



Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Welcome Message

Boozhoo!

January and February have been busy months for the First Nation’s education team and administration. We have been diligently working on some exiting initiatives and are pleased to be able to offer them to the First Nation and general community at this time.

Our Education department has moved its offices into the “LDML Education Centre” located at the former Hyde Park School at 2040 Walsh Street East. We have been working towards and preparing for the opening of the First Nation’s “Seventh Fire” Secondary School and “Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre.”

“We are extremely honored and proud to be able to do our part in fulfilling the vision that our forefathers and families have prayed for, dreamed of, and carried, throughout the years. A vision that sees the education of our children as being vitally important, relevant, and supports the teaching and learning of our language, traditions and Anishnaabe world-view through a holistic, respectful and supportive manner. We are witnessing the birth of this vision as it comes to fruition and life at our new Education Centre,” said Chief Whitecloud.

“Seventh Fire” Secondary School is a unique high school program offering elective and academic credits along with integrating holistic and traditional knowledge, land-based programming and experiential learning. Students will learn and obtain high school credits in a welcoming and safe school environment taught by caring and professional staff. We are also working on full wrap-around student support services, which we plan on having available on-site. On February 4th, 2019, the Education Centre welcomed its first students to the secondary program! The First Nation is pleased to be able to offer this innovative education option to its members and welcome any and all youth residing in the city of Thunder Bay and surrounding areas. If you are interested in obtaining your Ontario Secondary School Diploma, please visit us at the Education Centre in Thunder Bay.

Another milestone accomplishment for the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation is being able to provide community members and other families, access to reliable daycare services. Parents can bring their infants, toddlers and preschoolers to our daycare and be confident that their little ones are being cared for in a safe, inclusive, learning environment that supports language, culture, and the uniqueness of each child.

The “Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre” will be opening its doors at the LDML Education Centre. We are in the final stages of licensing and anticipate opening on March 25th, 2019. Applications/registration are now open.

We are also planning on holding a Grand Opening of our Education Centre in the near future (date to be announced). Come out, learn more, and be a part of the new beginnings we are embarking on in Education!

Please contact Andy Graham, Education Director, at 699-0233 ext 809 or via email agraham@lacadesmillelacs.ca regarding our First Nation’s education programming.

Miigwetch!

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Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation—Education Centre Staff

Name: Andy Graham

Position: Education Director



Boozhoo Everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Andy Graham and I am the Education Director for Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. I am very excited to be part of such an amazing team here in the community. I have been working in Education for over 30 years and, until a year ago, was Director of Education for Bimose Tribal Council. I am a fully qualified Teacher, Principal and Superintendent in Ontario and have worked directly with a number of First Nations in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Over the past 9 years, I developed a close connection and relationship with the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation and the community members. I am excited to work alongside your Chief, Council, and Administration in leading a team of education professionals that are developing innovative and amazing programming at the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre. I am very pleased to be your Education Director, where I can support the full implementation of the First Nation's vision for life-long learning. If you need to contact me, please feel free to call me at 699-0233 extension 809 or by email at agraham@lacadesmillelacs.ca.

Name: Carolyn Zadnik

Position: Education Projects Manager



Boozhoo!

My English name is Carolyn Zadnik, spirit name – Migizi-miigwan-kwe – Eagle Feather Woman; I have 5 children in my blended family. I am a proud member of Pinaymootang First Nation, a Thunder Bay resident of 23 years and am passionate about helping First Nation peoples advance in their education, training and life passions goals. My prior education includes a Business Commerce, Accounting, Human Resources and Marketing background with 15 years of extensive work experience in the education, employment and training sectors. It is my purpose to share my skills and strengths that will bring a better quality of life for Indigenous peoples. I am honoured and grateful to be a part of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation team.

Name: Rikka Berkan

Position: Education Liaison Co-ordinator



Boozhoo!

I am a proud member of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. My husband and I have been married for 25 years and together we have 4 children. I have been working with children and youth for 30 years and have been a part of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education team for the past 3 1/2 years. As the Education Liaison Co-ordinator, it is my job to ensure that the core values of our First Nation are reflected in the Education programs and services that are provided. I am excited to continue working for the betterment of our community and to see the vision of Chief and Council become a reality in the form of the many education endeavors that are happening. I look forward to seeing continual growth and progress in education programming for our members.



Name: Dawn May
Position: Administrative Support



Boozhoo!

My name is Dawn May and my Spirit Name is Gentle Flowing Deer Spirit Woman. I belong to the Wolf Clan and am a proud community member of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. I married the love of my life and together we raised four children, now grown, and we are excited to welcome our first grandchild in Spring 2019. I am honored and grateful to be a part of the education team and am excited for what is to come for the community of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with family and friends, beading, hand drumming, fishing, pow wows, attending sewing spirits and travelling.

