STORYTELLER

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Indian Education Newsletter May/June/July, 2023

Indian Education

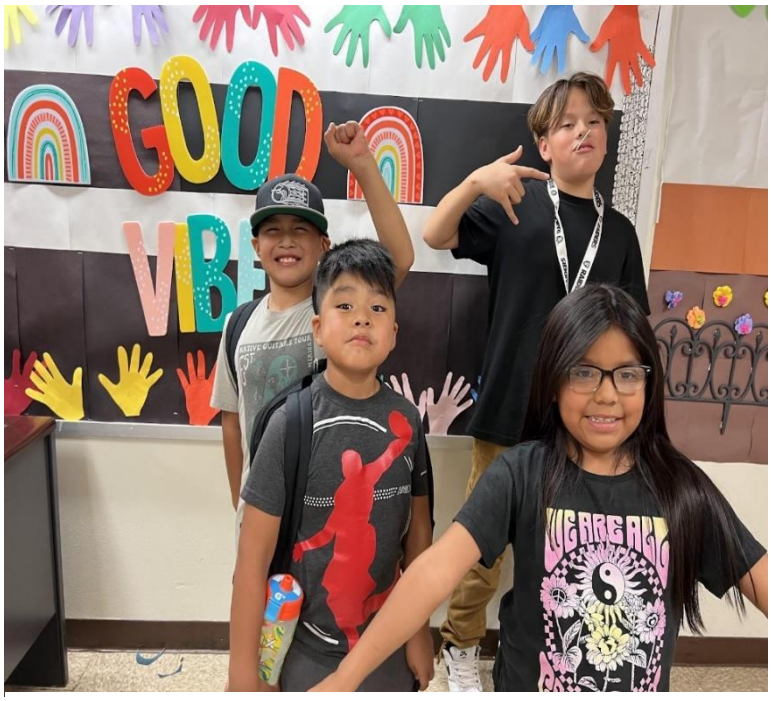
Mission

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.

Olo'ikya (Summer)



This past June APS students from grades Third through Sixth attended Zuni classes. We had daily homage to Yadokkya datchu, and learned about the importance of the days of week, months and paid close attention to sunrise and sunset prior to the summer solstice.

Students learned to connect the cultural aspect of the summer solstice to their own learning of what happens during the summer rain dances.

The summer solstice is observed by the A:shiwi and many A:shiwi return home to welcome the summer season and attend the summer dances. A:shiwi men make a cultural pilgrimage and the dances are a part of that homage. Many A:shiwi women participate in community cooking days and feed guests at family homes. Most students attended the cultural event at home. It is always a beautiful time for the community. Once students returned to the summer program, we continued learning about specific daily greetings, students planted melon, cilantro and chile seeds on the first day of the summer program and took care of plants daily. Many mornings, we had feasted on blue corn meal, blue corn pancakes and Shiwi french toast (using Zuni oven bread). The students learned their introductions and learned to sing "Shumak'olo:wa an denanne." While learning about what the dragonfly song means, students learned about Shiwi directions and all aspects of the directions.The students then identified sacred places on a map and learned the specific Shiwi (Zuni) names for other tribes in the state of New Mexico and Arizona. Overall, the students were able to converse in the language due to two brothers and another young Zuni boy who already knew the language. This was the first time I had more than one fluent speaker, and listener. It was beautiful to be able to joke in Shiwi'ma and have small meaningful conversations in Shiwi'ma. Language learning is vital and it is especially important for our young urban A:shiwi. Elahkwa!

Colleen Gorman: APS Indian Education Department's new Navajo Language Practicum Coordinator

Colleen Gorman, Diné, is the APS Indian Education Department's new Navajo Language Practicum Coordinator and is also teaching at APS' Career Enrichment Center (CEC). She is Zuni/Red Running into the Charcoal Streaked Water and born for the Deer Springs Bitter Water Clan.

Her maternal grandparents are Red House and her "nali" grandparents are Black Sheep. She comes from Chinle and Lower Greasewood, Az.

Colleen is a cofounder of New Mexico's first state-wide, state-authorized New Mexico Media Arts Charter School. Established in 2007, the school's organizational

Colleen obtained Social Studies Teacher certification in 2013 through the one-year "Growing Educators in Native American Communities" (GENAC) Program at CNM, an Alternative Teacher Licensure program offered in partnership with Native American Community Academy. Her BA is in Business from UNM, and she has an AA in Navajo History and Indian Studies from Diné College.

Colleen Gorman can be reached at her classroom at the CEC/ECA Room B223, 505-247-3658 ext. 45514 or by email at colleen.gorman@aps.edu.

"Cultural Diné" Program

You know you're doing something right when you hear the kids say "I don't wanna go home." "I wanna stay here all day and herd the goats." Seeing them say to their mom & dad; I cannot wait until we get to go back tomorrow with their little antennae's ready to listen "Kids love structure and hard work."

Former Students/Families Reconnect at Governor Bent Elementary

At the start of each school year, students in Indigenous Studies classes at Governor Bent Elementary make paper handprints to hang on the Tree of Life mural in our classroom. Reflecting their individuality and cultural diversity, thehandprints grow together on a single tree to illustrate the Lakota saying,“Mitakuye Oyasin” (“We are all related”). In 2017, fifth-grade Indian Ed. Studentsbrought this tradition outside of the classroom to share with the rest of the school community. The students designed and painted a full-sized mural in the school’s “Secret Garden” under the direction of Fine Arts Teacher, Mr. Jordan Wolfe. From that year forward, fifth-grade Native/Indigenous students have added their handprints to the mural to leave their mark and celebrate their transition to middle school. The mural has continued to flourish and grow. Last May, former students who’d moved on to middle school took time to look back and pay tribute to their past. They returned with their families to Governor Bent to add their handprints to the mural. Families looked on as students chose their colors and positions on the tree and carefully crafted their designs. Some placed their handprints next to an older or younger sibling’s. People spent time reflecting on the mural, reading names and Tribal affiliations on the handprints.

It was a memorable reunion with students, families and school staff.

May the Tree of Life continue to grow and flourish, and may this experience encourage the students to remember their roots and the importance of community as they move through life.

Cari Kerkhoff

Governor Bent ES Indian Ed. Resource Teacher

cari.kerkhoff@aps.edu

Jena Gutierrez places her handprint next to her brother Caleb’s.

A trip to Shiwina (Zuni village) by Mila Padilla

A:shiwi (Zuni) students from Governor Bent Elementary, Hodgin Elementary and Janet Kahn Integrated Arts' school's traveled to Shiwina (Zuni), NM in May. Since A:shiwi students live and attend school in A:lokyekya:a (Albuquerque) and some students do not return home often, this was an inaugural field trip for APS Shiwi'ma Bena:we classes. When learning about Shiwi'ma Bena:we (Zuni language) it is important our students can make connections to Shiwina. A:shiwi, like other Indigenous people, have strong connections to our homelands. For some students, when asked about significant geographical sights, many comment on "Dowa Yalanne,". When entering the village, Dowa Yalanne is always present at any direction from the village. Dowa Yalanne was a place of refuge for our A:Shiwi throughout our history.

The Eagle aviary is a sanctuary for injured bald or golden eagles. Students were presented with kyakyali (eagle) by Mr. Stafford Chimoni. Mr. Stafford Chimoni spoke to students about how the eagles come to Zuni to live out the rest of their lives at the aviary. He showed us the wingspan of a golden eagle, and even fed the eagles while we were present. This field trip was all about connections, students met other Zuni students and immediately became friends. The connection to our homelands, Tribal leadership, and various community members proved this field trip to be fruitful. Elahkwa!