



Miziwegin Newsletter

Binaakwii-giizis 2022

Megwayaak– Outdoor Learning Space

In 2018, the Early Childhood Development Program began their journey to develop Megwayaak, an outdoor learning space behind the Aabinoojii Oshkii Bimadiziwin Center and Maajiigin building in Cass Lake. This project is a collaboration between many partners within the Leech Lake Early Childhood Development Program.

What started off as a dream, is now becoming a reality! The Megwayaak project's purpose is to have a natural outdoor learning space that will support the development and well-being of the children and community of Leech Lake. It has taking a lot of effort and support to get to where it is now.

Some initial funding was provided by the University of Minnesota Extension Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (CRSDP) creating the opportunity for the Megwayaak project team to hire two University of Minnesota graduate students, Jessie Austin and Jordan Hedlund.

Jessie Austin researched the benefits of nature-based learning and play and compiled it into a report called "[The Benefits](#)



[of Nature-Based Learning and Play for Young Children's Health, Development and Well-being](#)" Jessie also worked on assembling outdoor activity guides for teachers to use when utilizing the Megwayaak space with children.

Jordan Hedlund worked closely with the Megwayaak project team to research and develop a landscaping plan for Megwayaak which includes a trail, 3 demonstration areas, supplemental materials, and more. Find his full report here: [Leech Lake Early Childhood Development's MEGWAYAAK Project \(umn.edu\)](#)

Additional funding was received from MIAC to implement the plans and donations have been made from other

sources including community groups, individuals, and LLBO gaming.

Project partners hosted three Nandagikendan events on the Megwayaak trail. This event highlighted and focused on reclaiming traditional indigenous food teachings. Several knowledgeable community members connected with families to bridge the generational gap. Find more about this years event on the back page!

Right now the Megwayaak project team is working to supplement the outdoor learning guides to include Ojibwemowin and modifications for younger age groups. As well as promoting the outdoor learning space to the teachers to encourage them to use it.

It is exciting to see Megwayaak taking shape! Many berry bushes have been planted along the trail, the trails have been mulched, hummingbird feeders have been hung, and many dead trees have been removed. The landscaping plan developed by Jordan Hedlund was finally implemented this summer to include all demonstration areas and other high interest areas for children to engage and play in.

Upcoming Trainings

Develop Trainings

	Register Online	
Native American Parenting Program– Traditional Behavior Management-Bemidji (2hrs)	Oct 15	\$10
Keeping Boredom At Bay: Outdoor Activities For Children– Online (2hrs)	Oct 16	\$10
Assessment-Gathering and Using Information (8hours– 4 sessions)	Oct 18-Oct 27	\$40
Developing Successful Transitions During A Child's Busy Day– Live Zoom (2hrs)	Oct 19	\$30
Mathematical Play in Early Childhood ONLINE (2hrs)	Oct 24	\$24
How to Incorporate Family Feedback into Program Planning and Child Assessment-Bagley (2hrs)	Oct 27	\$10

For more trainings visit developtoolmn.org. If you need assistance in registering for trainings, please contact Cora Roy at cora.roy@llojibwe.net.

Tonya's Tips: Halloween Safety Tips for Families

Halloween is a lot of fun for people of all ages. Having safety in mind can help keep this day fun and exciting.

- Join your little ones by walking with them
- Wear glow sticks so cars can see you
- Use crosswalks and wait for cars to stop before crossing
- Have a plan for your older kids- place and time to expect them
- Have a way to contact your older kids

Leech Lake Early Learning Scholarship

Leech Lake Child Care Services is accepting Early Learning scholarship applications for children who qualify.

To be eligible to apply:



- Child must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2022 and have not started kindergarten
- Children 0-5 years of age who are a priority population. Priority populations are teen parents, foster care/child protective services, or have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months.
- Siblings of a child with a scholarship that are attending the same program.

If you are interested in applying or for more information, please contact:

Tonya Morris, Early Learning Scholarship Area Administrator

Tonya.Morris@llojibwe.net

218-335-8249

Nicole's Notes: Staying Safe on Halloween



How can you and your family stay safe while trick or treating? Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind to help ensure your children have a healthy and safe Halloween.

SCARE SAFE:

S: stay in groups

C: costumes should be well fitting and flame resistant

A: Always test makeup before you use it

R: remember to look both ways when crossing the street

E: examine all treats before eating

S: stay on sidewalks when possible

A: avoid dark houses and roads

F: flashlights and glowsticks for visibility

E: ENJOY WITH CAUTION

Leech Lake Subsidy Program

Does your family need assistance helping pay for childcare? Our Leech Lake Subsidy Program is taking applications for families with children who meet our eligibility requirements.

Our eligibility requirements are:

- Your family must live of the Leech Lake Reservation or within 7 miles of the boundaries
- Have a child age 0-12 years old
- Be employed or attending job training
- Meet income eligibility based on your household size
- Yourself or child must be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe

If you have any questions or are interested in an application please reach out to me.

Nicole Collins, Child Care Specialist

Nicole.Collins@llojibwe.net

218-335-4431

Shaniya's Shenanigans: Halloween DIY Crafts

Halloween is a time where children start to bring out their holiday spirit, and sometimes we can't always buy a ton of decorations to fill their spirit. Doing DIY decorations is something that we can do to help decorate our homes while doing bonding activities with our children, while also being price friendly. Below is an activity that you can do with your children!

