

August 7, 2020

Dear Pueblo of Zuni Families,

Keshhi. Ko' don dewan an a:deyaye? Ho' Mr. Bernard Chimoni. Ho' Shiwi. Ho' K'yak'yali:kwe deyan ho' Shohhwida:kwe' a:wan cha'le. Ho' Shiwi'ma Bena: ts'ina:yanikk'e:n'ona. Hello. How is everyone? I am Mr. Bernard Chimoni. I am Zuni. I am Eagle and a child of the Deer clan. I am the Zuni language teacher.

2020-2021 school year marks fifth year of the Zuni language classes offered through the APS' Indian Education Department. Zuni language classes are taught at Cibola High School, Del Norte High School, and at Career Enrichment Center (CEC). I am very eager and excited to continue teaching our Pueblo of Zuni students to acquire their Zuni language through the native language immersion method. This teaching method is natural, organic, and holistic. This method teaches the whole child: heart, mind, and body. Pueblo of Zuni students first hear the unique sounds before progressing to speaking and then transition to reading and writing in Zuni. The main focus and the goal of the Zuni language program is for our Zuni students to acquire their Shiwi'ma bena:we-Zuni language.

Acquiring the Zuni language is an on-going developmental learning process that requires daily communication and conversation with parents, grandparents, and the rest of the Zuni community. Learning to acquire the Zuni language instills pride, self-esteem, and reconnects the A:shiwi students to their culture.

Language is a gift, and we will continue to reclaim our responsibility for our future. Ho'na lesna' de bena: yakna'kya, da: a:na'dun dekkwin hon lukkya' ikwaft yok'yana:wa.

Please contact me at my email address below for further discussion and questions. Elahkwa. Don yadon k'okshi' sunnahk'yanapdu.

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