

Happy Christmas

Weaving Tradition with Technology



KiHS T2

Newsletter 2019~2020

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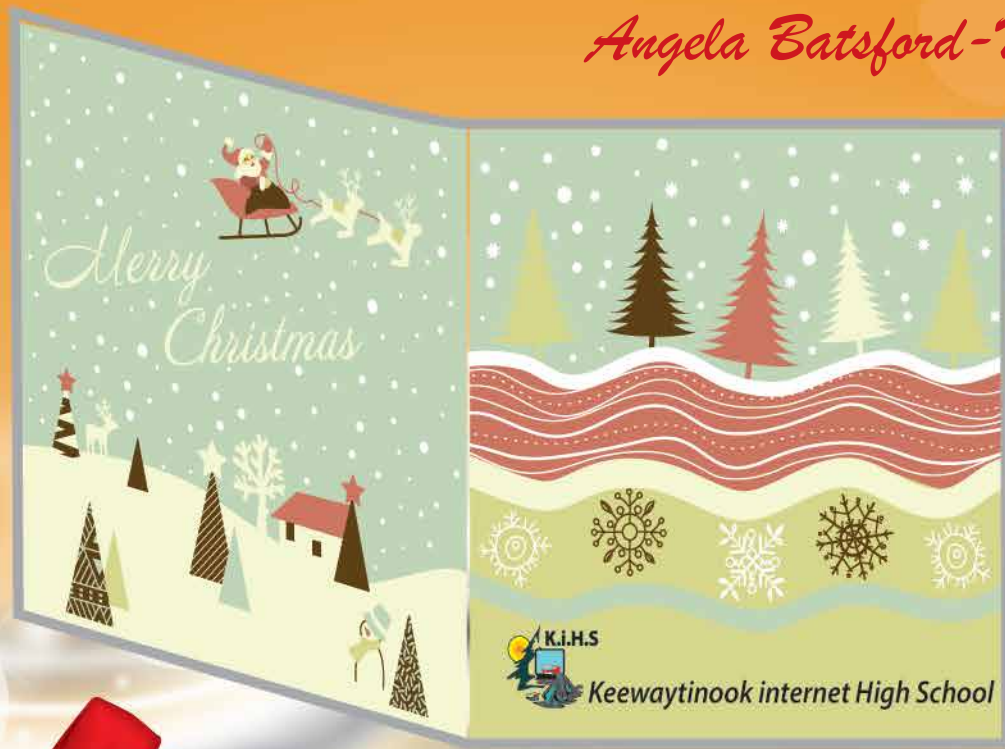
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<http://kihs.knet.ca/>



*Greeting Card from K.I.H.S Principal,
Angela Batsford-Mermans*



We are just finishing our second term at K.I.H.S. and so many Credits have been earned this year. There also has been many wonderful things happening in each of the communities, such as field trips and cultural teachings, that it makes me happy to be a part of it all. I am thankful to each of you for your hard work. I am thankful for our communities that support our school. I am thankful to the mentors, support staff, instructors and community members that make everything come together. I hope you enjoy your much deserved break and enjoy the time with those special people in your lives.

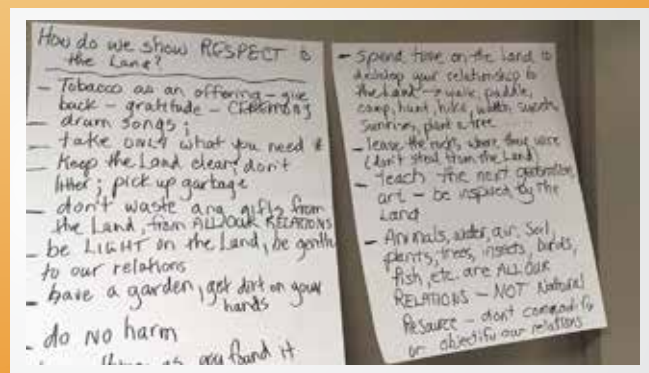
Go'v. Ldrp. Sb's

Angela



Teachings of the Moose - Balmertown

On November 29th, Kaaren Dannenman joined KiHS and KOBE staff in Balmertown to share teachings of the moose. The afternoon started with a delicious potluck with perogies, moose stew, and pie. Kaaren asked staff to think of ways that we can respect the land – we filled up five flip board pages! Ideas included respectful hunting practices, no littering, and creating art and poetry to give thanks for the beauty of the land. We played a traditional game called Naapa'waakan, where we had to use focus and perseverance to collect points. The workshop ended with necklace making; every participant sanded, dyed, and strung a necklace with a moose bone pendant. Miigwetch, Kaaren, for sharing with us!





