



The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is pleased to announce registration for the Neekun (Our House) After School program, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (3-5:00pm). During February & April school vacation weeks Neekun is Tuesday-Friday (8:30am-4:30pm). This program is for students in grades K-6.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Education Department, Youth Department, and Language Department will be providing a comprehensive Neekun After School program for Wampanoag youth.

The purpose of Neekun is to provide fun language, culture, academic and enrichment activities in a safe community environment in order to enrich students' lives culturally, socially, and academically.

New this year, Neekun will provide programming from Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Indian Education program on Wednesdays. This will focus primarily cultural education. Please see our focus areas below. We look forward to having your child(ren) in Neekun After School program!

### **Focus Area 1: Wôpanâak Culture and Wôpanâak**

**Ceremony:** Neekun will include daily ceremony and prayer where children will learn and practice circle protocol and smudging as an essential component to Mashpee Wampanoag life and health.

**Language:** Staff will implement language immersion activities and projects including songs, Wôpanâak literacy, vocabulary-building, and conversational skills.

**Traditional music:** Neekun youth will learn traditional eastern songs and Wôpanâak language songs.

**Crafting:** Neekun youth will learn a variety of contemporary and traditional crafting.

**Traditional Ecological Knowledge:** Neekun youth will learn about local ecosystems, including Mashpee waterways, traditional/modern methods of fishing, and local plant and animal life.

**Intergenerational Learning:** Neekun youth will interact with elders by learning local history, lineage, creation stories, and crafting.

### **Focus Area 2: Healthy Lifestyles**

Physical Fitness: Neekun staff will teach athletic skills and participants will engage in sports including, but not limited to, kickball, volleyball, and basketball. They will also learn and practice traits of good sportsmanship, an essential component of athleticism.

Healthy Snacks: Neekun staff will work with youth to prepare and serve healthy, low/no sugar snacks.

Traditional Foods: Neekun youth will learn about traditional local foods, planting, harvesting, and preparation practices.

### **Focus Area 3: Academic Achievement**

Study Skills & Homework help: Neekun youth will learn transferable strategies for note taking and focused reviews. Staff will provide homework assistance, if requested, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

#### **Neekun Program Goals:**

- Integrate evidence-based youth development principles into all aspects of after school programming.
- Provide cultural awareness through language development, educational and traditional activities.
- Increase opportunities to boost youth resiliency, leadership skills, and peer-to-peer and intergenerational relationship building.
- Provide opportunities to develop performing arts and oratory skills.
- Provide academic and mentoring support to build students' confidence and expectations for achievement.
- Provide daily opportunities to increase and maintain physical fitness and an overall healthy lifestyle.

**Program Dates & Location:** Program runs Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Neekun is 3pm-5pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Neekun programming will also be held 8:30am-4:30pm Tuesdays-Fridays during February & April vacation weeks. Neekun will be closed for all major holidays observed by the Town of Mashpee's school system and will also observe their weather related closings. Neekun After School Program will be held in the language classrooms and gym at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community & Government Center at 483 Great Neck Road South Mashpee, MA. **Pickup time is between 4:30pm and 5pm each day.** Program is closed promptly at 5:00pm. Transportation in MWT vans is available from the K.C. Coombs and Quashnet Schools for up to 20 youth.

**Enrollment & Cost:** The Neekun After School Program is for Mashpee Wampanoag youth enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 6.

Program is \$35 for the after school component and \$20 for February vacation week and \$20 for April vacation week (a total of \$75 for the school year).

Register online or pick up an application/return at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center located at:

MWT Neekun c/o Tracy Kelley  
483 Great Neck Road South  
Mashpee, MA 02649