



Native American Studies Newsletter

TUSD

December 2010

Native American
Studies Department
PO BOX 40400

Tucson, AZ 8571

Phone: 520.908.3905

Lios Em Chaniavu

Skeg Tas

Ya a t'eeh

Is uni um waynuma

A Note from the Director

Greetings!

I cannot believe how quickly the semester has progressed. The first semester will end on Friday, December 17, 2010. We look forward to some quality time off to spend with family and friends. Please expect report cards in the mail during the Winter Break as well.

Please help us welcome Ronald Pendergrass to the Native American Studies Department. You will be able to read about Ronald in this issue as well as our Student Highlight section.

As we look to the new year, we will begin the planning process for our Title 7 and Johnson O'Malley programs. Please take time to complete the enclosed Title VII and Johnson O'Malley needs assessment which will help us plan for the next school year. Upon receipt of the survey you will also be eligible for a Wal-Mart or Fry's gift card.

We hope that you all enjoy a wonderful Winter Break. Nizhoni Keshmish! (Merry Christmas) and see you all in the new year!

Roxanne Begay-James

Inside this issue:

Note from the Director

(1)

Program Information

(2)

Community Events

(3)

Student Spotlight

(4-9)

Elementary

Middle

High School

Information/Resources

(10)



STUDENT ADVOCACY

NASD is committed to providing timely advocacy support for your child when needed or requested. If you have a concern or believe your child is not receiving equitable and fair treatment, please give us a call. We do not have a staff person in each school, however, if there is a need we will make adjustments to support you in meetings with the school and advocate on your behalf.



Program Information



Ronald Pendergrass

Hello, my name is Ronnie Pendergrass, and I am a new Tutor Advisor for the Native American Studies Department. I graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.A. in Mexican American Studies. GO CATS! I started working at a local charter school as a math and social studies teacher, and then from there I worked for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe as a Student Advisor and Higher Education Coordinator. For the past four years I have worked as a long-term sub at Banks Elementary. I am married and have two kids and two dogs and I have lived here in Tucson my whole life. I look forward to: putting my past experiences to work, giving back to the community and helping in any way I can.

**Don't forget to
complete the
Title 7 & JOM
Needs
Assessment**

Community Events

1st Annual Tamales with Traditions

A multigenerational Tribal Tamale making culinary event

On Wednesday December 1, 2010 at the Lioque Senior Center there was a beginning of a new tradition. The Executive Chef from Sol Casinos, Jason W Jonilonis, in combination with friends, brought together two generations, tribal high school students, and Pasqua Yaqui Tribal Elders. The purpose of this event was to teach a new generation the art of making tamales while sharing stories of the past. The tamales that were being made were sold at Sol Casinos that weekend. This event was inspired by helping tribal high school students learn more about the culinary industry, and be introduced into getting a job at Sol Casinos in the near future.



The evening started out by having two of the Pascua Yaqui Elders showing everyone how to make the perfect tamale according to their traditions. Lucky for us we live in an era where they invented blenders! After the demonstration, high school students mixed with Elders. Each had a work station to begin the process of putting the tamales together. During this time many techniques were being taught, such as, which side of the corn husks to use, size does matter, making sure you spread the red sauce all the way to the corners, and don't forget the olive! Throughout the evening you saw people sharing, smiles and laughter, and a bond being formed over the oldest tradition of all, cooking. At the end of the evening after eating homemade tamales and a night of fun and learning, everyone who came left with a room full of new friends.



Events

American Indian Youth Conference



My name is Shanequia Lashay Wofford. I am in the 8th grade at Maxwell Middle School. I am 14, and half Native American and half African American. I had the pleasure to go to the Youth Conference in Phoenix, Arizona for young Native students to plan our future. My Tutor Advisor, Miss Grace selected me because of my good grades I have earned this year. It was a two-day conference held on November 1-2 in Tempe, AZ at ASU. The topic this year was "Meeting the Challenge."

I met made many new friends there. Some girls that I met from other schools were Lizy, Jenessa, Jordan, Sophia, Stephanie, and Megan. We all had fun, and enjoyed the workshops that the conferences provided. This conference helped to prepare us for our future. It showed us how unique and special we all are. I hope to be invited next year. I am Shanequia L. Wofford, and am proud of who I am.

My name is Megan Soto and I am a member of the Pascua Yaqui tribe. I am an 8th grade student at Utterback Middle School. I want to write about the enriching experience I had at the 2010 American Indian Youth Conference in Tempe, Arizona. The youth conference was sponsored by the Native American Studies Department. I love learning. I learned about the different options I have as a Native American student from speakers at the conference. It was a pleasure to meet the presenters and listen to their presentation not only in English but in their Native languages as well.

