



April 2024 Newsletter

Wii maajiikwad

“Where we grow”

2875 Gikendasso Way, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Boozhu Saginaw Chippewa Community Members,

The school and recreation center is coming along beautifully and is a site to see. The outside wall paneling for the gym has been completed and they continue to work on installing the wall partition in the gym area. This wall will separate the two gyms during school hours, for the safety and security of the school children. The Masons completed the back of the building and have started laying bricks on the front of the building. Neale Bauman is the architect for the building and does weekly walk-throughs with the superintendent. Neale is very thorough with his reports to Bonnie. We appreciate him.

The FF&E phase of Wiimaajiikwad has begun. NBS Commercial Interiors is the company that is handling all of the FF&E. The Planning Team has been assisting NBS with all the current inventory, room assessments, and recommendations. That will help with a smooth (fingers crossed 😊) move in for the three departments, Education, ALRD (Anishinabe Language Revitalization Department and Recreation.

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a community fundraiser. We invite family and friends to purchase bench plaques to be placed (on select benches) in honor or memory of a special person or family. We are currently working on the planning process for this event and will have more information available in May.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Bonnie Ekdahl or myself. We appreciate your continued support and interest in this project. Miigwetch!

Bonnie Ekdahl

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Courtney Kahgegab

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Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Tentative First Day of School**
August 26, 2024
- ▶ **Count Down**
136 Days
- ▶ **Soft Completion**
August 22, 2024

Important Announcement:

Time Capsule items that been collected:

- Sasiwaans Year book
- Old Pow-wow buttons from the 1990's, SECR button, old Bingo hall concession button
- T-shirts
- Thumb drives
- Ziibiwing items
- Flyers and photos
- **Still accepting items**





Saginaw Chippewa Academy Visit



On March 20, 2024, the staff and faculty of Saginaw Chippewa Academy visited Wii Maajikwad. The elementary teachers were thrilled to see their new classrooms and to start taking inventory of the items they would be bringing with them.

This visit served as a reminder that move-in day is approaching and helped to boost the staff's excitement for the upcoming change.

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Community Interest

Please email or call if you would like to be put on the list for a walk-through of Wiimaajikwad.

The next walk-through will occur on April 19, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.



Construction Update: Front and Gym Area



This picture was taken on April 5, 2024. The picture shows the front of Wiimaajiikwad along with the enclosed gym area.

The newly finished canopies at the front entrance and Sasiwaan's entrance are also visible. The concrete floors are still undergoing work, with staining and polishing in progress, giving them a beautiful finish that incorporates the elements of Aki and Nibii (Earth and Water).

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Please note that the site is closely monitored by Tribal Police and has cameras installed around the property for security purposes.

