



Biboon 2025 & Ziigwan 2026

Boozhoo gakina awiya!

Biboon Activity Day

In early March, grade 7 students from FFHS Intermediate came to the Rainy Lake Campus for an outdoor winter activity day!



Students and teachers spent the day listening to teachings on traditional medicines, trapping and fire making. They learned to skin a beaver while learning about the gifts it provides, and how to honour the animal. Students also learned about how to build relationships with and show respect to plant medicines and participated in boiling cedar tea. In addition to these teachings, students took part in outdoor activities including cross-country skiing and dogsledding.



MiiN Spring Professional Development



The Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network professional development day on began with a series of speakers sharing their personal language learning journeys. Each speaker reflected on a different point in their life when they began their journey with Anishinaabemowin, reminding everyone in attendance that language learning can begin at any stage and age. One of the most powerful aspects of the presentations was that each speaker delivered their speech in Anishinaabemowin first, followed by an English translation.

Members of the MiiN team hosted workshops on the use of song in teaching children language, and eliciting language from fluent speakers. We had four fluent speakers with us at the time, so many learners got to sit and practice those skills with them. Participants were divided into groups to play five different Rosetta Stone games from the Rosetta Stone Ojibwe language program. The games were a lot of fun and filled the room with laughter. What stood out most was the way everyone supported and encouraged one another throughout the activities. There was no sense of competition—just people learning together, sharing laughs, and enjoying the experience.



Say IT First

National Indigenous Languages Day



National Indigenous Languages Day, held annually on March 31, was celebrated through a variety of engaging language revitalization activities that brought together students, staff, families, and community members.

The Anishinaabe-ogichitaag classroom hosted Ingiimaab (I Spy) activities from 12:00–2:00 PM, where students and staff practiced vocabulary and strengthened their language skills through games and conversation.

In the evening, more than 15 families participated in Anishinaabemowin Bingo, creating a welcoming space for families to connect while learning and practicing common words, phrases and songs together.

The Anishinaabemowin Gaagiigidon Speaking Challenge also received strong community participation, with more than 38 videos submitted by participants sharing and practicing their Anishinaabemowin speaking skills.

To support continued language learning beyond the classroom, over 40 Anishinaabemowin take-home language kits were distributed to local families and educators. Developed in partnership with the FNSSP Program, the kits included games, language resources, and guided activities designed to encourage the ongoing use of Anishinaabemowin at home and within the community. Our partners at MIIN and The Northwest Catholic District School Board contributed to these kits as well. Miigwech!

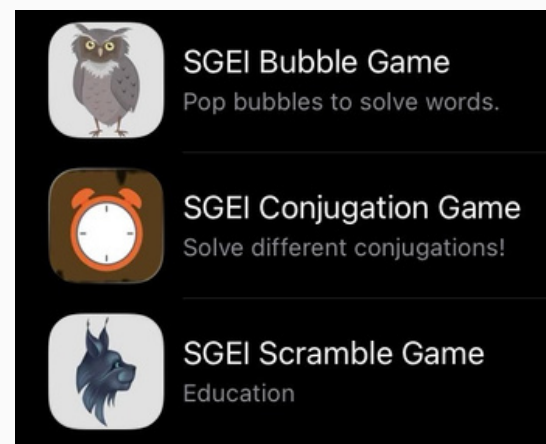


Anishinaabemowin Apps



Our apps are officially back online and waiting for you to play and learn in Anishinaabemowin! These apps encourage language learning, listening and reading and writing skills for all levels.

You can play them on our website, or download them to your Apple & Android devices. Just search "SGEI". Great for phones, iPads and Smartboards.





Niigaanendadaa 2026 Ziigwan Session



The Niigaanendadaa 2026 Ziigwan Session began on April 8th and will run through June 18th, with five dedicated students currently participating in the program. Throughout the cohort, fluent speakers & advanced learners from surrounding communities have been welcomed into the classroom to share their teachings, gifts, and experiences entirely in Anishinaabemowin.

Students have been actively engaged in a variety of hands-on and cultural learning experiences, including playing Anishinaabemowin language games, learning the creation story, crafting leather tobacco pouches, creating vision boards, and making frybread. Along the way, they have explored the importance of Anishinaabe identity and have been introduced to many valuable cultural and language resources, all while being fully immersed in Anishinaabemowin. The cohort continues to show incredible enthusiasm and passion for learning the language, and each student is thriving within the program.



Applications for the upcoming 2026 Niibin Session are currently open and will close on June 16th, 2026. Apply now!