NAN Conference

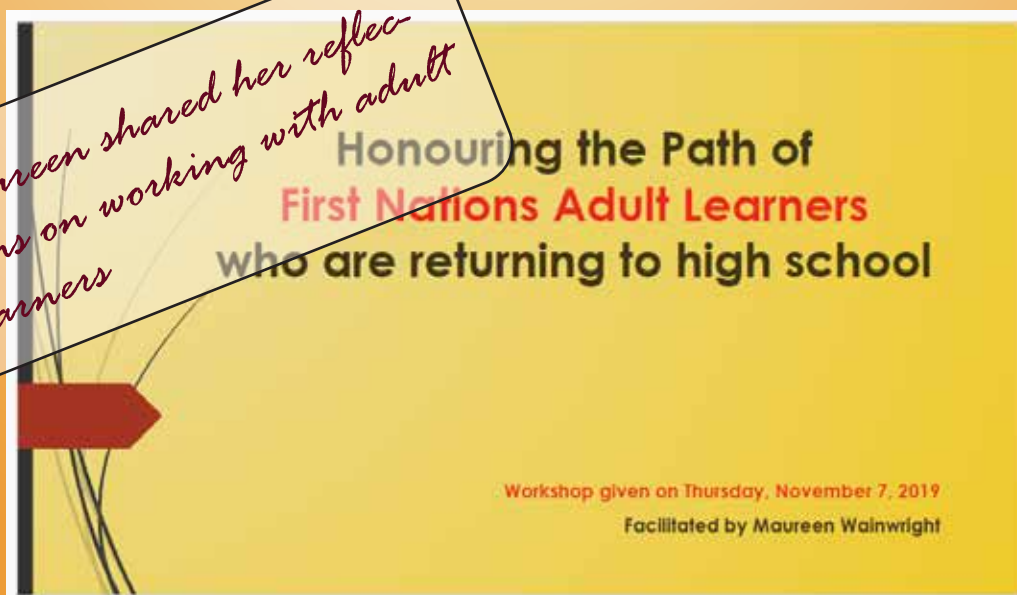
Becca Letkeman, Land-Based Learning Lead

On November 5-7, Nishnawbe Aski Nation held a Best Practices in First Nations Education Forum in Thunder Bay. Several KiHS staff were able to attend and a few even presented. Kathleen, Rhonda, Margarita and myself presented our service model for language, culture, land and wellness programming in an interactive workshop. Maureen shared her reflections on working with adult learners. The conference was held over 3 days and was an excellent opportunity to meet new people and learn about what other schools and districts are doing!

Becca, Becca, Kathleen, Rhonda and Margarita presented their service model.



Maureen shared her reflections on working with adult learners





Learning New Plants In Poplar Hill

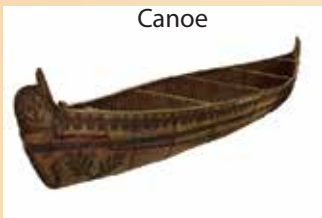
Becca Letkeman, Land-Based Learning Lead

On a recent trip to Poplar Hill we went on a walk to collect Willow and Red Osier Dogwood to make wreaths. Red Osier is also called Red Willow for it's distinct, vibrant colour. Both shrubs tend to grow near water and are used in a variety of ways. They both have strong, flexible stems that can be used for the ribs of canoes, dream-catcher frames, wigwam frames, and emergency snowshoes! Elder Emma Wassaykeesic joined us to make the wreaths and shared that when she was younger she would see the willows being used for snowshoes.

