dwayne, Genevieve, Russell, Kaylee, Tara, Rae-Lyn, Allan, Gloria, Alara, Trista, Whitney, Clairra, Jayson, Angel, Jared, Jessica, Janice, Donald, Jordan, Stephen and Tanya! Congratulations to each of you and best wishes on your life path!

And finally, we have our University Graduates! Congratulations to Susanne, Taylor, Madison, Renee, Helena, Carly, Paige, Cheyenne, Acadia, Devon, Ethan, Starr, and Teddy!

Congratulations on your achievements throughout your studies everyone, and on receiving your degree!

Several Memorial Awards, Service Awards, and Industry Partner Awards for Secondary, College and University graduating students, were handed out during the afternoon festivities. Congratulations to all award recipients and miigwech to all award donors and sponsors!!

Special thanks is extended to Charlene Sterling & assistants for their catering services, and to Home Baked for creating a beautiful cake for the guests. Thank you to Allison Abitong and assistants for the decorating, and Darian Jones and associates from Sweet Sips for providing a variety of popular iced coffees, teas, and punch during the ceremony! Chi Miigwech to our Education Staff for everything they did to offer this celebration to the Graduates, and to everyone who played a role in the success of our ceremony and graduates. We appreciate your generous spirit and continued support of Sagamok students! Congratulations everyone, and to our 2025 Sagamok Anishnawbek Graduates, continue lighting the path to your future!

Remember that Sagamok Anishnawbek has many career opportunities right here at home and we would love to have you, and your unique talents, remain in the community. If you are not sure what to do next or would like some free consultation with a Guidance & Career Coach, drop by the Lifelong Learning Centre at 717 Sagamok Road. They are on site here in Sagamok to help you discover and develop your personal learning journey towards Bimaadiziwin. No appointment necessary – drop by Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 4:00PM to connect with a Sagamok Guidance and Career Coach OR access other supports and services offered to you here in our community.



Guidance and Career Coaches with the Youth Mentorship Program

JULY 21 AND AUGUST 18

On July 21, Guidance & Career Coaches, Lorrie Ann Linklater and Edie Fairburn, facilitated a Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) presentation to youth in Grades 8, 9, and 10 who participated in this year's summer Mentorship Program. An identical presentation was given to a second group on August 18, which included youth mentors in Grade 11 and 12.

The LLC presentation provided Sagamok's Youth Mentors with exposure to resume and cover letter



writing, a discussion about personal career goals and goals for friends, ideas for careers based on aptitude/interests, and group suggestions on what the youth feel they might want to pursue as well as what education will support their chosen career paths. Career Coaches helped youth to articulate their goals/experiences using business professional vocabulary, and to recognize the value of their personal strengths, experiences, volunteer positions, education level/achievements, and overall interests.

Lorrie Ann mentioned that they taught the Youth Mentors how to:

- use the MS Word Resume Template on the computer;
- find various templates they could utilize;
- jot helpful notes;
- outline their experiences and interests; and
- use all of this to build their personal resume and cover letter

Lorrie Ann said that, between her and Edie, they demonstrated the importance of determining an employer's most essential requirements and ensuring this information is highlighted in a 1-page document, where possible. Youth Mentors used the computer lab located at the LLC to type up the resumes they developed with Career Coaches' guidance. Each Youth Mentor left with a working resume in hand at the end of the day, which they can further polish, photocopy, and distribute as they choose!

Throughout the course of the Youth Mentorship Program at the LLC, Guidance & Career Coaches helped facilitate thought provoking discussions and encouraged peer support through sample scenarios of various types of jobs, education, and skills required to perform the jobs as well as the locations of schools where they can access needed courses, certificates, diplomas, or degrees. They also offered insights into what can happen during the job application process and how to prepare if an interview is awarded. The Coaches also talked about budget, wages, the importance of savings, and encouraged the youth to research careers of interest and their earning potential. Finally, Lorrie Ann and Edie covered the programs and services available



through the LLC to reinforce the availability of support for education, training, and funding opportunities available right here in Sagamok to help youth reach their full potential.

Overall, the youth commented positively about their learning experiences with the LLC Guidance & Career Coaches. It was a great opportunity for knowledge-sharing with both professionals and peers!



Post Secondary Orientation Day

The Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) held its annual Orientation Day for students moving on to Post-Secondary Education. Some of the items highlighted during the day included:

- A personal introduction to the Guidance & Career Coaches at the LLC
- A review of the Sagamok Education Post-Secondary policy and student responsibilities
- An outline of the various supports and services that LLC offers, how to access them, and the availability of LLC Guidance & Career Coaches to assist along the way
- An RBC representative provided a presentation on budgeting, being financially responsible, and information/tips on how to be successful with both
- A Cambrian College representative provided an overview of their programs and services available to support new students



Each registered student attending the orientation day received a *Basket of Student Essentials*. These items were donated by the Community Wellness Department (CWD) and included items such as a laundry basket and detergent, cleaning supplies, backpacks/swag bags, dried goods/food supplies, and numerous other helpful goodies! Miigwech to the CWD for these generous donations to support our students heading off to College or University and helping them get started in a good way.



Grade 9 Orientation Day

Orientation Day is designed to support Grade 8 students destined for their first year at high school. Over half of the potential students attended this year's orientation, which according to organizer, Josephine Toulouse, Guidance and Career Coach, was a successful showing.

