

MIZIWEGIN

Binaakwii Giizis 2026

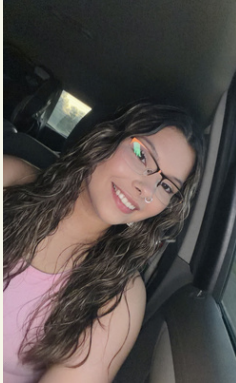


welcome to our

CCS NEWSLETTER

MIZIWEGIN SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Jourdain



Boozhoo! I'm Michelle Jourdain (24), a Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member raised in Cass Lake. When I'm not at work, you can find me traveling, listening to music, and spending time with loved ones. I have been apart of the Maajiigin Childcare Center team for two and a half years, transitioning from teacher (2024) to lead teacher and infant room lead-an experience that has been incredibly rewarding. I recently earned my CDA and am currently pursuing my Early Childhood Education at Bay Mills Community College. As Maajiigin's new Center Manager, I am excited to advance my career while delivering dedicated support to all our children and families!



IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL FIND:

Program services, Trainings, Helpful tips, staff directory, and Job opportunities



develop

(SUID/AHT) Sudden Unexpected Infant Death/Reducing the Risk of Abusive Head Trauma (DCYF)
Supervising for Safety for Family Child Care
Building Foundations: Positive Communication With Children
Handle With Care: Overcoming Challenges With Families
(SUID/AHT) Sudden Unexpected Infant Death/Reducing the Risk of Abusive Head Trauma (DCYF)

11/5/26	Park Rapids	Free
11/7/26	Bemidji	Free
11/14/26	Grand Rapids	Free
11/14/26	Grand Rapids	Free
11/14/26	Bemidji	Free

CCS and HS provide quarterly training for their Teachers, Staff , and Providers

Tonya's Tips

Update for Maajiigin and SACC

Aaniin! Both of our Maajiigin and SACC centers still have waitlists for child care but you are still encouraged to apply!

Please reach out if you are looking to apply at Maajiigin (6 weeks to 3 years old) or Miikogin (k-6 grade) here in Cass Lake.

Tonya Morris, Family Engagement & Enrollment Coordinator
Tonya.Morris@llojibwe.net
218-335-8249

**Openings will be posted
on the Mizwegin
facebook page and Leech
Lake Early Childhood
website.**



CHEF'S CORNER: LEAD COOK NAYKOTA JACKSON

Fruit Salsa



Ingredients

- 2 cup strawberries, finely chopped
- 2 cup mangos, finely chopped
- 1 cup Blueberries,
- 1 Cup Raspberries
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1/8 cup sugar
- 28 plain pita chips, 11g per serving

Directions

- Combine fruit in a mixing bowl and add lemon juice.
- Serve with 4 plain pita chips

1/2 cup = 1 serving of fruit



- Unflavored whole milk served to 1yr olds.
- Unflavored 1% served to children 2-5 yrs old.
- Water offered through out the day and snack time.

Aaniin, boozhoo! As children go back to school here are some questions you can ask your child to stay engaged with their day. Instead of asking "How was your day? And getting the classic "good" response, try asking questions that encourage your child to share, think, and tell you about their experiences. Below are a few examples!

- Is there anything you want to tell me about your day?
- What was the best/hardest part of your day?
- What made you laugh/smile today?
- What is something new you learned?
- Who did you play with today?
- What did you eat for breakfast or lunch?
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
- How did you help someone today?
- How were you brave today?
- Who did you sit with at lunch today?
- What challenged you today? How did you handle it?
- Is there anything you are looking forward to tomorrow?

Make it a routine! You don't have to ask every question. Pick one or two a day and give your child time to talk. Show interest by listening, asking follow up questions, and celebrate those experiences together.

A few minutes of meaningful conversation can help your child feel heard, supported, and connected.



LEECH LAKE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Does your family need assistance paying 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 on the Leech Lake Reservation or within 10 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.

Rosella Headbird
(218)335-4431 or
Rosella.Headbird@llojibwe.net

EARLY LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP

Leech Lake can serve Leech Lake affiliated children throughout the entire state of Minnesota and can serve all children within our service area.

- Your child must be between the ages of 0-5 and not kindergarten eligible.
- Eligibility is based on income, or if you are receiving any public assistance like Snap, Headstart, MFIP, CCAP, ETC
- Online applications are available at:
Earlylearningscholarshipshub.mn.gov

For more information contact:

Destiny Jourdain
Destiny.Jourdain@llojibwe.net
218-335-4430



Nimiigwechiwendam- I am thankful
Gidapiitenimin- I value you
Gidebweyenimin- I believe in you
Gigizhewaadiz- You are kind
Gizhawenimin- I love you
Wewnigiwiidookaaz- You are very helpful





Benefits to Reading with Children

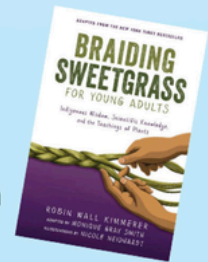
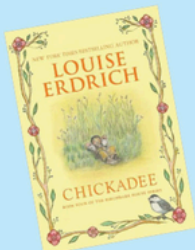
It's important to read to your children starting at a young age. Reading builds language skills, boosts brain development, & strengthens the bond between adult and child. Introducing concepts such as numbers, letters, colors, and shapes in a fun way.

