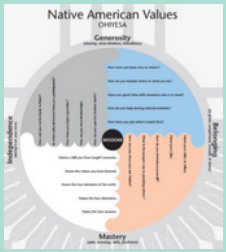
Indigenous Updates - September

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.

The Indigeneous Value of Belonging



"Be related, somehow, to everyone you know."
-Ella Deloria

A fundamental human desire is to belong—to be part of a group that values, respects, and cares for us. From everyday interactions to major life decisions, our actions can positively or negatively impact our sense of belonging and that of others.

By expanding our knowledge and understanding of each other, we can help normalize these feelings for Indigenous students and offer them a framework to understand that the factors shaping belonging are both internal and external. Navigating the boundaries of belonging—defining who is considered part of a group—can be especially challenging for young people in our increasingly diverse and interconnected world. It demands courage, open-mindedness, empathy, and a readiness to step beyond our comfort zones. Belonging isn't just about our origins or appearances; it's about shared human experiences and values. The term "belong" literally means "to go with," reflecting our species' evolution to journey through life together.

The sense of belonging extends to nature as well. Animals, plants, people, and streams are all interdependent. From childhood, children were taught through stories that if this harmony was upset, tragedies could result.
Maintaining balanced ecological relationships is a way of ensuring balance in one's own life.

The presence of a strong sense of belonging makes young people more receptive to guidance from other community members. Native youth have learned to listen and reflect on advice from concerned adults who approach them in a caring manner. Peer-group controls are also highly effective with Native youth; if a youngster is not responsive to group influence, this is a sure sign that the person doesn't feel he or she (or they) belongs.

Tiyospaye (tee-yo'-shpah-yay) is a Dakota word that captures the idea of larger and extended families that are connected.

THE CASE FOR EDUCATION EQUITY: Understanding the Yazzie/ Martinez Ruling

Let's work together!
According to the State Native students have been deprived of the programs and services they need to be college, career and community ready, resulting in unequal educational, health and employment outcomes.

- The NM Indian Education Act (IEA) is a state constitutional requirement. Here is a fact sheet provided by NM Poverty & Law Center regarding this ruling.
- The court detailed the major areas of deficiency within the education system requiring immediate attention, including: culturally and linguistically responsive education and curriculum and instructional programs that support this need.
- Here is a summary and timeline on the ruling.
- Here is Judge Singleton's Ruling.

You can help:

The Indian Education Department receives funding from Title VI, which requires a completed 506 form for student eligibility and continuation of programs. The Title VI grant funds are used for teacher salaries to provide instruction in: reading and math intervention, Native American studies, Economics, Government, Leadership, Navajo Government, Navajo Language, and Zuni. The Title VI department with the USDOE requires a student eligibility 506 certification form.

You can help us help our students by encouraging and collecting 506 forms.

Get Involved: Events & Happenings

- College and Career Tribal Resource Fair, Berna Facio Saturday, September 21, 9 - 12pm
- Traditional Foods Workshop, Saturday, September 14, 10am - 12, for more information: romero_shan@aps.edu
- Dine' Bingo, San Pedro Library, Saturday, September 14, 11am - 12
- Tribal Leaders Summit, October 3
- Third Annual Urban Indigenous Education Summit, Berna Facio, October 4, 9 - 2:30
- Senior Information Night, Wednesday, October 23, 6 - 8pm
- Indigenize Your Mind Book Club: Trail of Lightening by Rebecca Roanhorse, San Pedro Library, September 14, 3 - 5pm
- Diné (Navajo) Baby-Toddler Storytime, San Pedro Library, September 4, 11:15 -12
- Navajo Rug Weaving Craft, San Pedro Library, October 26, 11 - 1pm
- Ethnomathematics Workshop with Henry Fowler, San Pedro Library, Tuesday, October 22, 3 - 5pm
- 4th Annual Indigenous Education Curriculum Fair, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Saturday, October 26
- IAIE UNM Native American Teacher Preparation Program 2024

Equinox

Sun, Sep 22, 2024, 6:43 AM

The equinoxes represent balance and harmony in nature, prompting Native American tribes to reflect on their lives and their connection to the environment. They mark seasonal changes—spring for renewal and fall for harvest—and influence related ceremonies and rituals. The equinoxes also demonstrate Native American astronomical knowledge and are times for spiritual reflection and setting intentions for the future.

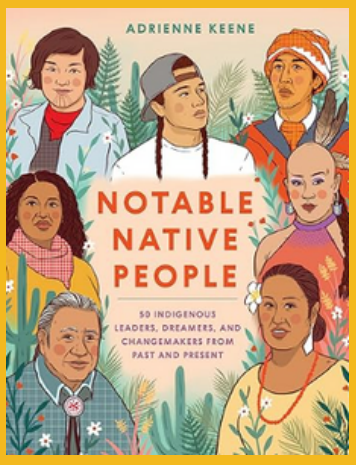
Culturally Responsive Resources

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

Indigenize your library

- Herizon
- The Unbreakable Code
- Moccasin Thunder
- Kokopelli's Gift
- Code Word Courage
- Notable Native People: 50 Indigenous Leaders, Dreamers, and Changemakers from Past and Present
- I Can Make this Promise
- The Way to Rainy Mountain
- Riders of the West
- Thunderwoman
- There, There
- Canyon Dreams: A Basketball Season on the Navajo Nation
- Race to the Sun
- The Ancient Child
- Look to the Mountain
- Becoming Little Shell: A Landless Indian's Journey Home
- Rediscovering Turtle Island: A First Peoples' Account of the Sacred Geography of America
- By the Fire We Carry: The Generations-Long Fight for Justice on Native Land
- An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States
- Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States: A Graphic Interpretation
- Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples
- Red Power: The American Indians' Fight for Freedom
- Reclaiming Youth at Risk (Native Values/ Circle of Courage)



Online Resources

- American Indians in Children's Literature
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Wisdom Curriculum
- Native Knowledge 360
- Teaching Native Histories
- Zinn Education: Native American Lessons
- Indigenous New Mexico
- All My Relations Podcast
- Indigenous Food Sovereignty Organizations
- Library of Congress: Indigenous Research Guides
- Lessons from Earth and Beyond
- Indigenous Education K-12
- American Indian Library Association
- Indigenous books for Kids and Teens
- The Internet Archive

Need further help?

Reach out to IED Materials Specialist, Jill Hutcheson for a tour of our library or for help with Indigenous resources.
jill.jurkiewicz@aps.edu