Attending the workshops has helped me to explore options and my vision of what is available after high school and what to study in college. I have plan to chase my dreams to become an actress and singer. I do not want to be stuck doing a job I do not like to do.

Overall, I loved the experience I had at the conference and am looking forward to next year's event.

What I learned at the conference has inspired me to continue to work hard in classroom. I hope to have another opportunity to attend the youth conference again next year.

Native Pride Project

The Tucson Indian Center will be offering traditional and contemporary Native American arts workshops beginning in February 2011. Workshops are for middle and high school aged students (**ages 12-20**) who identify as Native American/American Indian/Alaskan Native. Workshops will be held on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for ten weeks at the Tucson Indian Center (97. E. Congress, Ste. 101, Downtown Tucson). Call Josette Arvizu at 520-884-7131 Ext 201 or email jarvizu@ticenter.org for details and to register for the first cycle of classes. Each cycle is limited to 20 youth participants, so register early.

An informational session for youth and their parents/guardians will be Tuesday, January 25th 2011 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Tucson Indian Center.



Student Spotlight Elementary

Elizabeth Whitewater is a 4th grade student at Maldonado Elementary School in Mrs. Else's classroom. Elizabeth excels in all of her academics and has had perfect attendance this school year as well as the last school year. Her favorite subjects in class are reading and science. When she goes home, she likes to run and play with her two dogs, Tiffany and Shorty. Elizabeth would love to have lunch with Rob Zombie which is also one of her favorite singers and her favorite song is *Dragula*. The one person Elizabeth admires the most is Marilyn Monroe because of her beauty. Lizzy plans to attend the University of Arizona after graduating high school. She will be pursuing her dream job of becoming a chef and owning her own bakery one day. Her favorite place in Tucson is going to "Old Tucson."



Andrew Sixkiller is a remarkable young man who attends Cavett Elementary. Ms. Maldonado, his First Grade teacher describes him as a model student. Andrew is always polite and respectful. He is caring and provides assistance to his fellow students. He does his work and when he finishes early he spends his time reading quietly. Andrew is a gifted child. His intelligence is profound. He has an uncanny knack for puzzles, shows early talent at spelling and reading, enjoys discussions on many subjects and loves a good joke. Andrew would like to help people as a scientist when he grows up. His favorite subject is math because he gets to add and subtract. He has several best friends at school including 3 cousins and really loves his family. Andrew also enjoys his dogs. There are several including the new puppies. They're all pit bull terriers. His dogs play chase with him. Andrew is a member of the Tohono O'odham tribe. His birthday was in November and he just turned 7. He enjoys playing on his X-BOX in his spare time.



Isaiah Suarez has done an excellent job of improving his attendance this school year at Lawrence Intermediate. He is 9 years old, and in 3rd grade student in Mrs. Hedayati's classroom. He is a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Isaiah's favorite subject in school is Science. During his lunch break, he likes to play kickball. He enjoys reading books about different animals. Isaiah enjoys eating at Peter Piper Pizza and listening to rock music. One of his favorite places to visit is the Titan Missile Museum.

Jaylon Castillo is 8 years old and in the 3rd grade at Carrillo Elementary School. He is a member of the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe. Jaylon's favorite subject in school is Math. His talent is skateboarding and loves skateboarding on his free time off from school. If he could have lunch with anyone in the world, it would be with his family and friends. Jaylon's favorite book is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. He admires his mom the most because, "She is the one who feeds me, and takes care of me." Jaylon's favorite food is pizza. Jaylon shares that the one place he would like to visit is Washington D.C. so he could meet the President.



Sebastian Villanueva is a first grade student at Grijalva Elementary School. He is Tohono O'odham and the proud son of Ms. Guadalupe Bueras. His teach Ms. Griguhn says Sebastian is a hard working, conscientious student. He takes an interest in all classwork and is eager to learn. He follows schools and classroom expectations and is a model student. His tutor, Ms. Munsey says "I have had the pleasure working with him and seeing his eagerness to come and read to me. For fun, Sebastian plays football and goes to the park.



Student Spotlight Elementary cont.



