September 2023 Newsletter

Wii maajiikwad

"Where we grow" 2875 Gikendasso Way Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Boozhu Saginaw Chippewa Community Members,

The construction of the new school and recreation center has been going on for nine months! As of September, that leaves less than a year for the expected soft completion date of Aug. 22, 2024. How exciting for our community and our elementary school. The new building will house three tribal departments; Education, ALRD Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department, and Recreation.

The school will include the Sasiwaans program as well as K-5th grade. New playgrounds that are age appropriate for the younger and the older children. No more bussing the kids to the tribal gym for physical education! They will have full use of one of the two gyms in Recreation. So many exciting and much needed changes going on.

Speaking of changes, there will be many. And with that comes some resistance and push back. We can circumvent that with the knowledge, that we have this new space, and we have the opportunity to change our school and programs for the better for our children and the community we serve. There will be so much new space to help our children grow and thrive, seventy THOUSAND square feet of new space!

We encourage comments, suggestions and questions from the community, please contact Bonnie Ekdahl or myself at;

Bonnie Ekdahl e: <u>BEkdahl@sagchip.org</u> p:775-4551

Courtney Kahgegab e: <u>CKahgegab@sagchip.org</u> p: 775-4551



Upcoming Events

Move in Date

tbd

Count down

356 Days

Soft Completion

August 22, 2024

Important Announcement

Time Capsule

There is a time capsule area that will be built into the outside Courtyard area and we need items to start filling that. Items already suggested are seeds, pizza money, articles, pictures, letters, and a Tribal flag. We still are determining the size of the capsule but will move quickly once that is in place. If you have items or ideas, please contact Bonnie or myself.

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Featured Spaces at Wiimaajiikwad

Sasiwaans Early Childhood – Three Immersion classrooms and age appropriate playground.

Saginaw Chippewa Academy – Five classrooms, Library, Cultural Room, Specialty spaces, playground.

After-school program – Two full gymnasiums with folding divider wall and pull out bleachers

Weight room

Full Kitchen with serving area and hot bars

Middle & High School Virtual School capabilities

Multi-purpose Stage area with sound room

Teen Gaming Lounge

Elementary lounge

Outdoor Amphitheater area with data ports

Rain Garden space

Interior Courtyard

Lodge Area

Outside Basketball courts

Lacrosse area

Offices and spaces for 100 plus employees

Full parking lot

Outside fire pit for ceremony i.e. Round dance / Feasts



Community Interest

Walk throughs

Please email or call if you would like to be put on the list for a walk through of the new school building. I am currently working on a schedule of times and dates for the walk through's.

Anishnaabemowin

Every day is a good day to speak the language.

Fall Equinox

September 23, 2023 (2:50AM)

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Drone picture of the building, taken on August 4, 2023,



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