



# Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre

## Newsletter

May—June 2019

### Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation



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### Greetings from Chief and Council

We are very excited and proud to see the progress that has been made in developing and implementing the new Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre and its programs: Seventh Fire Secondary program, Traditional Early Years, Cultural Education Program, Ojibway Language Classes and Wellness Programming.

We look forward to the opening of our “Little Turtles Daycare & Learning Centre” and the upcoming JK/SK Elementary Program. The Education Centre has also become home to a number of our other departmental programs/activities such as: Drum Night, Sewing Spirits, Mini-Powwow, and Easter Egg Hunt.

“Our purpose as a First Nation is to continually improve the quality of life, social and cultural well-being of our membership for present and future generations,” and “we are witnessing and realizing this mandate,” said Chief Whitecloud. “Congratulations and Chi Miigwetch to everyone who has made this vision possible! This is the beginning of a wonderful work that will greatly improve and enhance the lives of our children, families, community and for all those who wish to be a part of it, for many years to come.”

**Chief Whitecloud & Councilors Tracy Morrison, Irma Churchill, Carmel Zoccole, Julia Rusnak and Clark Chapman**



# Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre

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## Welcome Message

### From the Education Director, Andy Graham

I would like to begin by saying happy Spring to all of our families and community members. Though it may not seem like it, Summer is just around the corner and warmer weather is on its way. As we move from Spring into Summer, many exciting programs will be happening at the Education Centre.

This summer, the Seventh Fire Secondary Program will be offering two great courses to any interested, high school aged, band and community members. The first course, called Green Technologies, will run during the months of May and June in the evening and on weekends. The class will also be building a greenhouse at the Education Centre this summer. We are planning for this to occur in early July. The second course will focus on Indigenous and traditional knowledge.

We are accepting registrations for the Secondary Program for the 2019-2020 school year. If you or someone in your family is interested in registering for the summer course(s) or for the Fall, please contact Dawn May at 699-0233, ext. 801. We would be pleased to send out a registration package or it can also be downloaded from the website.

As part of our program development, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation is working on a comprehensive Immersion Education Model which will largely focus on interactive language development. The model, consisting of an overall Early Years to Grade 8 framework, along with specific community language/cultural benchmarks, will be completed in early June. The model will also be an integral part of the new JK-SK curriculum also being developed by our planning team. The instructional approach will focus on experiential and land-based programming.

The Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre will also begin accepting registrations for our new elementary school. As you are aware, starting in September 2019, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation will be offering classes in the JK/SK program. Depending on numbers of registered children, parents will have the option of choosing the Anishinaabe Immersion program, Cree Immersion program or a non-immersion, land-based program. The school will be open to all band and community family members, as well as any student in Thunder Bay. We welcome all children! Transportation will be made available to families throughout the city. Off-site registration opportunities will occur throughout the Spring and Summer. You can also find a registration form online at <http://lacsdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca/>.

Please feel free to call me at the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre at (807) 699-0233 Ext. 809 or by email at [agraham@lacsdesmillelacs.ca](mailto:agraham@lacsdesmillelacs.ca) if you have further questions regarding education programs or services.

**Miigwetch,**

**Andy Graham, Education Director**

## Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre Staff

**Name:** Carmen Michon  
**Position:** Registered ECE Daycare Supervisor



Boozhoo, My name is Carmen Michon and I am a member of Fort William First Nation. I have two older daughters who are in no rush to give me the gift of grandchildren, so I will wait patiently as good things come to those who wait. In the meantime, I shall appreciate the company of all the children in our program. I am a graduate of St. Clair College and a Registered Early Childhood Educator. I am excited and honoured to be working with the Education Department for Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation as the RECE Supervisor within the Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre.

I have been passionate for child care for as long as I can remember and have been teaching in various forms for over 20 years. My core philosophy is that children deserve respect and be given opportunities to explore all of Creator's gifts on their own time in a safe and loving environment.

**Name:** Tara Martin  
**Position:** Registered ECE Assistant Daycare Supervisor



Boozhoo,  
My name is Tara Martin and I am the Assistant Daycare Supervisor at Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre. I am grateful for this new opportunity with Lac des Mille Lac First Nation and I am excited for the new experiences that I will be a part of. I graduated from the Early Childhood Education Program at Confederation College in 2002 and I have been a RECE since 2009.

I was recently married in 2018, and together we have a beautiful blended family of 5. My son Jack is 11, my daughter Lily is 7 and my step son Nikolas is 11. In the summer, we enjoy spending our free time at our camp on the lake and relaxing as a family. I look forward to meeting all the new families, children, and staff who will be part of Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre.

