



HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT INDIAN EDUCATION



NOVEMBER, 2019

INDIGENOUS NEWS NOW

Aaniin, Boozhoo (Hello),

This month is called Mnidoons Giizisoonhg, translated to Little Spirit Moon in the Ojibway (Chippewa) language. It is the 12th moon of the Indigenous calendar. It is a time of healing for our body, spirits, and minds. We share positive energy with our families and friends.

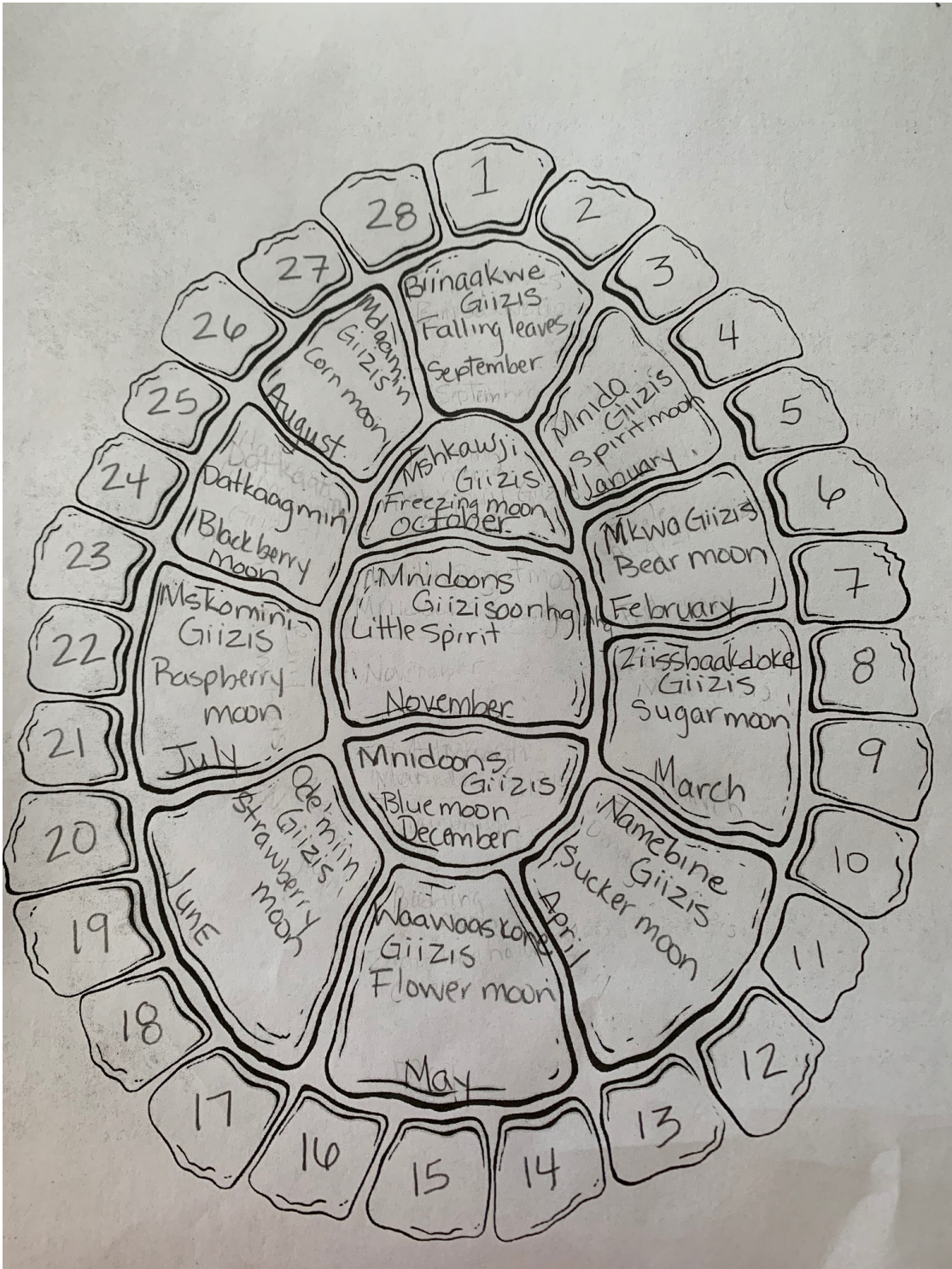
Native Americans used the moons to keep calendar time. Most used counting sticks to keep track of the days and months. For some other tribes such as the Cree and Chippewa people, they used the the shell of a turtle’s back. When you look at moon phases throughout the year, you will notice that there are 13 moons in the calendar year. Now look at the turtle’s shell; the center of it has 13 large scales which coincide with the lunar cycle. On the otter part of the shell, are 28 smaller scales that represent one day, and there are 28 days that was used for each month. Each individual tribe had different names for the month. It all depended upon which tribe and location they were at. Each moon was named by the description of the season or what was happening during that time of the year. The thirteenth moon varies in the different years. For example, in 2019 the 13th moon was held in July and next year in, 2020 the 13th moon will be in October. Therefore, we call our continent Turtle Island.

