



# EARLY LEARNING & INNOVATION CENTRE

MONTHLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

## EARLY LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming news about the daycare.

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## LEARNING THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

A new section dedicated to what the children are learning and how their learning happens.

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

New upcoming programming for the month of June.

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# WHAT WE INSTILL OUR CHILDREN WILL BE THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THEY BUILD THEIR FUTURE.

**MELANIE MANITOWABI, RECE, B.ED, OCT, M.ED  
SUPERVISOR**

Aanii Kinawaya,

Welcome Miin Giizis! We hope all our families had a great start to their summer and are embracing the warmer days ahead. With the amount of rain we received, I anticipate a good growing season for crops and the berries that are coming up. Here at the Centre we celebrated the Odemin (Strawberry) teaching with our children and the staff shared the importance of this teaching which emphasizes peace and forgiveness, which encompasses Zaagidiwin (love). As we reflect on this teaching, and the importance of showing our next generation unconditional love we are demonstrating our roles as care takers of each child's spirit (ngo dwe waangizid Anishinaabe, we are all one family).



This month is filled with more exciting learning opportunities for our children as we explore more of our community through our community walks and bush adventures. We have started the summer School Age Care (SAC) program and this is being run by a great team, and I have no doubt the children will enjoy their time with us this summer. As we increase our enrollment, we are also increasing our summer support team. We welcome Nevada Anwhatin, Jenna Visitor, Duncan Stewart, Monika McGregor and Cheyenne Pitawanakwat to our team. These students are pursuing their Post-Secondary Degrees in various areas; such as; Anishinaabemowin, Fine Arts, Indigenous Studies/Family Law and Kinesiology, and they will bring both their formal and informal learning to our children through innovative approaches, which fit within our children's learning journey and strategic plan. Very Exciting!

Each student will have their own schedules of duties and tasks that they will accomplish this summer through our eight-week program, and hopefully these positions provide excellent experiences in the important field of Early Childhood Education. We are very excited to document and share our adventures with our families in our newsletters, so please stay tuned. Lastly, as always if you need care for your child, please pick up an enrollment from the Early Learning Centre.

Baamaapii Gwaabaamin

# THERE ARE 7 WONDERS IN THE WORLD. IN THE EYES OF A CHILD ARE THE 7 BILLION.

**INFANT PROGRAM  
CYNDIL NAHWEGAHBOW, RECE**

Aanii, Boozhoo Parents & Guardians!

Strawberry Moon – Ode'miin Giizis – June

Summer – Niibin

SUMMER IS HERE! This is the season of sunblock, flip flops, sand, water, and FUN! We also would like to wish a Happy Father's Day to all our Father's, Grandfather's, and Uncle's, we hope you all enjoyed your special day.

To the start of June we kicked with a SPLASH DAY! All the children really enjoyed that day as they got to play in the water sprinkler and water tables. Brennan wasn't sure about the Rainbow sprinkler at first but he slowly made his way towards it, reaching out his arms trying to feel the water. He really enjoys the water table, he liked scooping the water or just dipping his hand in the tub. He also enjoyed spraying the water hose with Mrs. Candace, making puddles and splashing his toes.

To celebrate National Indigenous People's Day our cook Julie made some Taco's that Friday and they were delicious, Brenna loved the scone. Chi-Miigwetch Julie!

We are already in the month of July and we can expect hotter days, so I look forward to having more Splash Days this month. Please remember to have your child dress according to weather each day. I will also be giving notices/reminders on Hi Mama when we do have our splash days, please remember to check your Hi Mama app regularly. J

Lastly, in July I will be talking and sharing with our infant about our Shkiinzhig(oon) (eyes), Jaanzh (nose), Doon (mouth), and Dip (head). Encouraging them to point and recognize these body parts. I will also be encouraging baby sign language. Baby sign language is a simple set of hand gestures to help our infants communicate while at their early development stages.



dozens of ideas for  
**SENSORY BAGS**

BY CHAOS AND THE CLUTTER



# CURIOSITY IS THE QUALITY THAT URGES A CHILD TO KEEP ON FINDING OUT MORE, TO CONNECT ACTIONS TO OUTCOMES, PEOPLE WITH FEELINGS. WONDERING WHY IS THE POWERFUL ENGINE THAT DRIVES DISCOVERY.

