



AHCAHK SPIRIT BEAR MUSKWA

KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION LIFE LONG LEARNING

OCTOBER 1, 2023 ISSUE

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EVENT PHOTOS ON PAGE 10-11



KAPAWE'NO NĒHIYAWAK SCHOOL: Fostering Truth and Reconciliation Through Tradition and Education



Kapawe'no First Nation – At Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School on Turtle Island (Treaty 8, the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation pulsates through a deeply enriching day devoted to the history, culture, and future of its Indigenous community. Lead by LAWF through the Buffalo Bay Academy, Mr Fred Mack, managed to have all students, teachers, staff and Nation members participate in today with reconciliation and honouring all our children that didn't make it home, Every Child Matters!

The day started with a Nēhiyawēwin Circle with Ms Angela Courtoreille and Mrs Linda Gladue, the cornerstone of Nēhiyawak identity, and traditional grown tobacco by Leana Richardson and our school,

[more on page 5](#)

Uniting Disciplines: Buffalo Bay Academy Expands Boxing Program to Include Mixed Martial Arts

Kapawe'no First Nation - Buffalo Bay Academy at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School is making strides in greatness with academics and athletics as a winning combination by integrating Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) into its already flourishing Boxing Academy.

his expansion broadens the scope of athletic training available to our students but also enriches the curriculum with a deeper layer of complexity and skill development. Students can now transition seamlessly from the art of boxing to the



diverse disciplines encompassed by MMA, including Muay Thai and Jiu-Jitsu.

[more on page 3](#)

The Renewed Heartbeat of Kapawe'no First Nation: A Month of Reconnection through Nēhiyawêwin

Kapawe'no First Nation - Leading the way in Nehiyawak Learning September - Onocihitopisim Mating month - Rutting Moon 2023 has been a transformative month for Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School, driven by the ambition of achieving Nēhiyawêwin immersion.

Each school day began virtually at 8:45 a.m., as guided by our morning agenda. The schools gather online for the Drum Song by Muskwak Juniors and arm Cory Cardinal Jr followed by Waniska and Kâkîsimowin, an Opening Prayer in Nehiyawewin. The virtual session includes sacred numbers and places, Kihcitwaw Kisnawmakiwinah ekwa Wiyasiwiwinah (sacred grandmother / grandfa ther teachings) culminating at 9:15 a.m.

Transitioning to in-person learning, the Nēhiyawêwin Circle takes the center stage. Here, students, teachers, and keepers dove deep into conversational Nēhiyawêwin. With special attention on immersion, the in-



person circle allowed for focused language exercises tailored for all grades, in line with our Nēhiyawêwin Roadmap.

The Priority Areas of the roadmap were continuously addressed, including the launch of a digital and in person Nēhiyawêwin immersion program. Storytelling sessions featured ancestral songs and stories, and children even created story books in the language. As the month ended, the school

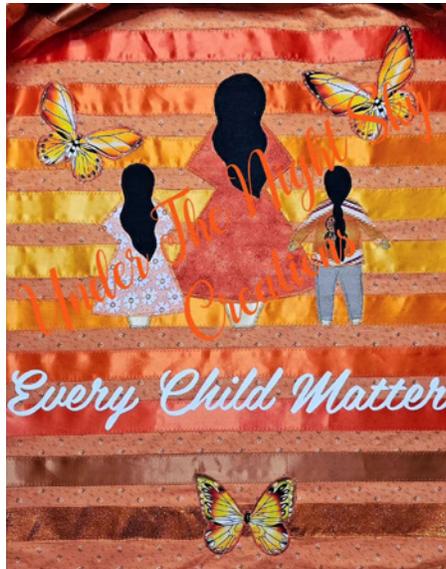
came together to celebrate those who had contributed to the roadmap's success with Muskwak monthly awards. The monthly ceremony will be held to honor the dedication of our students along with our keepers, thanking them for their guidance and teachings. This initiative, merging virtual, in-person and LAWf teachings, is not just a milestone but a stepping stone for what lies ahead in the vibrant life of Nēhiyawêwin for generations to come.



The Journey Toward Truth: Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School Champions Calls to Action and Indigenous Empowerment

Kapawe'no First Nation - Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School continues to be more than a space for textbooks and equations; it's a forum for transformative dialogue and actionable change. Recognizing the urgent need to move away from Canada's colonial past, characterized by the Indian Act, residential schools, and exclusionary policies, the school earnestly integrates the Calls to Action from the Truth and Canada's Reconciliation Commission into its daily curriculum.