Amanda WalkingChild

Ojibway (Chippewa) Language

MNIDO GIIZIS	SPIRIT MOON	JANUARY
MKWA GIIZIS	BEAR MOON	FEBRUARY
ZIISBAAKDOKE GIIZIS	SUGAR MOON	MARCH
NAMEBINE GIIZIS	SUCKER MOON	APRIL
WAAWAASKONE GIIZIS	FLOWER MOON	MAY
ODE’MIIN GIIZIS	STRAWBERRY MOON	JUNE
MSKOMINI GIIZIS	RASPBERRY MOON	JULY
DATKAAGMIN	BLACKBERRY MOON	
MDAAMIIN GIIZIS	CORN MOON	AUGUST
BIINAACKWE GIIZIS	FALLING LEAVES	SEPTEMBER
MSHKAWJI GIIZIS	FREEZING MOON	OCTOBER
MNIDOONS GIIZISOONHG	LITTLE SPIRIT MOON	NOVEMBER
MNIDOONS GIIZIS	BLUE MOON-BIG SPIRIT MOON	DECEMBER

LUNAR CYCLE



NEWS

In the year 2012, President Obama made a Presidential proclamation that each November would be National Native American Heritage Month.

The Helena School District acknowledged this National recognition with “Roc Your Mocs”, which concurred the week of November 11-15. “Rock Your Mocs” is an international celebration to honor tribal individuality; not only in school but the work place as well.

On Thursday November 14, the Native students at Helena High cooked and prepared a meal for the teachers to show their appreciation for the important jobs they ensure. The menu included Three Sisters soup, chili, and fry bread. It left an upright amazing smell throughout the halls of HHS.



Students who helped cook and serve



Other photos from the feed

A “big thank you” for the teachers that took a moment to fill their belly’s and show support to our students. Also, a “big thank you” to Terri Johnson for helping our students complete this wonderful gesture.

On Friday, November 15, HHS and CHS will be taking a trip to Salish Kootenai College to tour the campus.

Educational Resources

This is a good lesson plan for teaching Thanksgiving from a Native American prospective. It was created by a group of teachers from the Oklahoma City Public Schools. It provides not only lessons, but arts and crafts as well:

<https://www.okcps.org/cms/lib/OK01913268/Centricity/Domain/130/NASS%20Thanksgiving%20Lesson%20Plan%20Booklet.pdf>

This is a link for lessons for older grades:

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/thanksgiving-ideas-for-the-classroom-grades-6-8.html>

If you would like to add something different to your Thanksgiving dinner this year, this is a link to an article about a Sioux Chef and recepies that he brought forth that include traditional Native foods:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/04/dining/native-american-recipes-sioux-chef.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

Upcoming events

November 15 - HHS and CHS trip to Salish Kootenai College

December 5 - Title VI Family night, 6-8 pm, Location TBD