**Name:** Lynda Moore  
**Position:** Registered ECE



Boozhoo,

My name is Lynda, I am a RECE and have been working in this field for the past four years. I have had the privilege of working with a range of age groups.

I am a grandmother of 6 and enjoy connecting with nature. I am looking forward to learning and growing with Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre.



**Name:** Dallas Romanchuk  
**Position:** Registered ECE

Boozhoo!

My name is Dallas Romanchuk and I am a registered Early Childhood Educator here at Little Turtles Daycare. I graduated from the Early Childhood Education Program in 2013 at Confederation College and have been in this field for 6 years.

My Fiancé and I have two daughters, Alayna 4 and Makyla 2 along with a golden retriever puppy named Parker. We enjoy doing many things as a family, even if it is just relaxing together and reading stories. I have a passion for children and helping them navigate the person who they are becoming. I am honored and extremely excited to be a part of the Lac des Mille Lacs community and to do my part as an Educator at Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre.



**Name:** Ashley Roth  
**Position:** Early Childhood Educator-Assistant

Boozhoo!

My name is Ashley Roth, some call me Ash. I am an ECE Assistant at Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre. I am excited for the new experiences to come here with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. I graduated from Lakehead University in 2006 with a BA in Sociology and Bed in Primary Junior and I have been working in childcare ever since.

I am a blessed Mama with 2 beautiful girls, ages 9 & 5 who challenge me, keep me on my toes, and fill my heart daily. We thoroughly enjoy giving back to our community and helping others whenever we can. I can't wait to meet and get to know all the new families, children and staff here at the Learning Centre.



**Name:** Victoria Barber  
**Position:** Early Childhood Educator-Assistant

Boozhoo!

My name is Victoria Barber and I am a proud member of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. I am a Grandmother of 4 beautiful grandchildren and a mother of 4.

I look forward to working with the children in the Early years sector.



**Name:** Cathy Fobister  
**Position:** Cultural Language Navigator



Boozhoo, Wachiye, Hello

Niin Gaagige Niimin Ikwe nindishnikaz, minawaa Nizhoo Mainganesh Indigo. Makwa niin doodem. Ginoogaming Niindoji.

My English name is Cathy Fobister, I am a Ginoogaming First Nation member. I am married to Roger Fobister Sr. and together we have a combined family of 10 children, and 12 grandchildren. We live a life filled with our culture and traditional teachings. My upbringing has been filled with the teachings of our land, culture and ceremony.

I am the Cultural Language Navigator for the Education Centre. I will be connecting education programs to cultural resources and will also be assisting with the coordination and delivery of cultural, land-based and language activities/programming. I am very excited to be a part of this team of education professionals.

**Name:** Kay Meunier-Baxter  
**Position:** Daycare Cook



Boozhoo!

My name is Kay Meunier-Baxter. I am member of Michipicoten First Nation. I am a mother to 4 grown children and a grandmother to 7 beautiful grandchildren with number 8 in the oven.

I am the cook for Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre. I have been cooking for over 30 years for various camps, restaurants, homes and daycares. I am excited to meet families, caregivers, and the children and am grateful to Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation for the opportunity to be a part of their educational dreams.

**Name:** Cecile Moore-Moses  
**Position:** Program Cook



Wacheya

My name is Cecile Moore-Moses from the Cree Nation of Constance Lake First Nation. I moved here in 1993 and met my husband Nathaniel Moses. We have been together for 26 years and have 3 children Ziigwan, Sage, and our dog Missy.

Miigwetch to Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation for the opportunity to work in a safe, loving, spiritual environment.



**Name:** Julianna Berkan  
**Position:** Summer Student

Boozhoo!

My name is Julianna Berkan and I am a proud member of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. I am currently working at our community's Education Centre, providing administrative and program support. This will be my third summer working for the First Nation; not including the number of years spent volunteering as a youth. I am also a student at Confederation College and will be starting the Early Childhood Education Program this coming fall.

I love music, art and helping others. I look forward to doing my part in contributing to such an amazing community, and I am eternally grateful for the opportunities provided to me by the First Nation.



**Name:** Alyssa Ewing  
**Position:** Summer Student

Boozhoo!

I am a Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation band member who enjoys being involved in the community. I am currently attending Confederation College in the Developmental Services Worker Program.

This summer I will be working as a student in the Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre. I am looking forward to working this summer!



**Name:** Tyler Tenniscoe  
**Position:** Summer Student

Boozhoo!

My name is Tyler Tenniscoe. I am a community member of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. I work in the high school program as a teacher's assistant as well as work with the cultural coordinator at Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre.

