

Weaving Tradition with Technology



KiHS T1 Newsletter 2019~2020

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Booshoo!

We are just finishing up term 1 and it has been a busy semester. With only 8 weeks this term, it goes by very quickly. We have several new staff members to welcome this year.

Sangchul Yu – Fort Severn

Jason Ho – Fort Severn

Mary Anne Barrett – Sachigo Lake

Thomas Choong – returning to Bearskin after a leave

Jason Clement – our new Tech Lead

Sally Anderson – Keewaywin

In addition, some others have new roles

Becca Letkeman – Land-based Lead

Albee Eisbrenner – Grad Coach

Kathleen Koostachin – full-time Language Lead

So far this term, we also have had many exciting activities happening in the classrooms and communities. We are moving forward with implementing our service model, where we take on a holistic approach to education – academic success, land, wellness (physical, mental, emotional), and culture. You may now see some of our support staff traveling as a group because we understand how each of these areas can complement each other. For example, in Deer Lake we incorporated language and culture when creating artwork from the land. Take a look at the rest of our newsletter to see some of these exciting activities happening at KiHS.

Angela Batsford-Mermans, KiHS Principal

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KiHS Language & Culture Program Update

Booshoo! Wachiye!

Miikwehc Kihci-Manito nokoom kakiishikaak!

Kathleen Koostachin nitishinihkaasin, Wasaho nitoonciin ekwa anihshininiwi-masinahikaninan nitanokiitanaan ekwama eshaaponaamaanan.

My name is Kathleen Koostachin, I am from Fort Severn. I currently reside in Thunder Bay. My current position with KiHS is I am the Native Language Lead and instructor for the Native Language courses and Judy Barrett is the Cree course Language Instructor.

As part of my position, I travel to KiHS communities for community engagement to be a support for the classroom. It has been a wonderful experiences, I have learned some much about how each communities have their own unique distant local dialects with its similarities and differences. I do hope to learn more about the local writing system. I am not there to change any of the language programming but to be a support and help students to be proud of their Language as our Languages are part of who we are as Indigenous people. Becca Letkeman, who is the Land Base, Rhonda Kakegamic and Margarita Quill, who are the Wellness workers and I are working together as a team to help build a program that will support our students.

In Deer Lake, Mona Meekis, KiHS mentor and I along with students collected natural leaves to make creative art. It was a time to connect with the land to see its richness with its beautiful fall colors. Of course, we had a quick wiener roast. Afterwards, we created art using the leaves, we collected, and it was time to visit and talk with one another. I did a mini-language lesson using the KOBE language Oji-Cree app by incorporating technology to learn the colors. I learned that color green is said differently in Deer Lake; as to how I would say it. It is always a wonderful learning experiences by far. I do hope to make visits to community and do more language activities that are meaningful and fun.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with ideas.

Kihci-miikwehc to the communities for welcoming me.

Kikawaapaamin miina (I will see you again.)

