



Ermineskin Newsletter June 12, 2024
Neyâskweyâhk Acimowin Paskâweho Pîsim Nîsosâp

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EARLY YEARS CULTURAL TEACHINGS & REGALIA MAKING

With powwow season upon us, Early Years has provided some programs to be tiny tot ready! Over the month of May, they invited those in the program (new and expecting parents) to create outfits and other regalia items. Participants made outfits with Donna Rain, some using a sewing machine for the first time! Mothers created grass outfits, a jingle dress, and an infant T-Dress! They also had hair drop making with Ivan Roan, and another session was parfleche hair tie making with Courtney L. Yellowbird, where she taught participants how to cut, hole-punch, paint and add felt edging with lace to their designs. “I think this is very exciting because I am also just learning how to work with parfleche, so I’m happy we can do something like this together, and kind of learn from one another in such a close setting,” she says.



Marleigh Cutarm, client of the MHS Early Years program adds, “I am happy to be able to participate in these kinds of teaching. I don’t really have anyone to educate me when it comes to the powwow circle, or what goes into making an outfit and all of the accessories. I know that some parents, including myself, cannot afford to buy outfits. I wanted to see if I could teach myself and learn from someone, that way I can make future outfits as my daughter grows. She gets to wear her dress at the ECN 2024 Powwow!” She also adds, “I am thankful that Early Years provides so many programs and services to new and expecting parents of all Four Nations! As a new parent, they supported me and helped me navigate parenthood one step at a time, celebrating so many milestones with my little family, and I am just so appreciative.”

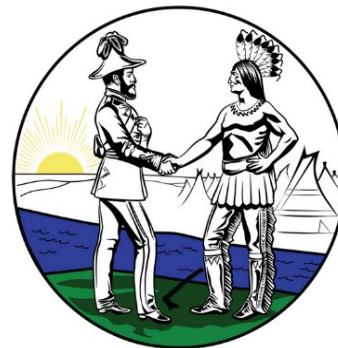
“These sessions are important because the teachings are being passed down to the parents and child (extended family & friends). My favorite part is watch-

ing the parents/kids connecting with each other and learning from all the different elders from the 4 Nations. We here at Early Years would like the participants to learn one of our tool box card and a cultural teaching /story and or even connection and with other community members/elders” says Ashley Giroux, one of the many dedicated visitors at MHS Early Years.

Some upcoming programs they have are as follows:
Sun Safety Tips + Beading Sunglasses- June 9th, 18th and 25th | **Baby Food Making-** June 19th
Drop-In Sewing Workshops- June 10th, 17th, and 24th | **Hearing Screening** on the 25th of June for babies under 90 Days Old.

Please contact your Early Years visitor to sign-up or if you are a new/expecting parent, please contact the MHS Early Years:
+1 587-768-0250

INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH



On September 25, 1877, Chief Bobtail (Kiskayo) signed Treaty 6 with the Governor of the North West Territories, which gave the four Cree Bands (432 Indians) a reservation which ran from the ridge of Bear Hills southeast to the Battle River, and would be the humble beginnings of the Hobbema Reserve. The four original chiefs of what is now Maskwacis were Bobtail, Ermineskin, Muddy Bull and Samson, and during 1884-85, the joint boundaries of the Bobtail, Ermineskin, Montana, and Samson bands were established within the thousands of acres of reserve land. During the early days, the reserve schools were run by missionaries, then in 1929, the Hobbema School District No. 4445 was officially formed.

Over the years, the native families of Maskwacis became good friends and neighbors to the people of Ponoka and surrounding districts. Early photos in our history books show the Battle River Valley east of town full of teepees, horses and wagons on many occasions when the native tribes visited Ponoka to trade and barter for goods, as well as performing their colorful and traditional dances of the buffalo hunting era in front of Alger's Store on Railway Street, as well as at the annual Ponoka Stampede. Many members of the Maskwacis tribes had become successful farmers and trappers, as well as working for the agency or throughout the reserves, which were complemented quickly by modern homes, churches, schools, businesses, recreation facilities and countless other amenities.



CHIEF BOBTAIL



BATTLE RIVER VALLEY



CREE CORNER

Truck-Âwacikan ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ



Van-Misôwetâpânâsk ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ



MODES OF TRANSFORMATION



Motorcycle-Pahpahkisos ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ



Car-Sehkepimipayîs ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Wetaskiwin's Peace Cairn was dedicated on July 2, 1927 as part of Canada's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. We are trying to ID more individuals in this photo, and thought we would reach out to the community for help.

