

WELCOME TO

Slate Falls Nation



**TEACH
FOR
CANADA**



boozhoo



Slate Falls Nation

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to Slate Falls Nation. You will soon be living in a unique community where you will have a very special teaching experience, one you will no doubt remember for the rest of your life. Our community and school have small populations but we trust you will see this for the special opportunity that it is: the chance to really know all the students in your school and to get to know all of your neighbours.

The people of Slate Falls have laid out their vision for what they want for themselves. They strive to be a vibrant, healthy community, established on spiritual principles. They seek to be economically independent and have accomplished governance. The community is committed to investing in its children and its youth, through education excellence, parental involvement, and promotion of student achievement and success.

Because the community has sought to be economically independent, it has made financial investments that allow us to have a well-resourced school and fantastic facilities, such as a community centre and two baseball diamonds. We want you to help your students take full advantage of these resources, by organising activities and clubs during and after school hours.

I also encourage you to take a very active role in the community. From the fishing derby to National Aboriginal Day, there are events going on all year long. Come out and enjoy them! You will be very welcome and you will get to know your neighbours!

Please note that Slate Falls Nation does not have a store in the community. There are, however, many other ways to obtain groceries, which are detailed on page 9.

Thank you for pursuing this opportunity. I look forward to getting to know you better and helping you settle into your new life in Slate Falls Nation.

Sincerely,

Misty Crane

Education Director
Slate Falls Nation

Community

People have been living in the area of Slate Falls for two centuries. Members of the Osnaburgh House Indian Band established main camps here for managing surrounding traplines and hunting grounds in the 1700's.



A Brief History

By 1930's

Members of Slate Falls Nation establish themselves in the area.

1930-1985

The members of Slate Falls Nation are members of Mishkeegogamang First Nation.

1970s

Fishing lodges and a camp were started by a local person from Sioux Lookout. He had a good relationship with the community. Since the lake he used belonged to Slate Falls, an agreement was struck between them.

1985

Slate Falls Nation was one of six new First Nations established under Six Nishnawbe Aski Bands Agreement between the Governments of Ontario and the six Northwestern Ontario Bands. Slate Falls is established as a Nation and establishes its membership. The federal government did not, however, recognize the reserve.

1987-88

The Band gains control of First Nation education (previously the school was part of a provincial school board).

Sept. 1997

Opening of the school

2000

Slate Falls got full ownership of the lodge and charter service, which services Slate Falls, the fishing camp, and other locations.

2003

Funding and construction of 51 kilometers of all-weather road is announced.

2012-13

The land claim settlement tied to the flooding of Lake St-Joe in the 1930s is concluded with Hydro Ontario, the government of Ontario, and the government of Canada

2015

Construction of the arena is completed

2017

The new water treatment plant opens

2018

After years of advocacy and negotiations, the federal government officially recognized the reserve status of Slate Fall First Nation.



The Land

Slate Falls is located in the Kenora District.

Slate Falls is the name of the settlement. Located on North Bamaji Lake, Slate Fall's traditional name is Shakopaatikoong. Slate Falls First Nation community is located approximately 122 kilometers north of Sioux Lookout and is accessible by floatplane (summer), ski plane (winter) and wheeled aircraft as there is an airstrip. Slate Falls is also accessible by one all-weather road. The lakes North Bamaji and Bamaji span over a 30 kilometer stretch and have many small islands.

Residents hunt moose. In the spring and the fall, they hunt birds such as geese, snow geese, and ducks. Residents also fish pickerel, pike, and whitefish. There are also wolves in the area, which sometimes come into the community during winter, but they normally don't bother humans.

Slate Falls Community Map



Bimaychikamah School



Bimaychikamah means lake on its side.

School Mission

School Population

30

Grades

Kindergarten to Grade 8

Key People

Danick Clavel

Principal

Misty Crane

Education Director

Freddie Sakakeesic

*Education portfolio holder,
Band Councillor*

Cecilia Spence

Band Councillor

Our school mission is to create a positive learning environment, to help students succeed to the best of their abilities, and to promote lifelong learning in order to ensure that our youth are happy, healthy, and well-rounded individuals.