Scan the QR Code or visit <https://www.wakingupojibwe.ca/resources/learners/>



Azhemiinigoziwin

Waabishkiginiw wrapped up her Anishinaabemowin classes with the Azhemiinigoziwin group on May 5, 2026. Azhemiinigoziwin is the Women's Empowerment Program offered through Seven Generations Education Institute. The program was created to strengthen women's connections to culture, language, and self through education, learning, and personal development opportunities.

Throughout the program, participants took part in weekly language classes where they learned introductions, built confidence in speaking Anishinaabemowin, and developed an understanding of basic grammar. The women showed tremendous interest and growth throughout the sessions, and by the final classes, they were speaking with confidence.



Gikinoo'amaawagan Niibing Enokiwaad Interns

Boozhoo! Alex nindizhinikaaz, Couchiching indoonjii, biizhiw indoodem. This is my first year working with the Waking up Ojibwe Team. I will be graduating in June with a Bachelors of Arts, in Childhood and Youth Studies and a minor in Disability Studies. I will be attending Lakehead University to obtain my Bachelor of Education this fall. I am exited to be working with the Waking up Ojibwe team this summer!



Boozhoo! Peshaanakotook'kwe indigoo. Makwa indoodem. Couchiching indoonjii. I am a recently certified welder through the Seven Generations welding program. I am looking forward to another summer with the Waking Up Ojibwe team!



Gaa-aanikanootamaagewaad



Kiitaabines Kelvin Morrison got his first Hole in One at Heron Landing Golf Course



Rose Marie Tuesday shares her knowledge regularly with the MiiN Network & Team. Here she is at the MiiN Spring PD.



Marilyn Copenace celebrated her birthday & retirement from SGEI on May 6th. Marilyn dedicated her language, knowledge, and kindness to our team for 8 years.



2026 Gagwe-gikendamaawiziwin

A Day of Language, Laughter, & Learning

As we approach the end of a new academic year, Seven Generations Education Institute once again invited Anishinaabemowin learners, teachers, and speakers from all over the region for this year's Gagwe-gikendamaawiziwin event. Each year, SGEI provides an opportunity for Anishinaabemowin educators and students to celebrate gidinwewininaan, showcase their knowledge and language growth, and compete in a fun, friendly, and dynamic games and activities.

With up to eight students on each team in the Junior and Senior divisions, learners enjoyed the day with language, guidance, and involvement from fluent speakers. This year, students from both the Rainy River District School Board and the Northwest Catholic District School Board joined us to compete in the language stations.

A delicious lunch was provided by SGEI's culinary team and outdoor activities kept students active in between stations.



Senior Division:

- First Place: Crossroads
- Second Place: Mine Centre
- Third Place: Donald Young

Junior Division:

- First Place: Robert Moore
- Second Place: JW Walker
- Third Place: Our Lady of the Way





Upcoming Events!

Weechi-it-te-win
Anishinaabemowin
Gathering
@ Nanicost Grounds
June 24 & 25

Teddy Bear Picnic
@ Fort Frances Library
Friday, July 3

FF Bass Tournament Kids'
Activities
@ Under the Big Tent
July 16-18

Weechi-it-te-win
Children's Days
@ Nanicost Grounds
July 21-22

Birch Bark Canoe
Building
@ SGEI Rainy Lake
Campus
August 4-9



Zhingwaakwaadag Ozosodam Mashkiki

White Pine Needle Cough Syrup Recipe from Hilda Boy

Zhingwaak - White Pine Tree
Zhingwaakwaadag - White Pine Bough
Zhingwaakwaadagoonan - White Pine Needles

Use white pine needles. White pine trees have five needles per bundle. White pine needles grow in groups of five, usually 2-4 inches long.

Caution: do not use pine tree needles with just two needles to a group as these will cause a sickness.

Ensure you are using edible White Pine needles and avoid Yew tree, which is toxic. Yew pine tree needles almost look the same as white pine tree needles. White Pine needle cough syrup acts as an expectorant, to soothe coughs and respiratory congestion.

Ingredients:

One (1) cup fresh, chopped
white pine needles
1 ¼ to 2 cups water
½ cup to 1 cup raw honey



Preparation:

Wash needles thoroughly and remove any brown, papery sheaths. Bring a pot of water to a boil, add needles, cover and simmer twenty (20) minutes or you can steep the needles in hot water for forty-five (45) minutes to an hour. Strain out the needles using cheese cloth, let the liquid cool to lukewarm and mix equal amounts of tea with honey or to taste preference. Stir in honey until dissolved.

Use: Take 1-2 teaspoons 2-3 times a day.

Precaution: Pregnant/nursing should avoid pine needle cough syrup.

Storage: Store in sterilized glass jar in fridge for up to three months.

Questions? Reach out to Hilda

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