**TODDLER PROGRAM**  
**JOANN RECOLLET, RECE**

Aanii from the Toddler room,

Wow time is sure is flying by June has come and gone, the toddlers have been busy practicing their fine motor skills, we have a branch in our room and the children practice putting the beads on the smaller branches. Also the rice table also to enhance their fine motor skills, we added in cloths pins, small cups and Pompoms.

We have had a water day, which the children enjoyed and we look forward to having more days like this in the coming month. Also we will be exploring various wild flowers and keeping an eye out for them when we go on our nature walks, allowing the children to explore the nature around them. We also will be focusing on the color red and green. Are arts and crafts will incorporate these two colors as much as possible.

Wish everyone a happy and safe July



# CURIOSITY IS THE COMPASS THAT LEADS US TO OUR PASSIONS. FOLLOW IT AND YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED. THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE CURIOUS.

**PRESCHOOL PROGRAM  
CAITLIN PITAWANAKWAT, RECE  
CANDACE PERRAULT**

Aanii from the Preschool Room!

The month of June has flown by! The focus this month was insects, which meant we spent a LOT of time outdoors, soaking up the sunshine and searching for all sorts of bugs. During this time our group discovered many different species of beetles, 3 types of large beautiful moths, a variety of ants and an assortment of spiders. The children carefully observed the colors of the creatures and compared characteristics such as the fuzziness or shininess of their shells and bodies. Having Miss Candace within our classroom has been wonderful, as she has a wealth of amazing insect knowledge to share! Within the classroom, the children spent time crafting their own insects using playdoh, pipe cleaners, and googly eyes and painting their choice of bug after learning about the different body parts of an insect. We've also been busy practicing our scissor skills, letters and name tracing.

After noticing that the interest within the group was slowly shifting, I had a group discussion with the children and it's been decided that the children would like to start exploring and learning more about Space! Over the next little while, Miss Candace and I will be trying our best to make our classroom feel 'out of this world!' for our group. The children have been pretending that our new climber is a rocket ship and we will be putting out many loose parts and open ended materials (such as tinfoil, aluminum baking sheets and pans) to help them bring what they envision to life! We will begin learning more about the sun, moon, stars, planets, astronauts, and what seems to be our class favorite at the moment- aliens!

Here is what the children have shared about what they know about space:

"We are on a planet"

"We live on Earth"

"The Sun is in space"

"You have to take a rocket ship to space"

"There are aliens in space... and they poop!"

I look forward to sharing more with you next month about our space adventure and what we have learned together!

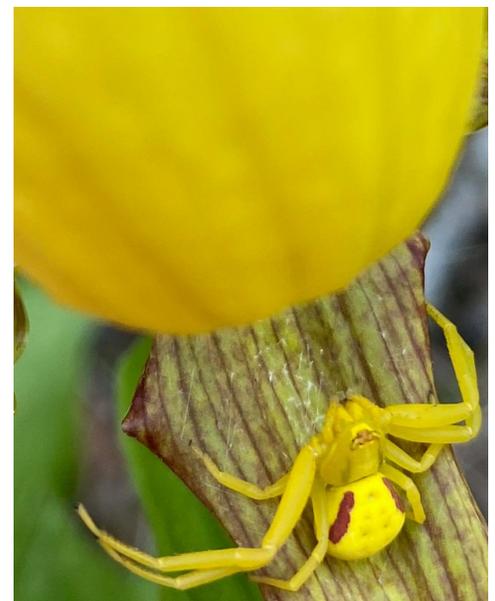
Additionally, with the summer months ahead, I'd like to request that parents keep an extra set of swimming shorts or bathing suit at the center. This month we had our first water day of the season, and the children are looking forward too many more! Some of these water days may be impromptu depending on the weather and having an extra set of clothes at the center means more opportunities for fun!

