

Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik Mazina'igan

Waatebagaa/Binaakwi Giizis 2022



LEAVES TURNING & LEAVES FALLING MOONS (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER) SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



A New Beginning: Principal's Message

Biindigek kina wiiya, I am very enthusiastic about this school year! I have had the pleasure of welcoming back many of our staff from last year and finding some vibrant new staff to join our team. I am working to continue to bring positivity and joy to our school. I was so happy to see a great turnout for our Open House & BBQ (85 people came out!). Our School Opening was a wonderful opportunity to be greeted by the Gimaa and council, and enjoy a walk to the Every Child Matters monument. Our new playground is in production and will be ready for installation in the spring. We are planning many cool events, like a big Water Walk (Save the Date MAY 30, 2024), and class trips to Science North & Rounds Ranch, the local area

(Killbear, McRae Lake), to name a few. We say Chi-miigwech to the Health Department for providing us with a beautiful outdoor learning space. Students thoroughly enjoyed learning the history and process of raising a Teepee up.

-Leslie Ramsay



Vice Principal's Message

Aanii Boozhoo Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik,

I am thrilled to be back at Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik for an exciting school year! As I reflect on my time here in June, I was deeply impressed by the warm and welcoming community of students, staff, parents, and community members. With the school experiencing a period of growth, I am eager to contribute to our collective journey. Together, we will continue to create an environment that nurtures not only academic growth but also the personal and cultural development of our students for lifelong learning. I look forward to the adventures and achievements that lie ahead in the coming months and meeting the many families of Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik.

Chi Miigwech,

Nathaniel Smart

Vice Principal, Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik

viceprincipal@wasauksing.ca



Director's Message

I would personally like to welcome all staff and students back to Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik. Judging by all of the planning and discussions that have gone on in the past months with Principal Leslie Ramsay and the excellent staff at WK, this promises to be a fantastic school year filled with an abundance of learning opportunities. Key school goals included: greater integration of culture and language across the curriculum; an increased focus on land based learning and; a focus on improving literacy and numeracy. Thank you to all community members, parents, guardians and students who showed up for the opening barbecue this past week. Our aim is to keep and strengthen community ties so that we can create the optimal, safe learning environment for all. The Director's office is always open and I am always available to hear your ideas and feedback. You can contact me at doe@wasauksing.ca. I look forward to working with the entire school community to make WK school the best it can be.

Important Dates

SEPTEMBER

28: Orange Shirt Day

29: No school, PD Day

OCTOBER

2: No School, National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

6: Terry Fox Walk

9: Thanksgiving

30: PICTURE DAY

31: Halloween Parties (PM)

Biindigek NEW STAFF!

Daniel Hickey

Aanii Hello! I'm Dan. After twenty years away, I am thrilled to be home and super excited to be here at Wasauksing! A little bit about me... My roots are here in the Parry Sound area. As a kid, I attended Nobel Public School and Parry Sound High School. I left in 2002 to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Western Ontario. During my university years, I was very involved in the music community and played in many orchestras and bands throughout south western Ontario. In 2010, I moved overseas to South Korea to begin my teaching career. Throughout my twelve years there, I worked with hundreds of students of all ages and levels on improving their English literacy and speaking skills. More recently, I was fortunate enough to live out a lifelong dream. I spent the last year in the Pacific region and South Asia exploring and volunteering in Tonga, New Zealand, Indonesia, Timor Leste, and Thailand. I am very excited to be home and part of the Wasauksing community teaching the 5/6 class this year and to learn some Anishinaabemowin!. It's going to be a great year!

Aanii kina weya!

My name is Pamela Lent and I'm the new 3/4 classroom teacher. I'm so excited to be here and to get to work with your children every day!

I'm coming to Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik in my 11th year of teaching. I have previously taught in the provincial education system as well as in a few independent schools, working with students from pre-K to grade 12. This year, I am enthusiastically returning to the role of the classroom teacher after serving in resource / special education for the past five years. I have recently moved to just outside Parry Sound where I live with my partner, Cory, and our two young children, Emmett and Lake. My favourite way to spend my time is being outside with my family; we love hiking, camping, and, when it's up to the boys, digging in the dirt.

I'm so grateful for the warm welcome your children have given me, and I feel very fortunate to be here.

Miigwetch,

- Pamela

Aanii Boozhoo Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik,

Allow me to introduce myself as one of the newest members of our school family. I am Nathaniel Smart, and I've recently taken on the role of Vice Principal. My educational journey has taken me through Muskoka's independent schools and academic pursuits at Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff. My Master's thesis delved into language acquisition among children, igniting my passion for understanding the unique needs of young learners. Throughout my career, I've had the opportunity of educating children from diverse backgrounds around the world, nurturing inclusive learning environments that weave together a rich tapestry of cultures.

