



## Student Leadership hosts POW WOW!

The Native American Leadership Council coordinated an amazing POW WOW on November 10, 2022 at Albuquerque High School.

The event Head Staff included:

**MC:** Otis Halfmoon (*Nez Perce*)

**Area Director:** Aaron Fry  
(*Cherokee/Chickasaw*)

**Host Northern Drum:** Black Eagle (*Jemez*)

**Host Souther Drum:** Southern RED (*Santo Domingo*)

**Head Gourd:** Jason Smith (*Kiowa, Pawnee, Sac & Fox, Oteo*)

**Head Boy:** Kawe Fry  
(*Laguna/Acoma/Cherokee/Chickasaw*)

**Head Girl:** Tasia Pecos (*Jemez/Navajo*)



### Mission

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



## Sixth Annual Rock Your Mocs Celebration at Governor Bent Elementary

Since 2017, students, staff and families at Governor Bent Elementary have come together the week of November 15th to honor and celebrate Indigenous cultures in the spirit of Rock Your Mocs.\* After two years of virtual/hybrid celebrations, the Governor Bent community was delighted to once again celebrate Rock Your Mocs with in-person events at the school on November 15, 2022.



This year's celebration featured presentations by students, family members, and guests representing a variety of Indigenous cultures. Two students from Laguna Pueblo presented traditional dances in tribute to RYM founder Jessica "Jaylyn" Atsye, also of Laguna Pueblo. Zuni Language students from Governor Bent and Hodgkin Elementary Schools came together under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Mila Padilla, to present an opening blessing and sing songs in Shiwi'ma Bena:we (Zuni language). Navajo Language Teacher Mr. Jerry Gee, led students from McKinley and Cleveland Middle Schools in traditional dances. Other presentations included Lakota Star Quilt Making and Jingle Dress Dancers. Mrs. Roberta Armijo, Indian Ed. Resource Teacher at Hodgkin Elementary, also brought students to join in the celebration.



*Isabella Ruben (Laguna), 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*



*Rory Rodgers (Laguna), 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

\*Rock Your Mocs was founded by Jessica "Jaylyn" Atsye of Laguna Pueblo on November 15, 2011 as a way for Native American and Indigenous Peoples to stand together worldwide while recognizing their Tribal Individuality.

Student Officers from Mr. Timothy Garro's Native American JAG Program at Del Norte High School were announcers for the event. Nilaya Deschene (Vice President) and Kassie Peywa (Treasurer) presented a special recognition in which students and audience members were invited to stand as the name of their Tribe, Nation, or Pueblo was read. Shelea Wilson (President) served as emcee.

The festivities continued throughout the week with presentations by two special guests. Ethan Sombrero, former Governor Bent student and graduate of Nex+Gen Academy, met with 4th and 5th grade students to share his work and talk about his experience as an emerging artist. Ethan is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Arts at [IAIA \(Institute of American Indian Arts\)](#) in Sante Fe. A virtual exhibit of his work is featured on the [Governor Bent RYM 2022](#) website, which also showcases artwork and poetry by Governor Bent students and provides links to previous years' RYM Celebrations.



The week concluded with Navajo weaving demonstrations for all grade levels by Mrs. Mary Banovic of Farmington, New Mexico. Mrs. Banovic explained and demonstrated the stages of the weaving process, passed around wool and finished weavings for students to touch, and answered questions about her work. Mrs. Banovic was welcomed and introduced by her grandsons Hosteen and Hunter Benally, and her great-grandson Jayden Antonio, all students at Governor Bent.

The students and staff of Governor Bent Elementary would like to thank all of our guests and volunteers for helping make this year's celebration extra special. May we continue to honor and celebrate Indigenous cultures throughout this year and in all the years to come.

Cari Kerkhoff (she/her)  
Governor Bent ES Indian Ed. Resource  
Teacher  
[cari.kerkhoff@aps.edu](mailto:cari.kerkhoff@aps.edu)

## First Annual Urban Indigenous Education Summit

On November 29, 2022 educators, parents, students, and people from various community resources came together for this special summit. The purpose was for people to share ideas about what was working well and areas for improvement specifically related to Native American students. There were many panels and forums for people to participate and listen to. One of the student panel included students from the Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG) program from Cibola.