- The 4 Chiefs and Mayor were in attendance for the event:
- Chief Ermineskin
- Chief Samson
- Chief Rabbit
- Chief Simon Bull
- (Joe White was their interpreter)
- Mayor H.J. Montgomery (kneeling at centre front)



MASKWACIS GRADUATING



ROSE BABICH



DEVON LEE-
ARTINDALE



TERRENCE
LITTLECHILD



DELAIZA MINDE



JOSEPH MORIN-
WOLFE



HUNTER MORIN



ARLIN OMEASOO



TIANNA
RATTLESNAKE



LENARD
ROASTING



FAWN ROWAN



AYSHJA
SMALLBOY



WHITEELK
WOLFE

CLASS OF 2024

From leaving the kindergarten room to getting your Bachelors Degree, we want to celebrate all of our Nation Members who are choosing their education, making it their priority and not giving up. This is such a huge milestone for all of you, educators and students alike. We want you to know that you have made your family, friends and Nation extremely proud with your accomplishments, and we wish you success in your future endeavors.

"It's a big accomplishment to be sitting here today, I want to say good job. Thank you so much, thank you for all your hard work all those years. You probably thought 'I didn't want to get up that day' 'I don't want to go to school today' but you still chose to go. And here we are today. I understand that it is hard sometimes, life can be hard and can be a struggle some days. But it's worth the effort you preserve. On your future path you are going to be able to make decisions for yourself. The decisions you make are going to guide you in your life moving forward. I want to encourage and let you know that we all make mistakes, We all make mistakes in our lives, and nothing is going to be perfect. But we need to move forward and keep trying. You all have big dreams, don't let them go. If it doesn't work out the way you thought it might have, there will always be different way to achieve it.

I just want to say I'm so happy for all graduates and very proud of how far you have come. Thank you to the parents, grandparents and the amazing teachers and staff. Our teachers and staff do amazing with our students. Today we celebrate our graduates you all deserve it. Congratulations Class of 2024. --M.E.S.C Superintendent Tracy Swampy

"Today it's a great honor to be here with each and every one of you. It's a great honor to celebrate with our young ones. As mentioned, there is a lot of energy in the room. I can feel it and I'm very proud of you all. When I woke up this morning, I said and pray and smudged for everyone in this room today. Today's the first day of your journey, and there is going to many challenges. But don't give up and believe in yourself. Like how you got here today. You are the future leaders and I look forward to seeing you down the road. No matter what you choose to do in your future. Don't every let anyone tell you, 'You can't.' When times get hard, that's when the Creator sends a message to build you up. To make you stronger. Pray for guidance.

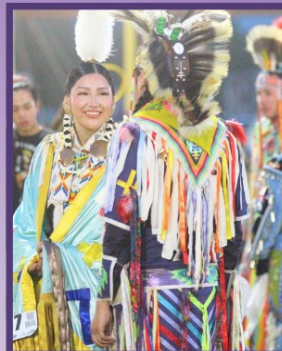
I listen to a lot of our elders, the one thing they always remind me of is to encourage our youth to learn our language, our ceremonies and learn about our treaties because again you are our next leaders in line. You will be the ones protecting our culture and traditions. Like many of our leaders and past leaders have done for many generations. I'm very thankful to be here and I want to say thank you to all the parents and grandparents for supporting your child. I wish you all well, I will continue to pray for each and every one of you. For each day you walk, I will pray for guidance and pray Creator puts you in the right direction and continue to do good things in life, set goals and chase them. Hai Hai." - Chief Joel Mykat

Maskwacis Education Schools Commison Powwow
June 20, 2024
MASKWACIS BEAR PARK - GRAND ENTRY @11AM.

WISHING A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE GRADUATING
Class of 2024



ERMINESKIN CREE



NATION POWWOW



PRIDE MONTH

Pride Month is a time dedicated to celebrating and supporting the LGBTQIA2S+ community. It typically takes place in June each year, with various events, parades, and activities organized worldwide to promote equality, visibility, and acceptance for LGBTQ+ individuals. The month also commemorates the Stonewall Riots of June 1969, which marked a turning point for the LGBTQIA2S+ rights movement in the United States. Pride Month serves as an opportunity for people to honor the history, progress, and ongoing struggles of the LGBTQIA2S+ community while fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity.