Name: Brittany Christopher
Position: School Administration Assistant (intern)



Boozhoo!

My name is Brittany Christopher and I am the Administrative Assistant at Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre. My fiancé Kyle and I are proud new parents to our 11 month old son, Kaleb. I am grateful for the opportunity given to me and very happy to be a part of the Lac des Mille Lacs community. I have made quite the journey for myself, being born and raised in Montreal, QC, then residing in Calgary, AB for 8 years and now living in Thunder Bay, ON for the second time in 3 years with my amazing family! I am motivated and driven by passion to help others, and being a part of this community is more than what I could ever ask for. I love what I do and cannot wait for all the challenges, changes and greatness that lies ahead.

Name: Antje Gravelle
Position: Secondary School Teacher



Boozhoo!

My name is Antje Gravelle and I am the Secondary School Teacher for the Seventh Fire Secondary School. I have been teaching alternative education for many years and am proud to help students meet their educational goals. I feel privileged to be a part of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre and look forward to watching the program expand and grow. I love working with youth and am proud to make a lasting impact on students as they travel their individual paths. I have a 10-year-old daughter, Macy, and we enjoy camping, biking and swimming in the summer and downhill skiing, skating and sliding in the winter. I feel a close connection to nature as it keeps us grounded, so Macy and I try to enjoy the outdoors as often as we can.



Name: Eva Graham
Position: Wellness Program Consultant



Boozhoo!

My name is Eva Graham and I am honored to be the Wellness Program Consultant for Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. I am a fluent Cree speaker from Northern Manitoba. I have been closely involved with education and student wellness for over 20 years. In my role as the Wellness Program Consultant, I am assisting the First Nation with the development of a “Wrap-Around” service model at the school. This model will promote a holistic approach to student and family wellness. The “Wrap-Around” model will also include access to community-based service providers at the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre. The model will also include access to traditional activities and programs that support intergenerational healing and wellness. Our goal is to have the model fully developed and implemented in the school by this coming Fall. I look forward to continue in meeting with students, parents and community members to obtain ideas and feedback as we continue to develop the model.

Name: Cameron Charlton
Position: Community School Support Worker (intern)



Boozhoo!

My name is Cameron Charlton and I am the Community School Support Worker. I am a recent graduate of Lakehead University and a Lac des Mille Lacs member. As the Community School Support Worker, I promote activities that support healthy lifestyles and positive outlooks for physical and mental health and wellness programming. I am also a resource person for the students and families that attend the education center. I am pleased to be able to assist our families in this capacity. I am excited to see and be a part of all the great changes happening in our community and cannot wait to see what lies ahead!

Name: Dawn Aho
Position: Traditional Early Years Programmer



Boozhoo!

Dawn (Sawdo) Aho Niindizhinikaz, Nezaadiikaang Nindoonjii, Makwa Dodem. I am proud to be the Traditional Early Years Programmer for Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. I am the daughter of Louis and Hannelore Sawdo, sister to Mark Sawdo, wife to James Aho and mother to Reid. I was a teacher for the public school board for 19 years before taking a leave of absence to work for our awesome First Nation in the Education Department. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve my community and people in a manner that helps families and their children learn, grow and connect back to the Land. It is through the Children that we shall heal. My vision involves learning ceremony and teachings from Elders and Knowledge Keepers, showing gratitude and love for the Land in a natural healing way, re-connecting and re-building our community land base, learning Anishnawbemowin, assisting in positive child development, and promoting a healthy balanced lifestyle.

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre — Programs

Native Language Program

Beginner Ojibwe Language Class

Do you want to learn to speak Ojibwe? Interested? Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation offers free language classes.

The classes run on **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre located at 2040 Walsh Street East (formally Hyde Park School).**

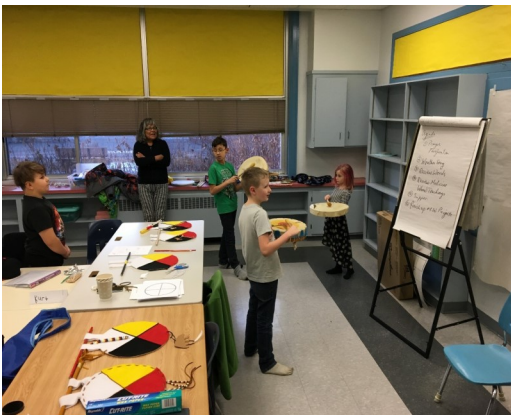
These classes are OPEN to Elders, adults, youth, children and toddlers who want to learn basic Ojibwe. The classroom instructions include some of the following lessons: Greetings, Days of the Week, Months, Weather, Numbers, Colors, Animals and simple verbs.

