EARLY LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS
Pictures from some of our highlights this past month.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Highlights from our community partners on their services and programming they offer.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
Check out what programming we have upcoming for WRFN families and community.

PAGE 2 | MESSAGE FROM MAAMWE KENDAASING INNOVATION CENTRE SUPERVISOR

PAGE 3 | INFANT ROOM NEWS

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PAGE 6 | EARLY LEARNING COORDINATOR

PAGES 9, 10, & 11
Aanii Kinaway,  
Spring is in the air! We hope our families are staying well and are enjoying the change of seasons. Like the seasons change, so does our planning here at the Centre. One change we are pleased to share with you is our new and improved newsletter for our families and community. This will be a more detailed look at what we are doing in our programs at Maamwe Kendaasing Early Learning and Innovation Centre. It is our vision and goal to ensure that parents are constantly aware of what their child is learning and what upcoming programs our Early Learning Coordinator will be providing for WRFN families with children ages 0-12. It is also a place to share ideas with families on ways to engage your child at various stages in their life. This paper will highlight information on activities and programs our community partners are providing for ages 0-12 such as the Healthy Babies and Family Well-Being program and other partners who support our children in all areas of growth and development.

One of the Centre's main focus is based on a wholistic model of learning, our curriculum is child lead & emerges from their interests. The educators document these interests and plan accordingly by bringing in the latest research ideas that best engage our children to support their learning journey. One key area is the importance of land-based learning, land as educator. As we continue to learn more ways to enrich the lives of our children which supports their growing needs we will continue to strive for our WRFN vision which is to work in harmony while maintaining our culture, traditions, and knowledge to enrich and empower our people. As Early Childhood Educators we have specific training on the growth and development of children and how important preconception and the early years 0-6 are key to laying the foundation for children to be successful later in life. Our goal as second educators is provide the support and care the children need as they develop into the person they were chosen to be. Our educators will also be using our mobile app HiMama, to share your child's day, new milestones reached, and reminders of what is coming up, or items your child may need for the next day.

As we are working in unprecedented times it has had us come together collectively to reflect, plan, and provide the best care for our children. Therefore, some of the programs will be on hold until we get assurance from the governing bodies to move forward in our various programs such as the social program and school age program, as protection of the virus is our number one concern. Currently, we will only be running the child care program with children 6 mths-3.5 yrs for working parents who do not have alternate care. We will keep parents and guardians informed when other programs resume. We will continue with our family programs running through our online platforms using zoom. In closing, I hope you enjoy our newsletter and if you have any questions please feel free to contact the Early Learning Centre. I wish everyone well as we navigate our new way of life.

Baamaapii miinwa
To start, I hope everyone had a Happy Easter! It feels good to be back in programming at Maamwe Kendaasing Early Learning & Innovation Centre as we reopened on April 19th, 2021. Our Infant Program opened February 15, 2021 and we have two infants enrolled, Brennan and Biinakwegiizis.

Our Growing Biinoojiinhik!

WE ENJOY THE OUTDOORS DAILY (WEATHER PERMITTING). INFANTS LOVE TO GO OUT FOR WALKS AROUND THE COMMUNITY AND LIKE TO EXPLORE OUR PLAYGROUND

INDOORS WE HAVE OUR PLAY STRUCTURE WHERE OUR INFANTS CAN PRACTICE USING THEIR GROSS MOTOR SKILLS AND STILL GET THEIR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY THROUGH OUT THE DAY. BRENNAN LIKES TO CLIMB UP THE STAIRS TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.

The infants really enjoy doing sensory activities. This helps develop their fine and gross motor skills and its FUN! With the warmer weather coming, we hope to spend as much time outdoors enjoying various activities by observing and documenting our infant's interest!

Next Month we will be celebrating one of our infants 1st Birthday, Happy Birthday Brennan!
In May we also celebrate Mother's Day, Happy Mother's Day to all our Mother's, Grandmother's, & Aunties. On Monday May 24, 2021 is Victoria Day (Centre will be CLOSED).

Try at home!
- Explore different textures with your infant, they enjoy sensory activities. Some examples are food, materials (soft, squishy, etc). Make a sensory bag or use a recycled bottle

“Sensory activities, in addition to being fun and interesting for babies and young children, encourage children to explore and investigate. Furthermore, these activities support children to use the ‘scientific method’ of observing, forming a hypothesis, experimenting and making conclusions.” (Goodstart, 2018)
Hello from the Toddler and Preschool room, with the month of April behind us we move into a new month with Summer just around the corner. We are excited for the warmer weather.

