STORYTELLER

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Indian Education Newsletter May 2024

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.

Senior Banquet
Isleta Pueblo Resort 2024

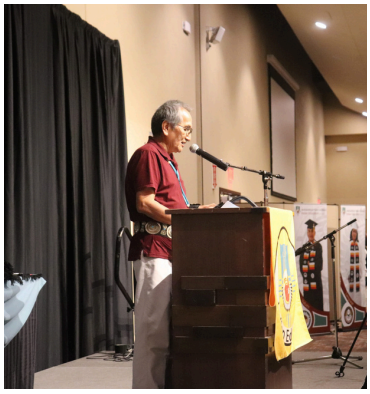
On Thursday, May 2 the APS Indian Education Department held it's Annual Senior Banquet to honor Native students' graduation and accomplishments. Students and their families, Tribal leaders, APS staff and community members were in attendance for the memorable event. Kyle Tapaha, Master of Ceremonies, lead the event with the SW Singers and the Color Guard from Del Norte High School ROTC. The National Anthem was performed by Maya Gishie, a student at Del Norte High School. The welcome address was given by Gabriella Blakey, APS Incoming Superintendent, and Max Zuni, Governor of Isleta Pueblo. A prayer was offered by Jerry Gee, Navajo Language Teacher, followed by a presentation from the Performing Arts Class. Dinner, a three course meal with enchiladas was served accompanied by music from the SW Singers. Nadine Day from Atrisco Heritage High School delivered the Graduate Speaker address, and Preston Sanchez, a Senior Indigenous Justice Attorney from ACLU-NM, gave the Keynote Speech. Seals & Stoles Awards were presented by Sara Money, College Career Readiness Counselor, with introductions from Class of 2024. A final prayer and closing song concluded the evening. Additionally, guests found student-made pottery, Spirit bowls, on the dinner tables for offerings to the Ancestors before each meal, which was taken home by families at the end of the event, with offerings collected at the banquet's conclusion.

2024 Seals and Stoles Award Winners

SEALS & STOLE AWARD The Seals & Stole award is an exclusive award for Native American seniors. Students need to earn at least one seal to receive the stole. There are three opportunities: Indian Education Tribal Seal: Students MUST submit an essay about themselves and their tribe. Create a google slide presentation, and put together a tribal demonstration. It can be dance, music, food, quilt work, storyteller, etc. Distinguished Learning Seal: Students MUST complete 30 hours of volunteer service and write an essay and create a Google slide presentation about their volunteer work. Native American Bilingual Seal: Students must complete Navajo I and II or Zuni I and II. Must be able to present language knowledge to a panel of judges.

Ka'Mya Vallo	Tribal	Acoma Pueblo
Alexis Colter	Distinguished Learning	Cahuilla
Malia Rey	Tribal	Cochiti Pueblo/Salish
Tamia Nez	Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Caitlyn Billie	Tribal, Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Bryanna Bowie	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)
Analeah Platero	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)
Jisella Napoleon	Tribal, Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Kimura Ramos	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)
Kodie Smith-Wyaco	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)
Maleah John	Tribal, Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Nadine Day	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)
Rome Watchman	Tribal, Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Anne Marie Brown	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Zinae Brown	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Shelea Wilson	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Pualani Omandam	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)
Ron Begay	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Cheyenne Brown	Tribal, Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Bella Malone	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)
Brook Chavez	Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Aaliyah Tsosie	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Adaila Largo	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Genesis Mullins	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)
Wylee Martine	Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Antoinette Yazzie	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Daylen Torrez	Tribal, Distinguished Learning	Diné (Navajo)
Sakari Morris	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Lilliana Duncan	Tribal	Diné (Navajo)
Rebecca Begay	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Diné (Navajo)/Laguna Pueblo
Miahuatl Garcia-Domingo	Tribal	Socorro del Sur Pueblo (Piro)
Tai Ritter	Tribal, Distinguished Learning	Tohono O'odham
Kaniece Sanchez	Tribal, Distinguished Learning, Bilingual	Zuni/San Felipe Pueblos
Brianna Peina	Tribal, Bilingual	Zuni Pueblo