School Vision

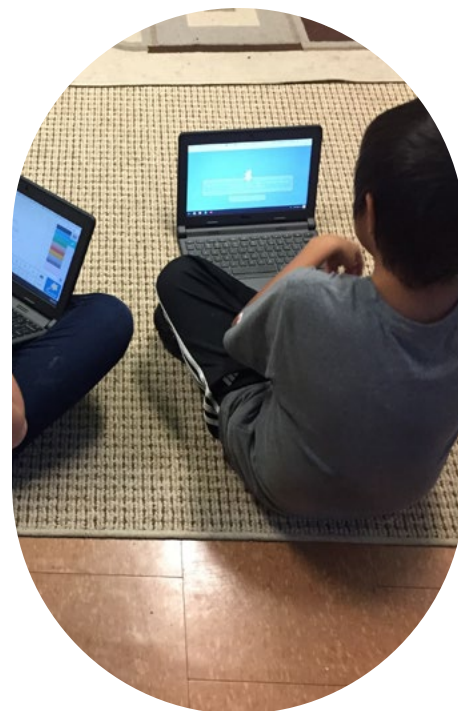
Each student will have the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to successfully complete their elementary and secondary education in order to pursue higher education and/or training to prepare them to be productive members of their community. They will strive to be competent in their traditional language as well as in the English language. Students will be respectful of the traditional knowledge of the local community.





Slate Falls Nation offers...

- Cultural advisors/Elders to support the work of students and others in their pursuit of traditional knowledge.
- A comfortable, safe, and respectful learning environment.
- An administrative education staff and instructors who are knowledgeable about the cultural identity of the Nation and are sensitive, compassionate, friendly, and understanding of individual students needs.
- Policies and procedures that reflect the cultural norms of the community.
- A Chief and Council and the Local Education Authority that are committed to a balanced view, eager to share their expertise, and are actively involved in developing and enhancing a school that is an integral part of the community.
- Access to Keewatinook Internet High School (KiHS), an asynchronous online high school serving First Nations in Northern Ontario with a full range of 80+ accredited courses for Grades 9-12.
- Adult Education programming.



A Day in the Life of a Teacher

Teachers are expected to arrive at school at 8:45 AM to prepare their day. Classes start at 9 AM and finish at 3:30 PM. Teachers usually stay at school until 4:30-5 PM, either running extracurricular activities or completing prep work. The principal is usually at school until 6 PM.

A light breakfast and lunch program is offered at the school.



What Makes Bimaychikamah School Special?

Three teachers work at the school: the Principal, who teaches JK and SK, a teacher who teaches grades 1-4, and another teacher who teaches grade 5-8. The staff is a close-knit team that works together.

School Events

- Fishing Derby in Winter
- Christmas, Halloween, Graduation celebrations
- National Aboriginal Day

What is your school most proud of?

Our children and their achievements.

Unique Classes Offered

- Baking
- Woodwork
- Seasonal traditional activities (e.g. preparation of a moose during hunting season, fish netting and filleting of fish, preparation of goose and duck, and smoking of fish and meat.)

Facilities

Bimaychikamah school has large, well-resourced classrooms. The library is well-stocked with a wide range of books. There is also a school kitchen.

Outside the school, there are two baseball diamonds, a volleyball court, a community centre, and a school playground.

Extracurriculars

We encourage teachers to introduce students to new experiences by starting clubs based on their own passions and interests.





Teacherages

Teacherages are located on the lake across the road from the school. The teacherages in Slate Falls Nation are fully furnished, including appliances such as a washer and dryer. Rent is 400 dollars a month. Rent is deducted directly from teachers' paychecks (\$200 twice a month), so they don't have to worry about paying the band. Water is treated by the new water treatment plant.

Internet, TV, and telephone

The teacherages are equipped with fibre optic internet, telephone, and satellite television. The cost of TV, internet, and telephone are included in the rent. Cellular service is only available with Tbaytel. Teachers can purchase a plan with TBaytel in Sioux Lookout or Thunder Bay prior or during their time in Slate Falls First Nation if they wish to have a working cellphone.





Life in the Community



Regular Activities

Sports such as broomball for women, hockey for men, and midget and bantam division hockey for children are played regularly, though not officially organised. The kids and men's hockey teams, as well as the women's broomball team, participate in tournaments in Sioux Lookout and Lac Seul. Many kids play in a minor league team in Sioux Lookout and their parents drive them to games and practices.

There is a ladies craft night at the Mennonite Church. There is also Bible Study on Wednesdays, as well as a morning and evening services on Sundays. The band operates programs throughout the week.

Community Events

In the summer, there are community BBQs, notably for National Aboriginal Day, Treaty Day and Canada Day. There is also a baseball tournament in August. For Christmas and New Year's there is a community meal, along with square dancing.

Amenities

There is not a store in the community but there are many options to get groceries. Your colleagues make regular trips into Sioux Lookout, so you can travel with them or ask them to pick-up groceries. It is also possible to order groceries from Fresh Market in Sioux Lookout, which will be delivered by plane on the next flight up to Slate Falls. There is a school canteen where you can purchase snacks. Community members also occasionally sell homemade snacks. You can purchase gas in the community.

Get to Know Slate Falls Community Members

MEET LORRAINE CRANE, Chief

What do you like most about your community?

I like the community and family gatherings. That's when we get together and interact. One of the few times that everyone is in the same place. Teachers can choose to participate.

How would you describe Slate Falls?