Charlene Morrison, Administrative Support at Biidaaban, was also on hand to support Josephine and the soon-to-be grade nines as a familiar face. The event took place in a classroom meeting space at the Lifelong Learning Centre, where students took a liking to the comfy roller chairs! Josephine began the day with her trademark smile to greet students and exclaimed, "I'm happy to see you guys here!" She followed up with an opening prayer to begin the session.



The group collectively developed some housekeeping rules, which included: listening, being attentive, respectful, one person speaking at a time, raise your hand to offer a thought...common practices for organized, fruitful presentations. Getting started; Josephine led a discussion about the many changes and differences students will encounter as they transition from Biidaaban Elementary to Espanola High School or other regional secondary schools. For one thing, she told students, Espanola High School serves over 400 students and would be quite different from the 200 plus students at Biidaaban. They will be exposed to larger groups of individuals, not as it was at Biidaaban. However, she added, this provides an opportunity to expand peer groups, perhaps meet other people with interests more like their own, and to have a variety of teachers and course selections to choose from. High school presents many more choices, including those that can impact future education, careers and life paths. All these options are available to students; however, it requires that the student step forward and make those choices. So, these choices are not to be taken lightly or irresponsibly, Josephine coaches. Moving into young adulthood, students are embarking on their path to find their personal strengths and passions, the driving force to help define their identity in the world and who or what they want to become. All this deep and important messaging, and this was just the first 10 minutes of the program!

Josephine encouraged students to identify with their culture, practices, and traditions; to uphold them, and to participate in the many clubs, extracurricular activities, and programs available to support them at EHS. She, herself, is one of those available supports, so she was sure to mention that her office is located at the front of the high school, and she is available to provide guidance and support to the students any time they may need it.

Josephine encouraged students to continue using Anishinaabemowin freely once they became comfortable and adjusted to their new environment. She reminds them that just because they are finished daily instruction and use of the language during classes at Biidaaban does not stop them from continuing to use and practice the language. “Try to use basic words whenever possible and share those with fellow students, First Nations or otherwise, to make the language thrive and survive,” offered Josephine.

The group was then led in a doodle derby activity whereby students were divided into three groups, given a large chart paper and markers, and were asked to collectively draw a zebra wearing a hat. The exercise required that students practice the skills of working together as a team, developing a plan providing input, learning how to meet new people and to work with them, making decisions as a team, and creating something together as a collective.

“Each person has their role”, reminded Josephine. “Gather your thoughts and proceed with your job.” The exercise was a stepping stone towards developing more responsible decision making, interaction, and awareness of self and others. For Charlene, it was a reminder that these students are growing up, moving on, and she shared, “I’m going to miss you at Biidaaban”. As a 23-year veteran of Biidaaban, she has seen a great number of students in this transition phase. Sentimentality and nostalgia go hand-in-hand with this phase.

Nutritious snacks and lunch were included throughout the day and break times to allow students to just be -- to reconnect with peers, laughing, talking with each other, and sharing stories from summer -- a precursor to starting high school in a few days’ time. The agenda for the morning included:

- group/individual activity;
- a secondary student support policy handbook presentation (this includes what Sagamok students can access for support);
- an explanation of the duties and responsibilities of the Guidance & Career Coach; (Josephine Toulouse - formerly High School Student Support Worker);
- graduation requirements were outlined which included compulsory community service hours and examples of how or what students could do to achieve these;
- a locker combination activity; (how to actually get the thing to open!)
- the importance of attendance (students were given information and shown a video);
- and how to set up your binder and class schedule, along with organization tips



In the afternoon, Darlene McNaughton, Youth Wellness Hubs of Ontario (YWHO) Lead, and Student Mental Wellness Specialist, Raven Hammond stopped by to provide a brief presentation on mental health and wellness as students transition to high school. They covered topics including:

- healthy interpersonal relationships and connections, with trust, respect, communication and empathy being the foundation of these relationships;
- making new friends and the importance of this for our mental health;
- maintaining friendships and the practices of having patience and open communication;
- asking for help being a sign of strength, not weakness; and
- the importance of reaching out for support when needed.

Darlene went on to talk about the new Youth Wellness Hub Ontario (YWHO) for band or non-band youth aged 12 to 25. The Hub (coming soon) offers drop-in activities, support, and access to all services under one roof, for example, psychiatric, mental health, wellness, and physical wellness workers. It has the added bonus of it being open for longer, extended hours to accommodate youth accessing the site after school or in the evenings – which is a need that was identified when local surveys, outreach, and information-gathering exercises were evaluated. Sagamok and YWHO are looking for involvement from youth to develop program planning, identify needs, and for youth participation as tour guides with opportunities to travel and visit other YWHO hubs across Ontario. Interested parties could join a youth council. Darlene invited the students to fill out a questionnaire designed to gather useful information directly from youth to determine their interests and what youth want available from the hub.

The day wrapped up with prizes and draws for giveaways, including a backpack loaded with vital school supplies for every student present, and a grand draw prize of a laptop donated by Sagamok Education. Students were also provided peer kits and build-your-own coping kits where students chose from an assortment of small but useful treats and take away brochures on the services and support lines available to youth.