The Senior Banquet: Candid Photographs



Six Cibola JAG students won 1st place trophies at the NM JAG Career Development Conference

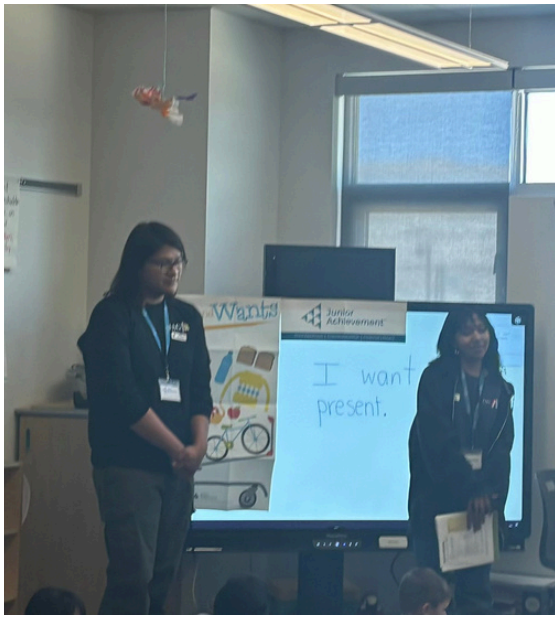
Six Cibola JAG students won 1st place trophies at the NM JAG Career Development Conference this year and advanced to Nationals.

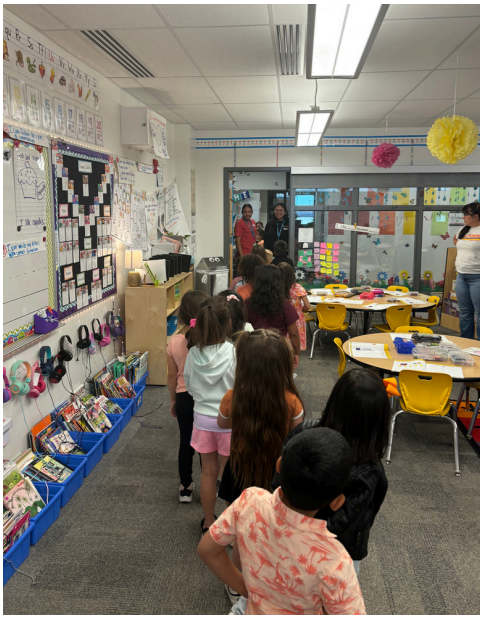
Jasmine Mitchell--President (Prepared Speaking); Deondre Simmons--Vice President of Civic Awareness (Outstanding Chapter Notebook); Nevaeh Orr--Public Relations Officer (Career Preparation); and Wesley Cozad--Treasurer, Brennen Chee--Member, and Kaiden Martinez--Member (Creative Decision Making--Team Event) traveled to St. Louis, MO April 17-21 for the JAG National Career Development Conference.

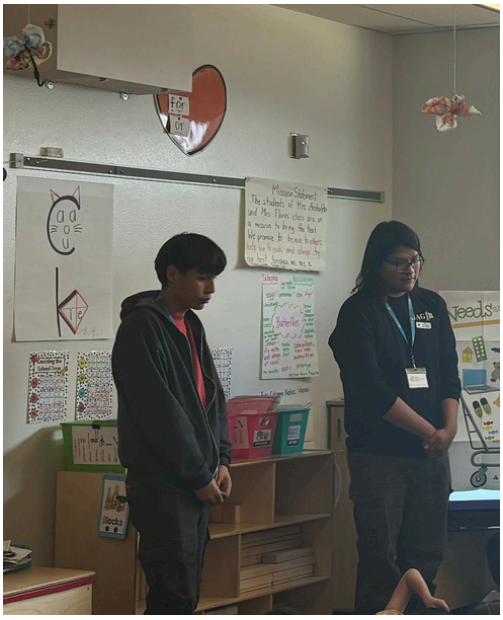
In addition to competing, students explored St. Louis, visiting the Gateway Arch, St. Louis Union Station, and attending a Major League Baseball Game. Go Cardinals! They also networked and learned from professionals, their JAG National peers, and inspiring guest speakers. They witnessed the first NM student elected to the JAG National Career Association. Congratulations to Alondra Aguilera of Rio Grande High School! Nevaeh Orr placed in the top 10 for her Career Preparation Presentation, and for the second year in a row, Cibola JAG earned Outstanding Chapter. We had the best time at NCDC and can't wait to be back next year!