Until next time,

Miigweetch and stay safe!

Caitlin Pitawanakwat

RECE



# NAABING BINOJIIINH NAABID

## *Learning through a child's eyes.*

Ace and Caleb were checking on the growth of our back garden. In one of the garden beds, Ace noticed a small bean seed laying on top of the soil.

"Hey, I found a seed!" he yelled excitedly.

"Okay, find somewhere to plant it" Miss Candace replied.

Ace walked over to Caleb, held up the seed to show him and asked "where do you think I should plant it?"

Caleb looked at the garden for a moment and then pointed to a spot directly in between two plants, "Right there."

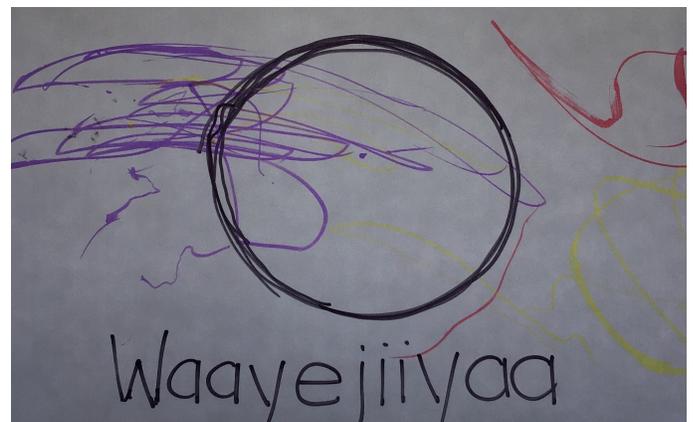
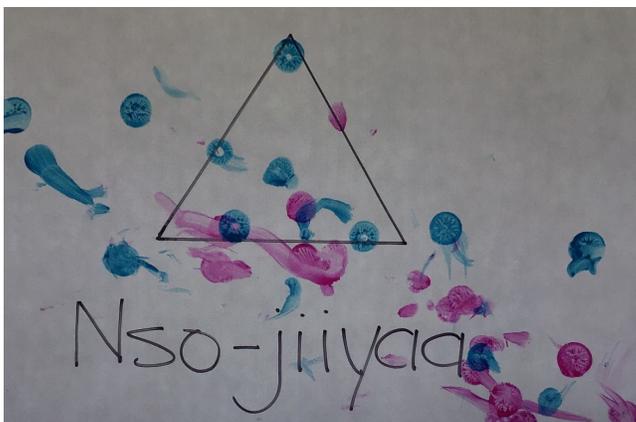
"Okay!" Ace replied. He carefully dug a small hole, placed the seed inside and covered it back up with soil. "Done!" he said with a big smile.

Caleb smiled back and they continued to look through the gardens at the growing vegetables.



In this quick interaction, Ace and Caleb demonstrated positive social skills and interactions through collaboration, valuing outside input and ideas, helping to complete a task, and taking pride in the completed job.

Caitlin Pitawanakwat  
RECE



This month we will be exploring different sizes and colors of shapes. Naming shapes is a skill that takes a little longer to develop but it's never too early to start especially with shape recognition. We focused on our commonly used shapes, which were Waayejiiyaa (Circle), Nso-jiiyaa (Triangle) and Kakdejiiyaa (Square) by exploring them with different sensory activities using paint, dabbers, and markers. Our infant really enjoyed the colors we used during these activities with some guidance. For literacy, we read books that shared the different colors and shapes.

Cyndil Nahwegahbow  
RECE

# LEARNING TOGETHER ABOUT ODE'MIN

Throughout the month of June, we have been learning about the Ode'min (Heartberry/Strawberry) within our Preschool Classroom. The children first noticed the small white flowers of the wild strawberry plants during our walks, and quickly realized that there were a ton of plants in bloom along the side of the roads and within the ditches! Learning about the strawberry also coincided with the month of June, Ode'min Giizis. There are many different teachings that are connected to the Strawberry, and the teaching that we focused on sharing within our class was the importance of Kindness. After having a group smudge, I handed out small felt fabric strawberries to each of the children. Candace and I shared that Ode'min, the strawberry, is shaped like a heart and it reminds us to treat one another with kindness and to be good to each others hearts. In our preschool classroom we can show kindness to one another through sharing, respecting each others words, and including our friends when we play.

