



paskowipîsim

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July - Moulting month

tanisi nitotemak. This will be a spring to remember in so many ways. Firstly, we want to recognize all the students, youth and their families, as well as staff who have found ways to be well mentally, physically, spiritually and emotionally and to reach out and support others who may be struggling.

This is the great beauty of the people of maskêkosihk – kindness, consideration, concern generosity and looking to find as many ways as possible to help one another. These are the values of maskêkosihk pimâtisôwin, which includes kiskiyimsowim, *understanding one's nêhiyawak identity*, tapwe.

There has been a lot going on in the Education Division this month. We count our blessings that grant funds from external funders covered the cost of the activities we have highlighted here.



Grade XII Graduation for students attending maskêkosak kiskinomâtowikamik as well as those attending city schools.

Everyone is thrilled for all students who met requirements to graduate with a Grade XII diploma. These young people demonstrated exceptional self-motivation to complete diploma courses to a pass or higher standard during COVID-19, on-line learning arrangements.

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MASKEKOSAK KISKINOMATOWIKAMIK

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

CLASS OF 2020



We shared our Kindergarten Honouring Ceremony virtually with our Kindergarten families and community members by video on the MK Kindergarten Facebook group on Friday, June 19, 2020 at 1:00PM.

We will complete the celebration with graduation photos and gifts for the children at the school on Tuesday June 23 & Wednesday June 24 from 9AM to 3PM.

We are so proud of the children! We want to extend best wishes and many thanks to our students and their families for their care and engagement.

hiy hiy

Have a great summer!



A number of schools confirmed that 23 students had fully met the requirements to graduate with more information from parents and schools still coming in! Honouring ceremonies were held under beautiful sunny skies, at maskêkosak kiskinomâtowikamik, on June 19th, with our valedictorian being Kenisha Ward-Robinson.

Congratulations graduates for your determination and achievements. Kitaskinaw Education Authority, and all maskêkosak, mamihcikowak (take pride in) your diligence and determination to meet graduation requirements.

Good luck always! Furthermore, to all students who continue to work towards a diploma, certificate or credential, don't give up. Your education is yours to keep and carry with you forever! You can do it! ahkameyimoc – keep on thinking and doing!

We are so grateful for the generous support received from the U of A and Edmonton Regional Collaborative Service Delivery which helped to provide a worthy celebration to honour graduates as well as family, teachers, friends and community. Video messages included those from the graduates themselves, their families, teachers and other educators; Elders, Division Leads, Chief, VIPs, the U of A and Dr. Jesse Spooner – maskêkosihk's very first medical doctor. *The overwhelming message to each graduate was sakihtowin – enduring love and support for the next part of your journey through life.*

And for the 1st time in KEA history, we are thankful to say, an Honorary Graduation Accolade was awarded. The recipient was Bob Cardinal, kihew, for his tireless commitment to supporting students and staff. $\rho\alpha\acute{\alpha}^{\wedge}d\Gamma\Omega^{\circ}$ kinanâskomitin, kihew.



Photographs on the graduates can be viewed on the Enoch Cree Nation Facebook Page.

miyo iyiniw kisikaniisik

We are very excited to share with you a National Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 Parent/Teacher Resource Guide. This was a collaborative effort with KEA and ECN, Elk Island Public Schools and Evergreen Catholic Schools.

Teachers can use this resource for online classrooms using links that work in student learning categories, families can use it for online learning - sharing and enjoying the whole document. The choice is yours!

The larger vision is that this guide is a step towards greater awareness and understanding of the gifts of maskêkosak and all Indigenous People here in our area. kininâskomitin to all local Treaty 6 contributors.

If you would like the link or a copy of the document please email Etienna Moostoos-Lafferty at moostooslafferty2014@gmail.com

**kahkiyaw niyanan
ewaskawistamak Moving
Forward Together – program**

**partnerships to increase outcomes,
effectiveness and efficiency**

For every negative there is a positive! COVID-19 restrictions and the resulting fall out effects were a catalyst to implement a Strategic Planning process, inclusive of all departments in the Division plus others! Early in June department managers from Youth, Student Services, Early Learning, maskêkosihk nêhiyawawin, mamôwacitowin and maskêkosak kiskinomâtowikamik plus Elders, Division Leads and team members came together in person and over Zoom to plan and work together.

