Indigenous Updates - May
Sowa:ne- blowing sand /
Yachunne kwa' shiamme- moon/month without a name (Zuni)

APS-Indian Education Department would like to share with you our monthly messaging flier in building connections and relationships with our Native American students, families, and communities. Taking this time to celebrate and empower your Indigenous students will create harmonious and supportive schools.

Pueblo Feast Days in New Mexico are significant cultural and religious events that celebrate the patron saints of each Pueblo community. They represent a deep blending of Catholic and Indigenous spiritual traditions, originating from the time of Spanish colonization. These celebrations are vital for the preservation and expression of Pueblo identity, community cohesion, and ancestral customs.

Key Significances:

1. Religious Syncretism: Feast Days are rooted in the integration of Catholic saints' feast days with traditional Pueblo ceremonies. While they often honor a patron saint, the events include dances, songs, and rituals that reflect Pueblo beliefs.
2. Cultural Continuity: They are a way for Pueblo communities to pass down language, dance, dress, and spiritual practices from one generation to the next.
3. Community and Family: These are times of homecoming and hospitality, with Pueblo families opening their homes to guests, offering traditional food and sharing in celebration.
4. Public Expression: While many Pueblo ceremonies are private, Feast Days are often open to the public, allowing outsiders to respectfully witness and learn about Pueblo cultures, helping promote understanding and respect.
5. Economic Impact: These events also bring economic benefits through tourism, supporting local artisans, performers, and vendors.

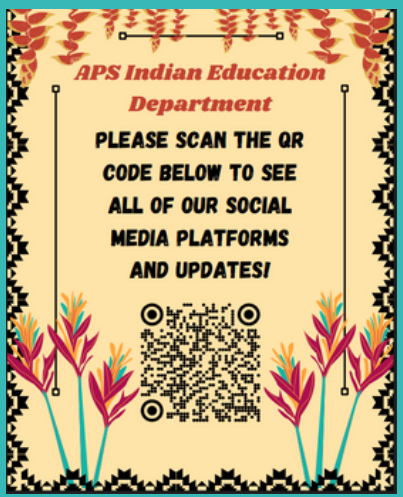
Each Pueblo has its own Feast Days

Guidelines when visiting a Pueblo

As many Native Students and their families celebrate traditional events this season please note attendance as an excused absense.
Tribal Obligations Excusal:
A student maybe excused from school to participate in Tribal obligations with the written consent of the student's parents/guardians.

In the News:

Judge sides with plaintiffs in Yazzie/Martinez NM education equity case • Source New Mexico



May Pueblo Feast Days:

May 1st - St. Phillip Feast Day, San Felipe Pueblo (Katishtya)

May 3 - Santa Cruz Feast Day, Taos Pueblo

1st Sunday - Santa Maria Feast Day, Acoma Pueblo

Memorial Day Weekend - Jemez Pueblo

Get Involved: Events & Happenings

- McKenzie Johnson & Preston Sanchez, J.D. Fighting for Accountability: McKenzie Johnson's Legal Battle Against APS, Zoom & Building 64, Rm 230, April 30, 1pm
- Court Hearing Yazzie/ Martinez, Warehouse505, Tues, April 29, 9am - 1pm
- Experiencing Conversation & Discussion Strategies for Multilingual Learners, Berna Facio, Thur, May 8, 1 - 3pm
- Teaching Beyond the Walls of 2025, Advancing Outdoor Learning & Campus Green Spaces, June 13 & 14
- Four Corners Cmpt Sci Convening, N. AZ University, Flagstaff, AZ, June 22 - 24
- UNM Summer Reading Program Schedule of Classes
- Party at Zia School Park, 440 Jefferson St NE, May 3, 4 - 7pm
- Diné (Navajo) Baby-Toddler Storytime, San Pedro Library, Wed, May 7, 11:15 - 12pm
- Indigenize Your Mind Book Club: Indian Burial Ground by Nick Medina, San Pedro Library, Sat, May 10, 3 - 5pm
- Agriculture Community Engagement Events, 5/10 Natural Fertilization & Pest Control, Polk MS/ 5/17 Indigenous Agriculture Wkshp, Garden Party Showcase, Los Padillas Elementary, 10am - 12pm
- Navajo Education Conference, NN Museum, Window Rock, AZ, Fri, June 6, 8am - 4:30pm

2025-26 Indigenous Course Flyer

Next year Indian Education will be housing all of our HS/CEC/ILC Courses at Albuquerque High School.