Cibola JAG Students are High School Heroes!

Cibola JAG partnered with Junior Achievement this spring to become High School Heroes. Through this program, Cibola JAG was matched with three kindergarten classes at Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative Elementary School to spend a day teaching students early financial literacy skills. Prior to the teaching day, JAG students worked with Junior Achievement's Mandy Wilson to learn about the curriculum, kindergarten teaching strategies, and the spirit behind this community service. They also had several class periods to plan and practice with their teaching groups. Students appreciated the support of the classroom teachers and learned a great deal about how to keep kindergarten students engaged. They were surprised at how excited the students were to share their opinions about financial literacy concepts. They knew that kindergarten students would have a lot of energy, and they learned just how much energy their teachers have to bring to the job every day! Teachers are amazing, and at least one of the High School Heroes, Jaymi Eagle Joseph, is looking forward to a future as an early childhood educator!

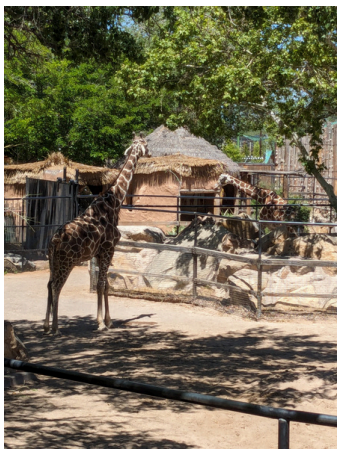






Janet Kahn Students have Fun Learning at the ABQ BioPark Zoo

To end the school year, Janet Kahn elementary students went to the ABQ BioPark Zoo. They attended "Animal Architects" experiential program and learned about various animals living in harmony within different habitats. Some students cooled off with slushies or dippin' dots, while others enjoyed the gift shop, all compliments of their parent chaperones. Wishing all students a restful, safe, and invigorating summer. Juanita Harjo, Resource Teacher



Tidbits from Ms. Gorman's Navajo Language Class Newsletter

Students had a remarkable day at Pueblo Pintada! Navajo Ribbon Dance performance was given by Mildred Chiquito's Atrisco Heritage Academy Navajo Language students. Songs & Dances were performed by Mr. Williams & Ms. Gorman's Cultural Perrformance Group

Pueblo Pintada students enjoyed the performance so much that were inspired to dance! The round dance almost ended up being the Never Ending Tunnel! A big thank you to Shannon Romero for supporting students and helping with tying moccasins! Lunch was at Al Bruno. A side trip to Mildred's house also led to cow poo on a domesticated Native's shoes!

Class Moments to Remember & Senior Students Highlights!

Mildred Chiquito, John Williams, Colleen Gorman and Justin Decker's students on tour in. front of an IAIA mural.

Zinae Brown

Zinae Brown, Honaghánii, took an important role in the CEC Native Cultural Performance Group as a drummer to keep the beat for other students to dance to. Above she models during the fashion show a skirt that she made in Mr. Williams' & Ms Gorman's after school Native sewing classes. She also restructured and painted her jacket. She is ready for pow wows and protests! Zinae looks forward to attending IAIA to be an artist.

Elise Heavelin

Elise often took the lead in dancing with the CEC Native Cultural Performance Group this year. At times, Elise also stepped up to sing Navajo and Dakota songs solo during practice and live performances when needed. A bright student who exhibits positive Native values, she will do well in life!