This is further strengthened by the powerful message that "Every Child Matters," positioning the school as a place of hope and change in the educational landscape. Central to the school's mission is the unwavering belief that education must be a tool for justice, embodying the Nêhiyawak way of learning. By educating students about the history of Indian Residential Schools, Kapawe'no First Nation aims, through its school, to nurture a generation that understands not just the truths of the past



but is also committed to rectifying them. The school adopts a solution-based approach, equipping students with the knowledge and resources needed to challenge systemic inequalities and contribute to the collective

journey toward reconciliation. Aware of the topic's weightiness, educators focus on both inspiration and empowerment. Alongside hard truths, students encounter stories of resilience, survival, and triumph from within their own communities and histories. This multifaceted approach ensures that while students learn about past wounds, they also grasp the limitless possibilities for the future. As Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School continues its transformative educational mission, it sets an example not just for our Nations within the territory but for all of Turtle Island. It showcases what education can look like when it rises to meet the challenges of Canada's dark history and the demands of justice. For those who enter our domain, the message is resounding: the path to a Canada that acknowledges, respects, and celebrates its rich Indigenous Nations lies here. And Canada must understand that prosperity is unattainable without true partnership with us; apologies are insufficient. Actions forming true partnerships will be the first step toward real reconciliation.

Uniting Disciplines: Buffalo Bay Academy Expands Boxing Program... from page 1

This holistic approach allows students to garner a broad spectrum of skills, from striking and grappling to self-defense and discipline. The overarching goal is to provide a comprehensive athletic experience that complements the school's very strong academic offerings under the auspices of Principal Mr Jordan Thiessen and Athletic Director Mr Brian Thomas.

Coach Sam Kachuk, who spearheads the MMA initiative, works in synergy with boxing to develop programs that are both distinct yet interconnected. The result is a dynamic environment where students can explore multiple pathways to physical and mental growth, all while engaging in activities that instill both fun and a deep sense of personal accomplishment.



By expanding its Boxing Academy to include MMA, Buffalo Bay Academy sets a new standard for academic institutions, one that promotes a well-rounded, versatile approach to student development. This initiative further

establishes Kapawe'no School as a pioneering where Nêhiyawak learning and modern athleticism coalesce into an extraordinary educational life long learning experience.

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Fostering Truth and Reconciliation Through Tradition and Education... from page 1

offerings to honor our ancestors. Elder and knowledge keeper Mrs. Diane Halcrow receives the school-grown tobacco and delves into the meaning of Orange Shirt Day, connecting it somberly to the children who suffered in Canada's Residential School System. Mr. Cory Cardinal Sr. speaks to the gathering, stressing that teaching Nêhiyawak traditions, language, and culture serves as a continuous act of reconciliation.

Transitioning from words to action, students break into groups for hands-on traditional crafting. Under the guidance of Mr. Scott Courtoreille and Mr. Cory Cardinal Jr., they engage in drum-making, each beat resounding as a heartbeat of their rich history and vibrant culture. Meanwhile, Elders and knowledge keepers Mrs Diane Halcrow and Mrs Priscilla Sutherland lead another group in crafting traditional rattles. Yet another group, mentored by Ms. Erin Thunder and Shakira, focuses on creating doll-sized mini skirts, honoring their ancestral attire. Ms. Angela Courtoreille supervises the beading session, where each bead serves as a vivid note in an evolving cultural tapestry.

The activities culminate in a communal meal that combines bannock dogs and burgers, harmonizing modern tastes with traditional flavors. The day takes an educational pivot



as Elder / Knowledge Keeper Larry conducts a medicine walk around the school grounds. This is not just a leisurely stroll; it serves as an in-depth study of traditional plants vital to Nêhiyawak medicine, solidifying a tangible bond with the land. A modern flair is added by the special attendance of members from the High Prairie Red Wings hockey team, seamlessly merging contemporary Canadian hockey culture with Nêhiyawak way of life. Their presence indicates greater engagement in the path toward reconciliation.

