History Through Red Eyes

In a recent education research journal article entitled, History Through Red Eyes: A Conversation with James Loewen, he shared his views on how American Indian topics and events are traditionally taught and offered his insights into what educators can do to accommodate multiple perspectives in our examination of history. Below, he provides some teaching tips for teachers that can help how history is viewed:

1. Examine terminology. Have students look at words like “discover,” “settlers,” “savage,” and so on. Introduce older students to terms like “syncretism” and “historiography.”

2. Get students to research the terms used in textbooks. If they find biased statements, have them write the publisher to see about getting changes made. Get students involved in social action.

3. Take students on field trips. Before going, have students research the site they are to visit and have them rewrite the story told by the site from a variety of perspectives. Have them research this historiography of the site. When did the interpretation of events get set? Who wrote it? Who or what was left out?

4. Conduct role-plays with students about a historical event involving American Indians. This is an excellent activity for looking at history from multiple perspectives.

5. Get students involved in doing research. Have them research family and local histories. Teach history in a way that gets them interested in learning about the past, rather than turned off by memorizing the past.

6. Set aside a week or a day for students to present the history of their particular cultural group.

7. An easy way for teachers to get up to speed about Thanksgiving is to read the Thanksgiving chapter in Lies My Teacher Told Me. Consider getting students involved in seeing what is going on this year at Plymouth Plantation, as well as exploring the history of the protest and changes there.


Welcome Back to School Year 2008-2009

I would like to welcome back all of our students, staff, and parents to another exciting year of educational opportunities that are available to all students. We’ve been working this summer aligning and strengthening the programs offered to all of our students. These programs include Reading Intervention (reading and writing), Native American studies and leadership, Exemplary Cultural Based Education Programs (Ohiyesa) for Native American Students in the APS, and the Indigenous Teaching and Evaluation Model (ITEM). Our department has also set six annual goals that include:

1. To improve literacy skills of APS Native American students in grades K-12 as measured by pre and post Reading Intervention assessment scores by the end of SY 2008-2009 through integration of culturally relevant instruction and materials.

2. To improve communication with the greater community and parents of Native American students who attend APS by 10%.

3. To increase school attendance by 10% through targeting schools with high absenteeism.

4. To improve and increase partnerships with neighboring tribes and communities.

5. To increase instruction of Native American languages and culture for Native American students through development of Indigenous curriculum and evaluation rubrics.

6. To increase parental involvement and attendance of monthly Indian Parent Committee (IPC)/ Indian Education Committee (IEC) meetings by 10%.

In addition, our department would like to extend an invitation to all parents to the 2nd Annual Back-to-School Parent Conference entitled “Strengthening the Partnership of Native American Education in the Albuquerque Public Schools” scheduled on August 29, 2008 at the Marriott Hotel. We have presenters with important information that will be sharing, including topics on Special Education, APS Native American student data, APS resources available to students, Indigenous curriculum and Native American learning styles, and much more. For more information contact Elizabeth Trujillo at 505-884-6392 or visit our website at www.apsied.com

Daisy Thompson, Director IED

Indian Education Newsletter
August 2008
The Indian Education Department will again be giving out school supplies to Native American students, kindergarten thru 12th grade, who attend Albuquerque Public Schools. We will use a voucher system, as our department did last year. This means that any who have already sent in their child’s certificate of Indian Blood to the Indian Education Department office located at 6400 Uptown Blvd NE Suite 460 W will be allowed to pick up their children’s vouchers. These vouchers can then be taken to OfficeMax at 8100 Wyoming Blvd to be exchanged for school supplies. Students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must be attending Albuquerque Public Schools
2. Parents of students must provide a copy of Certificate of Indian Blood for their child
3. This is a first come first served program
4. Our department will provide school supplies to a total of 800 students

Parents may call Elizabeth Trujillo or Lydia Martinez at 505-884-6392 if you have any questions.

Navajo Language Course

The Indian Education Department and the Language and Cultural Equity Department are making plans to implement a Navajo Language course. The plans are to hire a licensed teacher to teach the course as an afternoon, after school or weekend offering to students who are interested in earning credit towards graduation. The Indian Education Department will mail out information to students in the Fall about this course. You may call our office at 884-6392 to let us know if you will be interested in this course offering.

Navajo Nation Clothing Program

Recently, Indian Education Department staff attended a meeting in Window Rock, Arizona about the upcoming Navajo Nation Clothing Program for school year 2008-2009. Beginning July 21, 2008 to August 21, 2008 between the hours of 8:00AM to 4:30PM, parents of Navajo students who attend Albuquerque Public Schools and are between the ages of 4 and 13 may come to the Indian Education Department office at 6400 Uptown Blvd NE Suite 400 west and complete an application. Parents will need to bring a copy of their child’s Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) and Navajo Nation Chapter affiliation. Parents may call Elizabeth Trujillo at 505-884-6392 if you have any questions.

Welcome Linda Sink

The Indian Education Department would like to welcome Ms. Linda Sink as the APS Chief Academic Officer, who will be providing oversight and supervision of our department. She has many years of experience in education including: APS Interim Superintendent – 12/07 to 7/08 APS Associate Superintendent of Instruction – 7/07 to 12/07 APS Cluster Leader Principal for the Albuquerque High Cluster – 2005-2009 Albuquerque High School Principal – 2001-2007 Cibola High School Principal – 1997-2001 Also Assistant Principal at Eldorado High School, an Assistant Principal for Curriculum at Albuquerque High School and the Activities Director, also at Albuquerque High. Her career also included roles as a Secondary Clinical Supervisor for APS, the Science Department Chair and High School Science Teacher at Albuquerque High School. While in Arizona, she was a High School Science Teacher at Window Rock High School, a Principal for Ganado Summer School in Ganado, Arizona as well as a Middle School Science Teacher, also in Ganado.

Throughout her tenure with the District, Ms. Sink has been on the following Committees and Task Forces: AP Board District Committee, District Budget Committee, Volcano Vista Building Design Committee, District Negotiation’s Committee, District Calendar Committee, School Max Pilot Committee, PED High School Redesign Committee, and Joint Governance Panel for APS Membership Program. Through her efforts while at Cibola High School, she received the Quality New Mexico Pinon Award submitted for work on design of the first SLC at Cibola HS. Additionally, she presented her unique Advanced Placement project that she implemented throughout the Albuquerque Cluster to regional Advanced Placement conferences and had her proposal accepted at present to the College Board National Forum in New York City in October, 2007. Ms. Sink holds an Education Specialist in Education Administration (Ed.S.) degree, a Masters in Secondary and Adult Education and a Bachelors degree in Biology/Psychology, all from the University of New Mexico. She is currently certified with a New Mexico Administrator License, a Professional 7 - 12 Secondary License with a Science Endorsement, and an Instructional Leader License.

New Staff

Indian Education Department would like to welcome two new Resource Teachers to our department. Ms. Vivian Mason is assigned to Emerson Elementary School and Ms. Lisa Tolth has been assigned to Cibola High School. Ms. Mason comes to our department with years of experience teaching with the Gallup McKinley Public School District. Ms. Tolth’s education experience includes working at the Ta’ah Community School in Crownpoint and most recently at Jefferson Middle School and Hodgin Elementary School. Both Ms. Mason and Ms. Tolth come to our department highly qualified and eager to start their new assignments.