Josephine wrapped up the day with encouragement for the students as they begin their high school careers, a list of the available supports and services, a reminder that help is there if you ask for it, and encouragement to have fun and embrace this part of their journey.

Miigwech to Josephine Toulouse, Charlene Morrison, and guest speakers from the Community Wellness Department for providing this insightful and preparatory day to Sagamok's high school bound students.





CPR First Aid Certification Course was offered to Employees of Sagamok. *Train the Trainer* will allow Staff to be certified and equipped to provide the course to community members.

Z'Gamok Enterprises - Mining Division partners with LLC to bring specialized mining training and certification programs onsite offering increased career options and remuneration for skilled workers.



Miigwech to our summer students who helped school custodians relocate LLC staff over the summer.



NATT Working At Heights certification program - one of many training programs offered at LLC.



Meet our Intake Coordinator, Kristy Bennett! She will greet you upon entry and assist with registration for programs online, over the phone or walk-in. If you need to book a classroom or meeting space, give Kristy a call at 705-865-2421.

Jump Day at Espanola High School

Students from Sagamok who will be attending Espanola High School in September were invited to join other area students also starting grade 9, at a Jump Day orientation session. Ms. Andrea Therrien, Principal of Espanola High School, welcomed everyone as they entered the gym at EHS, and were seated. She began to address the group (approximately 100 students and family members) once everyone was settled.

"I am so proud of our high school and what we stand for here at EHS," she began. "Today marks an exciting day where everyone is embarking on a new adventure. Discovering who you are and what you're passionate about will impact your life, what path, and what direction your life will take." Ms. Therrien emphasized to students that "choices that you make will impact your future. You as students need to really be a part of what our school is offering. Other schools don't offer what Espanola High School does. We have teams, clubs, sports, activities, SHSMs, shop, tech, woodworking, aesthetics classes, music and language -- something for everyone." She encouraged students to get involved, show up at school events, and be a part of them, all the while creating memories and sometimes friendships that will last a lifetime. "The more you participate, the more you will feel part of this family, this school community. You can get involved in student parliament; make your voice heard. We welcome feedback and want to make everyone feel comfortable and a part of our school," she added. Ms. Therrien continued:

"Our staff will bend over backwards to support you and make every effort to offer engaging classroom settings and curriculum. The choice to be in class every single day and not skip; those small choices are the battles that you will need to do every day. Creating good habits for yourself is the single most important thing for your success. It's about being here, being present, and trying your best. If you are present every day, our staff will ensure you will succeed. We all face challenges along the way, but you are not alone. You have family, friends, staff. It is brave to ask for help, not a weakness. It's a sign of strength and something you should embrace, as you will need to do more of this as you go through life -- asking for help. As Spartans, we lift each other up and help support each other. Today, as you begin your journey, I encourage you to dive right in."

Andi Sokoloski, a grade 12 student, presented some of the things she had learned since starting at EHS in Grade 9. She began by welcoming the new students joining EHS. "Take risks, ask questions, show up every day, and give it your best effort," said Andi. She offered insights into how to join clubs and sports that allow students to meet new people and find peers with similar interests. Andi empathized with how the new students might be feeling. She recalled her own experience as a Grade 9 student, feeling concerned and nervous, and she reassured the group that "everyone has been there" and the school community is available to help new students. "We are all here to support you," concluded Andi.

EHS Teaching Staff introduced themselves, each taking a turn at the microphone to tell the students a little bit about themselves and what they can expect in their class. The teachers formed a line once they completed their introductions so that all student guests in the bleachers could visually see the entire staff of EHS at once. Every staff member was wearing EHS spirit wear!

Following the greeting session, Josephine Toulouse and Charlene Morrison, on-site to support the students of Sagamok, explored the halls of Espanola High School, familiarizing the students with various locations such as the cafeteria, the gym where they had just gathered, the library, the office and Guidance Department, where the secretary/administrative staff are located. Students were also shown where Josephine's office as a Guidance & Career Coach is situated to offer support to students of Sagamok.



Students were given a chance to find their locker based on the itinerary given to them upon arriving. It outlined their teacher's name, classroom numbers, their homeroom, and the subjects that they are assigned for the upcoming school terms, fall/winter and spring/summer. They had a chance to meet other students also entering grade nine and enjoy a BBQ lunch in the courtyard while chatting. Josephine and Charlene are both familiar faces providing support to the new students throughout this transitional phase. The day was meant to offer a chance for new students entering high school to familiarize themselves with the school layout, the agendas, assignments, what to expect, how to succeed in high school, extracurricular groups, clubs, sports, teams, student council opportunities, all available to sign up for. All the presenters underscored the message that help is available to all who seek it and supporting each other is the school motto.

EHS Jump Day was a helpful and meaningful day for all future grade 9 students starting high school on September 3rd. Miigwech to Josephine, Charlene, and the staff of Espanola High School for offering this invaluable experience to calm the jitters and jumpstart an entirely new education experience.