Johnson is proud to nominate Gabriel Baltazar as our student to be recognized for the month of December. Gabriel's attendance this year has been AWESOME! Go Gabriel! He is a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and a first grader in Mrs. Tatum's class. Gabriel is now 7 years old. Mrs. Tatum said she is proud of Gabriel and that he is always working and doing his best in class. His favorite subject is science, currently they are growing plants in class. He loves playing basketball here at school and at home. He has an advantage since he is tall for his age. He is reading a book about Penguins which he says is very interesting. He loves Michael Jackson and most of his songs. His favorite place to eat is at Peter Piper Pizza where he can eat lots of cheese pizza. He loves cheese too. When he grows up he wants to be an explorer for Pascua Police and be a Police officer on the force. His hidden talents are not only basketball but baseball as well.

Student Spotlight Middle School

Roberts/Naylor K-8

Delyla Lewis is a 6th grader at Roberts/Naylor K-8. She is a member of the Tohono O'odham and Pima Nations. Delyla stands out in her class as a mentor for Kindergartners learning English as well as a trumpet player. Hiking, basketball, and listening to music are her favorite activities outside of school. While in school Delyla loves math because it is fun. Currently, she is reading *Through Indian Eyes: The Untold Story of Native American People* published by Reader's Digest.

When Delyla was little she would dance and play games with her grandfather. He has been gone for a few years now. Given the opportunity to have lunch with any person from times past she would choose her grandfather because she misses him so much.



Mansfeld Middle School

Laura Leyva is a 13 year old 8th grade student. She was on Honor Roll for the first quarter of the school year. Her favorite classes are

Math & Language Arts because she understands these subjects and thinks they are fun. Her plan after high school is to attend the University of Arizona. Laura does a lot of things outside of school like, being the Vice President for the new Tribal Images Youth Council for Mansfeld and Roskrug Middle Schools. She loves to play softball. If she could have lunch with anyone past or present it would be Cat Osterman a pitcher who plays for the USA Softball Team. She admires her mom the most because she has always been there for her and never gives up on her. Laura is a phenomenal student who is going to become a great leader and I believe she will accomplish anything she sets her mind too!



Student Spotlight Middle School cont.

Booth-Fickett Magnet School

Maya Thomas is an eighth grade student at Booth-Fickett Magnet School, and a member of the Tohono O’odham Tribe. Every week I get to talk to Maya about various topics, and every week it is always about something different. Maya is a wonderful student, and continues to advance within her classes. I look forward to our weekly talks about reading, nutrition, family, her tribe, grades, her interests, and anything else that strikes her fancy. What is so fantastic about Maya is the fact that she is interested in the people around her. She is a caring person, who likes to make sure the people around her are well and are happy. I know next year in High School will be a breeze, and she will become a leader among her peers.

Pistor Middle School

Johnny and Dana Perez are siblings who attend Pistor Middle School. They are both great role models for all their peers. They are both honor roll students and have excellent attendance.

Johnny, 6th grade, likes the teachers at school because they teach him a lot. His favorite teacher, Ms. Angela Basurto, states that Johnny is a hard working student and shows effort and pride in his work. She knows that Johnny will be very successful if he continues to work hard and do his personal best. Johnny likes to play football and basketball with his family. During the holidays, he enjoys spending time with his family and eating menudo and tamales. His favorite team is the Dallas Cowboys.

Dana is in the 7th grade and an honor roll student. She loves to read and Everlasting is her favorite book. Dana loves to play soccer and is on a travel team called Southwest Soccer. Dana enjoyed playing in a tournament in Flagstaff because the city was beautiful and the weather was cool. Mr. Armando Alvarez states that Dana is very bright and always courageously answers questions in class. Mr. Kent Bailey says that Dana helps others around her when they don’t understand. She is always at the top of her class. Dana’s favorite foods is cheese/chicken enchiladas.

Johnny and Dana are the children of Yolanda Valenzuela and Johnny Perez Jr. Their siblings Josie and Johnny attend Johnson Primary School.

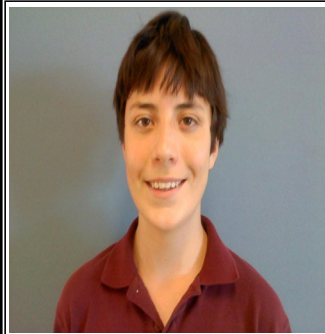


Hohokam Middle School

Mireya “Alex” Sardina-Mendez is 13 years old and an eighth grader at Hohokam Middle School. She is Yoeme (and a tiny bit Apache). Her favorite classes are CORE Enrichment and Algebra. Mireya plays in the Band at school and she is in Boxing outside of school. If Mireya could have lunch with anyone, she would have lunch with her mom. She is reading Bang Your Head-The Rise and Fall of Heavy Metal by David Konow and The Witches by Roald Dahl. Mireya admires her music, her friends but most of all, her family. Her favorite song is Don’t Cry by Guns N’ Roses. She plans to go to college after high school; her dream job is to be a Pyro Light Engineer. Her dream car is a dark grey Mustang with black stripes down the middle. Mireya’s favorite place in Tucson is ZIA Records. Her hidden talents are drawing and writing.