So that everyone could get on the same page, presentations were made on core ECN and Division operational principles such as:

- Decolonization – necessary to fully support our young people
- Cultural Foundations and Pillars
- Creating a Community of Care – strength-based, holistic, Gifted Child model to recognize, value, respect and include
- Leadership/Wellness Pathways
- Integrated Arts
- Early Learning, Integrated Child Development and Family Support Centre of Excellence
- Land Based Learning – growing connection to the land and all that is in, on and above it.

A presentation was done on the colonial box theory which helped everyone understand why people and departments have a tendency to work alone, in silos. The theory illustrates the suppression of indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing through globalization, religion, education and technology. These elements work against connectedness.

As a Division we will work towards the restoration of wahkohtowin and reinstating what colonization has eroded.



Some words we associate with awasisak, children

Digging deep, small groups worked together to answer questions about how each person, program and department could find ways to increase outcomes and impact for our children, youth and families. This task included identifying ways to integrate and make the best use of scarce financial resources, talented staff, community skills and knowledge, external resources, buildings, equipment and programming options.

Failing to plan is planning to fail therefore, follow up sessions were set for strategic and implementation plan development.

**Land Based Instructor
- Train the Trainer Camp**



June 15th -19th three of our Land Based Learning and youth mentorship team members took a week of Train the Trainer safety certification courses.

The courses were held at kâniyâsihk Cree Cultural Camp and were hosted by Kevin Lewis. Certificates acquired included Advanced Wilderness First Aid (Red Cross) - 40 hrs; Lake water 1 Certification (Paddle Canada) and Hiking Certification (Outdoor Council of Canada) - 14 hrs.

In the fall, Kevin who is a highly regarded Cree Culture and Language teacher, will be delivering a Land Based Learning facilitator course right at maskêkosihk. The goal is that everyone who wants to learn, share and teach about the land, will be feel confident doing so. Perhaps he will also bring his atimwak and sleds again during the winter!

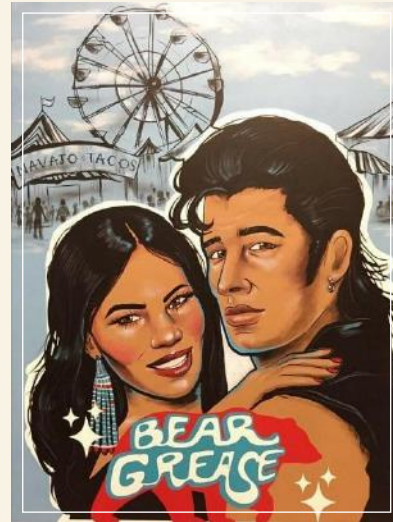


Photos courtesy Chelsea Catroll, Land based Learning teacher, KEA

Integrated Arts

As a result of grants from Heritage Canada, Alberta Education and New Horizons for Seniors-Government of Canada and a great team effort anchored by Indigenous Angels, Garry Morin, Beatrice Morin and Bob Cardinal; Dale Saddleback, Ralph Morin and Sylvia Weenie there will soon be 24 short animated videos available on line. More information will be provided in next month's Echo!

Also, over the summer months, stay tuned for Decolonized Arts, Bear Grease- revived!



Relaunch Planning- Multiple Source Input

The Division is taking into consideration multiple reliable sources of information and health advisories regarding maximising safety and well-being for the relaunch.

An integrated Division-wide strategy is being carefully designed to minimize risks. Also, parents of students attending maskêkosak kiskinomâtowikamik will have the opportunity to complete a reopening plan survey as well as provide other relaunch input.

COVID 19 INFORMATION

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER IF YOU:

- Have a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, or shortness of breath
- Are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID -19

All other visitors, please wash your hands or clean them with hand sanitizer before and after your visit. Please maintain physical distancing of 2 metres.

Thank you for your cooperation.

