**“How Keluwoskap Created People”**

**Keluwoskap (Glooscap) just finished visiting all the animals to prepare them for the coming of people. There was a risk the animals might rule over people so Keluwoskap had to reduce their size.**

**The evening before Keluwoskap created people he gathered dry wood to make a fire. Sitting by the fire he envisioned how this would all come to light.**

**First he went to cut a fresh tree and stripped the bark then carved a bow. He then took sinew and tied one end of the bow and bent it and tied it to the other end.**

**Keluwoskap then whittled an arrow from the same tree he cut so he would not waste. He then asked the owl if he could use its feathers to put on an end of the arrow so it would fly swiftly. On the other end he notched in an arrowhead he chiseled to balance the flight of the arrow.**

**The first light was approaching from the east, which meant it was time for the creation of people. Keluwoskap then walked to the edge of the eastern land and aimed the arrow straight at a giant Ash tree. As soon as the sunlight struck the top of the tree Keluwoskap let the arrow go.**

**The arrow split the Ash tree in half and out emerged the first people of the east with beautiful brown skin and shiny black hair, Waponahkiyik – People of the Dawn (Wabanaki people).**

**The creation of Waponahkiyik was beautiful. To this day Waponahkiyik use the Ash tree to create baskets that symbolizes the sacredness of life. The weave of the basket represents the unity and building of Waponahki community values. The base of the basket stands for the ancestors who hold the teachings and the tops are the children who will carry our traditions forward.**