John Keeswood

John is Naakai Diné and Chishi. He performed with the CEC Native Cultural Performance Group at the APS Tribal Leaders Consultation, the 16th Annual Native Leadership Council's Native Fashion Show, and at APS Indian Education Department's Senior Banquet at Isleta Casino. His music and language skills have strengthened oveer the year. Great job John!

Olivia Murphy

What a positive attitude Olivia has! Always cheerful, she was a strong singer in the CEC Native Cultural Performance Group. Olivia also exhibited DIné & APS values by getting up early for 6 am track practices before class! She will go far and succeed with her self discipline!

(Top to bottom,/ right to left) Jay Baldwin, Lechei Wright, Yasmine Hernandez, Adaila Largo, Kauchdot Quiver, Erianna Edwards, Olivia Murphy and Hannah Upshaw

Adaila Largo

Adaila Largo stepped up to on take different roles during cultural performances with the CEC Native Cultural Performance Group and other events, such as being the MC to introduce Radmilla Cody, former Miss Navajo Nation and Grammy Award Nominee, at the Albuquerque High School Performing Arts Center. Above, Adaila was a hardworking runway model during the 16th Annual Native American Fashion Show, and performed with the group.

Sarah Upshaw

(Left to right) Sarah Upshaw and Natallia Celo at the Institute of American Indian Arts Feb. 2024

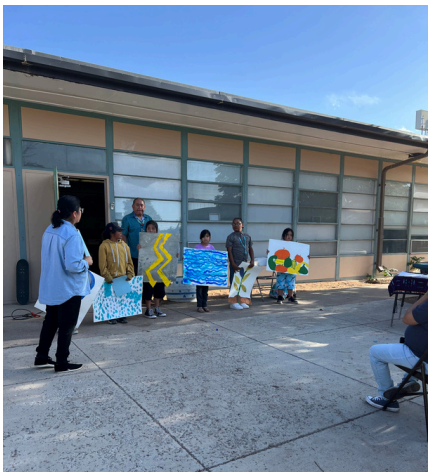
Sarah Upshaw, Navajo and San Felipe, participated in the Navajo Language class with her sister Hannah. Sarah overcame a sprained ankle to attend classes. She also participated in a Navajo Immersion 8 hour workshop at the CEC on Saturday, May fourth. May the Force be With You Sarah!!!

Nizhoni Reece

Nizhoni brought energy and direction to the table this past year in supporting the Fall Halloween Bash and Winter Storytelling Event through her role as the Native Leadership Council's president. She was featured in Edible New Mexico magazine in January 2024, along with her family at Nizhoni Farms. Nizhoni is now on her way to a great education at Holyoke College, a well respected institution of higher learning in the East Coast. Good job Nizhoni!

Hodgin Elementary Homework Diner: Celebrating Culture, Community, and Education

In a heartwarming blend of culture, community, and education, Hodgin Elementary recently hosted a Homework Diner event, supported by the Indian Education Department. This event not only provided an opportunity for students and their families to work on homework together but also served as a celebration of Native American culture, featuring traditional food, crafts, and music.



Opening Blessing by Mr. Harry Chimoni

Setting a respectful and reflective tone for the event, Mr. Chimoni, a well-respected elder from Zuni Pueblo, offered an opening blessing. His words, filled with wisdom and gratitude, honored the gathering and the shared purpose of supporting the students' educational journeys while celebrating their cultural heritage. The blessing underscored the importance of community and the connection to ancestral traditions.

Traditional Foods

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center provided an array of traditional foods. The menu showcased the rich culinary heritage of the Pueblo peoples, featuring dishes that were both nutritious and deeply rooted in tradition. Families enjoyed dishes such as green chile stew, red chile stew, calabacitas, beans, and oven bread.

Wooden Dragonflies and Corn Husk Flowers

Following the meal and blessing, families participated in crafting sessions that honored Native American artistry and traditions. Children and families gathered to create wooden dragonflies and corn husk flowers. These activities were more than just arts and crafts; they were a hands-on exploration of cultural symbols and practices. The wooden dragonflies, often seen as symbols of transformation, adaptability, and blessings of rain and a good harvest. The corn husk flowers, representing the importance of corn in Native American culture, were made with enthusiasm and care, resulting in beautiful, handmade keepsakes.