My role at the Centre is to assist high school students with their day to day assignments and provide them with friendly insight into Anishinaabe culture, through traditional teachings and activities.

# Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre — Programs

## Native Language Program

### Beginner Ojibwe Language Class

*Do you want to learn to speak Ojibwe?*

*Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation offers free language classes.*

The classes run:

**Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
at the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre which is located  
on 2040 Walsh Street East (formally Hyde Park School).**

***The last day of our Language Class will be on Wednesday June 26th, 2019.***

These classes are OPEN to Elders, adults, youth, children and toddlers who want to learn basic Ojibwe. The classroom instructions include some of the following lessons: Greetings, Days of the Week, Months, Weather, Numbers, Colors, Animals, and simple verbs.

Students are expected to use the Double Vowel Writing System when completing writing & reading assignments. Oral reviews are done daily. Special one-on-one attention is given to our youth and children by the Ojibwe teacher.

Teachings activities have included quizzes, reading, writing, games and traditional activities such as hand drumming and singing. In our sharing circles, we make use of some of the Ojibwe vocabulary taught in class.

*If you have always wanted to learn to speak Ojibwe - then this is the class for you!*

For more information or to register for the Language Class, please contact Dawn May at 699-0233 or feel free to drop by Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre on the scheduled days and times.



# Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre — Programs

## Traditional Early Years Program

### 3 Day Residential Program

On Friday April 12th to Sunday April 14th, 2019, TEYP hosted a 3-day residential program at the Community Cultural Centre. We were blessed with a warm spring snow! The children had so much fun playing outdoors. We enjoyed singing and drumming, beading, a bonfire, hiking, painting, and sledding. Everyone was so excited to see the eagles flying above us! These weekend trips out to the Land-base are so special for us all - we get a chance to enjoy ourselves, build strong community connections and build an overall sense of well-being. If this sounds like something you are interested in, call Dawn Aho at [daho@lacsdesmillelacs.ca](mailto:daho@lacsdesmillelacs.ca) 699-0233 ext. 805.



### Mini Pow-wow

The TEYP was pleased to host a playgroup in the TEYP room at the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre during the Mini pow-wow held on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>. Children and adults came to the room to visit, rest, and play when they weren't busy dancing at the pow-wow. Arts, crafts, snacks, and drinks were also set up in another room for pow-wow participants and visitors. TEYP is proud to support the well-being and health of children and their families at these community events.



### Health Fair

There was plenty of fun to be had in the TEYP corner at the Health Fair this year! We were happy to set up a mini-play place for our little ones to come hang out while family members visited the awesome booths. The kids had fun pretending to go camping, playing hot potato, reading books, and playing with magnetic Power Clix. Thank you to Julianna and Zoey for helping out!



## Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre — Programs

### Drop-ins

The Traditional Early Years Program is proud to have developed a beautiful space in the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre for children and their family members to gather (children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc.). The TEYP Room is located in Room #6 at the Centre. We will be hosting drop-ins soon. Light snacks and refreshments are provided, no registration required. We would love to see you there! Watch the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation website for drop-in start up dates!



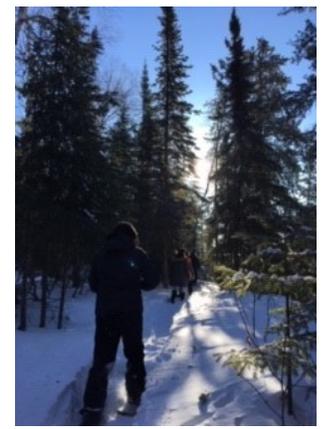
### Summer Programming

Over the months of July and August, the Education Centre will be offering summer activities / programming for youth. Stay tuned for more information or visit our website at <http://lacadesmillelacsfirstnation.ca/>.

### Cultural Education Program

In February, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Education Department ran a Cultural Education Program for the Ecole Secondaire Catholique de la Verendrye (French high school board) and again in May for the Bimose High School at our Community Cultural Centre.

Chi-miigwetch to Cultural Resources Esther Chapman-Chung and Barb Osadec for leading the students in the cultural education programming. Miigwetch to Louis Sawdo for helping prep the site and provide guidance when needed. Students were pleased to participate, interested and very receptive to learning about the purification ceremonies, the four medicines, beading, and other activities that they participated in throughout the week. This is a wonderful experience for any high school aged student, where they can make fun memories and learn valuable lessons and teachings about our beautiful Anishinaabe culture.



# Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre — Programs

## Community Cultural Centre

### Family Wellness Retreat

On Friday April 26th—Sunday April 28th, 2019, the Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre—**Wellness Department** held a Grief and Loss retreat for our members at the Community Cultural Centre. The retreat offered families a temporary getaway to leave behind usual, every day distractions, long enough to allow the body, mind and spirit to relax, heal and rejuvenate in a peaceful setting, surrounded by nature.



### Upcoming Sessions

**Friday June 7th-Sunday June 9th, 2019**

**Attachment**– Focusing on exploring relationships

**Friday August 23rd - Sunday August 25th, 2019**

**Self Care**- The practice of taking an active role in protecting one's own well-being and happiness.

These retreats offer families a safe environment which allows time for bonding, participating in cultural teachings, therapeutic development, arts and crafts, games, and leisure time. Families will also be involved in both indoor and outdoor land-based activities.

To ensure the participants' holistic needs are met, the Family Wellness Team consists of an on-site Coordinator, CTRI Training Therapist, Family Wellness Retreat Support Worker, Early Childhood Educator/assistant and an Elder.

### Location

Wellness Retreats take place Friday evenings to Sunday afternoons, at the Community Cultural Centre

### To Register

The Family Wellness Retreat is open to any Band or Community member and families of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation.

Family wishing to attend retreats must fill out a registration form. Selections are based on a first come, first serve basis. Each retreat will accommodate up to four families.

**To register or if you have any questions on these sessions please contact:**

**Cameron Charlton: [ccharlton@lacdesmillelacs.ca](mailto:ccharlton@lacdesmillelacs.ca)**

**OR**

**Eva Graham: [egraham@lacdesmillelacs.ca](mailto:egraham@lacdesmillelacs.ca)**

**NOW ACCEPTING PRE-REGISTRATIONS!**

**If you do not have access to transportation, rides are available to the Community Cultural Centre.**

# Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre — Programs

## Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre Opening Soon!



We are excited and ready to open the daycare and meet all the children that have been entrusted in our care! Miigwetch for your patience as the Ministry of Education finalizes and approves our licensing.

Little Turtles Daycare & Learning Centre serves children from birth to 6 years of age. Our philosophy is holistic in nature, to nurture the child's natural curiosity to explore, and learn through play. Children deserve freedom within limits. The children's spirit will be accepted, promoted and embraced.

Little Turtles Daycare and Learning Centre will ensure children are safe, engaged, and loved. Children will have a strong sense of belonging and of who they are; that will be rooted in lifelong learning. The programming will be rich in Ojibway Culture and Language, and all children, from all backgrounds, are welcome! The practice of Seven Grandfather Teachings will be weaved throughout each program day.

**Respect**  
**Love**  
**Honesty**  
**Humility**  
**Bravery**  
**Truth**  
**Wisdom**

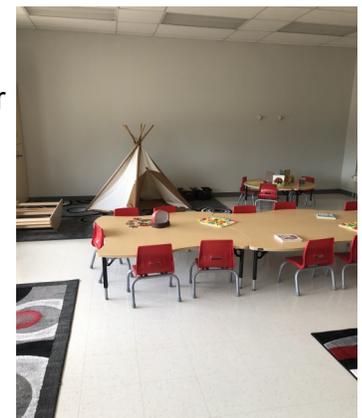
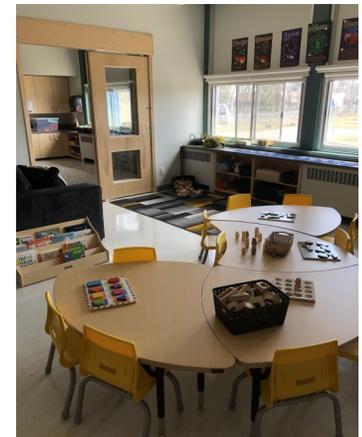
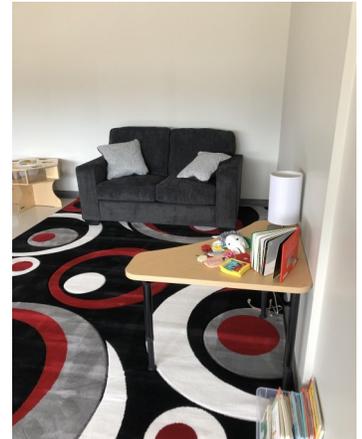
These teachings align admirably with the Ministry's supporting document "How Does Learning Happen, Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (2014); The Four Foundations:

**Belonging**  
**Engagement**  
**Expression**  
**Well-Being**

If you are seeking quality childcare for your Infants, Toddler or Preschooler please apply online at [www.thunderbaychildcare.ca](http://www.thunderbaychildcare.ca).

Childcare spaces may be subsidized by the City of Thunder Bay.