Together we also planted an Ode'min plant within our outdoor space. Leading up to planting, we shared with the group the life cycle of the strawberry plant, and explained how from the blossom the fruit would eventually grow. To prepare for our strawberry garden, our group first went for a walk to find large stones to use for our perimeter and the following week, we gathered soil. While on our walk to gather the soil, the children found a sweet surprise! Some of the wild strawberry plants now had small, ripe berries. The children were so excited and there was enough that each child had the opportunity to try one.

After gathering the soil, we returned to our outdoor space and some of the children helped transfer the soil. Once the strawberry plants were planted and watered, we offered some semaa and good prayers for our plants, the soil, the berries, and the stones we used. We look forward to watching them grow and blossom this year, and in the future!

Caitlin Pitawanakwat  
RECE



# WHAT IT MEANS TO ME, TO BE AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR (ECE)

**Caitlin Pitawanakwat, RECE**

The profession of Early Childhood Education is one that is often overlooked and undervalued. Sometimes we can feel unappreciated, and we know that many look at our career of choice as simply 'babysitting'. Even in our own profession in Early Childhood Educator lingo, 'being on the floor' aka working day to day with children within the classroom, is sometimes seen as the least desirable position to be in. However, I'd like to offer a different perspective, one that shows that in every way, being an Early Childhood Educator is much more meaningful than that.

When the news broke about the heartbreaking discovery of 215 children found at Kamloops Indian Residential School, my heart broke. I, along with so many across Turtle Island, felt deep shock, sadness and pain. It took me a while to process the sheer magnitude of loss, and I found myself experiencing moments of sadness throughout my days, sneaking up like waves, but leaving me with a lump in my throat. It was one such moment that helped me move through my sadness.

I was sitting between two cots at the start of our rest time, gently rubbing the children's backs on either side of me, trying to help them relax and ease into a peaceful sleep. In that moment, while sitting on the floor in the filtered sun, I truly realized that there had been a time when our children, at such a young age, weren't shown this comfort, care and compassion that every child deserves. I felt the heaviness in my chest and the tears behind my eyes creep up. But as I sat there, something dawned on me: what we're doing is healing work.

Everyday when we get the opportunity to work with our children, our newest little spirits, we are doing healing work. We are helping to heal our families, our communities, and our future generations.

In this chosen career path, we are doing far more than babysitting. Early Childhood Educators are integral and vital to the present and future health and prosperity of our communities. We are helping our families to raise strong, proud children, sure footed in who they are and surrounded with support. Our children have Educators who value them, respect their individuality and uniqueness, who listen intently to their opinions and ideas, and who show them that they matter every single day. In our daily practice, we try to create the best possible learning environments for the children in our care. We plan and prepare activities based on their interests, we answer questions and collaborate, we show pride in our culture, language and traditions, and equally important, we have fun! By doing this, we are demonstrating to the children and their families that we honor them and who they are. We work hard to create a space that tells them they are safe, they are protected, and they are respected.

Families entrust us with their greatest gifts, their children, and our teams rise up to the occasion. Because its true, our children are our greatest gifts. They are our youth of tomorrow, and our next generation of leaders. So now, when I feel that sadness creep in, I remind myself that we can honor those children, our relations, in this way every single day. We have the opportunity as Early Childhood Educators to show kindness, love and compassion through our actions, and to help these little spirits in our care start off on the right foot, taking one small step, hand in hand, towards mino-bimaadiziwin.

# FAMILIES ARE LIKE BRANCHES ON A TREE. WE GROW IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, YET OUR ROOTS REMAIN AS ONE.