Reading helps children learn important social and emotional skills, such as; Empathy, Compassion, & Problem-solving. Characters experiencing big feelings give kids a safe way to talk through their own emotions. Stories about people and different places help children understand feelings and lives outside their own. (*Reading Rockets n.d.*)

Children who are read to regularly in their early years are more likely to succeed academically later in life. Research has found that young children whose parents read to them daily have been exposed to at least 290,000 more words by the time they enter kindergarten than kids who aren't read to regularly. (*Grabmeler, 2019*)

Book Titles to Explore! – Native American Authors

- Infant/Toddler:
 - We all count by Jason Adair
 - Little You by Richard Van Camp
 - My Heart Fills with Happiness by Monique Gray Smith
- Preschool/Elementary:
 - We are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom
 - Josie Dances by Denise Lajimodiere
 - Jojo Makoons Book Series by Dawn Quigley
- Older Children:
 - The Birch Bark House by Louise Erdrich
 - Chickadee by Louise Erdrich
 - Braiding Sweet Grass by Robin Wall Kimmerer



Cites & Sources

Grabmeler, J. (2019, April 09). *The importance of reading to kids daily*. OSU.EDU.
<https://ehe.osu.edu/news/listing/importance-reading-kids-daily-0>

Reading Rockets. <https://www.readingrockets.org/literacy-home/reading-your-child>

Birchbark Books. (n.d.) *Young Readers*. <https://birchbarkbooks.com/collections/young-readers>

MIIKOGIN



October

MIIKOGIN NEWSLETTER

A Look Back at Septmeber

September has been an exciting month at the School Age Care Center! We've had some wonderful updates to our building, including two beautiful murals created by local artists Linnea Kingbird-Martin and Wesley May. The murals have brought joyful color and energy to our center. We've also had landscaping completed around the building, making our outdoor space more welcoming. Be sure to check out the pictures below!

Our teachers have loved welcoming students each afternoon and watching them settle into the new school year. The kids have been coming in excited and ready for snack, activities, and time with friends. One student even said at pickup, "We just got here!"—a great reminder of how much fun they're having!

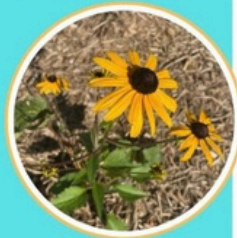
With the beautiful fall weather, students have enjoyed spending time outside and playing in the gym. They also participated in Every Child Matters and Orange Shirt Day, Fall Bingo, "All About Me" activities, crafts, and other learning activities.

Every Monday, Michael Smith Jr. joins us for drumming in the gym, which the students have been enjoying! September also included a Change of Season Dinner for Parent Engagement. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

A Look Forward to October

Join us for our next Parent Engagement activity on Monday, October 26th at 4:00 PM for Pumpkin Carving!

All parents and guardians are welcome. Come make memories with your kiddo and enjoy the fall season with us!



Contact Us

School-Age Care Center
201 4th St. NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633
Phone: 218-335-8380
Website: www.llboearlychildhood.com/sacc



MAAJIIGIN NEW STAFF:

GEKINWAA'AMAAGED-HAILEY WHITE

Boozhoo my name is Hailey White I'm from Cass Lake area I started working in the child care in 2024 and I absolutely love working in child care. My hobbies are going for walks in new areas, being around my family, I also like playing basketball and volleyball and love helping others when I can. I started working at the Maajiigin Center on September 14th 2026. I am a Gekinwaa'amaaged Teacher.

MAAJIIGIN COOK: BRAILEN LUSSIER

Hello my name is Brailen Lussier and I am from Bemidji. I started as the cook here at Maajiigin but previously worked with the summer food program at AOB. My hobbies are traveling and playing softball.

NIGAANIZID GEKINWAA'AMAAGED-KAYLA ROBINSON

Hello, families! My name is Kayla Robinson, and I'm excited to be a part of children's learning and growing journey. I look forward to creating fun, meaningful experiences for the children as they learn, explore, and make new discoveries. I'm excited for a wonderful year together!



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Nigaanizid Gekinwaa'amaaged (Lead Teacher) 26-0229



We are looking for individuals that are dedicated to speaking and learning Ojibwe and providing opportunities for our children to learn in their natural environment.

For information visit the LLBO employment page or call the front desk 218-335-8369



Cora Roy

CCS program manager
(218)335-8257

Abrianna Ortley

Receptionist
(218)335-8369

STAFF DIRECTORY

Becca Tibbetts

Licensing, Compliance &
Grants Coordinator
(218)335-8338

Rosella Headbird

Subsidy & Outreach
Coordinator
(218)335-4431

Tonya Morris

Family Engagement &
Enrollment Coordinator
(218)335-8249

Michelle Jourdain

Maajiigin Center
Manager
(218)335-8286

Sharlene Roy

Administrative Assistant
(218)335-4568

Sherri Seelye

Culture & Training
Coordinator
(218)335-3747

Destiny Jourdain

Early Learning Scholarship
Administrator
(218)335-4430

Naykota Jackson

Lead Cook
(218)335-3597



Contact/website

www.llboearlychildhood.com
Phone: (218)335-8369
Fax: (218)335-8255

Mailing:

190 Sailstar Drive NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Physical

16160 60th Ave. NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633