Student Spotlight Middle School cont.



Doolen Middle School

Benjamin Levy is in the 7th grade. He is a member of the Tewa Tribe from Northern Arizona. His favorite classes are Language Art, Science, and Math. Language Art is his

first choice because in class they do fun things like giving impromptu speeches. He also is taking 9th grade Algebra for credit. He would like to have an opportunity to have lunch with President Obama so that he could ask what it is like to be the president. Ben is currently reading a science fiction and fantasy book. The person he admires the most is his father who was a high school history teacher and presently working for the CyraCom International, the language service provider in Tucson. *Paperback Rider* by the Beatles is his favorite song. He wants to go to college but is not sure what he wants to study. Ben would like to own a Lamborghini sports car. He would like to be an Astronaut which is something he had dream about when he was five years old. Ben's favorite place to go in Tucson is Himmel Park to read and hang out. Playing chess is his hidden talent.

Dodge Middle Magnet School

David Garcia-Hermosillo is in 7th grade. He's a member of the Tohono O'odham tribe and an honor roll student. According to his science teacher Mr. Ifkovits, David is an all around great kid! It happens that David's favorite class is science. He loves all the experiments and especially when they recently created invisible ink. He plans on attending either University High School or Salpointe and to seek a career in science and technology when he's grown. He sees himself attending college in California, if not Arizona.

David has his own sense of style and it shows. His favorite brand is Vans and Nike. David's favorite pass time is football. He plays for an SAYF team, the Red Cougars, as an offensive left tackle. He'd love to play football as a wide receiver when he gets older. David's favorite song is Sleepy Head by Passion Pit (they have an awesome video too!)



Student Spotlight High School

Kevin Bhatt (Sabino High School)

Kevin is a student at Sabino High School, and a member of the Athabaskan Tribe. I have the great honor of having Kevin as one of my students. He is an excellent student with a GPA over 3.0, and is very gifted in the field of engineering. When talking to Kevin about engineering, it is interesting to hear about what he wants to do with it, and the various concepts and developments that compose the objects that he is building. In addition, he enjoys discussing various political/economical news that have arisen world wide. After conversing with Kevin, I always feel like I learned something new! I look forward to finding out what career path he will decide in the near future.



Student Spotlight High School cont.

Elijah Ruiz (Santa Rita High School)

Elijah Ruiz is a student at Santa Rita High School, and a member of the Paiute Tribe. I have worked with Elijah on a weekly basis for the past month, and have been lucky enough to see him grow academically. Elijah is a student that always has a smile and when working he will give 100%. With each week I continue to see a positive attitude, fearlessness when facing assignments that cause him trouble, and motivation to reach his goal of graduating High School. In addition, he always has something insightful to say and is inquisitive about the things he learns in class. Elijah is great to work with because he knows what his barriers are and with a little help he is willing to overcome them. You're doing a good Elijah, keep it up!

Cory Ortega (Pueblo High School)

Cory Ortega is a sophomore at Pueblo High School and a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation. I've seen a significant change in Cory from last year. Not only has his attendance improved, but so has his grades. He is now officially a proud team member of the Pueblo Warrior Wolf wrestling team. He struggled his freshman year with his attendance and grades, but came back ready to pass all classes to be eligible for wrestling. With a lot of math tutoring and after school tutoring, he pulled up his grades to passing and has conquered the task of being ineligible. Cory is an outstanding wrestler and is young enough to improve, not only with his moves on the mat, but

Giselle Cordova (Rincon High School)

Giselle is a student at Rincon High School and a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Giselle is an exemplary student, who puts forth effort everyday in class. Not only is this shown in her grades, but every one of her teachers has something positive to say about her. In addition, she sets high standards for herself, and I know she will be able to make every single one of them. What is unique about Giselle is her love for fashion and modeling. This includes her pursuing her career of choice when she isn't in school by working with a model agency. Working with Giselle at Rincon High School is wonderful, she always has something positive to say, and continues to reach her academic goals. You never know, maybe one day we might see her out on the runway or on America's Next Top Model!