*Student panel: David Notah, Luke Othole, Tania Tsosie, Angelina Loretta, Vantora Fernandez, Jasmine Mitchell.*



*Kyle Tapaha, Urban Indigenous Organizer  
with American for Indian Opportunity  
Heidi Macdonald, Coordinator, Tides Center,  
and student panel*



*NACA 5<sup>TH</sup> grade Keres language class did the Closing Blessing*

## Dehts'ina; A Season of Honor

As A:shiwí transitions into “quiet time,” of Deshkwi, we reflect on the past year and honor what our ancestors have done since time immemorial. The life which each of us are blessed with is one to always honor those who have come before us. There has been no other time like the present, to truly think, pray and revere our livelihoods. While some people may remark the pandemic is “over,” we still have people leaving this world everyday. It makes sense to honor our breath life and continue to pay homage to the ancestors for the life we live.

Recently I asked students, what do your families do for the holidays? Some students spoke of returning home to Zuni and spending time with their families, some have cultural obligations and speak of how the village is dark. Many families have cultural rituals and



practices since time immemorial. For example, in the Frog clan we have a responsibility to care for the Patron Saint, Santo Niño de Atocha. This is my mother's kin and during Deshkwi, families make effigies of hope or earthly desires with clay. They are then brought to Santo Niño's. These clay wishes then sit with the Sandu until deshkwi (fasting) is over. Families will receive blessings sometime thereafter. Yanikchiya:we are blessings which are granted in prayer and again, we acknowledge the blessings from our ancestors and all those who have departed this earth.

Dehts'ina (winter) is when our people return to delapna:we (story). The origin story of how our people came into this world and journeyed to get to the middle place is called “Halona l:diwana,”. Zuni classes will retrace their ancestor's journeys and why it is important to know this. We have many sacred spaces and ancestral lands where students will learn the Shiwí (Zuni) names for these geographical places. Everyone learns the origin story sometime in our lives as A:shiwí. Students will learn these important accounts of A:shiwí (Zuni) tribal history, and it will create reverence for these cultural spaces. Zuni continues to hold onto cultural traditions of the past and it is the language that keeps it going. Elahkwa don dehts'ina kettsanishhi a:deya du!

Mila Padilla (Shiwí'ma Bena:we Yanikk'e:ona).

## Hispanic Cultural Center – November 19, 2022

This year, the APS Native American Performing Arts class held an activity that incorporated music, dance, and storytelling. It was an intertribal presentation. The program featured two native American songs, Two Winter Stories which included acting, and one Native American dance which allowed for audience participations. This event helped students develop communication and life skills.



*String games*



*Singing*



*Acting*

## Winter Celebration – November 30, 2022

Every year, students come together to share winter stories, sing songs, and play games. This year's Winter Celebration was held at Albuquerque High School on November 30, 2022. Students from elementary school to high school came together for this unique event.



*String games with Kaylee Pahe*



*Jerry Gee's middle school students*



*Shannon Johnson's elementary students*



*Students sing Christmas songs in Navajo.*

## JAG Students visit Washington DC

Every year, JAG students have the opportunity to visit Washington DC for an exclusive leadership conference. Students from all over the country come together for this fabulous learning opportunity. Students from Del Norte, Cibola, Rio Grande and Bernalillo High Schools were able to attend this year.



*Tim Garro  
Del Norte High school  
JAG Specialist*

*Shelea Wilson,  
Del Norte High School  
JAG President*



*JAG New Mexico Chapter Presidents: Roberto Reyes (Independence High School, Rio Rancho Public Schools), Hailey Martinez (Cibola High School, APS), Alondra Aguilera (Rio Grande High School APS), Shelea Wilson (Del Norte High School, APS), Gabrio Parra-Baca (Rio Grande High School APS)*



*Mandy Wilson, Rachel Feliciano, Kristine Moore, Christopher Jaramillo, Hailey Martinez, Alondra Aguilera, Gabrio Parra-Baca, Roberto Reyes, Shelea Wilson, Tim Garro.*