Kathleen Koostachin

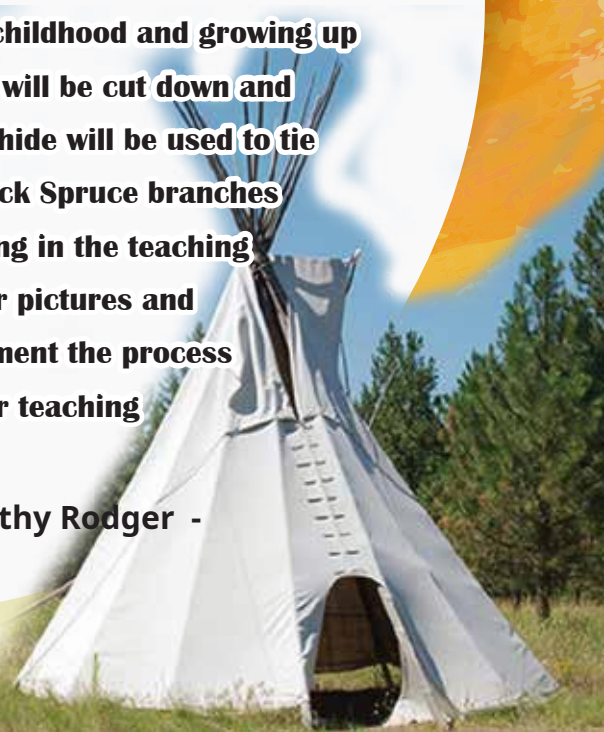
Teepee Construction At Fort William



On Oct 3, Fort William students and KHS office staff braved the wind and rain to start the construction of a teaching lodge for our classroom. Elders Dan and Maggie Magiskan took us into the bush to share their knowledge on harvesting Black Spruce poles. Spruce roots were also collected to use in making birch bark baskets later in the year.

Dan and Maggie shared stories from their childhood and growing up on the trap line. The poles were selected and will be cut down and debarked before the teepee is erected. Raw hide will be used to tie the poles together and Black Spruce branches will be used as a flooring in the teaching lodge. Stay tuned for pictures and stories as we document the process of constructing our teaching lodge.

- Cathy Rodger -





Land Based Learning (Cont'd)

Fishing Trip with Choose Life in Keewaywin



Keewaywin KJHS fishing trip with Choose Life

We partnered with Choose Life for a fishing trip near Niska Lake. Students went fishing, some for the first time! It was much more than just a fishing trip; students learnt skills for how to keep warm; fishing and cleaning fish; making bannock and the Ojicree words for all of the ingredients.

Once out on the lake, David asked us if we brought fish with us to eat. We certainly did not, as we planned to catch fresh fish to eat! This is an important reminder to how important these skills can be, as not catching fish could mean that you or your family does not eat. Fortunately, we did bring creamed corn, beans, and bannock so at least we would have something. Learning how people traditionally thrived off the land to hunt and gather food brings out the best in our students! One student rose to the occasion and caught 2 walleyes! Imagine the confidence gained by a student who has never gone fishing before, and has all of a sudden found success to feed our whole group! You can bet there were some very positive stories that were told to his family and friends that evening. We were lucky to have so much support from the local David Fiddler and Darren Fiddler (Choose Life), Becca Letkeman (Land Based Lead), and Kathleen Koostachin (Native Language Lead). Choose Life is geared towards at risk First Nations youth, and one of their goals is to partner with local schools to get students outside!

- Albee Eisbrenner -





Land Based Learning (Cont'd)

Partridge Hunting Trip in Weagamow



October 10th, 2019. Kathleen, Becca, and I just got back from a visit to Round Lake. We started off our time playing egg throw and a BBQ the first day. The second day we started off our morning early at 6am. We had breakfast and off we went for a partridge hunt. On the third day elder Pierre Morriseau shared some teachings with us. Connection with one another, elders, and the land is so important and it helps with our Wellness. Thanks for having us KiHS Weagamow. Extra thanks to Saul Williams for hosting us and BBQ'ing, and Pierre Morriseau for sharing! So much fun!

- Margarita Quill, KiHS Wellness Worker -



Land Based Learning (Cont'd)

Canoe Trip At Fort Severn



On September 24-26 KiHS students and Choose Life staff in Fort Severn embarked on a two night canoe trip down the Pepowatin River. The route began on a narrow section of the river inland, which eventually turned into a broader river flanked by yellow tamarack trees closer to the coast. By the end of the trip we could see Hudson Bay and were canoeing in water that was only a few feet deep! Along the way we navigated some small rapids, learning to always "shoot for the V!" We saw beautiful rainbows, lots of geese, and one canoe even saw moose. We also ate some delicious food including piles of breakfast sausages and caribou meat. Many thanks to Mary Miles, Levius Miles, and Jordan Chookomolin from Choose Life who were our guides.