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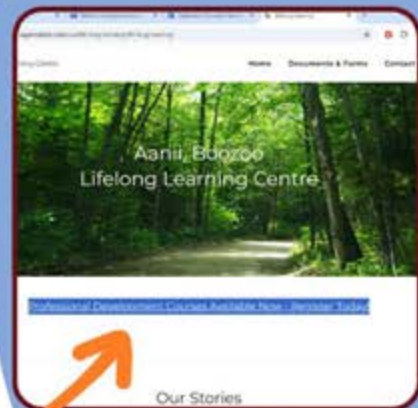


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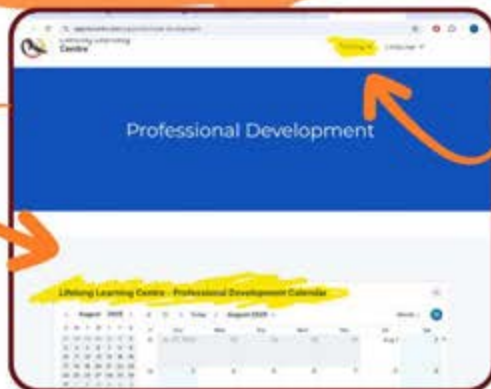
www.sagamokeducation.ca

Select the third icon to navigate to the Lifelong Learning Centre page!

Once you are on the Lifelong Learning Centre page, select the link below the banner photo "[Professional Development Courses Available Now - Register Today!](#)"



Courses are completely FREE. We recommend you register right away to secure your place. Space is limited. Alternate courses may become available depending on demand. Contact our Intake Coordinator, Kristy Bennett, for assistance.



New Professional and Personal Training Programs are becoming available regularly, so be sure to check back often.



**SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK
EDUCATION**

Z'gamok Mining Partners with LLC *Brings Common Core Training to Sagamok*



In the month of July, lead instructors Judy Christie and Scott Ringette provided several mining-specific training and certification courses at the Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC). Judy and Scott both work for Z'Gamok Mining (formerly Legend Mining), a subsidiary of Z'Gamok Enterprises Inc. (ZEI). This partnership between ZEI and Sagamok Education has evolved over time and provides Sagamok community members training right here in the community. In addition, these programs offer an opportunity for individuals to complete mining-related certifications that relate directly to jobs that are in demand right now. So far, courses have been held for a single day, over two days, or a full 5 days over the summer months, with the Fall season promising to see more interesting training opportunities arriving.



Students and Teachers occupy one of the many classrooms at the LLC – recently upgraded with new tables, desks, office chairs, and technological features – offering comfort, adequate space, an air-conditioned environment, and the opportunity for personal student-teacher interaction. Students – ranging from recent high school graduates to seasoned adults seeking a job change – can expect to receive certificates upon successfully completing their course work. This is a big step towards achieving their goals of a career in the mining industry, of which there are a multitude of jobs available and a broad selection of areas to specialize in!

For more details on these and other great programs being offered at the Lifelong Learning Centre, please contact Kristy Bennett, Intake Coordinator, at 705-865-2421, or any of the Guidance & Career Coaches who are available to support and offer insight into education that is appropriate for your career path and personal development. Visit our newly designed website at www.SagamokEducation.ca for a full calendar listing of courses and programs being offered at the Lifelong Learning Centre and register on-line through our new direct registration links! Need assistance to register? Drop into the LLC and Kristy will be happy to help get you enrolled. Most courses are FREE. Sagamok Education strives to provide current, modern, and easily accessible options to meet the needs of community members, and we will continue to enhance our services and methods of accessing them in the most efficient, user-friendly manner possible.

Education Supports

Literacy Department Updates

Introducing a new Library Support member at Biidaaban....

Aanii, my name is Skylar Sayers-Southwood.

Since the end of April, I have been working as a library assistant at Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik. Supporting the staff and helping in the library has been a very rewarding experience — more fulfilling than I ever expected.

I grew up in this area, spending my childhood in Webbwood and the last ten years of my life in Espanola, all part of Sagamok's traditional lands. Growing up, I often found it funny that so many of my classmates said they would leave the area and never come back — yet most of them did. As for me, I always knew this was my home. My life is here, my family is here, and now my career is here too. I've never left, and I never will.

In my spare time, I love to write stories, which makes my position here in Sagamok feel like such a perfect fit. Every book I come across inspires me in its own way. I also enjoy playing music, watching sports, and spending time with my girlfriend, my family, and of course, my two cats.

I look forward to assisting everyone in the library with literature needs!

Chi-Miigwetch,

Skylar



Specialized Skill & Talent CALLOUT

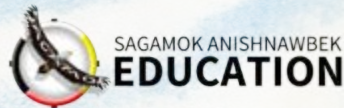
If you have a specialized skill, talent, or ability in cultural activities, crafts, or knowledge, **we are looking for YOU!**

Ask Allison Abitong about joining our **resource directory** for workshops and demonstrations at Biidaaban.

705-865-2421 Ext. 942 | abitonga@biidaabanschool.ca



On September 29, Daycare and Biidaaban recognize Orange Shirt Day to support the Every Child Matters movement.



ALLISON ABITONG

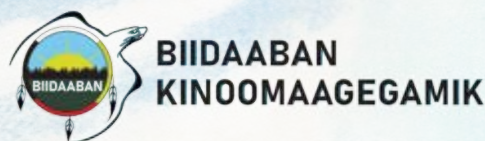
SYSTEM PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT SUCCESS

 abitong_allison@sagamok.ca

 Lifelong Learning Centre
717 Sagamok Road
Sagamok, ON
P0P 2L0

Aanii. Please allow me to introduce myself as the newly appointed **System Principal of Student Success**. Lindsay Lefebvre is moving into my former role as Special Education Resource Lead. We will collaborate regularly to support the students of Biidaaban.