For the month of May, I hope to be outdoors with the children as much as possible, so please make sure the children are dressed according to the weather for that day. Being outdoors will allow the children to explore and see the changes around us that come with the season. This month we will focus on that special day, MOTHER’S DAY with the children and come up with something nice for their moms. Also, we have a few new items in our room’s. One big addition is the climber. The children are making full use of this daily. The climber will help build up their gross motor skills, such as when stepping up and down the stairs and crawling through the open passages on the bottom.
OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
CHILDREN ARE NOT THINGS TO BE MOLDED, BUT PEOPLE TO BE UNFOLDED.

COURTNEY LAUNDRIE, RECE
EARLY LEARNING COORDINATOR

For the month of March and April we focused on activities for the whole family. Intergenerational learning is key to revitalizing our culture and ensuring our Indigenous ways of knowing and being and knowledge from our elders continues to thrive in our community. Families met virtually to take part in our monthly paint nights with who's crafty and enjoy our our Anishnaabemowin Bingo. Sophie Pheasant has been our facilitator for regalia making where families have been learning the basics of beading, parents have been learning through trial and error on how to learn and adapt these new learned skills.

In the next upcoming months I will continue with my regular monthly programming with a few new initiatives underway. One of the new programs that will be starting in May will be the gardening program with Candace. I am excited to bring her live via zoom to help the families learn to garden, harvest and how to preserve their food. This will be a weekly check in where she will share some tips and share her gardening knowledge. We also have Syrkal coming back to our community to teach us how to make homemade liquid hand soap, and hand sanitizer. She is excited to be working with WRFN again and cant wait to share her ideas with us. The Family Wellbeing Team and I will be collaborating in parent support programs that will be monthly to engage parents in sharing and gaining new knowledge. We will have more upcoming events, keep and eye out for those.

IMPORTANT DATES
May 4, 2021 – Paint Night - 6 PM
May 6, 27, 2021 – Regalia Making – 6 PM  (for those who already registered)
May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021 – Gardening with Candace
May 13, 2021 – DIY Hand Sanitizer & Liquid Soap Workshop with Syrkal
May 17, 2021 – Anishnaabewmowin Bingo
May 19, 2021- Immunity Building Workshop with Tara Clapp
May 25,2021– Parent Session

FAMILY CHALLENGE WINNERS

CONGRATS to Tammy, Dan, Nakia and Lila for completing the family outdoor challenge. They were the only family to complete, they won a $250 gift card for Canadian Tire
Protecting Shkaakamik-kwe
SECTION 1: COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Aanii friends, Winter is gone and spring is here. It’s my favourite transition of the year! Things are turning green and showing life again after winter rest. I’m so excited to be able to share some tips and tricks to get your garden beds happening. Connecting back to the earth, feeling the sun and watching your garden grow is such a great way to lift your mood and spirit. Watching the curiosity on the children’s face as they plant seeds and the first sprouts. It’s all just a beautiful process. Can’t wait to see you all on our first Zoom Meet on May 7th.

CANDACE PERRAULT

“IF YOU WANT A CHILD’S MIND TO GROW, YOU MUST FIRST PLANT THE SEED.”

For the months of May and June, The Family well-being are excited to partner up with the Early Learning Coordinator, Courtney. We have some collaborations coming your way! So, keep your eye out for Parenting Support group, Chef on call and a fun Wood burning session with a local company Flint and Flora.

CRYSTAL CLARK-MCGREGOR, YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER
PAIGE JACKO, FAMILY RESOURCE WORKER
FAMILY WELLBEING TEAM

Land-based learning has always been a part of First Nations culture. It encourages critical thought through interaction with the land, an understanding of nature and its relation to science – all the while connecting with and celebrating Indigenous culture

Kelly Geraldine Malone
Canadian Press, 2018

SECTION 2: Maternal and Child Health Program

Maternal and Child Health Program was developed to provide:

Home Visits, Case Management, Family Support Plans
- Gather information
- Identify family strengths
- Optimize newborn & child healthy growth and development
- Provide post-natal contact within 3 days
- Offer screening within two weeks
- Identify additional support
- On-going review of progress
- Informed Consent of all programs

Referrals to or from other Community Support Services
- Postpartum/ Health (Lactation, Jaundice, CHN –Vaccines)
- Child Support (Speech, OT, FASD)
- Mental Health
- Healers
- Nutritionists (Diabetes, Naturopaths)
- referral to or from community services
- research and evaluation

