

# Gitigaan News



## AANIIN GAKINA AWIIYA!

The academic year has come to a close, and summer is finally here! In this article, you'll find highlights from our May and June Gitigaan activities, along with information about upcoming summer events.

We are excited to welcome Rey Hanson back for a third year as a Gitigaan Intern. Rey will help with summer programming and maintain the gitigaan throughout the growing season. With a special interest in plant pest and disease management, they will be gaining hands-on experience while supporting our gardens and students. We also bid farewell to graduating senior Robin LaPointe, who helped operate the school tea station this past year. We wish Robin—and all of our graduating seniors—the very best as they begin their next adventures!

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## THE GITIGAAN CREW



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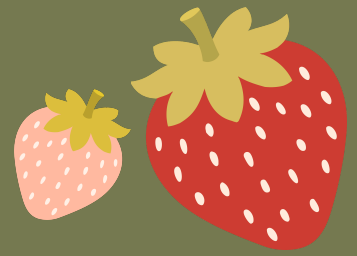


**Rey  
Hanson**  
Student Garden  
Intern



**Robin  
Cadotte**  
Student Tea  
Intern

# Lesson Highlights



## Gitigaan!

Spring planting season is one of our favorite times of year in the gitigaan, as students get their hands in the soil and help bring the garden to life. This spring, we transplanted hundreds of annual vegetables for students to take home and grow with their families. Elementary and middle school students spent May preparing and planting the gitigaan beds, and we wrapped up another successful year of lessons with earth oven pizza and ice cream celebrations!



## Manoomin Knockers

This marks the third year that Middle School Alternative Education students have partnered with the Gitigaan program to create manoomin knockers. Over several sessions, 6th and 7th grade students carefully crafted the knockers with the goal of gifting a pair to each graduating 8th grade student in their class. USDA Farm to School Grant funding helped cover the cost of carving supplies, ensuring that this meaningful tradition can continue for future generations of students.

## Island Adventures

The Gitigaan Crew was excited to support middle school field trips to both Stockton and Madeline Islands this spring. On Stockton Island, we joined the 6th graders for campfire pudgy pies and outdoor exploration. On Madeline Island, we assisted artist Kate Clark in leading a fairy house workshop, with student creations becoming part of the fairy village along the Casper Trail. We also enjoyed a mini foraging walk and soaked up the sunshine at Joni's Beach.



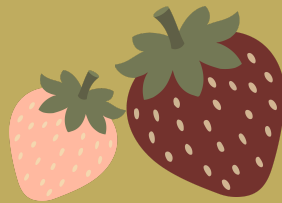
# May Term

## Wild Food and Medicine

The Gitigaan Crew offered a Wild Food and Medicine May Term course for high school students interested in ethnobotany, traditional plant knowledge, and foraging. We were honored to welcome Marisa Lee, a local Ojibwe plant enthusiast, to share her knowledge and experiences with students. Together, we explored a variety of local ecosystems, including river floodplains, wetlands, shorelines, and forests. Students spent much of their time identifying, learning about, and responsibly harvesting wild plants. At the end of the day, we returned to school to brew a wild-crafted tea and enjoy a sautéed wild food medley featuring pheasant back mushrooms, fiddleheads, ramps, sochan, and milkweed shoots.



## Farmer for a Day

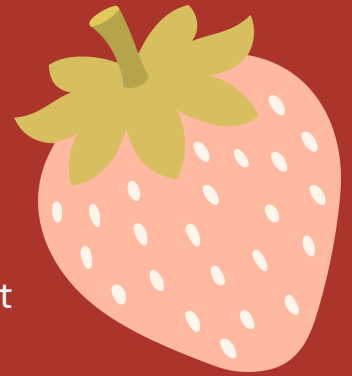


For the second day of May Term, students participated in an Animal Care Day focused on pet first aid and hands-on learning at local farms. We began the day at Turner Road Farm, where students helped install fencing for rotational grazing and met a variety of animals, including cows (some less than a week old!), horses, baby chicks, lambs, and herding dogs. Next, we visited Suri Fina Alpaca Farm, where students assisted with daily chores such as cleaning fiber and cooling off the alpacas with a hose during the warm midday sun. Lastly, we visited Ms. Kat's Farm, Bayview Stables, where she owns and boards horses and provides riding lessons. Students had the opportunity to meet the horses up close, including Buttercup, the newest member of the farm family. The day provided a unique opportunity for students to learn about animal care, farm management, and the dedication required to care for animals in a variety of settings.



# Camp Chequamegon

We've been having a wonderful time at Chequamegon (Summer School)! We will be hosting two Garden and Nature classes for youth entering grades 3–8. We visited local farms, went berry picking, spent time caring for and learning about plants in the gitigaan, and enjoyed nature's garden. For more information contact Jeannie "Hovas" Long at [jlong@bayfield.k12.wi.us](mailto:jlong@bayfield.k12.wi.us)



## USDA Farm to School Grant

As we near the end of our two-year USDA Farm to School Grant, we are reflecting on all that has been accomplished and are grateful for the opportunities this funding has provided our district. Through the grant, we were able to support a part-time Farm to School Consultant position, compensate local farmers and community knowledge holders for sharing their expertise and cultural knowledge with students, and purchase books, garden supplies, rain gear, and tools to support outdoor learning and wild harvesting activities.

Over the course of the grant period, we surveyed students, staff, and community members to better understand local priorities and opportunities. We developed a District Farm to School Action Plan, established Memoranda of Understanding with two local food producers, and adopted a commitment to increasing local, traditional, and from-scratch foods in our school nutrition program through approval by the Wellness Committee and School Board. We also introduced students to new foods and cultural food traditions by conducting eight traditional food taste tests with K–12 students.

These accomplishments have strengthened our Farm to School program and laid the foundation for continued growth in local food procurement, nutrition education, and culturally relevant, land-based learning opportunities.