Items needed:

- Empty toilet paper rolls

- Googly eyes
- Colored paper
- Glue
- Scissors



Community happenings for Halloween: Trunk or Treat!

Where: Cass Lake, on Main Street

When: Monday, October 31st
from 5:30 PM-8:30 PM

All ages welcome! Dress up, decorate your vehicle, or hand out candy!

Hannah's Happenings: Maajiigin Family Events



Here at Maajiigin we are planning family and community engagement events monthly. Families are encouraged to spend time at our center and be involved in our family program activities as well as community events. Our vision is building community around healthy Anishinaabe families, we appreciate each family that has taken the time to be involved and participate in our center events.

Recent events: On August 31st we had our Ikshkwaa-gikinoonoowing Wiikongeng (end of year feast) in honor of the students that would be moving on from our center and also in celebration of the past

year. Families gathered for a meal, we invited Ojibwe Nation Drum group, and each child received a gift.

On September 15th families joined us for a Scavenger Hunt through the Megwayaak (in the woods) trail, our outdoor learning space. Families gathered for a meal and then we went together as a group through the trail for a scavenger hunt. Our outdoor learning space has been getting some amazing updates, the children and families really enjoyed exploring it together.



Mino-dibishkaan! Jordan- October 20th



Becca's Bin of Bliss: 10 things to do in Minnesota this Fall

Fall in Minnesota is a great time to get outside and enjoy the weather before it gets too cold. Here are a few places and activities to check out in Minnesota.

Visit a Pumpkin Patch

- Cowhorn Crossing Farm in Grand Rapids, MN
- Fuller Farm in Bemidji, MN
- Pikes Corn Maze in Park Rapids, MN
- Raven Ridge Pumpkin Patch in Puposky, MN

Visit a Museum

- Bemidji Science Museum
- Mille Lacs Indian Museum
- Minnesota Children's Museum in St. Paul, MN
- Bell Museum in St. Paul, MN

Cheer for the Home Team

- Cass Lake Bena School
- Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School
- BSU Beavers
- Minnesota Lynx
- Minnesota Timberwolves
- Minnesota Gophers
- Minnesota Vikings

Visit a State Park

- Lake Bemidji State Park
- Itasca State Park
- Maplewood State Park
- Crow Wing State Park



Cora's Corner: Nanda-gikendan Event

On September 22nd, 2022 Early Childhood Development program hosted it's 4th annual Nanda-gikendan event. It was a perfect day for the event, the weather was great, not too cold and not too hot! The Nanda-gikendan event's purpose is to bring community together and give those in our community the opportunity to learn new skill and share the skills they have. The event happens on the Megwayaak trail behind the Leech Lake Head Start in Cass Lake, where families could play, as well as see many demonstrators came to the event to share their knowledge and skills.

Ryan White and his dad,... did net and fish cleaning. Participants attended the event were able to bring home the fish they filleted.

Sharon Kingbird did a demonstration of cooking fish over a fire, while her grandson Tre helped with fish cleaning. Participants were able to do tasting of the fish.

If you like hominy, Jeff Harper was making hominy and corn nut snacks. Participants were able to taste them and take some home!

Veronica Bratvold and her husband Lucus demonstrated tea making, bannock, grilled vegetables and wild rice. Participants had the opportunity to taste them.

We were able to learn a new recipe for pumpkin and manoomin cookies from Michelle Marion, some were even available for tasting!

Andreas Nordrum demonstrated and discussed blacksmithing and woodwork with participants

The children enjoyed playing hand games with Brandon Bowstring. He gave away his game to a participant at the end of the event.

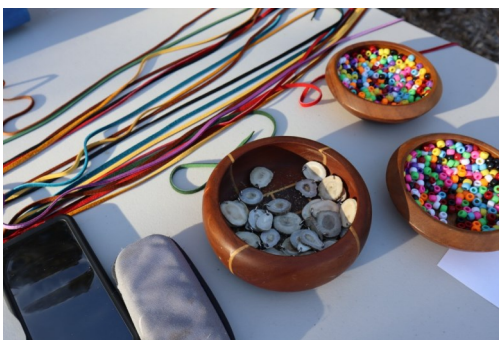
Participants got the opportunity to learn a new song in Ojibwe from Waase Paulson about how much you love grandma and how much she loves you.

Sharon Nordrum provided the opportunity for participants to create a communal art piece on tiles to be displayed somewhere in the community.

Using deer antlers, participants were able to create jewelry with Will Klaus.

Teachers Nindonis Robinson and Lolly Klaus had a painting and nature crafting station for children to enjoy.

Jim and George Michaud catered the event, serving bison sloppy joes, wild rice salad and fresh fruit. The event was a success with over 50 participants in attendance.



Mailing:
190 Sailstar Drive NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
Physical:
16160 60th Ave. NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
www.lleboearlychildhood.com
Phone: 218-335-4568
Fax: 218-335-8255

Shaniya Robinson
Office Manager

Nicole Collins
Child Care Specialist
218-335-4431

Tonya Morris
Early Learning Scholarship
Administrator
218-335-8249

Becca Tibbetts
Child Care Assistant

Trisha "George" Michaud
Nutrition Coordinator

Hannah Baird
Miziwegin Engagement Coordinator

Cora Roy
Licensing/Support Coordinator
218-335-8338

Becky Littlewolf
Child Care Services Manager
218-335-8257