The day winds down with students returning home, bearing pieces of Nêhiyawak living and wisdom, as well as orange shirts and freshly crafted traditional drums and rattles. More than just snapshots, the day

encapsulates hope, resilience, and a nation collectively striving for a reconciled future. At Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School, every child genuinely matters, and each day is a step closer to reconciliation and a brighter, more inclusive future for all. To our remarkable students, elders and knowledge keepers, teachers, staff, nation members, and Red Wings—Kinaskomitin for making this a day to remember!





Enriching Lives through Holistic Learning

A R T S | M U S I C | S P O R T S | L A W F

We envision Buffalo Bay Academy

as a beacon of holistic learning, where the boundless potential of each student is ignited through a harmonious blend of arts, music, sports, and LAWF (Land, Air, Water, Fire) interactions. Our commitment to holistic education extends beyond the classroom, preparing our students for a fulfilling and balanced life enriched by arts, music, sports, and a deep connection to the land.



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A Balance of Sports and Academics Takes Center Stage: Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School Launches Robust Athletics Program for 2023/2024

Kapawe'no First Nation - At Kapawe'no Nêhiyawak School, we've always believed in the strong relationship between academics and athletics. Both are crucial for the holistic development of our students. As we kick off the school athletics season for 2023/2024, our excitement is palpable, and our offerings are more diverse than ever.

Our weekly athletic activities lead by Mr. Brian D. Thomas, Athletic Director are meticulously planned to keep our students engaged and physically fit. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, students will immerse themselves in mixed martial arts and boxing in High Prairie.



Swimming sessions at the aquatics center on Monday's and volleyball conditioning are also on the agenda. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the focus shifts to hockey training at the Ice Palace in High Prairie. This year, we're honored to have a skilled roster of coaches including RCMP Constable Martens, Mr. Courtorielle, Superintendent Mr. Boh Kubrakovich-Kiniw and Mr. Cardinal Jr.

Complementing our coaching staff are our invaluable school support workers, who assist in equipment management and supervision. Their help ensures that coaches can focus on skill-building on the ice, enhancing the quality of each training session.

And let's not forget lacrosse—a sport deeply connected to our Nêhiyawak ways. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays at the school's playing fields. Students will undergo plyometrics and agility drills, honing their skills in this dynamic sport.

We are looking forward to an exhilarating year ahead, offering our student-athletes a range of sports to explore and excel in. Our goal is to enrich their lives, cultivating not just intellectual but also physical prowess.





KAPAWE'NO NÊHIYAWAK SCHOOL

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- > Academics
- > Athletics
- > Indigenous Arts and Music
- > LAW (Land, Air, Water and Fire) Learning

An Indigenous Way of Knowing (Language, Traditions, Culture, Practices, Values and Morals) and Learning. Our delivery model is based on the Seven Grandfather and Grandmother Teachings and Learning.



Kindness, Fairness, Nurturing Excellence

Where are we located

Our school is 3.5 hours north of the city of Edmonton and 2.5 hour east of Grande Prairie on paved highway on the north-west shore of Slave Lake (Buffalo Bay). High Prairie and Slave Lake are two towns located nearby.



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Scaling New Heights with the Buffalo Bay Academy

Kapawé'no First Nation - At Kapawé'no First Nation, we are delighted to introduce our newest addition to the First Nation Collegiate structure – Buffalo Bay Academy. Comprising four distinct academies - Arts, Music, Sports, and LAWF (Land, Air, Water, Fire), Buffalo Bay Academy embodies our vision of nurturing holistic education, allowing our students to thrive as Nêhiyawak individuals.

We envision Buffalo Bay Academy as a drive of holistic learning, where the boundless potential of each student is ignited through the blend of arts, music, sports, and LAWF interactions. Our goal is to provide a well-rounded education approach that transcends the conventional boundaries of academia, fostering balance in the lives of our students as they embrace their identity as Nêhiyawak people.

Buffalo Bay Academy's mission is that we are committed to joint empowerment of our students for lifelong success by offering a comprehensive curriculum enriched with the wisdom of our Nêhiyawak way of life. Our dedicated teachers and instructors serve as mentors, guiding students on their journey towards advanced learning. We believe that the fusion of traditional values with modern knowledge equips our students with the tools they need to excel academically, culturally, and personally.

Through Buffalo Bay Academy, we aspire to cultivate well-rounded individuals who not only achieve academic excellence but also carry forward the rich cultural balance of the Nêhiyawak people. Our commitment to holistic education extends beyond the classroom, preparing our students for a fulfilling and balanced life enriched by arts, music, sports, and a deep connection to the land.