## COURTNEY LAUNDRIE, RECE

It's already July and it seems like the months are flying by. We had a great month of programming in June with so much fun and exciting programming coming up this month.

In June we had Sarah Earley who is a fellow ECE host a virtual craft with the children at the daycare. The children enjoyed seeing her on the TV and creating amazing paintings with nature. This program went into a evening and a prerecorded session was available for families to take part in. For those that missed the event, you will need a gmail account for me to share the video with you.

Our beading group met again for a final day in early June to learn about how to complete their medallions. They all turned out amazing! Everyone came up with their own designs and each participant learned some amazing skills. Miigwetch to Sophie and Natasha for them both sharing this knowledge.

Our gardening program has been such a great program for our families and it has been both rewarding and exciting to see all of the families coming together to share their knowledge, updates on their gardens and coming to chat with Candace and I. We are super excited for when we get to harvest as this will open up our next set of programming. I appreciate the dedication and sincerity of all the participants on being helpful, and being so kind to one another.

For the month of July I will be teaming up with many different facilitators and special events coordinators to bring some programming here to Whitefish River. Sophie Pheasant will be co-hosting our family bundles session on making shakers, and she will be here for T-Dress Making. On popular demand, Syrkal will be having a DIY zoom session for families on how to make bug spray and deodorant. Our big events this month have me teaming me up with the family well-being team for some family outings. We will be having another Drive In Movie to watch Disney's Raya and the last Dragon.

I look forward to what the month has to bring and hope to see all the families coming out to enjoy our events.

Miigwetch



# BUILDING FAMILIES

## Ingredients

for 4 servings

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 cup teriyaki sauce(240 mL)
- 2 teaspoons oil
- ½ cup onion(75 g), diced
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- ½ cup carrot(60 g), diced
- 1 cup broccoli floret(150 g)
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 3 cups brown rice(690 g), cooked
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- pepper, to taste



## Preparation

1. Marinate the chicken in teriyaki sauce in the refrigerator for at least an hour.
2. In a wok or deep skillet, add the chicken in the teriyaki marinade and cook thoroughly over high heat. Set aside.
3. In the same pan, add the oil and cook onions, garlic, and carrots until onions are translucent.
4. Add broccoli and cook an additional 3-4 minutes. Push all of the cooked vegetables to the side of the pan.
5. Beat the eggs and pour into the cleared half of the pan. Scramble the eggs and mix with the rest of the vegetables.
6. Add rice, cooked chicken, soy sauce, sesame oil, and pepper. Mix well and let the rice cook until slightly crispy.
7. Enjoy!

## FAMILY FUN ACTIVITY

Here's What You'll Need...

- Mixing bowl
- Mixing spoons
- Measuring spoons
- Elmer's glue, one bottle per batch
- Contact solution
- Gen Glitter in BLVD Bling or 14 Karat Wear It
- A sealable container for post-slime storage



HOW TO MAKE GLOSSY SLIME

Step 1: Washable Elmer's Glue

- Use one bottle per batch, squeezing the whole bottle into your mixing bowl. We chose pink Elmer's glue to complement our pink glitter, giving the final slime a pearly pink gloss. You can use any color (even clear) that you want! White Elmer's glue will work, but its milky color will tone down a lot of the glitter in your slime.

2: Baking Soda

- Mix one heaping tablespoon with the glue until fully combined. It's totally normal for the mixture to form bubbles, btw.

Step 3: Gen Glitter

- Add a tablespoon of Gen Glitter in BLVD Bling to the glue and baking soda mixture. The beauty of our Gen Glitter formulas is that they're water-based and alcohol-free. Not only does this make them a gentler option for little hands to handle, but it helps make the slime more stretchy and less prone to breakage.

Step 4: Contact Solution

- Make sure the contact solution you use lists boric acid in the ingredients since that's the activator that interacts with the glue to turn it into slime. Mix in ½ Tbsp increments slowly and steadily, checking slime consistency as you go. Once it starts to reach a less liquid, more squishy state, switch to kneading by hand. It will feel sticky at first but should improve quickly. We found that 2 Tbsp was the perfect amount of contact solution, but you might find you like the texture better with a little more or less. So, experiment!

