STORYTELLER

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Indian Education Newsletter May 2022

Mission

By working together with schools, parents, and communities, APS Indian Education Department will develop enhanced and supportive Indigenous educational opportunities for All American Indian/ Alaska Native students by increasing knowledge of Native values through teaching language and cultural differences.

2022 Senior Banquet

This year's senior banquet was held at the University of New Mexico Student Union Ballroom. The students gathered before the banquet for a group photo in front of the UNM Duck Pond.

Three hundred and fifty people attended the banquet to honor the Native American graduating students. This included tribal leaders, APS board members, principals, staff, and of course family members. Sixteen students from nine high schools earned the Seals & Stole award. Each student had the opportunity to share what their plans are after graduation and thank people that helped them complete their high school education.

Native American Fashion Show!

On Tuesday, April 12, 2022, Native American students from Elementary to High School came together to model amazing outfits. The designers included:

- Penny Singer
- Shirley Pino
- Daniel Pedro
- Sage Mountainflower.

Approximately 200 people came to this great celebration. However, it was a collaboration of 350 people. The event was held at the UNM Continuing Education Auditorium.

John Williams
Resource Teacher
Career Enrichment Center

More images of the fashion show

Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG)
Held their annual Career Development Conference

Over two hundred students from Del Norte High School, Rio Grande High School, Cibola High School, Zuni High School, Rio Rancho High School and Bernalillo High School all came together to compete and learn in this special conference for JAG students. Competitions included:

- Career Preparation.
- Creative Decision Making
- Employability Skills
- Extemporaneous Poster
- Financial Literacy
- Chapter Manual
- Project-Based Learning Showcase
- Public Speaking

Clockwise: Dennis Christy III, Anthony Dyea, Aaron Dyea, Dominique Lonjose, Christopher Shroulote, and Jacob Littleman.

Students who were not competing participated in

- Careers in Agriculture
- STEM Connects Us All
- Training for Careers in Film, Animation, and Game Design
- Becoming a Healer for Our NM Communities
- Apprenticeships and Careers in Construction
- Self-Care: Strategies for Managing Stress

Students from Del Norte High School (left to right) Calvin Waquie, Lani Martinez, Cami Riley, Andre Jim, with their teacher, Tim Garro

Clockwise: Shawnee Pourier, Jozelin Kruithof, Hailey Martinez, Macyci Chase, Lauren Begat, David Notah, Andrea Obledo, and Alec Obledo.

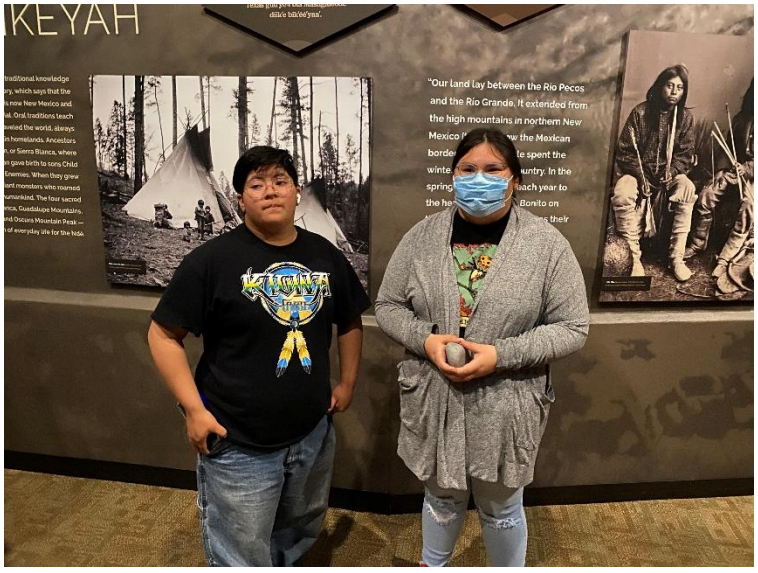
JAG Teachers:

