

# GreyFox C.E. Works on Language DVD Project for Forest County Potawatomi

by Lori Thomas

Tom Skenandore, Grey Fox Multimedia, has been working with the FCP Museum and Cultural Center in developing an interactive Potawatomi Language Learning Program. This time-consuming process of developing the language/DVD program created to aide with children in learning the Potawatomi language, takes about eight weeks per segment. The project is split into five different and distinct segments.

The program, which is named after Gte Ga Nes preschool (Little Garden), will have five interactive animated scenes. The first one is *In the Classroom*. The children will be able to learn Potawatomi words of items and situations that take place in a day-to-day classroom setting. The second is *Mealtime*. This will go over some vocabulary that is used when dealing with children at a mealtime setting such as etiquette and other forms of interaction between teacher and child. The third is *Outside Activities* explaining some of the things that are outside of a school and children will be able to learn the Potawatomi words for them. The fourth is *Matching Games* where children will be able to match objects as they hear the names of them in Potawatomi. The fifth is *Text Only*, where the children get an overview of all the text they have learned throughout the DVD and quizzes each of the students. Throughout all of the segments, the English version, pronunciation and vocabulary of the Potawatomi words all show. The best part about it, is that the children can hear how the words are to be sounded out.

Skenandore has been traveling from Oneida, Wis. to Crandon to record the words spoken by tribal members Jim Thunder, Virginia Jacobson and Kim Wensaut - just to name a few. When asked if there were going to be any children doing recordings, Tom stated that, "We had actually planned on recording children speaking the language, but at the time, children were in school and it was hard to set up times for them to record." Skenandore did go on to saying how he can take the adults' voice and shift the pitch to higher octaves and suddenly, "It's a child's voice. When you see it [the DVD], you wonder, who is that kid?" Skenandore will probably use this pitch



**A view of the FCP language DVD that Tom Skenandore is working on for young children to help in learning their language. In this part of the DVD, the young girl is drawing. It shows the Potawatomi vocabulary for the action the girl is doing below, along with the English version and also you will be able to hear how the words are to be pronounced. The entire language DVD is interactive and animated so that children may work at their own pace in learning the language.**

form for the children's voice on the FCP language DVD.

Skenandore has been working with the Native American owned company that his father started about 10 years ago. Tom enjoyed watching his father work on the projects that he had completed for the Oneida tribe. Grey Fox Multimedia started out as a company that helped make programs for the Oneida tribe with such things involving stories of culture on interactive discs. Skenandore thought it was interesting and jumped at the idea when his dad received a contract to make an animated disc. Skenandore is familiar with animation and loves to draw. The project gave him the opportunity to learn his own language which he never knew before. After working on the project Skenandore said, "Learning a Native

American language is kind of like a privilege. To learn the differences and the structure of Native American language was very interesting and unique in its own way."

"I've studied French, German and Spanish, which are really simple from

Oneida or any other Native American language. You really open your mind when you learn the language." The only projects he's worked with were only for Oneida. The Forest County Potawatomi Community would be his second branch of the language DVD. "I love working on this project for the Forest County Potawatomi Community. I designed the products for the purpose of incorporating other native languages."

What I do is like to think of ideas that present the language in a practical and situational way. Such as the classroom setting with the art activities that kids would be doing during the course of the day and words they would use during school."

The first disc is a series of three. The other part of the series that Skenandore has already developed with the Oneida's are a segment where the children are at home before they go to school called *Seven O'Clock in the Morning*. It prepares the children before they are getting ready for school and learning some of the words that they would use at that time. The last part of the series is *Home After School*. The children would learn words with objects and animals that are outside or in the forest.

When asked about developing the other two parts of the series for the FCP Community, Skenandore stated, "We're going to make the first part of the series for now. We'll see how this program works with the children and then go from there."

Skenandore illustrates everything in the language DVD himself and makes the animations. Skenandore along with Mark Percel (a videographer who shoots video and sound editing) work together in developing the projects.



Minnesota had "Visiting Royalty" at its National American Miss (NAM) pageant held in Minneapolis June 22-25. Pictured above (l-r) are tribal ladies Rosemary Peters of Keshena and Holly Spaude of Wabeno. Both girls helped out at the pageant and did a good job representing their home state of Wisconsin. Rosemary is the daughter of Randall and Rose Mary Peters. Holly is the daughter of Jason (FCP) and Shelley Spaude. Wisconsin's NAM pageant will be July 28-31 at Middleton, Wis., where both ladies will be giving up their titles.

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