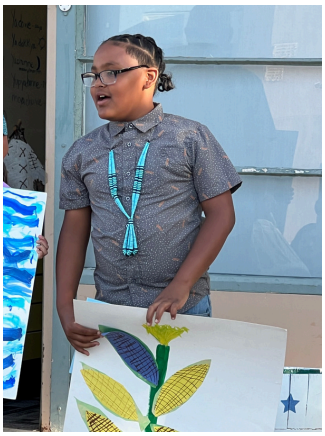
Mr. Bernard Chimoni's Flute Performance

Mr. Bernard Chimoni graced the event with his flute performance. His calming music provided us all with a connection to our traditions and stories. The beautiful sounds of the flute offered a moment of peace and tranquility. Mr. Chimoni's performance was not just entertainment, it was a cultural education, showcasing the importance of music in Native American traditions.

Students Sing the Shumak'olo:wa (Dragonfly) Song

Adding to the evening, students performed the Dragonfly Song in Zuni. Their voices conveyed the significance of the dragonfly in Zuni culture, often seen as a messenger and a symbol of water, which is vital for life. The performance highlighted the importance of preserving and sharing traditional songs and stories.

Building Community through Education

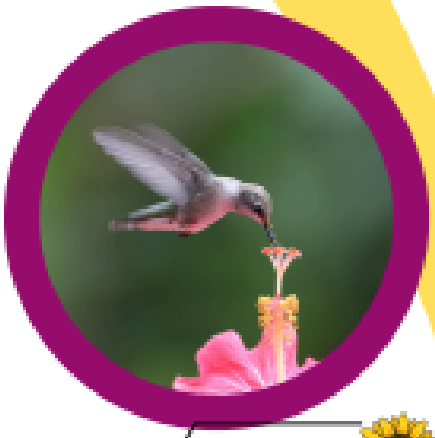


The Homework Diner is part of a broader initiative to create supportive educational environments where families can participate in their children's academic journey. By integrating cultural elements into these events, Hodgin elementary and the Indian Education Department aim to foster a sense of pride and community among Native American students and their families. The event also provided a platform for non-Native families to learn an appreciate the rich cultural heritage of their Native American peers. The evening highlighted the importance of community in education and the value of cultural heritage in our everyday lives. As attendees left, they carried with them wooden dragonflies, corn husk flowers, and memories of an evening well spent in celebration of learning and culture.

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS - INDIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ZUNI BILINGUAL PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

- Open to Zuni children, 3 to 4 years of age, by September 1, 2024
- Offering a Child-centered Zuni Language and Culture curriculum aligned to a strong Montessori based, Primary academic foundation
- Help your child develop and grow in a safe, age-appropriate, holistic, nurturing environment



7 MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES RESPECTIVE OF ZUNI CULTURAL VALUES AND SYSTEMS

1. RESPECT
2. PREPARED ENVIRONMENT
3. OBSERVATION
4. HANDS ON LEARNING
5. INDEPENDENCE
6. FREEDOM WITH LIMITS
7. PLAY IS WORK

ENROLL AT DURANES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 2024-25 SY
2436 ZICKERT RD.
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87104

For more information:

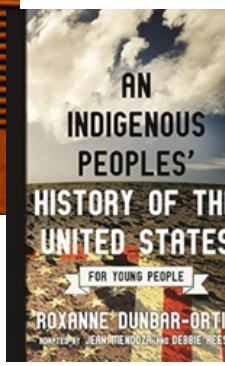
- Visit DES, Rm. 106
- Call 505.764.2017, ext. 55746
- Email: tina.gasper@aps.edu
- Please click the QR Code or the link below to complete the parent survey
  https://forms.gle/LPYBr5o4MFgEWLPp9

APS Librarians collaborate with Indian Education for a Special Learning Experience

On May 24th, The International District Library hosted APS librarians in a wonderful opportunity in coordination with the Indian Education Department where they learned from internationally recognized authors, Dr. Debbie Reese and Laurel Goodluck. Goodluck shared her many children's titles while Dr. Reese discussed how to evaluate children's books by native authors while also sharing a critical analysis of Arrow to the Sun and Little House on the Prairie.