Tim Garro, Del Norte High School
Amber Reno, Cibola High School

Field Trip to Bosque Redondo

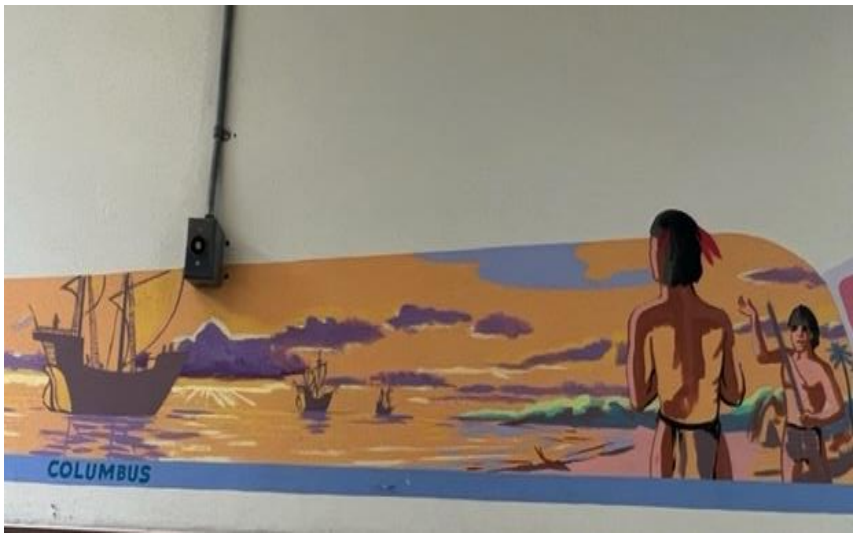
On April 29, students from Atrisco Heritage High school were able to visit the Bosque Redondo Memorial in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. It was a long but great day for the students. The ride was almost 3 hours long. The students learned the history behind the tragic “Long walk” event that took place in 1846-1866 The students were provided hospitality when they arrived at the site with tour guides and gifts. The tour guides gave introductions about; themselves, tour, and the significance of the building. Their first impressions were full of curiosity when they first stepped onto the site. They all felt inspired to explore their ancestral background.

Mildred Chiquito, Language Teacher
chiquito@aps.edu



Paradigm shift includes painting over outdated murals at Hodgin Elementary School

Written by Roberta Armijo, Resource Teacher



The series of murals that have occupied the walls at Hodgin Elementary School since 1991 have recently been covered up. These images reflect a cultural and historical perspective that is considered limited and limiting in our current day and age. As an institution of learning it is important that best practices be exhibited not only in classroom instruction but throughout our school.

These works were created by William “Bill” Warder. He was best known for painting murals in schools and public buildings. Some of those murals were at Hodgin. Bill Warder was born in 1920 in Guadalupita, NM. He grew up in Raton and attended UNM. He served in the U.S. Army as a map maker during WWII. Bill Warder was a lifelong artist and writer. Although, Mr. Warder’s intention was sincere and genuine at the time, the murals have since been questioned with concern by many parents, students, and staff.

The inaccuracies and misrepresentations of the events depicted have long been discussed with the involvement of the Indian Education Department, the neighborhood community, and the school community. The history told in these murals is offensive to many and they represent an outdated logic. Students are our priority and part of that priority is to provide a culturally relevant environment all while honoring our diverse cultures at our school. Hodgin prioritizes equity, diversity, and inclusion, so we had to make that shift that confronts an ideology that has grown into a popular history. A false history that many of us grew up learning.

A decision was made unanimously to archive the murals in a historical book and paint over them. In the process of making the paradigm shift toward a culturally relevant environment for our diverse populations at Hodgin, the murals will be replaced by living voices of our students through their work shaped by their experiences as learners at Hodgin. Through the display of this culturally diverse work, the aim is to set a tone that will in turn positively shape us as members of the Hodgin Elementary community. Most of all, students are honored as equitable and valuable future leaders of our society who are represented by their global, indigenous communities.

