

Stewart Bennett miinwaa Kyle Abitong gii ba yaawag.

Stewart Bennett and Kyle Abitong were here. Fluent speaker, Stewart Bennett and his nephew Kyle came to visit the University of Michigan's Ojibwe Language Program on October 2nd to share a different dialect with students. Bkaan bangii nwewin gii biidoon.

Here are some of the autobiographical lines they taught the students:

Howard Kimewon onjibad Wikwemikong.
Howard Kimewon is from Wikwemikong.

Stewart Bennett onjibad Zgamok.
Stewart Bennett is from Sagamok.

Zhaazhagwa gaa enji ganawenjigaazyaang.
A long time ago we went to boarding school.

Jibwa maaji kinomaagooyaang, kina g'gii Anishinaabemi eta gwa.
Before going to school, we spoke Anishinaabemowin only.

Gaawiin n'gii bgidnigoosiimi wii Anishinaabemyaang kinomaagegamigong
We weren't allowed to speak Anishinaabemowin while at school

miinwa gojing ba nakamigaziiyaang.
and outside while we were playing.

Gojing gii ba ji-zhiingiziyaang miinwa n'gii boogidizimi.
Outside we were all being naughty and were making trouble.

Miidash pii ba ganagwaayaang neyab kinomaagegamigong
Then when we were let back in school

miidash gii pashazhegwayaang.
we were strapped.*

N'gii windamawaa n'goos gaa zhewebsiiyaanh miidash gii tkwedwed
I did tell my father what happened to me then he answered

"kaa gego ge ezhi naadamawinaamdaa."
(there is) no way that I can help you.

** A "strapping," being whipped by an adult with a long piece of leather, was one of many forms of corporal punishment sanctioned by the Boarding School system in Canada and the United States.*