Arts Academy

At Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School, our commitment to the Arts Academy is a testament to our dedication to cultural preservation and artistic innovation. Our comprehensive Nêhiyawak Arts Program transcends the boundaries of time and tradition, skillfully weaving the threads of ancestral indigenous artistic practices into the vibrant way of contemporary expression. This unique program serves as a bridge, connecting our students to their cultural roots while equipping them with the tools to navigate the ever-evolving world of art.

Our Arts Academy stands as a beacon of empowerment, nurturing the artistic spirit within each student. Through a curriculum rich



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in tradition, students explore the intricate beauty of beadwork, quillwork, and traditional painting techniques, forging a deep connection to their Nêhiyawak way of life. Simultaneously, we encourage them to spread their creative wings into the modern artistic landscape, embracing painting, sculpture, digital art, and more. In this environment of cultural immersion and artistic exploration, our students not only become skilled artists but also passionate advocates for the enduring legacy of First Nation arts.

Music Academy

The program at Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School harmoniously blends traditional drumming and Nêhiyawak music traditions with contemporary wind, brass, and percussion instruments. This fusion creates a vibrant and culturally immersive musical journey, paying homage to our community's heritage while embracing modern musical elements.

Our Music program is committed to providing students with diverse learning and performance prospects, including participation in sports games, festivals, and other events that spotlight their

musical talents and foster teamwork skills.

The introduction of top-notch wind, brass, and percussion instruments marks an exhilarating milestone. Our vision to unite traditional drumming and Nêhiyawak music practices with modern instruments presents an exclusive opportunity for our students to explore their rich cultural heritage alongside contemporary musical expressions.

Sports Academy

It's wonderful to hear about the diverse sports and activities offered at Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School. Here's a slightly revised version of your description:

Archery (Pimotatowin) - Archery is a fun, educational, and traditional activity for young people at Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School. This all-inclusive sport enhances muscle endurance, flexibility, hand-eye coordination, and strength. Beyond physical skills, archery teaches discipline, respect, and self-control, qualities that carry over into students' attitudes, work habits, and other school activities.

more on page 12



Fostering Truth and Reconciliation Through Tradition and Education





“More than just snapshots, the day encapsulates hope, resilience, and a nation collectively striving for a reconciled future. At Kapawe’no Nēhiyawak School, every child genuinely matters, and each day is a step closer to reconciliation and a brighter, more inclusive future for all.”





Staff and student sharing circles are conducted during the mornings during the week.

SHARING CIRCLES

Our Kihiw feather is used for guidance balance, truth and solutions through our *Nēhiyawak way of life*

For details please discuss with our Nēhiyawak Keepers
Call KFN School at 780.751.0008 or email admin@kfnschool.ca

Scaling New Heights with the Buffalo Bay Academy... from page 9

Boxing (Pakamatohkewin) - Our youth boxing program at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School provides a safe and enjoyable outlet for students to engage in physical activity. Boxing imparts essential lessons in dedication and discipline, helping students channel their energy productively while fostering focus, coordination, and respect.

Hockey (Miskwami Mitawiwin) - At Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School, our students eagerly anticipate participating in the national sport of hockey. We host weekly on- and off-ice sessions, catering to both beginners and those advancing to minor hockey in the area. All our students receive a complete set of hockey equipment generously donated by Sports Central in Edmonton. Our experienced teacher-coaches guide their development. Hockey, as a team sport, not only encourages physical activity but also promotes health, confidence, and cooperation among players.

Lacrosse (Metawewin) - Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School offers a Lacrosse Program that instills character both on and off the field. It empowers



students to set personal goals and teaches both the traditional and modern versions of the game. The traditional form serves as a healing and spiritual experience, nurturing mental strength and challenging students to become better versions of themselves.

LAWF (Land, Air, Water, Fire)

Our "Learning through LAWF" program at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School offers a unique opportunity to connect with traditional Nēhiyawak skills in the environment itself.

Students learn valuable hands on skills such as fire-building, shelter construction, ice-fishing, land navigation, archery, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wilderness first-aid, team-building, firearm safety, and survival skills.

Students also have the privilege of learning from our local traditional knowledge keepers who guide their journey in connecting with the land. Exciting activities and field trips await, including our outdoors canoe/kayak and snowshoe clubs at the school!

This exploring our land learning is vital for our Nēhiyawak youth to deepen their cultural connection. Mother Earth imparts lessons in balance and high-level education.

