STORYTELLER

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Indian Education Newsletter February/ March 2025

Indian Education

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.

# February Indigenous Focused Community Engagement Events

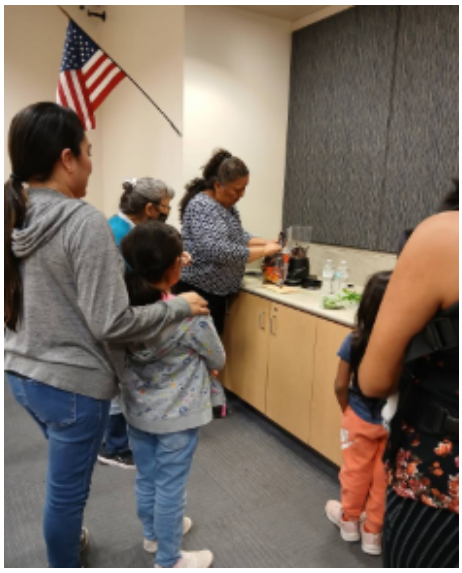
During the month of February 2025 the Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Interns and the Indian Education Department hosted our last two WINTER events.

On February 22nd, 2025 we hosted **Indigenous Winter Games** at Rio Grande HS. Our activities were led by our Indigenous Knowledge Keepers Interns and Indian Education staff.

We played a hunting game, **Tsidil** aka the Navajo Stick Game, Indigenous Bartering Game and a Parachute game utilizing Indigenous languages (We had games in Zuni, Tiwa-Isleta, and Spanish). We finished with a Pueblo throw. Our Indigenous youth who came out for the Winter game have some excellent bartering skills!

# Acoma Family Traditional Foods Home Cooking Night

On February 26, 2025 the Acoma Language Department and the Indian Education Department hosted a family cooking night traditional foods demonstration class for Acoma students and families. Families in attendance made blue corn pancakes, Shu'mu stew (wild parsley) and Indian tea at APS District Office.



# Acoma Family Traditional Foods Home Cooking Night

Our Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Interns hosted our first Agricultural focused community engagement event of the year. Our Interns gave presentations and hands on activities on:

*Garden to table- Zoodles with Pesto Sauce
*Seed ID Activity
*Seed balls
*Garden Plan
*Garden safety for children
*Seed Saving and tasting activities

Participants got to take home a Garden tool, plant, seeds, Zoodles and Seed balls.

Our next event will be on 4/12/25
10 AM-12PM
Los Padillas Elementary School
Theme: Bees, honey & Flowers

Free event for APS k-12 Indigenous students and families and Pueblo of Isleta students, families and community members.

## More Cooking Night Fun

# Spring Break Fun with the Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Interns

During Spring break some of our Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Interns visited my grandmother's home in Cochiti Pueblo to learn about traditional cooking techniques.
Our students made breakfast burritos, green chili stew and Fry Bread and Pueblo Pies. It was a little windy so we didn't get to use the horno.

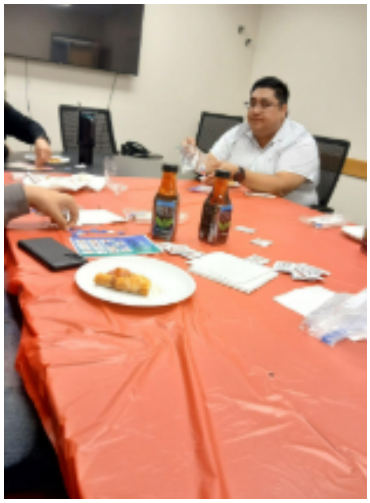
Day 2 of field trips for our Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Interns. We went to visit Mrs. Norma Naranjo in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo at The Feasting Place. Our students made Pizza and Pueblo Pies in the horno. Students were treated with beans and chicos, chicken Posole, red enchiladas, Pueblo bread, pear salad and ice tea. We learned about Indigenous farming, traditional foods and cooking techniques in the horno and intergenerational knowledge sharing.

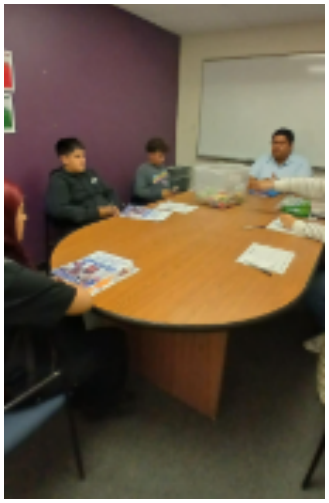
Wednesday March 19, 2025 our IKK Interns were invited to facilitate activities at the Los Padillas "K-5 students and Rio Grande High School interns together for three days of hands-on Environmental STEM learning! Students explored sustainability by building bird feeders, restoring garden beds and creating compost systems.