As a System Principal of Student Success, I am responsible for ensuring that applicable and necessary supports are accessible and implemented across all of Education, to ensure the success of every Sagamok student, at every stage of their lifelong learning journey. It is essential that assessment practices are in place to inform the required supports, which I will also manage. I look forward to serving Sagamok Education in my new role.



LINDSAY LEFEBVRE

SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE LEAD

 lefebvre@biidaabanschool.ca

 Biidaaban Kinooaagegamik
1666 Toulouse Bay Road
Sagamok Anishnawbek, ON
P0P 2L0

My name is Lindsay Lefebvre, and I am excited to step into my new role as **Special Education Resource Lead** at Biidaaban Kinooaagegamik. For the past eight years, I have had the privilege of teaching here and building strong relationships with our students, families, and community. In this new role, I will be overseeing special education supports within the school and working closely with our Educational Assistants to ensure students receive the help they need to succeed. I will be reporting to the System Principal of Student Success (Allison Abitong) and look forward to supporting our students and staff in this capacity.



Announcing.....

**Raven Hammond
Student Mental Wellness Specialist**

Aanii! I'm excited to introduce myself as the new ***Student Mental Wellness Specialist***. In this role, I'll be leading the development and delivery of mental wellness programs across our Lifelong Learning system—from Daycare through to the Lifelong Learning Centre.

My work will focus on areas such as stress management, grief and loss, bullying prevention, mindfulness, and overall mental well-being. I'll also be collaborating closely with school teams, community partners, and allied services to ensure these initiatives are meaningful, relevant, and accessible to all learners.

In addition, I'll be creating tools and systems to evaluate the effectiveness of our wellness initiatives, helping us make informed decisions that support student success and a positive learning environment.

I look forward to working alongside all of you to create a community where mental wellness is a shared priority. Please feel free to reach out—I'm always open to conversations, collaboration, and new ideas.

Best regards,
Raven Hammond, BSW, RSW
Student Mental Wellness Specialist



Comfort cushions found in the Early Learning classroom.

A message to help support students and caregivers transitioning from Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik elementary to Espanola or other area High Schools.

Starting high school is a big step, and it's completely normal to feel nervous, unsure, or even overwhelmed. You're not alone—many students feel the same way. As you begin this new chapter, remember:

- **It's okay to take things one day at a time!**
- **Stay organized with your schoolwork**
- **Set small goals**
- **Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it!**
- **Joining clubs, sports, or other activities can be a great way to meet new people and find your place.**
- **Most importantly, take care of your mental health—get enough sleep, eat well, and make time for things you enjoy.**
- **If you're feeling stressed or anxious, talk to someone you trust, whether it's a friend, teacher, counselor, or family member.**

You don't have to figure everything out right away. You've got a community behind you, and you're more capable than you think.

*Shared by Raven Hammond, Student Mental Wellness Specialist
Sagamok Anishnawbek*



Land-Based Learning with Daycare- *Learning about Mooz*

Land-based Lead, Michael Abitong, and Elder in The School, Patrick Wenigwans, provided knowledge to Daycare friends on September 18th about the moo (moose). Daycare staff gathered the children to help them get dressed for the outdoor activity which included everyone wearing a bright orange vest. This safety feature is of utmost importance to keep everyone visible and accounted for when accessing the woods. Gathered around the newly built fire circle, (miigwech to Merle and Michael Abitong for constructing the benches and site for daycare to use for land-based teachings), the children listened intently as Michael provided age-appropriate information about moose, their habitat, moose calls, and characteristics.

Moose can call from five miles away, Michael informed the young learners. He and Patrick demonstrated both the cow and bull moose calls, answering one another while they hid amongst the brushery, adding an authentic twist. Using real antlers, they demonstrated the sounds and actions of a bull moose scraping or 'raking' the tree branches with his antlers when he is disturbed or threatened. Then, Michael, clacking and



locking the antlers together simulated how the animal fights or protects itself in the wild. Our young Daycare friends were intrigued by the entire scene, which Michael and Patrick had brought to life in front of them, and they showed interest in touching the large antlers and reenacting Michael's demonstrations themselves.

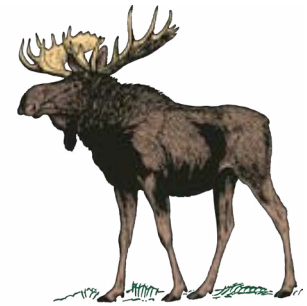
Michael and Patrick, along with Daycare educators, showed the young friends the tools; wiigwaas (birchbark) to make a wiigwaas moose call, with a finished model on hand for them to hold and explore. The students made their own personal moose call by rolling a paper cone and securing it with tape. This provided a fun, interactive tool for the kids to practice calling with, and there was soon a symphony of moaning moose calls. They were apji niishin (very good) at it! "Ready for Fall Harvest", joked Michael. The Elder, Patrick, felt certain there could be a moose visiting the daycare area that same evening.