2025 Summer Program Flyer

This year APS IED's summer programming will be hosted by Valley High School. There will be programming all summer long, and is an opportunity for students to get ahead and catch up with the respective classes that we are offering.

Summer Enrichment and Navajo Language Immersion K-8

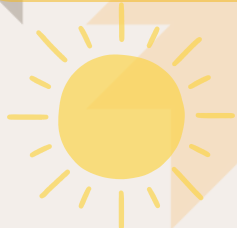
For all K-8 Students they can now sign up using the flyer to be involved in either the Summer Enrichment or Navajo Language Immersion Program being hosted at Tony Hillerman Middle School.

New Mexico Highlands University Summer Bridge Academy

NMHU is hosting the Indigenous Knowledge Summer Bridge Academy. Which will be a one week long experience for Native Students to get involved with and experience various activities, college life, and build connections.

Chief Manuelito Scholarship 2025-26

NNSFA website where Navajo Students can look more into the application for the Chief Manuelito. Please note that Navajo students are the only ones who can apply for this, and students must complete Navajo Language 1 & 2 and Navajo History and Government in order to receive the scholarship.



Happy Mother's Day

In some Native societies, matriarchy entails women holding primary positions of power, authority, and leadership, influencing decision-making, governance, and spiritual practices. Women in matriarchal communities may serve as political leaders, oversee property and inheritance through matrilineal systems, lead spiritual ceremonies, foster community cohesion, promote gender equality, balance, and respect for nature. Matriarchy, while not universal across all Native cultures, highlights the importance of women's wisdom, leadership, and contributions in shaping the social, political, and spiritual dynamics within the community.

Mother's Day Gift Ideas:

Make a flower bouquet from corn husks. (there are many more examples online. This is just one.)
Corn, one of the Three Sisters is an integral part of many Native cultures.

Take her to a Movie:
The Guild Cinema Presents:
The Arrangement

Dir. Shonie De La Rosa - 2024 - 70m - In Diné with English Subtitles
DIRECTOR IN PERSON TO DO A BRIEF INTRO + POST SCREENING DISCUSSION!

An all-ages romantic comedy about an arranged Navajo marriage. Featuring an all Navajo cast + crew and shot entirely on the Great Navajo Nation, this is the very first feature film that has been produced primarily (80%) in the Diné (Navajo) language!

"Perhaps a groundbreaking film in Navajo cinema ... (that) weaves a heartwarming tale of love, humor, and cultural pride. Originally conceived as a short film, "Arrangement" blossomed into a captivating 70-minute feature that showcases the Navajo language and culture in a fresh and endearing way." - Donovan Quintero, Navajo Times (Diné Ba - Naltsoos)

May 6 thru 8
Tue to Thu 8:15pm only! - ALL SEATS $10

Resources

- Smithsonian- Mother's Day Celebrations
- Reflections on Motherhood
- Celebrating the Power of Native Women and Native Mothers
- The Grief of Native American Mothers whose children were seperated from them

It's Graduation time again - Class of 2025

Throughout history, Native American communities have demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. Despite centuries of colonization, forced relocation, cultural suppression, and systemic injustices, Native peoples have persevered, adapting to changing circumstances while preserving their cultural identities and traditions.

During the pandemic, Native American students navigated the shift to remote learning, often overcoming barriers such as lack of internet connectivity or necessary devices. Despite these challenges, they showed resilience by finding alternative ways to access education, including utilizing community resources, seeking support from tribal organizations, and leveraging local initiatives to bridge the digital divide.