Should you require assistance with the application process feel free to contact Carmen or Tara at (807) 699-0233 ext:802.



# Lac des Mille Lacs Education Centre —Programs

## Seventh Fire Secondary Program

The Seventh Fire Secondary Program is in full swing and we are thoroughly enjoying our school's community. Students are working diligently on high school credits while enjoying the benefits of a warm and inclusive environment. As part of our incentive program, students are financially rewarded when they successfully complete units and courses. In April, they received a combined total of over \$2000! Way to go students!!!!

We have hosted many guest speakers covering topics from planting, to LGBTQ education, to dealing with difficult situations and stress management. We have knowledge keepers who visit with the students and graciously share their experiences. Roots to Harvest continues to be a partner with Seventh Fire and the students are enjoying learning new cooking techniques and trying new recipes. We are also very excited to see our music studio coming to life!

The education team continues to be dedicated to academic growth while using a holistic approach when it comes to the over-all health of our students. We provide mental, emotional, physical and spiritual support while respecting individual limits and boundaries.

We are excited to see the Seventh Fire Secondary Program expand and grow and we encourage community members to consider our school if they are looking for alternative education solutions for their high school aged youth..

Inquiries and registration can be made at the Education Centre—2040 Walsh Street or by contacting us via telephone at (807) 699-0233. Please speak with Carolyn Zadnik, Education Projects Manager or Andy Graham, Director of Education.



## Lac Des Mille Lacs Education Centre — Programs

### WHAT'S NEW and UPCOMING

#### Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation - Adult Education Pilot Program

Are you 22 years or older and seeking to acquire your high school diploma?

Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation will be starting an **Adult Education Pilot Program in September 2019 at the Education Centre.**

The Adult Education pilot program will be delivered via quality classroom-based instruction from Monday to Friday offering the academic credits you require for your high school diploma and in order to further your goals of post secondary education.

The PLAR (Prior Learning and Recognition Assessment) and SEA (Senior Equivalency Assessment) assessments will be offered in our program. These assessment tools will evaluate what learning and work/life experiences you have received outside of the education system that can potentially earn you additional academic credits; which will help you to reach your education dream sooner.

If this opportunity interests you, come visit us at the Education Centre to register. Don't forget to bring your personal identification and your high school transcript to accompany your registration form.

There will be 2 session times offered to work on your academic credits where you can select one or both sessions (suited to your schedule).

**Session 1: 12:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. and Session 2: 5:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

If you have further inquiries, please contact Carolyn Zadnik, Education Projects Manager or Dawn May, Administrative Support at the main school office at (807)699-0233.

**It's never too late to reach your educational dreams!!! Let us help you get there!!!**





## Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation — Other News and Events

### Post-Secondary Education Program

#### Applications Due June 15 for Returning Students and New Applicants

Just a reminder that Post-Secondary applications for Fall 2019 are due by June 15, 2019. All returning students and new applicants must ensure that their application and all of their supporting documents are received by Mark Berkan, Post-Secondary and Training Director by this date. PSE Application and Policies are available at <http://lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca/pages/view/post-secondary-education>

Contact: Mark Berkan email: [mberkan@lacdesmillelacs.ca](mailto:mberkan@lacdesmillelacs.ca)  
or by mail: 1100 Memorial Ave, Suite 328, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 4A3

### Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation 12th Annual Pow Wow

June 14,15 and 16

Everyone is welcome to attend this great community and family event. Our Pow Wow is held at the First Nation's "Savanne River Resort" on Hwy 17, approximately 1 hour west of Thunder Bay.

Friday 14th Warm Ups

Saturday 15th Grand Entry 1 pm and 7 pm

Sunday Grand Entry at 1 pm

For more information please contact Michael Ignace at 807-622-9835 Ext. 231

### Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation Elder's Gathering

June 13,14,15 and 16

Every year Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation holds an Elder's Gathering for our Elders. It is a wonderful time when Elders and their families can reconnect with one another.

**Thursday, June 13th - Elder's Gathering Opening/Comedy Show (Valhalla Inn)**

**Friday, June 14th Land-based Activities and Feast (Community Cultural Centre)**

**Saturday, June 15th Pow Wow Grand Entry 1 pm and 7 pm (Savanne River Resort)**

**Sunday, June 16th Pow Wow Grand Entry at 1 pm**

For more information please contact Danielle Morrison at 807-622-9835 Ext 230.

**Please see the attached Calendars for more information on Community Events happening for the months of May and June:**

Or check on <http://lacdesmillelacsfirstnation.ca/pages/view/event-calendar> for more updates.