Time next for some exercise and bush exploration on the sunny, autumn day. Michael and Merle have also cleared a wonderful walking trail in the bush behind the daycare. It's a circular route over uneven terrain and alongside rotted stumps, perfect for insect viewing, and giant, 80-year-old pine trees. Michael stops the group of adventurers to look up and admire the tree's size and age, planting the mental seeds for future recognition and knowledge. A call from a moose was heard while everyone was on the walk, stopping everyone in their tracks to listen intently as to which direction it came from. Returning back to



the skoode (fire) circle, Michael used a puppetry tool to introduce students to various animals and their Anishinaabemowin name, such as:

- Migizii (eagle), who looks after everyone from the sky,
- Mooz (moose)
- Bezhigoogzhii (horse)
- Mi'iingan (wolf)
- Makwa (bear)
- Animosh (dog)
- Mnidoonsag (insects)



The outdoor lesson concluded then, but the children used their moose call long afterwards, demonstrating their interest and ability.

Time to enjoy some play time on the gloriously sunny day, and maybe a snack with friends too. Miigwech to Michael and Patrick for providing this informative and impactful land-based unit.

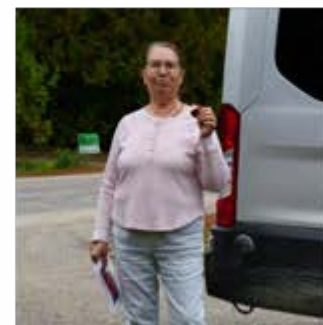
Let's explore



Mishiimin - Apple Picking land-based learning with Daycare Friends ~ September 24, 2025 ~



Mishiiminaatig - Apple Tree



Land-based Lead, Michael Abitong, provided Anishinaabemowin terms and education about mishiimin (apple) to Daycare Friends. Miigwech to Charlene Owl for inviting the students to harvest and learn from her mishiiminaatig (apple tree) and gifting cupcakes to the kids too! Miigwech, Marilyn Jones, for driving the kids to the mishiiminaatig.





Anishinaabemowin Words about Mishiimin - Apple

Try practicing these words
together with family or friends.

Mskwaa - Red

Makak - Basket

Mishiiminaatig - Apple Tree

Mishiiminikaa - Many Apples

Mishiiminaaboo - Apple Juice

Mskwaa Mishiimin - Red Apple



Land-Based Learning with EL1

Bneshiinh Identification



Land-Based Learning with Daycare

Welcome Skoode and Trail Walk



New Land Based Learning area; September 10, 2025 - This morning we went out to our new fire area. We had Mike and Patrick visit with us. Mike took us for a walk in the new trails we have for our children to explore the land behind our daycare. After our walk the children had some roasted hotdogs. -Tiffany

Photo credit:
Tiffany Bell

Chi Miigwech to everyone who supports education in Sagamok.



Elders in the School

Patrick Wenigwans



Elder in the School program has been resurrected and Patrick Wenigwans (Paddy) is filling this important and cherished role. Patrick can be found around Biidaaban about three days per week! He assists wherever he and his knowledge is needed, but assists Land-Based Lead, Michael Abitong, with many of the outdoor teachings such as the moos unit (also assisted at the Daycare with this program), sacred skoode (fire), maple syrup making – sharing and imparting his knowledge on the students. He enjoys helping the students, and always has a smile on his face!

Patrick proudly showed a replica 8-foot-long wiigwaas (birch bark) canoe he made with his own two hands. It was intricately detailed along the edges with half-moon shapes individually cut from the birch bark. Patrick explained in detail how



he gathered the large sheets of birch bark from high up in the tree, how to carefully harvest it so as not to damage the tree, the process of soaking it to make it pliable for forming the sides and base of the canoe -- placing sheets over the frame and sealing off all of the exposed edges with a tar mixture made of spruce gum. He went on to explain that spruce gum, once boiled, turns a yellow colour. When you drain off the water, the gum remains. Build yourself a hardwood fire (burns nice and hot) and let it burn itself out. Take the ashes from the fire and mix these with the spruce gum to make a powder/paste mixture and spread this on any of the exposed edges front and back where the bark meets to form



the shape of the canoe. Once the paste dries, it is harder than concrete, explained Patrick, and he knocked on it to demonstrate. There was no chance of removing it! The canoe frame, ribs, and thwart were built from cedar, from which Patrick chose an older tree providing wider, stronger wood for a sturdier canoe. The replica took him several weeks to create! He hopes that the youth in Sagamok will take an interest in building a wiigwaas canoe too, and he has the knowledge to share with those who do.

Giigoonh – Fish



Gill netting, fish filleting, and fish identification with Land-Based Lead, Michael Abitong, with the Grades 3, 6, & 8 classes at Biidaaban. Miigwech to the fishermen, Julien Kiernan, Sky Jacobs, and Michael, who brought in a fresh catch of fish to demonstrate gill catching. Miigwech to the CFAU for providing the program boat. Demonstration and knowledge sharing of identifying and filleting fish by Merle Abitong, and staff members, Mark Aizenburg, and Michael. Species on hand were: pike, pickerel, rainbow trout, bass and sucker all caught in Sagamok. Chi miigwech everyone!



Infrastructure has been busy preparing classrooms at the Lifelong Learning Centre. Many new programs, training opportunities, personal development classes, and computer lab areas have been designed and procured to meet the needs of all learners -- helping to ensure that any Sagamok citizen can reach their full potential and access education right here at home with staff who are familiar, knowledgeable, and ready to assist.