Connecting families to programs:
- MFRC
- EarlyOn’s
- Playgroups

Consultation:
- Nurses
- Elders
- Midwives
- Social services

CANDACE PERRAULT
TERRY WILLEMSVANDYK, RECE, RT
MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR
UPCOMING PROGRAMMING
MAY 2021

1. **ANISHNAABEMOWIN BINGO**
   **GAMES FUN & PRIZES**
   **MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021**
   **STARTS AT 6 PM**
   To sign up please contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Child & Family Coordinator via email @ courtneyl@whitefishriver.ca, facebook or phone @ (705) 863-2793

2. **EARLY LEARNING & INNOVATION CENTRE GARDENING PROGRAM with Candace**
   Every Friday Starting May 7, 2021 @ 5:30 PM VIA ZOOM
   ALL COMMUNITY WELCOME TO ATTEND
   Candace will be live via ZOOM weekly to share her knowledge on gardening, sharing tips, and tricks to help make your garden blossom.
   **First 15 Families**
   **Receive the following**
   - 1 GARDEN BOX
   - 1 WATERING CAN
   - 1 GARDEN TOOL SET
   - SOIL
   - SEEDS
   To Sign up and register please contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Child & Family Coordinator @ courtneyl@whitefishriver.ca, on facebook or by phone @ (705) 863-2793

3. **DIY Hand Sanitizer & Liquid Soap Making Workshop with Syrkal**
   **MAY 13, 2021 @ 6 PM**
   VIA ZOOM
   Link will be shared with families
   Learn how to make your own liquid soap and hand sanitizer without having to constantly buy it
   **LIMITED SPACES - FIRST 15 FAMILIES 0-12 YEARS**
   All supplies will be provided.
   FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT COURTNEY LAUNDRIE, EARLY LEARNING FAMILY & CHILDHOOD COORDINATOR VIA EMAIL @ COURTNEYL@WHITEFISHERIVER.CA, FACEBOOK OR @ (705) 863-2791

WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY
TEA WITH AUNTIE
FROM 6:30-7:30PM
"Providing knowledge & ideas for your tool box"

JOIN US TWICE A MONTH VIRTUALLY WITH ROSE JACKO AND OTHER GUEST SPEAKERS TO DISCUSS VARIOUS TOPICS SUCH AS PARENTING SUPPORT, SELF-CARE, FAMILY DYNAMICS, MENTAL HEALTH, GRIEF, LIFE SKILLS, ETC.

FOUR SESSION TO GO:
MAY 4TH
MAY 18TH
JUNE 1ST
JUNE 15TH

ZOOM LINK TO BE PROVIDED BEFORE EACH SESSION.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PAIGE JACKO AT PAIGEJ@WHITEFISHRIVER.CA

Download the WRFN COVID-19 app from Apple App Store or Google Play

EGIJITOOWIING ANISHNA BEMOWIN
Learning the Language
Join us virtually with Marion & Lissa McGregor
Every Monday Evening from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
Program will run till the end June

Zoom Link to be provided when you register
For more information or to register, please contact Paige Jacko at paigej@whitefishriver.ca

Download the WRFN COVID-19 app from Apple App Store or Google Play

ZOOM MEETING
PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
STARTING MAY 25TH, 2021

ENJOY CONNECTING WITH OTHER PARENTS DURING THESE HARD TIMES
JOIN IN CONVERSATION AND ACTIVITIES FROM 6:00 - 7:00 PM

LINK WILL BE POSTED ON FAMILY WELL-BEING FACEBOOK PAGE
Topics include: Self-care, Relationships, Parenting suggestions and many others

COURTNEY LAUNDRIE, PAIGE JACKO, AND CRYSTAL CLARK-MCGREGOR
For more information or to sign-up comment on Facebook post

Download the WRFN COVID-19 app from Apple App Store or Google Play

MAAMWE KENDAASING CHILD CARE & INNOVATION CENTRE PRESENTS
Who’s Crafty PAINT NIGHT
Family Event
May 4, 2021
6 PM
Via Zoom
A fun night of socializing and creativity with your family and community.

Supplies to be dropped off the night of event

To Sign up please contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Coordinator via email @ courtneyj@whitefishriver.ca, facebook or by phone @ (705) 863-2791

WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY
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<td>STAFF PD Evening Session</td>
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<td>Gardening with Candace 6PM</td>
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**Anishnaabemowin N'bakinaage**

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