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**BOIS FORTE BAND TO BREAK GROUND ON
NEW NETT LAKE SCHOOL**

\$11 million project will improve community health and education facilities

NETT LAKE, Minn. – On Tuesday, September 4, the Bois Forte Band will celebrate the start of a new school year by breaking ground on a new school building that will house educational and health care programs and services for the entire community.

The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. and include a traditional Ojibwe ceremony and the release of balloons by Nett Lake School students. After a community lunch, the Band will host a carnival for students at 12:30 p.m.

The planned 8,000-square-foot expansion will create new classrooms for K-6 students and more community meeting spaces. Existing spaces will be renovated, and security will be upgraded to protect students, staff and visitors. The \$11 million project is being funded with a \$10.7 million bond sale that was overwhelming approved by the voters in the school district in November 2006 and by the 2007 State Legislature. The Minnesota Tribal Government Foundation also awarded Bois Forte \$100,000 for the project.

“This will be a true education center for people of all ages and backgrounds,” said

School Superintendent and Nett Lake alumnae Teresa Strong, “In addition to our K through Sixth grade students, this new building will be home to cultural classes and many programs for preschoolers and their families, for new parents, for people finishing high school or studying at the college level, and more. Plus we will have a health clinic right on site.”

Jessica Villebrun, mother of five year old Kindergarten Makenna and six year old First Grader Kentrell says her children are excited to go back to classes with their friends after summer vacation. Jessica feels the expanded school will, “... provide more learning opportunities for the children” and she appreciates “... the convenience of the Health Clinic being built on campus.”

Band Chairman Kevin Leecy praised the Nett Lake School students, saying their academic progress and rising enrollment numbers were two of the reasons for the widespread support of the project. “The students have shown they believe in themselves, and this new building shows that people across our community and our state believe in them, too.”

To reach the groundbreaking take Highway 53 to Highway 23 just south of Orr. Turn west on Highway 23 and follow the road for 18 miles into the Village of Nett Lake.

Turn left on Westley Drive and travel one block. The school is on the right side.

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