The acronym LGBTQIA2S+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and the "+" represents other sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions that may not be explicitly included in the initial acronym. This inclusive term acknowledges the diversity within the LGBTQ+ community and affirms the identities and experiences of individuals who may not fit into traditional understandings of sexual orientation or gender identity. It reflects the ongoing evolution and expansion of language and understanding regarding gender and sexual diversity.

In many First Nations communities, there is a growing recognition of and support for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, although attitudes and acceptance may vary depending on cultural, historical, and individual factors. Traditionally, many Indigenous cultures had concepts and roles that encompassed a diverse range of gender identities and sexual orientations, often with respect and reverence. However, colonization, Christianization, and the imposition of Western norms have led to the marginalization and erasure of

these identities and roles within some Indigenous communities.

Today, many Indigenous activists and leaders are working to reclaim and revitalize these traditional understandings of gender and sexuality, promoting acceptance and inclusion within their communities. There are also initiatives and organizations focused specifically on supporting LGBTQIA2S+ Indigenous peoples, addressing issues such as discrimination, violence, and access to culturally competent healthcare and social services.

Efforts to foster inclusion often involve cultural revitalization, education, and community engagement, emphasizing the importance of respecting and honoring diverse identities and experiences. By centering Indigenous perspectives and values, these efforts aim to create safer and more affirming spaces for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals within First Nations communities while challenging colonial and heteronormative norms.



Community Events/ Job Opportunities



JOB OPPORTUNITIES: JUNE 10TH

Apply at ECN Personnel Dpt.
780-585-3741



Position	Closing Date	Required Documents
Custodian/Janitor with the Ermineskin Property Management department	June 11, 2024	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check and copies of Certificates
Director with the Ermineskin Health and Wellness department	June 17, 2024	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check and copies of Certificates
Manager with the Ermineskin Neyaskweyahk Employment Program (NEP) department	June 19, 2024	Application/Resume, Cover Letter, updated Criminal Record Check, Driver Abstract and Three (3) Letters of Reference
File Clerk/Receptionist with the Ermineskin Personnel department	June 19, 2024	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check and copies of Certificates
One (1) Female Outreach Crisis Prevention Workers with the Ermineskin Brighter Futures department	June 14, 2024	Application/Resume, updated Criminal Record Check, Child Welfare Check, Driver Abstract and copies of Certificates


MASKWACIS EDUCATION SCHOOLS COMMISSION
POWWOW
 ++++++ 2024 ++++++
Thursday, June 20, 2024
Bear Park, Maskwacis, Alberta
11am Grand Entry
Host Drum: Mountain Cree
 Competition for Dancers Only
 Drums will receive day pay
 For any questions or concerns email Kelci at kelci@lightning@maskwacised.ca or call 780-585-3243
 Maskwacis Education Schools Commission will not be held responsible for any loss or personal injury sustained while attending the pow wow.
 Security and RCMP will be on-site.
 Vehicles will be searched at the entry gate.
 Zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol.

**DETAILS TO
BE ANNOUNCED**

ERMINESKIN CREE NATION PRESENTS:

21.06.2024

**INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES DAY
CELEBRATION**



"Men's Mental Health Matters"

June is Men's Mental Health Awareness Month

"you are appreciated" "you are loved" "you are needed" "you are safe and supported and you can handle whatever challenges come your way."

Maskwacis Counselling & Support Services
Offers counselling & supports call 780-585-2268 or Mobile Mental Health 780-362-2150

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ESSENTIALS FOR INDIGENOUS ENTREPRENEURS

APPLY NOW! Program Starts July 1, 2024

During this training program, attendees learn the essentials of personal development, how to identify and assess potential business opportunities, the key requirements of managing their new business, and how to access various funding streams for Indigenous entrepreneurs. This course also explores networking and branding strategies, Indigenous business tax considerations both on and off reserve, and the essentials of business insurance; from getting a business insured to creating a benefits plan for owners and employees.

Program Requirements:

- Must have a business or be in the process of starting one (no business plan required)
- Must be able to commit to 1.5 months of class work that includes 1:1 business plan and grant/proposal writing

For training inquiries, please call: N.E.S.T 780-585-0191
Deadline to Apply: June 24, 2024

APPLY TODAY!





Men's Wellness Conference

"Realize self-healing"

Speakers

Reggle Leach-Addictions
Leo McGilvery - Cultural Teachings
Conway Kootenay-Laughter Is Healing

Swag bags, door prizes, Photo booth, catered supper-more.