PETITE'n *Pretty*

## HOMEMADE GLITTER SLIME RECIPE

### What You'll Need

- **Mixing bowl**
- **Mixing spoon**
- **Measuring spoons**
- **Clear Elmer's glue**
- **Contact solution**
- **Your favorite shade of Gen Glitter**
- **Storage container**

### How to Make It

1. **Squeeze the whole bottle of clear glue into your mixing bowl**
2. **Add 1 Tbsp of baking soda and mix thoroughly**
3. **Add 1 Tbsp of Gen Glitter and continue to mix**
4. **Slowly add 2 Tbsp of contact solution, mixing just a little at a time and kneading by hand until slime is stretchy but not sticky**

# UPCOMING PROGRAMMING



**DIY BUG REPELLENT & DEODORANT WITH SYRKAL**

**JULY 22, 2021  
6 PM**

All Supplies Provided

To register contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Coordinator via email @ courtneyl@whitefishriver.ca, or by phone at (705) 285-7777

**WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

*Anishnaabemowin*

**BINGO!**

**July 13, 2021 - 6 PM**

Join us for a fun night of spending time with other community families, learning our Anishnaabe language & winning great prizes!

To register contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Coordinator via email @ courtneyl@whitefishriver.ca or by phone (705) 285-7777.

**WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**CHILD T- DRESS MAKING**  
*with Sophie Pheasant*



ALL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED.  
Bring Your Own Sewing Machine.

ACTIVE COVID SCREENING & SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

**JULY 28, 2021 - 9 - 4 PM**  
**OUTSIDE OF DAYCARE**  
**Only 8 Spaces available : Register Early**

To register contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Coordinator via email courtneyl@whitefishriver.ca or by phone (705) 285-7777

**WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

*Family Bundles Shakers*

**2 DAY EVENT WITH SOPHIE PHEASANT**

**July 27 & 29 - @ 6 PM**  
All materials will be provided

To Register contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Coordinator via email courtneyl@whitefishriver.ca, or @ (705) 285-7777

**WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**DRIVE-IN**



**ACTIVE COVID SCREENING & PROTOCOLS**

GATES OPEN 5 PM  
MOVIE AT 6 PM

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE

**July 25, 2021**  
**The Old Saw Mill**

Please contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Coordinator via email courtneyl@whitefishriver.ca or by phone (705)285-7777

**WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

MAAMWE KENDAASING EARLY LEARNING & INNOVATION CENTRE

**WHO'S CRAFTY YARDZEE**

**OUTDOOR GAME MAKING**

**Saturday July 15, 2021**  
**6 PM**

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING VIA ZOOM  
ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

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

**WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**JULY**  
**2021**

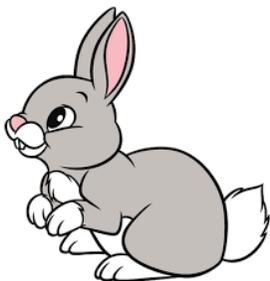
*Miin Giizis*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Garden Program 6 PM	3
4	5	6	7	8 Chef On Call BBQ	9 Garden Program 6 PM	10
11	12	13 Anishnaabemowin Bingo 6 PM	14	15 Who's Crafty YARDZEE Making 6 PM	16 Garden Program 6 PM	17
18	19 Chillin' & Tubing in Chelmsford	20 Parent Support Program 6 PM	21	22 DIY with Syrkal 6 PM	23 Garden Program 6 PM	24
25 Drive In Movie Gates open at 5 PM Movie at 6 PM	26	27 Family Bundle Shakers 6 PM	28 T-Dress Making 9-4 PM	29 Family Bundle Shakers 6 PM	30 Garden Program 6 PM	31



# Anishnaabemowin N'bakinaage



WAABOOZ



AMIK



BINESHIINH



MISHIIKENH



GINEBIG



MAANISHTAANISH

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