- Becca Letkeman -



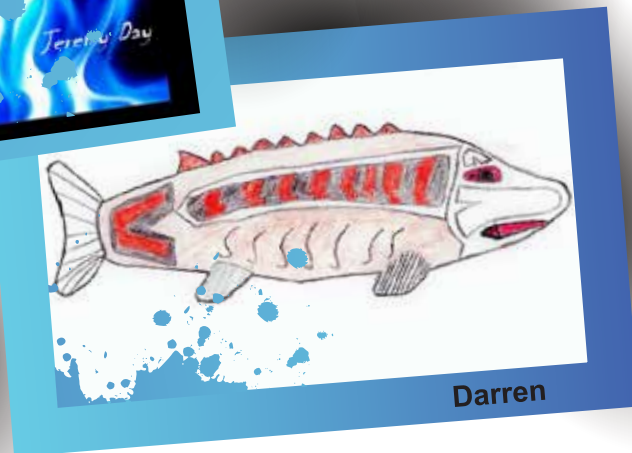
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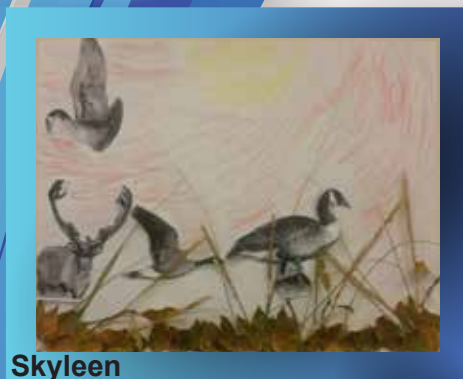


Art: Student Projects

Sachigo



Fort Severn





Art: Student Projects (Cont'd)

Mattagami

All trees are blowing on a cold night
Black wolf cub
"Come to me little cub"
Don't be scared little one
Everywhere you look is forest
Fur as black as space
"God, lead this cub back to its mother"
Howling noises coming from the dark forest
I can help you
Just come to me and you will see
Knock knock on the tree
Look out, there's a predator coming our way
Monstrous looking eyes
No one move
Off goes the cub
Pouncing into the wolf's direction
Questions swirling around in my head
Rain starts pouring
Smells of campfire beside me grow weaker
Two lost animals find their way to each other
Unbelievable
Very cold winds start blowing
Why is this happening
eXit at once, leave the animals be now
Yesterday I went to sleep
Zero idea I would be having this dream

~Sophia Norman





Moccasin Making in Mishkeegogamang



Braiden Lawson taking a slice of homemade pizza for lunch.

On Wednesday, October 9, 2019 students in Mish were visited by Rhonda Kakegamic, our student wellness worker where we spent the day making moccasin slippers. Students cut and sewed all day long as a way to relax and make a beautiful pair of slippers for themselves or a loved one. Braiden Lawson made a pair of slippers for his mom who is currently "rocking them" as we speak. In addition, students also helped to make lunch that day by making pizza from scratch. Tammy (the mentor) made the dough while students completed the process by rolling the dough and adding the toppings. It was a fun-filled day in Mish!

Spaghetti in Fort Severn



Fort Severn students prepared the spaghetti for lunch for the classroom. Some students sacrificed their time, with a smile and kindness to all. In addition to this sacrifice, what was initially prepared was not enough, the 3 of them stepped up by contributing more ground beef and onions from their own home. Because of their work and sacrifice, everybody, including teachers, was well fed and happy.

Congratulations

"Congratulations to each of the following three Nibinamik KiHS students; Lilia Neshinapaise, Tiffany Neshinapaise and Tommy Yellowhead for successfully completing their one of PLAR assessments during the first half of term one! Each student passed their respective assessment by making school a priority: coming in each day and working through their booklets slowly and methodically and then when ready taking their time to carefully complete their assessment. Congratulation to you all! By applying the same commitment and effort to your studies continued success will be assured!"

Maureen Wainwright
Nibinamik Teacher-Mentor



**Who is next,
You?**