Our Music Journey Continues: Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School's Week in Music

Kapawé'no First Nation - Music has long been a universal language, and at Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School, and Nêhiyawêwin and music is being spoken passionately. This past week was a testament to the school's commitment to fostering musical talents across various age groups, ensuring that every student has the chance to explore and express themselves through the medium of sound.

For our 7-12 grade students, the week was a continuation of their journey into the world of musical instruments. Their dedication was defined as they confidently strummed, blew, and beat their way through the first three notes. Their progress was evident not just in individual prouddness, but also in their collaborative spirit.



The musical baton was then passed to our 4-6 grade students, who embarked on an introduction to the world of ukuleles. The light, cheerful tones of the instrument resonated through the school's corridors, a testament to the students'

enthusiasm and swift learning capabilities. "Music isn't just about instruments; it's also about voice and tradition", said Mr Fred Mack. Our K-3 students showcased this beautifully.

Going deep into their Nêhiyawak roots, they embraced the Nêhiyawêwin (Cree) Animal song, a solid reflection of our Nêhiyawak ways of life. Alongside this, they also reveled in the Fireflies song, allowing their youthful voices to soar and echo with glee.

In a week filled with chords, melodies, and songs, Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School reaffirmed its dedication to nurturing the musical spirits of its students, helping them find their voice, both literally and figuratively.

Engineering Success: The Bridge-Building Journey of Grade 7 Students

Kapawé'no First Nation - At Kapawé'no Nêhiyawak School, the Grade 7 class is delving into the unit on structures and forces in their science curriculum. Bridges serve as an excellent real-world example to explore how forces interact with structures and the principles behind designing structures for specific purposes.

For the bridge-building project, students teamed up in groups to engineer and construct bridges. The project stipulated that the bridge must span a 60cm gap and be capable of supporting a 9kg weight, all while being constructed from only 200 popsicle sticks and glue. Upon completion, the bridges underwent a weight test. Remarkably, every



group succeeded in building a bridge that not only met the minimum weight requirement of 9kg but some even exceeded expectations by holding over 30kg!





KAPAWE'NO NEHIYAWAK SCHOOL



HOCKEY
MISKWAMI MITAWINWIN



LACROSSE
KWÂSKWÂSKINATOWÊW



PAKAMATONKEWIN
BOXING



KAPAWE'NO
MUSKWAK



PIMOTATOWIN
ARCHERY

*We believe in developing
all students and preparing them
for strong academics
and athletics!*



Mr. Brian Thomas
Athletic Director



admin@kfnschool.ca



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Sports Academy

Elders Knowledge Council Discusses Draft Terms of Reference, Strategic Plan, and Life Long Learning

Kapawe'no First Nation - Today, October 4, 2023 the Kapawe'no First Nation Elders Knowledge Council convened for a pivotal meeting, opened with a smudge and prayer, setting the tone, the Nēhiyawak way of life for the discussions. Council members covered a range of topics including the draft Terms of Reference (ToR), the updated "Road map - Strategic Plan," the draft Nēhiyawawin dictionary and the capacity of the Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School.

The ToR, driven by the Seven Grandmother/Grandfather Teachings, serves as the foundation for the council's activities. The draft document emphasizes the principle of lateral kindness, urging members to interact with dignity, equality, and respect along with bringing in full participation from the members. One noteworthy agenda item was the potential acquisition of the local college. This aligns with the Council's broader vision for life long learning and Nation empowerment. Council members discussed the importance of being actively involved in and aware of each



phase of this significant step. The ToR outlines that decisions will be arrived at through consensus, safeguarding that each Elder's wisdom is incorporated and full of respect. The Council also reviewed accountability practices, such as transparent reporting to the Kapawe'no members, Chief and Council, and mechanisms for financial / management

oversight and policies for student / staff safety. Designed to be both flexible and deeply rooted in tradition, the ToR permits for an annual review of the Council's composition and the possibility of forming specialized sub-committees as needed such as for safety, Nēhiyawēwin revitalization, student supports and more.

Remembering the 215 and Beyond: Honouring the Children Who Didn't Come Home

Kapawe'no First Nation - Today we recognize the resonance of Truth and Reconciliation is more profound than ever. The discovery of the children who never returned home, casts a solemn shadow over this day devoted to education, culture, and nation building. "Every Child Matters" holds poignant significance as students, teachers, staff, and Nation members have gathered to remember these young lives lost to Canada's dark history of Residential Schools.

Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School stands firm as a place of hope in education, unwavering in its commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.



In the wake of the children who never came home and the countless unspoken stories, the school redoubles its efforts, deeply integrating the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into its curriculum. "Every Child Matters" serves as both a reminder and a rallying cry, inspiring a generation to take action, learn, and ensure such tragedies are never forgotten. In this journey through history and healing, Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School sends a resounding message to the world: the path to true reconciliation begins with acknowledging the past and working together for a more just and equitable future.



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Building Future Leaders: The Multi-Faceted Approach of Buffalo Bay Academy at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School

Kapawe'no First Nation - In the heart of Kapawe'no territory, Buffalo Bay Academy at Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School is making waves with its groundbreaking approach to education and life long learning. Under the leadership of Superintendent Boh Kubrakovich and experts like former Olympian Brian Thomas, Cory Cardinal Jr, Darren Martens and Fred Mack, the academy presents a harmonious blend of high level academics and solid athletic development.

Students from grades 4-7 have the incredible opportunity to delve into a rich academic curriculum while also taking part in a specialized sports program that includes archery, boxing, hockey, and lacrosse. Especially notable is the hockey program, where the focus lies not just on the game's fundamentals but also on its sheer enjoyment. Equipment is provided for all students, removing financial barriers and leveling the playing field, literally and metaphorically. The academy goes the extra mile by



integrating these athletic programs into the standard registration process, emphasizing the school's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. This way, students can develop their minds and bodies without any additional financial burden, and they can explore both their academic and athletic potentials in a balanced and supportive environment.

What sets Buffalo Bay Academy apart is its commitment to excellence in every endeavor.

Whether students pick up a textbook, learn and speak Nēhiyawêwin, a hockey stick, or a bow and arrow, they're encouraged to strive for greatness. The academy succeeds in melding the teachings of the Nēhiyawak way with contemporary educational methods, creating a unique learning experience that respects its ancestral roots while preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Building Beyond Boundaries: Outdoor Education Students Master Survival Skills

Kapawe'no First Nation - In the vast expanse of nature, where elements often dictate the terms, understanding the art of survival can be the difference between adversity and adventure. This belief underpins the core principles of the Outdoor Education program at our Kapawe'no Nēhiyawak School.

Under the expert guidance of Mr Fred Mack and Mr Thomas renowned for their wealth of outdoor survival knowledge, our Outdoor Physical Education and LAWF students embarked on a transformative journey this past week. Beyond the mere confines of a classroom, their education took a practical turn as they delved deep into the essentials of wilderness survival. Knot-tying stood out as the primary skill on their learning agenda.



While seemingly simple, the art of tying the right knot can be the linchpin in many survival situations. With Fred's meticulous instruction, students swiftly moved from basic loops to

more intricate hitch and binding knots. The lessons didn't stop at knots. Shelter building emerged as the next challenge. Armed with rudimentary tools and natural resources, the students were tasked with constructing a shelter that could withstand the whims of the weather. As the students collaborated, the spirit of teamwork was showcased. Ideas were exchanged, their hands worked hard, and before long, a solid shelter stood to their combined efforts and Fred Mack's expert mentoring. With the guidance of Mr Bryan Thomas and Mr Fred Mack and the participation of our students, this week was a vivid reminder that when faced with nature's challenges, with the right skills and collaboration, we can not only survive but thrive.

Life Long Learning Staff 2023/24

Administration

- Bryan Richardson, Education Director
- Boh Kubrakovich-Kiniw, Superintendent
- Rebecca Petersen, Executive Assistant to Education Director
- Navjot Kaur, Assistant Education Director in charge of IELCC and Teacher (KFN School) and instructor (College)

Schools

Jorden Theissen, Principal Nēhiyawak School K-12

- Bernadette Challifoux, Administrative Assistant
- Priscilla Sutherland, Elder in Residence
- George Halcrow, Director of Student Services - All Learning Programs
- Wendy Lamouche, Student Services and FNVLC Instructor
- Angela Courtorielle, Student Services / Nēhiyawêwin Keeper / FNVLC Instructor
- Linda Gladue, Nēhiyawêwin Keeper - Instructor
- Brian Thomas, Director of Athletics / Physical Education Teacher
- Christine Jervah, Director of Literacy - Special Needs, College Instructor
- Fred Mack, Music and LAW(f) Teacher
- Lee Lalonde, Head Custodian
- Aaron Lalonde, Afternoon Custodian
- Tyler Mindel, Security (pending Red Wing students attending)
- Chase Yellowknee, Security (pending Red Wing students attending)
- Alma , Assistant Cook
- Emily Cardinal, Assistant Cook
- Cindy Lalonde, Head Cook
- Ivan McKenzie, Information Technology
- Norbert Halcrow, Head of Maintenance