This camp was a true collaborative effort, with support from APS educators, the APS Office of Innovation, Rio Grande's Culinary Arts program, the Indian Education Department, and local partners like Chispas Farm, GroundWorks NM, Hubble House, and Bernalillo County".

# Pueblo of Isleta school visits with Indian Education

In March, April and May the Pueblo of Isleta Education Department and Indigenous Education Coordinator is making visits to K-12 Isleta Pueblo students at their schools. In March we visited the following schools: Rio Grande, Atrisco Heritage HS, Polk MS, Harrison MS, Ernie Pyle MS, Pajarito ES, Carlos Rey ES, George I. Sanchez, Truman MS, West Mesa HS, Van Buran MS, Hawthorne and Manzano Mesa ES. On our 2nd visit at Rio Grande HS, we had Dion's Pizza and played Tiwa Bingo.





# Albuquerque Team Winners in NAISEF

Here are the Albuquerque team winners in NAISEF on March 29, 2025, at Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma. Our team of 8 students with 6 project entries did an amazing job presenting their projects! They won 5 First Place Awards and 1 Honorable Mention in their category division, 8 or 9 Special Awards, and 1 Grand Final Award. There were 120 project entries and 138 students competing in this event. So it was impressive that these students managed to take the top placers in their category/field.

Jessica Castro (12th Grade) won the Grand Final Award, where she will compete in ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) in Columbus, Ohio, in May.

Natavianna Dodge (10th Grade) won a total of 4 major awards.

As what the NAISEF Director said, the Albuquerque team did well and took a bunch of awards in this event.

On behalf of the team of students, Shannon Johnson, Jana Antonio-Cheung, and I (Jay Penn) would like to express our gratitude for the support from our administration, APS Indian Education, and NAISEF.

*Albuquerque Team from left to right:*
*Front: Jessica Castro, Vanessa Castro, Nolen Roybal, Coen Lafever, Kellan Boone, Jay Penn (teacher sponsor), Natavianna Dodge*
*Back: Chloe Smith (NAISEF Director), Shannon Johnson (teacher sponsor), Mateo Madrid Larrañaga, Adam Sanchez-Cruz*

*JeffersonMS Team:*
*Adam Sanchez, Jay Penn (teacher), Nolen Roybal, Coen Lafever, Kellan Boone, and Mateo Madrid Larrañaga*

*Project titled: Which Location Harbors the Most Bacteria? - their First Time at NAISEF*

*(Left to right) Jana Antonio-Cheung, Mila Holian, Ariella Reed, and Anthony Shemayme*

# Sydney Benally, Player of the Year Once Again

Senior Sandia high basketball guard, Sydney Benally, repeating as Gatorade's player of the year for New Mexico girl's basketball. At the time of her selection, Benally averaged of 20.2 points, 5.7 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 3.3 steals per game.

She has already been named 5-a district 2 player of the year and a McDonald's All-American nominee. She also has a 3.97 GPA and has committed to play at Brigham Young University in the fall.

In Gatorade's press release, Los Lunas head coach Manny Vigil said, “She can play point guard, shooting guard, small forward, or any position needed and do it well. She always makes it easier for all her teammates. Her IQ on both offense and defense is exceptional.”

# Indigenous History from a Vantage Point: March

In Native American history, the month of March holds significance events such as the end of the Trail of Tears (March 26, 1839) and the beginning of the Navajo Long Walk (March 1864).

The Trail of Tears was the forced relocation of Native American tribes, including the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, and Seminole, to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) between 1830 and 1850. The U.S. government, led by President Andrew Jackson, passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830, aiming to move Native Americans westward to make way for white settlers. Despite the Cherokee's legal victory in Worcester v. Georgia, which upheld their sovereignty, President Jackson ignored the ruling, and the removals proceeded, leading to widespread suffering and the deaths of thousands.

The Long Walk refers to the forced relocation of the Navajo people from their homeland in present-day Arizona and New Mexico to a desolate reservation in eastern New Mexico in 1864. After years of conflict with the U.S. government, the Navajo were compelled to surrender and march over 300 miles to a prison camp at Bosque Redondo. The journey was harsh, with many facing starvation, disease, and exposure. Thousands of Navajo died along the way, and the conditions at the camp were equally brutal. The Long Walk is a tragic chapter in Native American history, symbolizing the severe impact of U.S. policies on Indigenous peoples.