Dream-catcher



Canoe



Wigwam



Wreath



Snowshoes





New Classroom for Mattagami Students

Ian Vaithilingam, Mattagami Teacher-Mentor

Moving to New Classroom



Packing



New
Classroom
Building

Classroom
Before

Computer
Setting



Classroom
Decoration



Making
Classroom
Home

Open
House





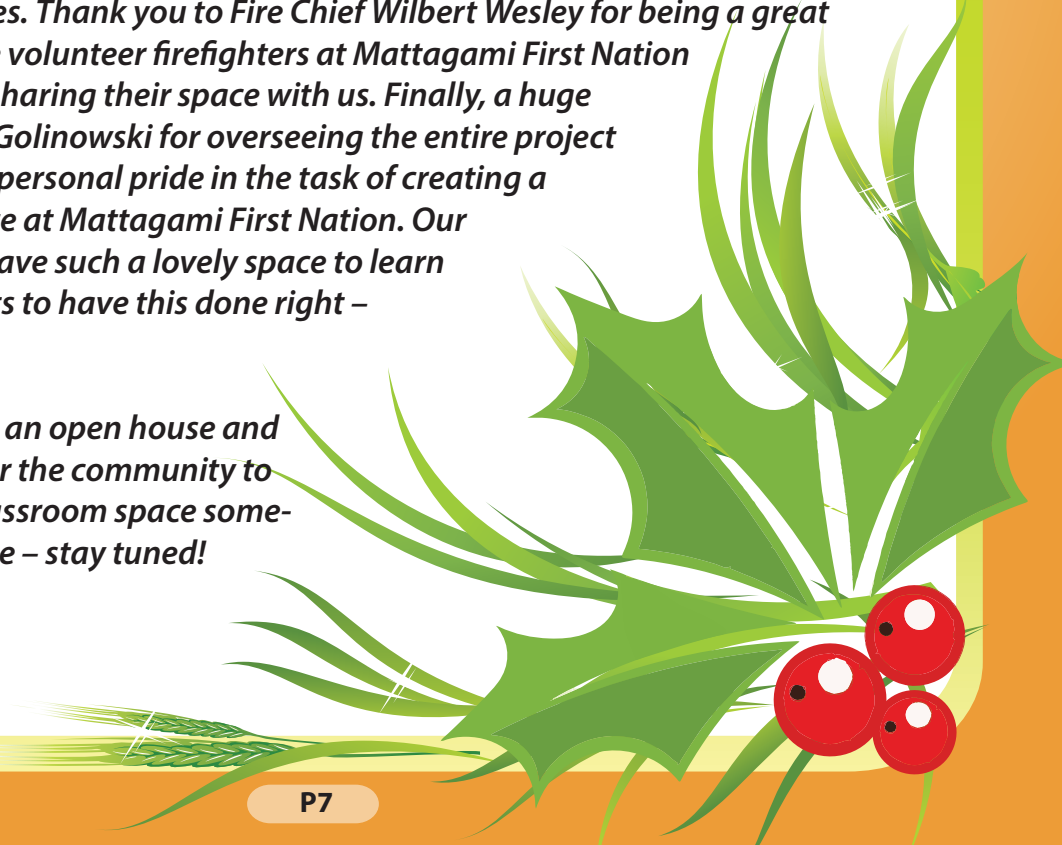
New Classroom for Mattagami Students (Cont'd)

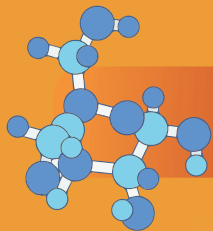
We moved! After countless hours of painting, cleaning, assembling, packing, hauling, and unpacking, we are now settled in a brand new KiHS classroom space at Mattagami First Nation! Our new classroom is located on the second floor of the Fire Hall. After spending more than a year in a temporary classroom on the stage of the Community Complex, we had our first day of class in our new space on Friday, November 15.

The classroom is still a work in progress, and we're still settling in – future plans include creating a reading lounge, an art/science workshop area, and a music/audio-visual space. Our students are already much happier and more productive here, having more comfortable work spaces, faster wifi, and fewer interruptions. We'll miss the excitement of the Community Complex, but we now have a better environment for learning.