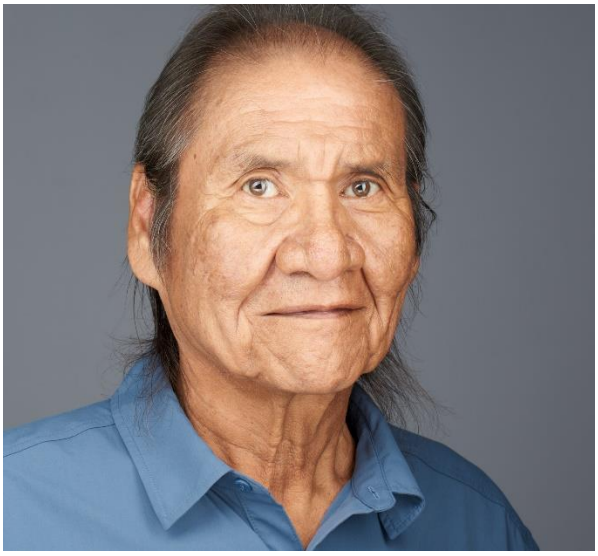
"The murals depicted of Columbus, the pilgrims and the "Shalak'o" kachina is disturbing because it undermines the cultural relevance I try to teach my students. The Shalak'o is painted by a non-Zuni and that in itself is taboo. These murals can confuse Native American students especially, A:shiwi (Zuni) students. A student may try to make sense of the murals. The A:shiwi's religious kachinas are not mythical the way a dragon or other mythical characters depicted on the murals at Hodgin Elementary are and it is rather insensitive to our belief system especially because it outdates the colonial explorations of non-Indians on Indian land!"

Mila Padilla, Zuni Language Teacher

"The pictorials serve as subtle reminders that perpetuate legacies of oppression native peoples endured since the coming of strangers from other continents. The outdated logic discounts "what really happened" and the stereotypes continues to be seen through feathered headbands, wooden Indians, tomahawks, and war cries. Images of non-natives appear as saviors of indigenous nations and esoteric ceremonial dancers are grossly misrepresented as artistic replicas of the ancient."

Nora Yazzie, Third Grade Teacher, Hodgin Elementary School

Meet John Gates, Home to School Community Liaison



Hi Everyone! I'm John Gates, (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and Cherokee) I grew up in Gallup, New Mexico and my mother taught at the old Zuni Day School. She taught 32 years in the McKinley County School District, and I graduated from Gallup High. Not unlike many of our students today I wasn't prepared for college life or settling into a career after high school. I was fortunate however, to meet Native professors and lawyers during this time who became my mentors and supported me as I worked to fulfill my education goals.

I received my bachelor's degree from UNM in May 1990, and I later went on to graduate from The University of Iowa College of Law in 1993. Since that time, I've worked with tribal governments, tribal courts, and tribal business entities, as well as legal aid services located in Indian Country. In 2004 I was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship that allowed me to travel to Germany where I taught courses at the University of Bonn in the areas of Native American Studies, federal Indian law and International Indigenous Human Rights. Most recently I've limited my legal work to serve as an expert witness recognized by the district courts of the State of Hawai'i, to testify on matters involving Native Hawai'ian's right to self-determination and sovereignty today under international Indigenous Human Rights law.

Thanks to my mother's long-time devotion to education, my principal interest remains firmly rooted in teaching, mentoring and supporting our Native Students achieve their educational goals and dreams. I look forward to meeting and working with as many of you as I can as we near the end of the spring semester. I am thankful and humbled by this opportunity to work with Native families and our Native communities as we emerge from the pandemic and what has been one of the more challenging periods of our lifetime.

John Gates, Home to School Community Liaison
john.gates@aps.edu

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" -Eleanor Roosevelt-

The liaisons' role is to support families and students with home visits, direct communication and support the respective schools with messages between schools and families. The support services include serving as a conduit to remove learning barriers by extending a hand and a welcoming voice in an otherwise a busy environment. The liaisons help connect the families to appropriate district services for students who may have needs but lacks the skills to navigate for educational services for their child or self.