



Media Advisory

**Students learn to dig archaeology
at excavation site near St. Mary school**

SASKATOON - What used to be a small, untended patch of park near St. Mary Community School is now the site of a licensed archaeological dig, known as the Grace Adam Metawewinihk Archaeological Project (GAMAP).

Every spring since 1994 students from several Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools have done excavation work on the project with faculty and students from the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Archaeology.

In their classroom lessons and in their work at the site, schoolchildren from grades 5 to 8 focus on both aboriginal culture and the history of recent European settlement and development in Saskatoon. Meanwhile, the university students gain experience in organizing, supervising and instructing others at an archaeological excavation.

Overall, the project integrates social studies, reading, science and cultural awareness. It is named after Grace Adam, the first aboriginal principal of the Native Survival School, now known as Joe Duquette High School.

Each year's work wraps up with an "Archaeological Day in the Park." **Media are invited to visit this year's event on Monday, June 19, near St. Mary School (337 Avenue O South) from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Students will be working near the tipi.**

Students from the five participating schools will spend the day doing a series of hands-on activities, many involving traditional First Nations skills and crafts. Activities include making fire, throwing an atlatl (a First Nations hunting spear) and reviewing some of the artifacts discovered at the project.

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