There are many people whose help and hard work made this move possible. Thank you to Juanita Luke and Dereck McKay who handled finances and organized things in the band office. Thank you to Grayson Luke for hooking us up with fast wifi. Thank you to Tianna McKay-Golinowski who painstakingly renovated our new space by literally painting every surface. Thanks to Laurie McKenzie for leaving our new school sparking clean – you could seriously eat off the floor. Thank you to KiHS student Ethan McKay for spending a whole day assembling all of the chairs and desks. Thanks to Public Works – especially Gerald Luke and Steve Wilks – for helping fix hardware issues. Thank you to Fire Chief Wilbert Wesley for being a great roommate and to the volunteer firefighters at Mattagami First Nation Fire Department for sharing their space with us. Finally, a huge thank you to Janelle Golinowski for overseeing the entire project and taking immense personal pride in the task of creating a new high school space at Mattagami First Nation. Our students would not have such a lovely space to learn in without your efforts to have this done right – thank you!

We're hoping to have an open house and opening ceremony for the community to check out the new classroom space sometime in the near future – stay tuned!





Science Olympics in Thunder Bay

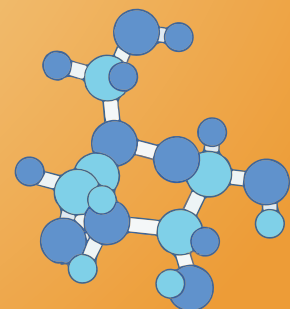
Cathy Rodger, Fort William Teacher-Mentor

On November 22, eight students representing KIHS flew to Thunder Bay, Ontario to compete in the Northwestern Ontario Science Olympics. Two junior teams competed in various events which involved team work and collaboration in the areas of science, engineering, technology and problem solving. The teams battled snow storms and delayed flights as well as extensive travel to compete at the regional level. KIHS is proud to have been represented by our outstanding students from Poplar Hill, Fort Severn, Webequie, Nibinamik and Weagamow. The Science Olympic team members were made up of Raine Bighead, Jayce Metatawabin, Triston Bluecoat, Landon Yellowhead, Lennox Wabasse-Moonias, Hunter Spence, Rhonda Strang and Caidence Quequish. Chi Miigwich to our KIHS staff for their intricate organization, chaperone time, and mentor assistance, all which helped to make the competition a success.

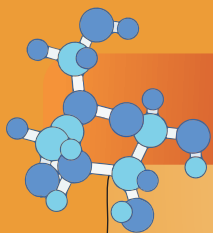
Collaboration



Training

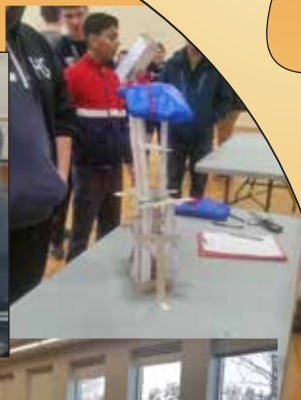


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Science Olympics in Thunder Bay (Cont'd)

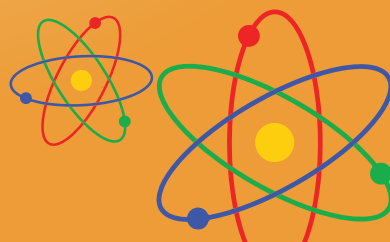
Participation



Entertainment



Success





Potential Grad Event - Fort Severn

Albee Eisbrenner, Grad Coach



I am thankful to the Fort Severn students, teaching staff (Sang, Jason, and John), and community for a wonderful visit. Fort Severn has thriving ball drop in volleyball nights on Monday and Wednesday organized by Grace. We provided a session on finding success in the classroom with this year's potential graduates along with a delicious dinner including sushi rolls made by Sang! During this presentation we worked on creating individual timetables to fit anyone's schedule. We found that there is power in writing down our commitments in order to set a weekly routine. We discovered time that we didn't know we had! Success isn't about working non-stop, but actively finding a balance between our physical, mental, social, and spiritual dimensions of health. Please email me if you would like a blank timetable to help create a schedule that works for you! You can reach me at albeeeisbrenner@edu.knet.ca or on Facebook at Albee KiHS.