Cultural resilience also played a significant role as Native American students drew upon their heritage to cope with the disruptions caused by the pandemic. Traditional teachings, ceremonies, and community connections provided a source of strength and grounding during uncertain times, helping students maintain a sense of identity and purpose amidst the chaos.

Moreover, the support systems within Native American communities, including elders, tribal leaders, and educators, play a crucial role in fostering resilience among high school students. By providing guidance, encouragement, and culturally relevant resources, these networks help students navigate the challenges of [remote] learning and social isolation, ensuring they stayed connected and motivated to continue their education.

The resilience of Native Americans is evident in efforts to address contemporary issues such as environmental degradation, health disparities, and economic inequality. Native peoples actively work to overcome challenges to build a more sustainable future for themselves and future generations.

Teacher Appreciation Week:
Mon May 5 - Fri May 9, 2025

"Kinship binds our community, teaching us our roles and responsibilities - by honoring these connections, you nurture the whole student and their community."

- Bronwyn Cochrane

Seals & Stoles Reciepients 2024

Graduation Dates, Locations & Information

College Exploration Worksheet: to aid in deciding your (students') future. Created/ shared by IED teacher, Colleen Gorman

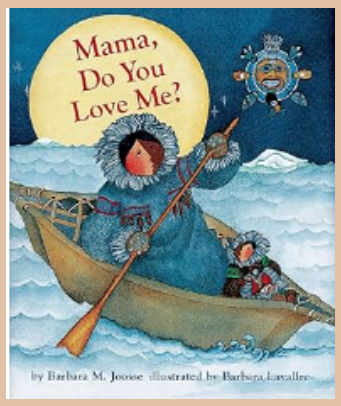
Culturally Responsive Resources

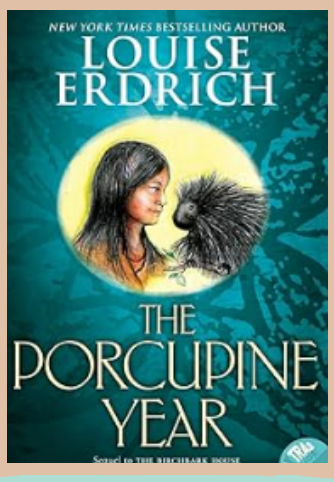
Helpful reflections to consider when selecting Native American lessons or activities.
Be mindful of where and by whom resources have come from. Is it written in past tense?
Is the creator a Native person?
Are othering or stereotypical terms used?
Be critical of sites like TeacherspayTeachers.

When in doubt check out: American Indians in Children's Literature by Debbie Reese

Read Something New this Month

- The Porcupine Year
- Summer's Magic: An Indigneous Celebration of Nature
- Mama, Do You Love Me?
- Rain is Not my Indian Name
- Young Native Activist: Growing up in Native American Rights Movement
- My Heart is a Chainsaw The Indian Lake Trilogy
- Aloha Everything
- Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children
- The Earth Under Sky Bear's Feet: Native American Poems of the Land
- The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee
- Redbone: The True Story of a Native American Rock Band
- Turtle Island: the Story of North America's First People
- A Man called Horse: John Horse and the Black Seminole Underground Railroad
- The World We Used to Live in: Remembering the Powers of Medicine Men
- Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States: A Graphic Interpretation
- Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples
- Reclaiming Youth at Risk (Native Values/ Circle of Courage)





Internet Resources

- Diné be'iiná Náhiiłna be Agha'diit'ahii (DNA Legal Services)
- · Eve's Fund
- · Project Venture
- · Lakota People's Law Project
- American Indian Library Association
- Southwest Books of the Year
- New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award
- American Indian Youth Literature Award
- NM Department of Cultural Affairs - Activity and Coloring Books
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture - Online Exhibits
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture- Online Resources
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture - Coloring Book
- National Museum of the American Indian - Online Exhibits
- National Museum of the American Indian- Online Resources
- AZ Summer Reading Page
- NM Summer Reading Page
- CSLP Official Programming Group
- AZ Presenter's Showcase
- Protocals for Native American Archival Materials
- Archival Innovator Award: Indigenous Archival Training Award