Presenter Bios:

Dr. Debbie Reese



Dr. Debbie Reese is tribally enrolled at Nambé Owingeh, a sovereign Native Nation with a nation-to-nation relationship with the United States. Dr. Reese received her teaching degree from the University of New Mexico, her Masters in Education from the University of Oklahoma, and her PhD in Education from the University of Illinois. She also received a Masters of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University.

Dr. Reese has taught students from elementary school (including some in Albuquerque) through graduate school.

Dr. Debbie Reese has studied representations of Native peoples in children's and young adult books for over 30 years and is an internationally recognized and sought-after speaker and writer. Her book chapters, journal articles, and professional writings are taught in education, library science, and English courses across the United States and Canada.

Her blog, American Indians in Children's Literature, is widely recognized as a go-to resource for writers, reviewers, editors, teachers, librarians, and parents. At library conferences and meetings, conversations spontaneously turn to Dr. Reese's work and how much it has changed and improved practices.

The American Library Association selected Dr. Reese to deliver its prestigious 2019 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture. In July of 2019, Beacon Press published a young readers' edition of An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz adapted by Dr. Reese and her longtime friend and colleague, Dr. Jean Mendoza.

Laurel Goodluck

Laurel Goodluck writes picture books with modern Native themes that reflect Native children's cultural experiences and everyday life, showing Native children that they have a perspective that is unique and powerful. Her books include Forever Cousins, Rock Your Mocs, She Persisted: Deb Haaland, and Too Much.

Raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Laurel comes from an intertribal background of Mandan and Hidatsa from the prairies of North Dakota and Tsimshian from a rainforest in Alaska. Laurel received both a BA in Psychology and an MA in Community Counseling and Family Studies from the University of New Mexico.

Laurel began writing by crafting curriculum for community advocacy involving Native teen leadership and later for children newly diagnosed with mental health challenges.

Laurel lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her Navajo husband, where they raised two children also bent on storytelling in journalism and acting. Laurel was a recipient of a 2019 mentorship with We Need Diverse Books Picture book Mentorship paired with award-winner author Traci Sorell.

Indigenous History from a Vantage Point: May

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. The event culminated an effort by Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfeet Nation who rode across the nation on horseback seeking approval from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians.

American Indian Day in the United States is a day dedicated to honoring and celebrating the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of Native American tribes and communities. It serves as a reminder of the historical and ongoing presence of indigenous peoples in the country.

The origin of American Indian Day dates back to the early 20th century when various states began officially recognizing and commemorating the heritage and achievements of Native Americans. Over time, this recognition expanded, leading to the establishment of a national American Indian Day by President George H. W. Bush in 1990.

On American Indian Day in the United States, people celebrate in various ways to honor and recognize the cultures and contributions of Native American communities.

Some common ways people celebrate American Indian Day include:

1. Cultural Events: Many communities organize cultural events such as powwows, traditional dances, storytelling sessions, art exhibitions, and craft demonstrations to showcase Native American heritage and traditions.
2. Educational Programs: Schools and organizations host educational programs focused on Native American history, language, art, and music to raise awareness and promote understanding of indigenous cultures.
3. Community Gatherings: Communities come together for feasts, community meals, and gatherings to celebrate American Indian Day, fostering unity and solidarity among tribal members and supporters.
4. Ceremonies and Rituals: Some tribes conduct sacred ceremonies, prayers, and rituals to honor their ancestors, connect with their heritage, and express gratitude for the land and resources.

Overall, American Indian Day is a time for reflection, celebration, and appreciation of the diverse cultures, histories, and contributions of Native American peoples in the United States.