Crafting and a Cookout in Deer Lake

Margarita Quill, Wellness Worker

Land-based and Wellness activities happened in Deer Lake from November 18th-20th. Students got to make dream catchers, learned how to cook fish and moose meat, and also learnt about stress and how to manage it. Students said the best part was the bean explosion. Yes, beans exploded and no one was hurt but there was lots of laughter. Thank you Deer Lake for having me and Becca!





Sachigo Classroom Events

Mary Anne Barrett, Sachigo Teacher-Mentor

Pizza Making

During a shopping excursion one day, Darren asked if we could make a big pizza with pizza dough. I said, "Sure!" When this time came, I had Darren make the dough. This was new for him and he was very unsure if he was doing it properly but he enjoyed getting his hands in the squishy dough. When I checked in, I realized he used too much hot water and unfortunately we did not have any flour to add. Instead, we used the remainder of a carrot muffin mix package that we had left over. This did the trick but it gave the dough a distinct muffin flavour, however the boys didn't mind it and even asked to make "muffin pizza" again weeks later.



Halloween Scary Movie Afternoon

On Halloween afternoon, I realized my students had enough work done to afford taking the afternoon to watch a scary movie. They chose a movie, I set up the comfy couch in front of the big screen, and as they watched I made them popcorn and camp pizzas. I was dressed up as my classic costume, a fox. After the movie I helped Darren make his own halloween costume featured here. Can you guess what it is? You got it! He's an "identity thief", complete with multiple name tags, a hand-made mask, and a KiHS toque (burglar hat).





Sachigo Classroom Events

PLAR



Collecting Firewood

On one chilly morning, my students and I showed up to class and the internet for the whole community was not functioning! We decided this was a great opportunity to get outside with some axes and collect some firewood to donate or use for another day. Jeremy (in the black sweater) was all for it as he gets firewood for his family on a regular basis. Darren (in the camo sweater) was slightly apprehensive because this was not part of his regular routine, but he decided to give it a go anyways. I gave the boys some gloves and away we went! They had a great time chopping at logs that had already fallen and collecting small branches for kindling. They piled their harvest in a big bucket and we allowed it to dry in the corner of our classroom. Henceforth this was referred to as the classroom “bush”.



Civic Involvement in Nibinamik

Maureen Wainwright, Nibinamik Teacher-Mentor

KiHS student Blaine Jacob with the newly elected Chief of Nibinamik Sheldon Oskineegish. Blaine has spend the last two Fridays working as a junior scruti-
neer during the Chief and Band Council elections here in Nibinamik! What a great experience for Blaine. Thank you to Election Officer Daisy Neshinapaise and her team, Peggy Rae, Emily Oskineegish and Tim Beaver for giving Blaine this opportunity. Congratulations to the newly elected Chief and Council and to all the candidates who ran in both elections!





Classroom Activities in Keewaywin

Sally Anderson, Keewaywin Teacher-Mentor

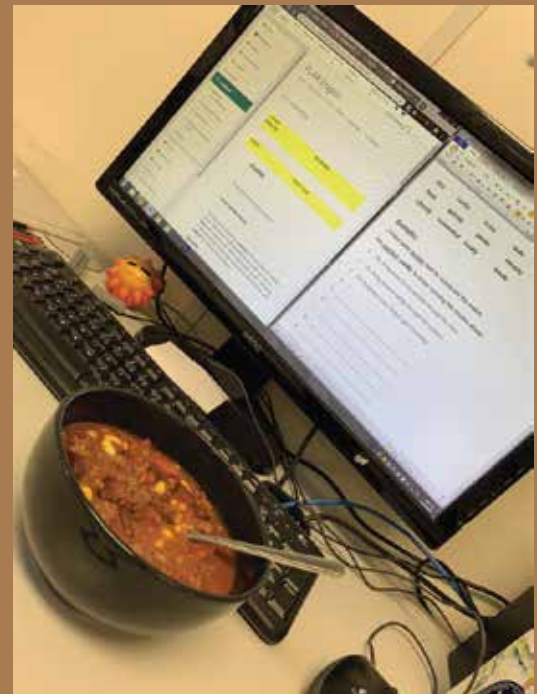
It has been a busy term here in Keewaywin!