Students will use the Double Vowel Writing System in their in-class writing & reading assignments. Oral reviews are also a part of the class. Special one-on-one attention is given to the youth and children by the Ojibwe teacher.

Teachings activities have included quizzes, reading, writing, games and traditional activities such as hand drumming and singing. We have sharing circles to put to use some of the Ojibwe vocabulary taught in class.

If you have always wanted to learn to speak Ojibwe - then this is the class for you!

For more information or to register for the Language Class, please contact Dawn May at 699-0233 or feel free to drop by Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre on the scheduled days and times.



Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre — Programs

Traditional Early Years Program

3 Day Residential Program

The Traditional Early Years Program hosts land-based activities and experiences which are offered to Lac des Mille Lacs community members and their families who have a child/children 0-6 years of age. These 3-day residential programs will provide family access to participate in a number of traditional Anishnaabe indoor and outdoor activities at various locations.

Upcoming Dates: April 12-14, May 3-5

Limited space is available! If you are interested in attending all or some of the days, contact Dawn Aho at 699-0233 ext. 805 or email daho@lacadesmillelacs.ca

Workshops

The Traditional Early Years Program hosts traditional activities and workshops within the community of Thunder Bay. Over the winter, we have held a series of workshops at Hyde Park called “Caring For Mother Earth”. Presenters from Anishnabek Nation and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit shared their knowledge with us about feast bundles, parenting and personal care products. Check the LDMLFN website regularly for upcoming dates on workshops offered.

If you would like to be notified about upcoming Early Years workshops & programs, please contact Dawn Aho, Traditional Early Years Programmer at:
daho@lacadesmillelacs.ca.



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Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre — Programs

Community Complex Centre

We Matter Campaign “Hope Forum”

On November 22, 2018, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation was pleased to host 35 Indigenous youth, mentors, knowledge holders and We Matter Campaign Coordinators from various First Nations across Ontario at our Community Cultural Centre as part of their “Get out on the land day” during the recent Hope Forum held in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

“We Matter” is an Indigenous-led and nationally registered non-profit organization that is committed to Indigenous Youth Empowerment, hope and life promotion.

The “We Matter” Campaign is a National Multi-media campaign in which Indigenous role models and allies from across Canada submit short videos, written and artistic messages sharing their own experience of overcoming hardships and communicating with Indigenous youth that no matter how hopeless life can feel, there is always a way forward. Since launching in October 2016, the campaign has reached millions of people on social media and continues an ever-growing library of positivity and hope.

During their recent visit to our First Nation, participants appreciated learning about the past and present history of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. Coordinators, mentors, elders and youth alike felt connected to the land and were thankful to spend the day at our Centre.

Participants shared their thoughts about our Community Cultural Centre.

“WOW it is beautiful here!”

“This is such a nice place.”

“I wish we could stay here.”

“I would love to come back here.”

“I love this place.”

“I really like the way the lodge is decorated!”

“I feel connected out here.”

“The roundhouse is so nice”

“I wish we were here for the week long forum.”

“This is gorgeous.”



March 2019



Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre —Programs

New and Upcoming Programs

Seventh Fire Secondary School (New)

Seventh Fire Secondary School kicked off with a great start on Feb 4th and we have had a fantastic first month. Students have been successfully working on Independent Learning Courses at their own pace, with support from our Secondary School Teacher, Antje Gravelle. The students' academic plan is determined by what they need in order to attain their high school diploma and career goals which includes compulsory and elective academic credits .

Some exciting learning opportunities offered at Seventh Fire Secondary School are the Experiential Learning (EL) Credits and land-based education that provides a tailored hands-on learning approach. Our first EL Course being offered is a Foods Credit Course which includes cooking with our community partner “Roots to Harvest”. Students will learn and acquire life and social skills, planning, budgeting, food preparation and how to cook healthy meals for themselves and their families.



We are excited to see the Seventh Fire Secondary School expand and grow! We encourage any and all youth to consider our school if they are looking for alternative education options.

Inquiries and registration can be made by visiting us at 2040 Walsh Street (formerly Hyde Park School) or by contacting us via telephone at (807)699-0233.



March 2019



Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre — Programs

Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre (Upcoming)

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation will be establishing a full-service daycare program at its Education Centre located at 2040 Walsh Street E., in March 2019. Lac des Mille Lacs band and community members will have first priority to access available daycare. We will then offer any remaining spots to the general public (families needing daycare in the Thunder Bay area.)

Our daycare will promote and encourage a healthy, safe, learning environment that will strive to incorporate traditional Anishnaabe culture and language in its day to day activities. We will also celebrate and support the uniqueness of every child, and at all times, encourage respect, equality and inclusiveness.

If you are seeking infant, toddler or pre-school care, we invite you to complete an application through the District of Thunder Bay Childcare Registry at <https://thunderbay.onehsn.com/>. Please ensure you select “Little Turtles Daycare” on the options available.