Thursday, **June 13, 2024**
1:30 pm – 6 pm
Registration 12:00 pm
Ermineskin Arena

Conference starts after the Father's Day Celebration

.. join us for a fun day.

Follow us at Maskwacis Health

All Maskwacis Fathers welcome

For more information contact Maskwacis Health Services
Health Promotion Dept. (780) 585-2266 Ext 2442



CONSTRUCTION ROAD WORK



Ermineskin 2023 Road Improvements underway – Paving Project PAVING- ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Effective June 10, 2024, the Paving Project will resume with the final layer and proceed with the asphalt overlay. Within these two weeks, sweeping from Highway 2a entrance to Ermineskin Ave/Rattlesnake Drive T-intersection will be ongoing sweeping.

There may be partial lane closures while work is in progress. Please drive slow and be aware of the road crew in the area. Abide by all signage and flag persons in each work zone.



Thank you,
Shelley Cutarm
Ermineskin Public Works



150 PARTICIPANT CAPACITY

UPDATED **SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COVID PROTOCOLS.**



Father's Day Celebration

THIS EVENT IS FOR FATHERS ONLY. NO CHILDREN OR SPOUSES PLEASE.

Live Entertainment
-Photobooth-
Food - Games - Much More!

Ermineskin Arena | **JUNE 13TH**
10:00am -1:00pm

In collaboration with Ermineskin Recreation, Community Wellness, Brighter Futures and Events Dept.

For more information contact Community Wellness:
(780) 585-3741

UPDATED **HIGHSCHOOL**
SUMMER
Work Experience
PROGRAM

2024

S.W.E.P. is for Full-Time, Highschool Ermineskin Students who currently attending school. INAC S.W.E.P. Goal is to support students with activities and training that will assist students in acquiring the essential skills that will help them gain employment, function well in the workplace and learn about job/career options.

GROUP 1 **GROUP 2**
JUNE 17- JULY 26 **JULY 29 - AUGUST 23**
20 SPOTS AVAILABLE **18 SPOTS AVAILABLE**

REQUIREMENTS:

- Ermineskin Band Member
- **Ages: 15-19 Years**
- Full-time Highschool Student
- **Must work Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm**
- **MUST HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION**
- Must Provide SIN #

APPLY NOW

Millie H. Mackinaw
(780) 585-4006
millie@ermineskin.ca
Ermineskin P&R Building
(Across the Admin Building)

DEADLINE TO APPLY:
JUNE 13TH, 2024

IMPORTANT NOTE:

1. Applications are **ONLY AVAILABLE AS A HARD COPY.**
2. Applications can **ONLY BE SUBMITTED AS A HARD COPY.**



ATTENTION NHS CLIENTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

NHS clients please be advised that if you **miss** your scheduled appointment, you will be pro-rated (**deducted**) for the month of your missed appointment.


Please ensure you **book** an appointment with your case worker and **attend** your appointment to avoid being pro-rated.

We Thank You for Your Cooperation
Angel Smallboy
Director
Neyaskweyâhk Human Services

IMPORTANT NOTE!!

ATTENTION NHS CLIENTELE
NHS WALK IN DAYS
JUNE Mon-Wed. 17-19th.

NEYASKWEYAHK HUMAN SERVICES



ERMINESKIN COMMUNITY WELLNESS & RECREATION PRESENTS:

FATHER'S DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT 2024

FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH, 2024
LOCATION: DORCHESTER
RANCH GOLF COURSE

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2024



9:30 AM SHOTGUN START
3 MAN, BEST BALL
A, B AND C FLIGHTS (C FLIGHT WILL BE CO-ED)
OPEN TOURNAMENT
FIRST 40 TEAMS REGISTERED

\$270/TEAM
FEE INCLUDES:
KP'S, LONG PUTT, SNACK AND CART

TO REGISTER: EGN RECREATION (780) 585-3088 OR EGN COMMUNITY WELLNESS (780) 585-3741

ERMINESKIN CREE NATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS, THEFT, ACCIDENTS, INJURY, FORCES OF NATURE OR VANDALISM.



MOVIE FIELD TRIP



Disney PIXAR INSIDE OUT 2

VAN LEAVES AT 6:00PM
FROM JIMRS SPORTS BUILDING

**LIMITED
SPOTS**

*DRINKS AND POPCORN WILL BE INCLUDED

TUESDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2024
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

AGES 10 -17

TO REGISTER: (780) 585-3088