We have been lucky enough to get an opportunity to skin a rabbit and learn about how to skin a wolf. We have spent afternoons with art therapists, a physiotherapist and a dietitian. We worked together to make a few different healthy meals that we shared with the community. We joined some activities in the teepee around the fire. We also had time with a film director who gave us information about photography and filming and filmed us for his documentary (maybe we will be on TV someday soon!)



Chad Strang finished two PLAR's (History and English)

KO Board of Ed student support services team had students out building shelters. KiHS students joined groups in the teepee for hot chocolate and storytelling.



Healthy bodies and healthy minds. The students made healthy chili to warm them up while they were studying.



Classroom Activities in Keewaywin (Cont'd)



Gavin Morriseau and Chad Strang working together to make Christmas door decorations for the community contest.



Student Gavin Morriseau working with filmmaker Rodney Dwira who is making a documentary about Keewaywin.



Student Todd Meekis making a smoothie with oats for long lasting energy. Student Chad Strang cutting vegetables for healthy chicken soup.



Student Nate Thompson talking about snaring a wolf and the process of drying the fur.



Powwow in Mishkeegogamang

Tammy West, Mishkeegogamang Teacher-Mentor

The weekend of November 14-16, residents in Mishkeegogamang First Nation had the opportunity to participate in a traditional powwow. The powwow opened with a grand entry of jiggle, hoop and grass dancers from Manitoba, Ontario and of course, Mishkeegogamang. Participants got the chance to listen to the singing, drumming and practice their own jigs. It was a three-day gathering for healing, laughter and friendship. The weekend ended with a traditional feast of moose, partridge and bannock.





Poplar Hill gets ready for Christmas!

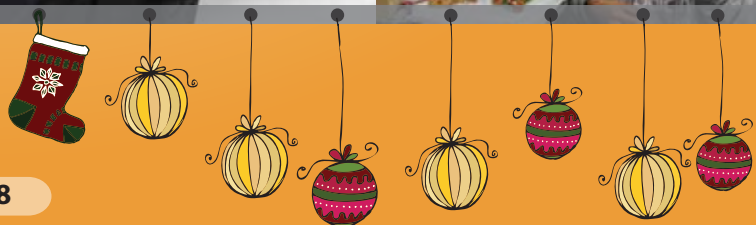
Anita Locs, Poplar Hill Teacher-Mentor



December 2019 - KIHS in Poplar Hill had multiple visitors this last full week before upcoming Exams and the coming Christmas holiday break. Becca Letkeman and Kathleen Koostachin visited our classroom with many Christmas activities. Several Grade 8 students from Ahgwahbuush Memorial School came to check out their possible-future school and the advertised Gingerbread House contest. The classroom was bustling, with some students intensely focused on their candy-garnished gingerbread house projects, while others were still plugging away on the computers with their final Term 2 assignments. We all had a break to drink steaming hot chocolate, with the background Christmas carols piping in a festive atmosphere on the local radio.

The following day, elder Emma Wassaykeesic visited the school to help us make Christmas wreaths with the Willow and Red Osier Dogwood branches collected at the water's edge in Poplar Hill. Collection of these branches was brisk as it was -27 degrees outside, but beautifully sunny and calm. Inside again, Emma and others worked the flexible branches into beautiful wreaths, while our entire group shared the sun streaming in the windows and the short, laughter-filled time together.

The days are getting shorter and colder; the nights are filling with frost and snow. We are all starting to say goodbye to 2019....but there's still a bit to go! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from KIHS in Poplar Hill!





KiHS in the NEWS - We are famous!



Interview with the Thunder Bay Broadcast at Science Olympics

CLICK HERE
To see the video.



Chasity Bluecoat, a Fort Severn student, got an RBC award for Outstanding Work by an Indigenous Youth Reporter for their journalism on access to mental health services from JHR, Journalists for Human Rights, at the Night for Rights event on November 25.

CLICK HERE
To see the video.



Wolfe Tait from Sachigo was a student of ours last year. He did really well in our program last year and it sounds like he is having a good year this year too!

CLICK HERE
To see the News.



KiHS Career Series
- Interview with John George McKay

CLICK HERE
To see the video.