Daycare Shed Move - but first, build a foundation.



Miigwech to the Justice Department for allocating a picnic table to the Lifelong Learning Centre. Staff and Students can enjoy break time outdoors utilizing the table.



Infrastructure Updates

September Infrastructure updates at Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik involved clearing and levelling an area, and building a foundation in anticipation of moving and enlarging the current storage shed. The Daycare van requires a larger shed to provide adequate space for it to be stored indoors. As a result the existing shed is being lifted and moved to this new foundation and simultaneously made larger. Dan Owl, Infrastructure Manager, is overseeing this project alongside Clyve Southwind of Nodin Construction. The crew pictured here, experienced some extremely heavy rain during their work which only momentarily stopped construction. Kudos to these hard working individuals who endure the elements!



**New Arbour constructed at Biidaaban
Summer 2025**



Removal of the bus curb to increase space and turning radius for the buses as well as ease snow removal in winter.

Miigwech to Nodin Construction - Clyve Southwind and team, for building this beautiful Arbour to be utilized for ceremony and land-based instruction at Biidaaban.

Solar Panel Project at the LLC

Over the course of about three weeks near the end of July, the entire Lifelong Learning Center west-facing roof was transformed into an energy efficient solar panel powerhouse. Guelph Solar, who successfully won the tender bid, brought in a crew of solar power specialists along with a tractor trailer load of solar panels, panel connectors, a forklift, and safety bars that were installed along the roofline to ensure worker safety during the installation process. Company president, Steve Dyck, informed us that engineers determine the correct number of panels to install on the roof to achieve maximum energy and support the demands of the Lifelong Learning Center. In this case, 266 panels were installed generating 127,680 watts at maximum efficiency. Each panel generates 480 watts each. The power and electricity need of the centre includes a variety of things such as lighting, heat, air conditioning, water, and water heater, with previous usage data considered.



The LLC parking lot was cordoned off for the duration of the install to ensure the safety of both staff and public accessing the building. Significant space was required to unload the panels and their connectors via forklift from the full-length trailer and transfer them safely to the roof for the awaiting installation specialists.

Guelph Solar is a company that prides itself in recruiting members from the community to be employed for these projects and to learn the operation and repair/troubleshooting of the solar panels and connectors. This empowers the community to be self-sufficient in generating and managing their solar energy, “building stronger, more sustainable communities” as their credo states. The solar panel project is a continuation of the efforts towards green energy and proprietorship. It also enables the opportunity for community members to gain new skills and develop careers in a new specialized trade sector. Landon Trudeau and Simon Inkster received specialized training throughout the installation project, and the two are designated within the community as the champions for maintenance of the solar panel project moving forward. Final touches on the project includes the installation of a control box which Simon completed and is currently awaiting hookup by Hydro 1.

Infrastructure Updates

Increased Security at the LLC

On September 10, Dave Williamson of [Williamson Security Services](#), installed three new security cameras on the Lifelong Learning Centre (LLC) premises, adding improved visual coverage of the building's interior and exterior. The on-site cameras serve to increase security for the LLC building as well as for the staff/occupants using the facility and grounds. While Dave was at the LLC, he repositioned some of the existing cameras to improve their viewpoints and coverage. Dave also provided updated instructions to the administration staff, Kristy Bennett, Intake Coordinator at the LLC, outlining the new camera locations, how to alter the views, focus on a specific entry point, and general operational best practices. Dave has been installing security cameras around Sagamok for over two years and continues to offer ongoing training, service, and strategic advice. It is reassuring to know that safety measures are continuously being implemented under professional guidance, and upgrades are being made to provide enhanced security for the community.





ANISHINAABEMOWIN LANGUAGE CORNER



Bineshii - Birds

Anishinaabemowin ~ English translation

Bineshii ~ Bird
 Miimii ~ Pigeon
 Gwiingwiish ~ Blue Jay
 Waabziinh ~ Swan
 Aandek ~ Crow
 Naanookshkaa ~ Hummingbird
 Gaagaakshiinh ~ Raven
 Gegek ~ Hawk
 Bine ~ Partridge
 Pichi ~ Robin
 Jijaak ~ Crane
 Jijjiinshkwe ~ Killdeer
 Nkak ~ Canada Goose
 Gayaashk ~ Seagull
 Migizi ~ Eagle
 Jigjigneshiinh ~ Chickadee
 Gookookoo ~ Owl
 Waahoonesenh ~ Whippoorwill
 Ginew ~ Golden Eagle
 Baapaase ~ Woodpecker
 Maang ~ Loon



Practice saying and memorizing the various bird species. Draw a line from the bird species to the matching picture. See how many birds you can recognize!



mshiimin
apple



mzinhigan
book



mshkimod
bag



zhibiigaans
pencil



zhibiignaatig
pen



school bus



kinoomaagegamik
school



nbwaa
learn



dkaashid
have fun

Greetings & Introductions **Anishinaabemowin** to English

LANGUAGE

Aanii!
Hello!

Aaniish naa! How are you?

Nishiin! Good!

(Insert your name) Nidishnikaaz.

My name is (insert your name).

Aaniish Eshnikaazyin? What is your name?

Sagamok ndo jibaa. I am from Sagamok.

Apiish enjibaayin? Where are you from?

