



## March 2024 Newsletter

# Wii maajiikwad

*“Where we grow”*

2875 Gikendasso Way, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

### Boozhu Saginaw Chippewa Community Members,

Spring is just around the corner and construction on Wii maajiikwad has been underway for more than a year. Currently, the installation of insulated metal wall panels is ongoing around the gym, and work on the stage area is also in progress. This week, construction will begin on the wooden canopy that will serve as the front entrance of the building. Additionally, the landscaping plan for the property is being finalized. We also hope you tuned into the Facebook live events that have showcased certain areas of the building. If not, you can watch them on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Facebook page.

In the near future, there will be a tile project for students and community members. It involves printing your hand on tiles, which will then be displayed on the south wall in the front lobby of Wii maajiikwad. Please stay tuned for more information on this project.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestion please feel free to reach out to Bonnie or myself via the contact info provided:

#### Bonnie Ekdahl

- Email: BEkdahl@sagchip.org
- Phone: 989-775-4551

#### Courtney Kahgegab

- Email: CKahgegab@sagchip.org
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### Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Students Arrive**  
Tentatively  
August 26, 2024
- ▶ **Count Down**  
167 Days
- ▶ **Soft Completion**  
August 22, 2024

### Important Announcement:

#### Time Capsule items that been collected:

- Sasiwaan Year book
- Old pow-wow buttons from 1990's, SECR buttons, Tribal concession button
- T-shirts
- Seeds, copper cups
- Thumb drives
- Ziibiwing items
- Flyers & photos





## Strategic Planning with the Team Members



Strategic Planning is taking place with representatives from each department including Education Dept., ALRD (Anishinabe Language Revitalization Dept. /Sasiwaans), and Recreation. They are working hard on creating a smooth transition for each dept. and updating their policy procedures, defining their shared areas, and most importantly the safety of the building. They want to ensure as soon as your children step foot on the property they are well cared for with many safety measures put in place.

Pictured from left to right: Education Director Christina Sharp, Academy Resource Officer and Tribal Police Officer Joe Maxey, Saginaw Chippewa Academy Principle Simeon (Russ) Blackbird, Wii maajikwad Project Consultant Bonnie Ekdahl, Youth Activities Manager Ronnie Ekdahl, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Breanna Knudsen and Early Childhood Manager Misty Pelcher

### Community Interest

#### Walk-through's

Please email or call if you would like to be put on the list for a walk through of the new school/ recreation building.

Next walk through date is tentatively March 20, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.



## Construction Update: Canopy and Front Door



On March 12, 2024, a picture was taken of the Canopy and its installation process, while another picture of the front door was taken on March 7, 2024. The gym wall is visible in the left picture, with the metal panels fully installed. However, the south gym wall is yet to be enclosed, as seen in the same picture.

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

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