I have the privilege of sharing my life with my wife, Amanda, who works as a pharmacist at the hospital, and our cheese munching, curly-haired two-year-old daughter, Lillian. For us, family, community service, and exploring new destinations hold great importance. Whether we're engaging in community initiatives, embarking on adventures, or cherishing quality time together, our family values these aspects deeply.

I am profoundly honoured to be a part of the Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik community and am excited about the journey ahead.

-Nathaniel Smart

Anishnaabemowin

Aanii/Boozhoo Kina Wiya,

Ozawaanimkeeqwe ndizhinakaaz, Wasauksing Ndoonjabaa, Anishinaabe Kwe endaw.

It has been a great beginning to another year at our beautiful school. I'm happy that the first day of school we began the year with our Traditional Welcoming Ceremony in which each class celebrated the good life we live and as a teacher we acknowledged the good life of our children.

It was followed the following week by a community based activity where we acknowledge those children who didn't have the opportunity to have a successful, balanced and positive experience due to Residential Schools. We did a walk to the Every Child Matters monument and placed the orange rocks in 4 circles to remember and honour those children and their families (our families) we have not and will not forget but move forward knowing our present future children MATTER!

This month we will continue to study not just the language but the teachings that enable us to continue to be proud of our Anishinaabe blood and family lineage. Truth & Reconciliation, Treaties and as mentioned before Every Child Matters, will definitely be ongoing and not isolated to certain days we have deemed for that particular event/occasion.

The Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering was attended by a few students Zana, Abbigail, Sophia and Mckenna) . The trip to Baawaating was such a wonderful experience for us all. To see so many Anishinaabe people in one place, to hear the language , learn about wampum belts, history of treaties, share with other youth and be a part of such a sufficient event was beyond memorable. Chi- miigwech to Debbie Jackson for helping to chaperone and to Kellie King for your assistance too. The students and I will continue to follow the events that transpire with the Annuities case.

Many events are in the process of being planned and again more resource people will be visiting our school to share their knowledge with the students and staff. Keep posted in the next newsletter as some events will be posted.

If you have anything you would like to share with our students or just have any ideas, suggestions or questions please don't hesitate to give me a call at the school.

Vocabulary for home-

Mijim

Nboop-soup

Bkwezhigan

Waasgang-pepper

Ziitaagan-salt

ziisbaakod/ziisbaakwad-sugar

Zaawaamide-butterziiwaagimide-syrup

Ninaatigo ziiwaagimide- maple syrup

Wasabi mnoomin-white rice

Nishnaabe mnoomin-wild rice

Nenaabgaanh-prridge

doodooshaaboo-milk

Land-Based/Physical Education

It is great to be back here at Wasauksing to keep growing the ever expanding outdoor education program. This year outdoor education classes have expanded to be three days a week and so far things are in full swing. A new expansion is the junior and senior kindergarten classes They are receiving times every day of the week. We also have included a field trip every month for every grade of the school year starting in October that is related to land based understandings . More information in regards to this will be sent out in the future.

Two really cool initiatives are the challenge and knowledge board called “Kinomaagewin” in the front hall of the school. This board has a “did you know?”, “wenesh maaba” (What's this?) and a riddle relating to the outdoors on the board. We have had some enthusiastic students come and solve these challenges and they are: Waawaaskone, Waasayaaban, Christian, Talon, and Sophia. Each has won awards for solving. Great job students and I encourage the community to ask about what they solved.

Beginning in October with more information to follow will be an outers club. This club will be after school once a week from 3:30 until 4:30 with one field trip a month where guardians are encouraged to attend. Come and see what skills your children or child are learning.

The students have begun team building units as well as nature journaling and balance and coordination as well as others. A large focus for this year will be team building and understanding fair play and respectful athleticism. It is my hope for this year we will be able to increase school sports teams to compete in the local area. -Kory Snache

Special Education Team

The SERT team hopes that everyone had a wonderful summer! It was great to see all the smiling faces on the first week back. Our services from Lyndsey Stevenato Children's Therapy Services (LSCTS) have started back up. Service blocks are 30 minutes per week. Referral forms signed last year will still be active, and any student who received services last year will be continuing with their programming, unless the Therapist feels that they have met all the necessary goals, and in that case they will be discharged and documentation will be sent home.

Our new Speech and Language Pathologist, Vanessa Garnett, was in on September 13 and 14th, with Cassidy Thornton (Communication Disorders Assistant) to update speech goals. Once the goals are updated, Speech Therapy will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Please note the days that services are being provided, as always, contact the school if your child is going to be absent.