(Insert your community name) ndo jibaa. I am from (Insert your community name)

Mino giizhgad. It's a good day.

Enh, mino giizhgad. Yes, it's a good day.

*Join
the
Conversation*





Introducing....

....our newest Language Revitalization project!

The Sagamok Education and IT & Communications Departments have been working collaboratively to develop a digitized version of the Sagamok Anishinaabemowin resource books.

These resources are a wonderful way to learn our beautiful language! You can hear proper pronunciation, read/spell the words in both Anishinaabemowin and English, and test your learning through interactive questions to support you at your own pace. Listen for the intro/outro recorded by our very own, Bradley Trudeau; reknowned host and voice of *Bimaadiziwin Radio - The Sagamok Hour*.

Whether you are new to learning Anishinaabemowin, want to refresh your memory, or want to teach your child/grandchild – this interactive learning resource is available for the first time **on-line** and was created by Elders and Staff right here in Sagamok!

The first book (Bineshii/Bird) can be found on the Education website at **www.SagamokEducation.ca** by clicking on the Sagamok Language Learning icon. More books are being developed! Check back often and watch for announcements as new books become available.



ENTER TO WIN ONE OF 4 GIFT CARD PRIZE PACKS!



Aanii.

Scan the QR Code and
complete the short survey online.

Your response will help us
serve you better.

Miigwech!

Prefer paper? Fill out the survey on the other side of this page.

Include your contact details below so we can contact you if your name is drawn as the winner of the prize pack. Drop your ballot into the ballot box located in the main lobby at the Lifelong Learning Centre (717 Sagamok Road).

Contest closes December 1st.



NAME	
EMAIL <i>Fill in if you would like to receive emails from Sagamok Education.</i>	
PHONE NUMBER <i>Required for contacting winners of the draw!</i>	

**Safe,
Supported Learning
Journeys**

**Awesome
Learning
Experiences**

**Clear,
Adaptive
Processes**

**Anishinaabe
Aadziwin
Inspiration**

Sagamok Anishnawbek Education Includes and Supports:

- Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik,
- Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik,
- Lifelong Learning Centre, and
- Education Support services.



**SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK
EDUCATION**

Miigwech and thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and helping us to better serve the community.

You are welcome to offer additional comments or suggestions by contacting the Education Communications Officer directly at Cassidy_susanne@sagamok.ca. Submissions remain confidential.

MICROSURVEY

Education Newsletter – Dgwaagik Edition

1. Do you feel you receive adequate notice about Education news, events, training programs, services, and where to access them? Check the option that applies.

☐	Yes	☐	No
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2. We currently share Education news, events, training programs, services, and detailed information on our Websites, Facebook Pages, Digital Signs, Newsletters, Email, and Flyers. Where do you go to find your information? Please check all that apply.

☐	Sagamok Education website (www.SagamokEducation.ca)	☐	Sagamok Anishnawbek website (www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com)
☐	Members of Sagamok Anishnawbek Facebook group	☐	Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik Facebook group
☐	Sagamok Education Email subscription	☐	Education/Community Newsletters
☐	Digital billboards	☐	Flyers posted throughout the Community

3. Please rank the items below from 1 (most important) to 4 (least important) to show what you would like Sagamok Education to provide more of.

☐	News/Stories/Publications	☐	Events/Announcements
☐	On-site Training Programs/Skill Development	☐	Online/Social Media presence/Advertising

4. Are there any other platforms where you feel we should share information? Do you have any other comments? Your feedback will help us continue to improve Sagamok Education Communications.

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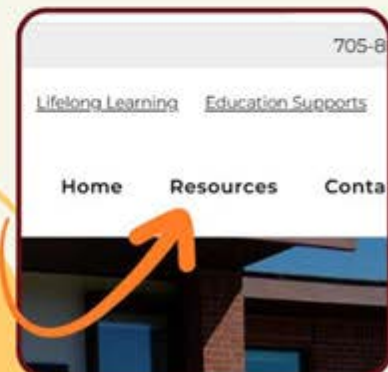
START LEARNING ANISHINAABEMOWIN TODAY!

www.sagamokeducation.ca



Begin by going to the Sagamok Anishnawbek Education website at: www.sagamokeducation.ca.
Select the far right icon for Education Supports!

Once you are on the Education Supports page, select Resources (from the three tabs on the header bar on the right hand side.)



In Resources, you can access language courses to help you learn Anishinaabemowin!

Courses are completely FREE and you can repeat them as often as you like. We recommend you do!

Work at your own pace, on your own time, in your home or on your phone.



Start learning today!
Anishinaabemowin gii-miikawaadizi
Our language is beautiful!





Shki Waase-Aaban Binoojiinh Gamik

3042 New Subdivision Road

P.O. Box 2004

Sagamok, Ontario

POP 2L0

Manager: Rachel Toulouse

Phone: 705-865-1180



Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik

1666 Toulouse Bay Road

PO Box 2217

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POP 2L0

Principal: Becky Toulouse

Phone: 705-865-2387



Lifelong Learning Centre

717 Sagamok Road,

Sagamok, ON

POP 2M0

Manager: Claudette Fournier-Jones

Phone: 705-865-2421



Education Supports

Infrastructure

Student Resource Services

Land Based Learning, Literacy, Numeracy

Busing / Transportation

Leadership Team