If you require assistance with your application, please do not hesitate to contact our office for further information or help with your application.



Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre — Programs

Adult Education Pilot Program (Upcoming)

Are you seeking to acquire your high school diploma and are 22 years of age and older? Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation will be conducting an Adult Education Pilot Program in May 2019 at the Education Centre.

The Education pilot program will be delivered via quality classroom-based instruction, offering the academic credits you require for your high school diploma and post-secondary education. This pilot program will run Monday to Friday.

The PLAR (Prior Learning and Recognition Assessment) and SEA (Senior Equivalency Assessment) assessments will be offered in our program that will evaluate what learning and work/life experiences you have received outside of the education system that can potentially earn you additional academic credits; therefore, allowing you to reach your education dream sooner.

If this opportunity interests you, please come visit us at the school to register. Registration can be made now or come out to our Q and A information session at the Education Centre on May 1st, 2019 at 10:00 am. An onsite guidance counsellor will be available to answer any questions you may have. Don't forget to bring your personal identification to accompany your registration form.

Following the registration date, orientation days will occur on May 2nd and 3rd from 12:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. followed by classes starting on May 6th, 2019.

There will be 2 session times offered to work on your academic credits where you can select one or both sessions (suited to your schedule).

Session 1: 12:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Session 2: 5:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m..

If you have further inquiries, please contact Carolyn Zadnik, Education Projects Manager at the main school office at (807)699-0233 .

Its never too late to reach your education dreams!!! Let us help you get there!!!



Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre — Programs

Other News

We have had a very productive and busy start to the year. Some of the activities undertaken by the Education department include: a creative counselling workshop, soca dance night, bachata (salsa) dance night, yoga, and self-defense classes.

Upcoming in March and April include: Zumbini, self-defense, and weekly yoga (Fridays at noon). If you would like to register for any of these events, please call 699-0233 ext. 811 or email: ccharlton@lacadesmillelacs.ca.



Traditional Early Years Program Drop-In
Thursdays—Starting March 21st from
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Yoga
March 22nd & 29th
from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Zumbini
April 5th 6:00p.m. (Final Class to attend)



Health and Healing & Wellness

We are also pleased to be able to support and partner with the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation's Health and Healing & Wellness departments! These departments are holding a variety of activities at the school such as: Drumming classes, Sewing Spirits and Mini Pow-Wow.

First Nation Post –Secondary Education Program

The First Nation's Post Secondary Education Program will still be run separately and out of the main Administration office. For inquiries about Post Secondary Education, please contact: Mark Berkan, Post Secondary Education & Training Director at 807-622-9835 ext 226.

Creative Minds Required!!

Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre needs your assistance!

We are seeking creative ideas/suggestions on a name for our future LDMLFN language immersion elementary school. We are planning to start off with Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes this Fall. We are looking at a tri-lingual stream model with the following full-language immersion: Ojibway, Oji-Cree or Cree, and English (pending registration numbers).

Please email us your creative ideas/suggestions on a name for our future language immersion elementary school to dmay@lacadesmillelacs.ca by March 31st, 2019.



Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre — Contact Us

Name	Work	Cell	Email
Andy Graham Education Director	(807) 699-0233 Ext. 809	(807) 464-3635	agraham@lacadesmillelacs.ca
Carolyn Zadnik Education Projects Manager	(807) 699-0233 Ext. 810	(807) 633-0549	czadnik@lacadesmillelacs.ca
Rikka Berkan Education Liaison Co-ordinator	(807) 699-0233 Ext.	(807) 251-2672	rberkan@lacadesmillelacs.ca
Dawn May Administrative Support	(807) 699-0233 Ext. 801	(807) 621-1569	dmay@lacadesmillelacs.ca
Brittany Christopher Administrative Assistant (Intern)	(807) 699-0233 Ext. 812	(807) 709-1048	bchristopher@lacadesmillelacs.ca
Antje Gravelle Secondary School Teacher	(807) 699-0233 Ext. 808	(807) 629-6123	agravelle@lacadesmillelacs.ca
Cameron Charlton Community Support Worker (Intern)	(807) 699-0233 Ext. 811	-	ccharlton@lacadesmillelacs.ca
Dawn Aho Traditional Early Years Programmer	(807) 699-0233 Ext. 805	-	daho@lacadesmillelacs.ca
Eva Graham Wellness Program Consultant	(807) 699-0233 Ext. 804	-	Eva.g.graham@gmail.com

Education Department: Location/Mailing Address:

Lacs des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Centre
 2040 Walsh Street East. Thunder Bay, ON P7E 4W2
 Phone: (807)699-0233 / Fax: (807)475-4882

**Miigwetch On The Behalf Of The Entire
 Education Department Team!**