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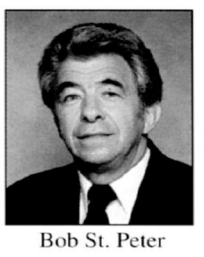
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A lesson in Anishinaabe

By Michele Wellman-Teeple
Assistant Director of the Nishnaabemwin Pane Immersion Program

In this column, I have translated expressions from the Anishinaabe language into English, having to do with the season turning from winter to spring. To help with pronunciation, refer to the Pronunciation Guide printed in the February 2014 issue of Bay Mills News, which shows the Fiero Double Vowel System. This is the writing system used by the teachers at the Nishnaabemwin Language Instructors Institute.

Bebookwaadaagame Giiziis
April (Broken Snowshoe Moon)

Aanii! Aaniish ezhi'iyaayin?
Hi! How are you?

Biboon/Biboong.
Winter/It is winter.

Minookimi/Minookimig.
Spring (good earth time)/It is springtime.

Aaniish ezhiwebak gojing?
How is the weather? (How/what is happening outside?)

Aabwaateg.
It is warm. (refers to weather)

Zookpo miinwaa!
It is snowing again!

Goon ngizo.
Snow is melting.

Gimiwang.
It is raining.

Nigwaankwad.
It is cloudy.

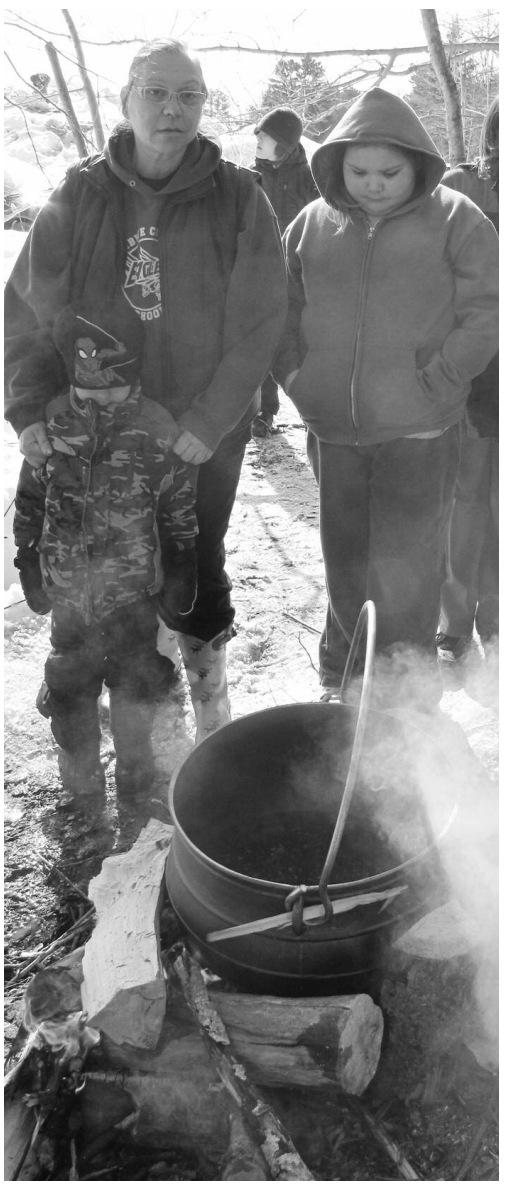
Bi-mizhaakwad.
It is getting clear. (the sky)

Mino-giizhigag.
It is a nice day. (sunny)

Baakwan/Baakwang.
Easter/It is Easter.

IN THE SUGARBUSH

Ojibwe Charter School staff decided to work their own sugarbush this year and set up camp in a sugar maple stand close to the school grounds. Cathy DeVoy, Ojibwe Language and Culture teacher at the school, along with volunteer assistance from Jesse Bowen, taught the students how to tap the trees, collect the sap, start and keep a fire going and boil the sap into maple syrup. The process has been ongoing throughout the week of April 7 to 11. SHAR MYERS/BAY MILLS NEWS



Superintendent's Corner

By Alan Kantola
Brimley Area Schools

The week of May 5 to 9 is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. At Brimley Area Schools, we employ 37 teachers, 24 support staff and 5 administrators to educate our youth. The job of a school employee is very difficult, challenging, and yet, rewarding. Too often, however, the work they do goes unnoticed or unrecognized.

During Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, please take the opportunity to say to our employees: "Thanks for what you do in educating our youth. We appreciate your efforts."

As always, May is a very busy month, with most weeks including a game, or some type of contest, various meetings, plays, or banquets. We anxiously await the beginning of the Track, Baseball, and Softball seasons. With the amount of snow remaining on our track and fields, it is difficult to predict when play will start. Hopefully, we will eventually be able to host some meets and games.

Two events during May call for special mention: the Junior/Senior High Honor's Banquet on May 7 and the Fifth/Sixth Grade Ice Cream Social on May 21.

Both of these events honor students who have excelled in the classroom, by achieving Honor Roll status during each of the first three Marking Periods of the school year. In my opinion, we cannot do enough to recognize academic achievement. It is too easy to be mediocre, to do average work.

The students being honored at the Honor's Banquet and Ice Cream Social are anything but average. They represent our very best students who have demonstrated outstanding efforts and achievement throughout this school year. As a community, we all need to express our sincere congratulations to the students being honored.

There are several other major celebrations scheduled for May:

Our annual Spring Arts Festival will be held on May 14. In addition to a concert provided by our Band and Chorus, students' artwork and Industrial Arts work will be on display.

Finally, Baccalaureate Services for our graduating class will be held on Friday, May 23, with the Graduation ceremony taking place on Sunday, May 25. And, don't forget the Kindergarten Graduation on May 29.

At the Brimley Area Schools, we have so much to be proud of, so much to celebrate. Please join us in our celebrations.

Remember, it's your school. Come and visit, anytime.

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