Student Spotlight High School

Nicole Dutiel (Sahuaro High School)

Nicole Dutiel (Navajo) is a student at Sahuaro High School. When I first met Nicole she was reserved about expressing her wants and goals after high school. After a couple of gatherings, she began to open up and I was able to see what a motivated and driven student she is. She continues to excel academically, and takes pride in her well deserved grades. In addition she has many interests such as, basketball, automotive, and learning Chinese. She is an amazing student who constantly expands her horizons, and will be successful in numerous fields.



Luci Cota is a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation and attends Tucson High as a freshman. Her favorite class is English with Mr. Acosta. She is involved in Mecha and Tribal Images Youth Council. Her favorite song is What's My Name by Rihanna. After completing high school she wants to go to the University of

Arizona. Her dream vehicle is a white Escalade with rims and she likes to go to Harkins theaters.

I AM

By Zachariah Galvez

I am respectful and on guard
I wonder about why trouble runs in my family
I hear the sound of wind flow through my hair.
I see clouds of my loved ones looking down on me.
I want trust, respect, and peace.
I am respectful and on guard;

I pretend I am a native warrior with the wisdom of a chief leader.

I feel that I am loved like a man loves his kids.
I touch sounds of a medicine man's songs, at the bottom of my soul.

I worry about the next generation of kids and their lives.
I cry when I see elders struggle through life on their deathbeds.

I am respectful and on guard.

I understand that no one is alone in hardships and love.
I say "keep your friends close, but never leave your family for your friends"

or "girlfriend/boyfriend"

I dream of the day all my brothers come together on a sunny day or stormy weather.

I try to keep cool, but end up acting like a fool.

I hope I never end up in the wrong position, or incarcerated.

I am respectful and on guard.

Vicente Camacho (Cholla High School)

Vicente Daniel Camacho was born August 2, 1993 to Andrea Tapia and Joseph Camacho. Vicente was a beautiful soul and a very loving and adventurous boy. His smile will never be forgotten. He seemed to touch everyone he met with his courage and strength. I am proud to be his mother. He was taken away from us too soon.

He loved his school, teachers, friends, family and ROTC. He loved to scare people and Halloween was his favorite holiday. He shined as a demon when he worked for Old Tucson's Nightfall 2009. He got me a few times.

His family misses him very much since he passed on November 12, 2010 after battling cancer for so long. What a trooper he was. He never gave up! His last days were sad, but he died with dignity surrounded by family and friends who loved and supported him for his journey home. I love you Vicente!



Mama, Mick, T.J.,
Jessica, Michael and
Harley



Information and Resources

Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 17	Grading Day-No School
Dec 20—Dec 31	Winter Break
January 3	Back to School
January 17	MLK Day-No School

Tohono O'odham Nation

San Xavier District
2018 W. San Xavier Road
Tucson, AZ 85746

Education Department
1960 W. Wa:k Lane
Tucson, AZ 85746
520.807.8624

*O'odham AP'EDAG KI:People
Wellness House of the San
Xavier District*

7925 South Mission Road

Tucson Indian Center
97 E. Congress St Suite 101
Tucson, AZ 85701
520.884.7131

Are you a grandparent raising your grandchildren?

Call the KARE
(Kinship, Adoption Resource
and Education)

Family Center for more
information
(520) 323-4476

Address:
4710 E. 29th St. Bldg 7
Tucson, AZ 85711

Pascua Yaqui Tribe

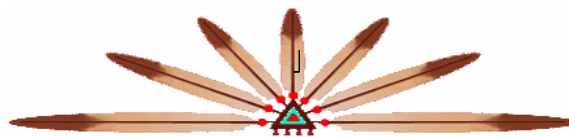
7474 S. Camino De Oeste
Tucson, AZ 85746
520.883.5000

Website: [http://
www.pascuayaqui-nsn.gov/
index.shtml](http://www.pascuayaqui-nsn.gov/index.shtml)

Pascua Yaqui Education Dept
520.883.5050

Is my child enrolled
in the program?

Not sure? Please call the
NASD office to verify your
child's program enrollment
@ (520) 908-3905



Native American Studies Department

PO BOX 40400
Tucson, AZ 85717
(520) 908-3905

GOVERNING BOARD: Judy Burns, President; Miguel Cuevas, Clerk; Bruce Burke; Adelita Grijalva; Dr. Mark Stegeman
SUPERINTENDENT: John J. Pedicone, Ph.D.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Tucson Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its educational programs or activities. Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, and Americans With Disabilities Act may be referred to **EEO Compliance Officer, 1010 East 10th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85719, (520) 225-6442**, or to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 1244 Speer Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80204.