Slate Falls is a small community of less than 300 people. It is a very young community; the majority of the people are under 30. Two police officers, two nursing staff, and three teachers live in the community.

Slate Falls is both a fly-in and drive-in community (there is an all-weather road). We are situated on the water. Hunting and fishing are a way of life here. There is a spring and a fall hunt every year. Teachers are welcome to fish as much as they want to.

Cultural activities, traditions, and language are a part of the community. These include netting and smoking fish. However, certain aspects of the culture are not practiced here, like smudging, sweat lodges, drumming, and powwows. Family groupings in Slate Falls self-define what they consider to be traditions and culture.

The band owns Floatplane Airways and the Fly-in Lodge and fishing camp.

The band also owns businesses in Sioux Lookout. There is a brand new water treatment plant in Slate Falls.



MEET MISTY CRANE, Education Director

What do you like most about Slate Falls?

I like how calm the lake is. In the summer it shimmers. I love going fishing (but not cleaning the fish!). I love the nature, especially in the fall when the trees change colours. Summer and fall are beautiful times to be around the reserve.

What do you like to do when you have a day off?

Stay at home with my baby. Being a mom comes first. I like to spend time with him, go for walks, sing with him, dance with him, talk to him.

How would you describe Slate Falls?

It is a small reserve, about 250 people. You can fly-in but we have an all-weather road, so you can come and go as you please. It's great for fishing. People are great, they'll come and visit new teachers.



Around the Community



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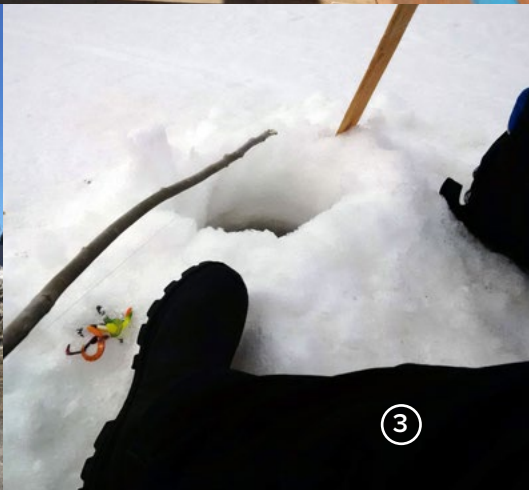
View from the Band Office



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Arena



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Ice fishing



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School

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Grade 1-4 class

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Student working at school

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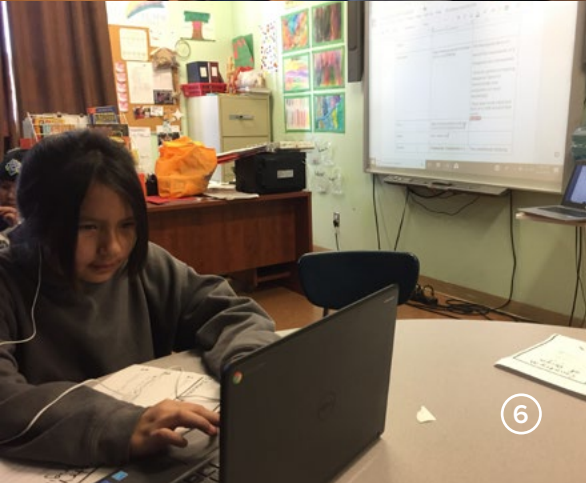
Front entrance of the school

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Local mosses

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Students on a community walk



Quick Facts

Population On-Reserve



185

Language Spoken



**English and
Ojibway**

Treaty



Treaty 9

Average Yearly Temperature



-15°C
January

20°C
July

Access



Year-round



Bimaychikamah School
(807) 737-5701

Early Childhood Program
(807) 737-5718

Public Works Warehouse
(807) 737-5703

NAPS Station
(807) 737-5755

NAPS Residence
(807) 737-5754

Nurse Residence
(807) 737-5717

Slate Falls Accommodation A
(807) 737-5712

Slate Falls Accommodation B
(807) 737-5713

Slate Falls Band Office
(807) 737-5700

Slate Falls Clinic
(807) 737-5757

Slate Falls Fire Hall
(807) 737-5711

Slate Falls Indian Registry
(807) 737-5704

Slate Falls MTO
(807) 737-5715

Slate Falls MTO Terminal
(807) 737-5714

Slate Falls Radio Station
(807) 737-5705

Slate Falls Technician Office
(807) 737-5706

**Slate Falls Wahsa
Distance Education**
(807) 737-5702

Slate Falls Water Treatment
(807) 737-5709

Teachers' Residence A
(807) 737-5790

Teachers' Residence B
(807) 737-5791

Teachers' Residence D
(807) 737-5793

Teachers' Residence E
(807) 737-5794

Bamaji Air
807-737-1020



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