Monday- Mental Health Counselling (Maureen Willis)

Tuesday- Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy (Cassidy Thornton)

Wednesday- Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy (Cassidy Thornton)

Thursday- Mental Health Counselling (Maureen Willis)

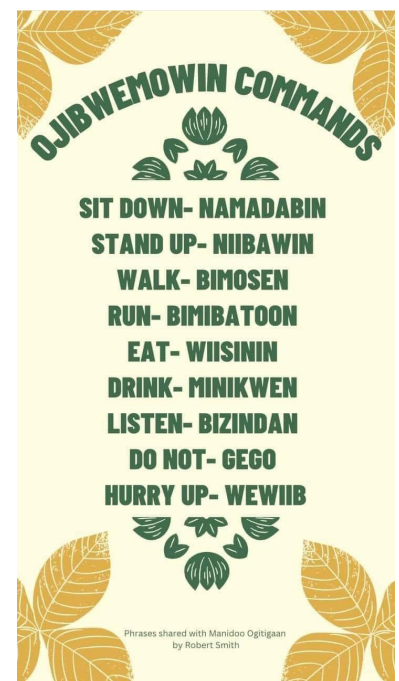
Friday- Physiotherapy (Lisa Ivany) and Mental Health Counselling (Maureen Willis)

Please be aware that there will be special event days where services will be cancelled for the day.

The SERT team is also working diligently to update all IEPs. IEP's will be sent home mid-October.

Our door is always open or we are just a phone call away if you have any concerns regarding your child (ren). We are available by calling the school at 705-746-5663, or by email Allison (sertlead@wasauksing.ca) or Diane (sert@wasauksing.ca).

The Sert (Special Education Resource Teacher) Team,
Diane King minwaa Allison Outram



JK/SK Class

Danielle Brooks, Agnes Whalen

Aanii,

It is so good to be back with some old and new students. This year we have more JK students and they are learning the routine very quickly. For the beginning of the year we have been letting the students get familiar with the classroom, the teachers and the routine.

Agnes and I are very excited to see the progress by the end of the year. We have observed some very smart and talented little ones within our group. We are also excited to challenge our Sk group as they are ready to be advancing along.

We are planning a trip to Round's Ranch this fall. The ranch provides many learning opportunities such as; how pumpkins grow, what is a ranch, how and what do various animals eat and so much more. We will be sure to let you know when the trip will take place when we have a confirmation date.

Kindergarten is play based learning. Students are learning to count, read, cooperate, self regulate and so much more. As the year progresses it is very exciting to see how each student has grown and matured. They are also learning by attending various activities and events. They particularly enjoyed the teepee being built, and the walk to the monument.





We look forward to more events throughout the year!

Danielle and Agnes

Grade 1/2 Class

Boozhoo Wasauksing families and friends!

We have jumped headfirst into our learning in the 1/2 class and are having so much fun! We've started this school year with a review of the 7 grandfather teachings as a way of establishing our classroom expectations, creating a feeling of community, and a sense of responsibility to ourselves, each other, and our environment. Our small community within the larger school and island community, is made up of fifteen 6 and 7 year olds along with myself and our EA, Sarah Dupuis. Our learning has had a heavy focus on literacy as we are implementing new programs and materials introduced by Donna G. that focus on the science of reading. When sounding out a simple three letter word, ask your child to show you how they place the sounds on their arm to blend them. When trying to spell a simple word, ask them to 'finger spell' it!

Other areas of study include:

Place Value and Patterning: We are learning about skip counting by ones, twos, fives and tens, as well as odd and even numbers and the values of two digit numbers. Some of us are learning to build and read numbers to the thousand's



place! We are also learning about repeating and growing patterns using numbers, shapes and colours and exploring patterns we see in nature!

Daily and Seasonal Changes/Air and Water in the Environment: We are learning about the yearly calendar, the changes we see throughout the four seasons, and how living things adapt to these changes. Every day we observe and track the weather and look for changes in the appearance and behaviour of living things, including us! We are using an engineering design process to build tools for measuring rain, wind, humidity and temperature.

Drama: We have a class of emerging actors! We are playing games to help us learn to express ourselves in front of an audience as well as ‘act out’ various emotions.

Field Trips: A trip to Round’s Ranch OCTOBER 12 is in the works as well as monthly land-based learning trips with Mr. Snache.

Sarah and I are so impressed with all the hard work and kindness we’ve seen from our students so far and can’t wait to see their growth over the course of this school year!

Stay tuned for info on the Seesaw app coming soon!

Miigwetch!

Jessica (teacher5@wasauksing.ca)

Grade 3/4 Class

Pam, Joanna, Rosie

Aanii kina weya!

