

KTEI PROMOTES LITERACY FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

[M'Chigeeng, ON – February 18, 2012] – In traditional Anishinabek times, the winter season was a time to visit, gather and pass on stories and teachings from one generation to the next – and so with a slight twist to this idea, KTEI has begun hosting monthly family literacy fun evenings on the last Monday of each month starting in January, February, and March 2012 as a test season.

To first session held on January 27, 2012 had an estimated 50+ people (excluding staff) in attendance – and it truly was a family event with a kid-approved spaghetti dinner served first to make sure learning would be at its peak on a full tummy! Half an hour later, activities quickly dispersed into concurrent 20 minute activities for children and their parents to listen, learn and do. With at least eight of KTEI's staff of teachers on hand to help lead the various sessions (Stephanie, Debbie, Brian, Georgina, Matt, Laurie, Maurice, and Susan) together with community partners in literacy from the M'Chigeeng First Nation Toy Library and the M'Chigeeng Health Centre, there was no sign of boredom from any of the young faces.

A variety of sessions promoting literacy and numeracy were available for parents and kids to choose from: the interactive sessions used singing, music, poetry, math, arts, drama, storytelling, and so much more to promote literacy for kids and their families; some sessions incorporate traditional Anishinabek learning methods too. Family feedback from the first January session has already been taken into account for planning the February and March 2012 events, with new activities such as traditional string games, puppets, and more. So, family literacy event night only promises to get better each month!

The next free event is scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2012 at KTEI and everyone is welcome. March 26, 2012 will mark the end of these pilot sessions for Winter 2012, but they may just continue based on participant feedback. And, just to be sure there will be enough spaghetti on hand, organizers ask that you confirm your interest by calling KTEI at 705.377.4342 or confirm your attendance on the KTEI Facebook page.

Background:

Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight First Nation community representatives in the Manitoulin-Northshore area and is centrally located on Manitoulin Island (M'Chigeeng First Nation) in Northern Ontario. KTEI provides community based-approaches to education, training and business support services and opportunities. In the Ojibwe language, "Kenjgewin Teg" means 'a place of knowledge'.

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