Kindergarten to Grade 6 Teachers/ Education Assistants

- Grade K/1 - Jackie Halcrow, Teacher
- Daniella Lamouche, Education Assistant
- Erin Thunder, Education Assistant
- Grade 2/3 - Cory Cardinal, Teacher
- Florence Murdoch, Education Assistant
- Grade 4 - Lori Courtorielle
- Rosie Lewis, Education Assistant
- Grade 5/6- Sam Tomkins
- Shavoni Auger, Education Assistant

Junior and Senior High Teachers/ Education Assistants

- Grade 7 - April Adamson
- Melissa Loupette, Education Assistant
- Grade 8 - Barrymore George, Teacher
- Grade 9 - Ian Chan, Teacher
- Grade 10-12 - Sherry Bellegarde, Teacher
- Aaron Courtoreille, Teacher
- Shannon Anderson - Education Assistant

FNVLC

- Cory Cardinal Sr, Principal FNVLC
- Meriam Valdez, Virtual Teacher
- Crystal Zhang, Virtual Teacher

Day Care / Head Start

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Learning Director - Open • Interim Director - Nav Kaur • Assistant Director - Carla Boisvert • Lori Willier, Head Start Lead, Ages 3- • Delaney Hauck-Halcrow, Childcare | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant • Trisha Cunningham, Floor supervisor, Ages 1-6 • Maddison Cunningham - Child care Assistant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayla Debassige - Child Care Assistant • Tanisha Halcrow - Interim Custodial • Fern Halcrow - Head Cook |
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A Morning of Unity: Kapawe'no Nehiyawak Kiskinahamâtowikamik's Young Voices Sing 'Tansi - Hello'

Kapawe'no First Nation - It's a typical morning at Kapawe'no Nehiyawak Kiskinahamâtowikamik (School), but there's something in the air that makes it anything but ordinary. In the gymnasium, grade K-1'2's are gathered, their faces brimming with anticipation. The music program, lead by Mr Fred Mack is about to perform the "Tansi - Hello" song with the Grade K-3's as part of the Nehiyawewin morning session, a cherished ritual that bridges ancestral teachings with the joy of learning.



As the first notes fill the room, the younger students are the first to sing, "Tansi - hello," their voices pure and excited. The room erupts in harmony when they ask, "Tansi kiya - how are you?" and respond, "Namoya Nantow - I am fine." The children then warmly invite each other to "Pihtikwe - come on in" and "Api - sit down." But this isn't merely a greeting. The song also serves as an invitation into the Nehiyawak way of life encapsulating values and traditions. When they sing "Maskihkiwapoy minihkwe - have some medicine tea," it signifies a deeper understanding, a connection to Mother Earth and its healing properties. As the song reaches its crescendo, the children

raise their voices to say, "Tapwe miyawsin ipi Kihokawiyin - It's nice that you've come to visit." They then inquire about each other's lives, asking "Tante ikitohiyin - Where have you been?" and urging each other to "Mahti acimo kiwiyiositayin - Please tell me what you've been doing." The song wraps up with the heartfelt request for storytelling: "Mahti acimostawin - Please tell me a story."

It's more than a song; it's a communal affirmation of identity, belonging, and shared values. It's a teaching moment, an acknowledgment of the importance of both spoken language and lived experiences. And

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as the final notes of the song reverberate in the gym, the children know that they've not only learned new words but also experienced a moment that connects them to their culture and to each other in a way that textbooks never could. This is the embodiment of true education—where ancient wisdom meets youthful curiosity, all wrapped up in a simple yet profoundly meaningful "Tansi - Hello."





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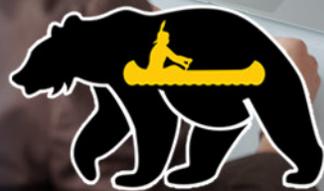


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