The 3/4 class has started the year off by getting to know each other a little bit, and with me starting to learn about each student’s strengths and areas of growth. Everyone brings so much to the class and I’m so looking forward to what’s ahead. The main message I have for everyone as we start this year together is that we’re all different, we’re all on our own learning journey, and that’s fantastic.

Our mornings are spent focusing on foundations math and literacy skills. This month in math, we have started to dig into developing our number sense by exploring the ‘why’ behind how we do certain calculations as we work on understanding how to add and subtract larger and larger numbers. We are building on these skills and applying them to money as we move into October. In literacy, everyone has completed assessments to help determine everyone’s reading and spelling skill level; this has helped me develop personalized learning plans that align with the science of reading. In both math

and literacy, students are strategically grouped and participate in hands-on activities that help progress their skill development and understanding.

In the afternoons, we are spending our time learning how to learn; we will focus on transferable skill development like literacy and numeracy, but also skills like emotional regulation, time management, research, and collaboration. We are developing skills while exploring different curriculum areas. In our first unit of study, we learned about regulating our sensory system to get it ready to tackle new learning; we are always working on developing a repertoire of tools and strategies that help us feel calm and ready to learn. We are now into our 'plants, soil, and sun' unit that has us developing our inquiry skills as we practice scientific thinking. Stay tuned for an update on our indoor vegetable garden!

The year is off to a great start and I'm so excited to see where it takes us!

Miigwetch, Pamela

Grade 5/6

Aanii kina wiiya!!

So far, the grade 5 / 6 class has been off to a running start. They have begun learning about Place Value in mathematics, Biodiversity (grade 6) and The Human Body Systems (Grade 5) in science, and Truth and Reconciliation in Social Studies. In Literacy, the students have been working on sentence structures, prefixes and suffixes, journal writing, guided reading and independent reading, spelling patterns and word meanings, and handwriting. They have also created a lego self portrait in art.

The class enjoyed the first week working as teams and with partners to complete a few STEM activities too.

In October, the students will be gearing up for Halloween, and once again, we will be having our Annual Halloween Dinner Party. Stay tuned for details in October.

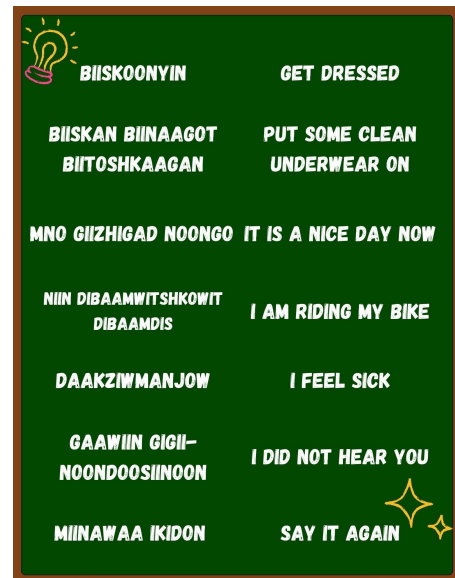
Miigwech,

Donna Genereux, Danielle Tabobondung, Donna Lubbelinkhof

Grade 7/8 Class

Aanii Wasauksing!

It is so good to be back to school! I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and took care of themselves. We have a small class of 7 students this year (three in grade 7 and 4 in grade 8).



Events/Activities: Among the activities/events so far this school year, we have been able to participate in the walk to the Every Child Matters Monument, the Health Fair and the Open House and BBQ. Our class will be organising Nish Taco Sales every last week of the months to come. The first sale is on Sep 27, 2023. The flyers will be out soon so please spread the word and help fundraise for the whole school by volunteering and encouraging people to buy our Tacos.

Academics: Here are the topics we have been working on:

Social Emotional Learning: Anxiety and Stress, and skills to cope with them

Math: Gr. 7: Number: Rational Numbers (& Irrational Numbers Gr. 8), Math Facts, Mental Math, Addition and Subtraction

English: Reading Journals, Grammar (Punctuations), Paragraph Writing and oral presentations on My Life in Logs, Consumer awareness Lesson (Orange Juice)

History: Gr. 7: 1. Important Events Sorting Activity, 2. Historical Minutes Topic: Explorers & First Nations, 3. Canadian Settlement Objects Activity, 3B. Haudenosaunee, Inuit and Métis; Gr. 8: 1. Why Do We Study History?, 2. How Did We Get Here?, 3. How Has The Map of Canada Changed?

Science: Gr. 7: Interactions in the Environment; Gr. 8: Cells

Health: Gr.7 & 8: Healthy Eating

Until next month,

Indu Yadav

Email:

teacher6@wasauksing.ca

