

Eagle Express Parent Newsletter

Yá' át'ééh from Navajo Preparatory School



Anthony Enoah showing his poster of *Firestorm* to Mr. Young's class.



Damon Clark explains route of immigrants crossing the US border from the book, *Coyotes*.

Volume 5, Issue 5
November 2009

Inside this issue:

Junior Class Notes	2
Academic Counselor Notes	3
Native H.O.P.E.	4
McKenzie SBHC	5
Atsa' Biyaazh Activities	6
Student of the Month	7
Meet Wes Studi	8

Reading Initiative Creates its Own Firestorm!

Wow! Great News Parents/Guardians, the number of books being checked by your students at the NPS Library has tripled, that is awesome.....

The number of books being checked out at the library has tripled, and more books are on hold in the library now than all of last year, thanks in part to the All School Reading Initiative. Students were given their pick of three titles (*Firestorm*, *Coyotes*, and *Into Thin Air*) to read and then create a presentation with a visual. They then selected one of their classes in which to present. As students and teachers read and discussed their choices, it became clear that many students were reading all three titles. A huge demand was also created for other titles by the same authors, especially the sequel to *Firestorm*. Since students got to choose which class to present in, they could pick a class where this extra credit could boost their grade. Teachers are excited about the increase in reading the selections combined with the Sustained Silent Reading program have created, and discussion is under way about involving the students in choosing titles for next semester.

Article provided by NCA Reading Committee, Teri Michael & Jeff Young

Your participation in the Bashas' Shop & Give program would be most appreciated. Thank you and we'll see you on November 06 or 07.

Mr. Tohtsoni, Dean of Instruction
505-326-6571, ext. 130
jtohtsoni@nps.bia.edu

Junior Class Notes:

The Junior Class is currently fundraising for Prom 2010. They have decided to sponsor a raffle and we are kindly requesting any donations parents can donate to our raffle. We would like to collect items by December 4 so we can print tickets and distribute for sale during the Christmas Break. If you can donate an item, please contact Mrs. Joe, JR Class Sponsor at (505) 326-6571 or through email djoe@nps.bia.edu. Thank you for your support!

Futures For Children Youth Leadership:

The Youth Leadership club will be sponsoring a "Student Care Package" fundraiser. Parent/Guardians/Family Members will be given the opportunity to purchase either a \$10.00 or \$20.00 care package that would include items such as:

- Notepads Pencil Index cards Highlighters
- Brain Food Study Tips Yéígó Ntíí Card ("Study Hard")

These care packages will be delivered to students during Finals week in December. If you would like to purchase a care package, please leave a message with Mrs. Denise Joe at (505) 326-6571 or email djoe@nps.bia.edu. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to help pay for travel expenses to the 2010 UNITY Conference and the 2010 Futures For Children Youth Leadership Summit next summer. Thank you for supporting Youth Leadership of Navajo Prep!! **Mrs. Denise Joe**, New Mexico/Arizona History Instructor, Junior Class Sponsor, G & T Youth Leadership Project Coach

Navajo Prep School Chapter NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY EVENT



Trick-or-treat outings!

On Wednesday morning, October 28, 3009 our NHS members traveled to Apache and Ladera Elementary Schools to present to their students the various safety rules to follow when going on trick-or-treat outings.

The NHS members braved the unexpected cold snap and driving snow blanketing the area, which continued to fall throughout the morning, as well as power outages resulting from heavy snow on power lines. Yet, undaunted the NHS students proceeded to visit each assigned classroom, and presented their message that children should be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards during Halloween. NHS members provided information on choosing the right costume, staying visible, sticking together, and waiting to open and eat the candies at home.

Judging by the welcome smiles and numerous questions offered by the elementary students, it appeared to have been a rousing success as the children were very thankful to receive assorted gifts from the NHS members.

NHS students are Seniors: Caseykarl Tom, Glenna Cly, Consuelo Gurule, Sarafina Gorman, Nicole Yazzie, Shawna Benally, Keioshiah Peter, Ranee Deechilly, Leland Gray; Juniors: Wilfred Jumbo, Hannah Weston, Ariel Nephew, Nicole Lansing, Monique Hathale.

Sponsors are: Clairra Kirk, and William Custard

NOTES FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

Freshmen...Create a Four-Year Plan

During the Freshmen Seminar scheduled for **Friday, November 13**, the counselor will discuss with the students and parents their 4-year academic plan. The four-year plan help students set personal academic goals and state-mandated graduation requirements. The Seminar will also provide information on mid-term grades, and results from the ACT-Explore test. Also, come and see who are your new Freshmen sponsors this year. **So mark your Calendar, Remember November 13th, from 1 to 3pm.**

The Half-Way Mark! Believe it or not, we are fast approaching the mid-year mark in the Fall Term already! Now is a good time to evaluate your student's academic progress and make decisions about how you want your child to finish out the term. Of course every good decision is backed by a plan, so touch base with your child's teacher through email, phone call or by logging into the school information system – NASIS.

Seniors must also remember that final grades will be factored into an admission decision for a college they choose to attend. Any college acceptance is a conditional acceptance, pending successful completion of the senior year. If a student's grades drop, the college may take away the offer of acceptance entirely. So encouraged your seniors to be smart and to plan to work harder throughout their senior year. **Higher GPA means more Scholarship Opportunities!!!!**

Know your Testing Schedule!

Every Senior should know the dates they will be taking the ACT, SAT, Subject Test and/or AP exams. All Seniors and Juniors are required to register and prepare for the test. The next test dates are:

- ACT Test Date: February 6, 2010 Registration Deadline is January 5, 2010
- SAT Test Date: January 23, 2010 Registration Deadline is December 15, 2009
- SAT Subject Tests: Jan 23, 2010 Registration Deadline is December 15, 2009

The Junior class will be taking the ASVAB test on November 18. The ASVAB scores measure verbal, math, science, and technical skills including information of student's interest, achievements, and help select appropriate occupations for career exploration.

Upcoming Academic Event

Join us during the Academic Awards Luncheon on Monday, December 14th from 11:30 am to 3:00pm, to witness your students' accomplishments for perfect attendance, academic excellence in Subject Areas, and Highest GPA for the Fall Term. Remember Food, Food, Food will be served. See ya' all there.

*******HAPPY THANKSGIVING*******Ms. Kirk, Academic Counselor

Native H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People Endure) at Navajo Prep



Seventy-five students from Navajo Prep joined with twenty-five students from Rocinante High School for our first Native HOPE program held October 6 and 7, 2009. This is a program aimed at preventing suicide among our young people. The students were supported by thirty-seven adults from Farmington, Shiprock, and surrounding communities. Participants were divided into eleven clans with at least two adults in each clan. The clans identified their sources of strength and talked about how they could deal with stress while supporting and relying on each other. It was two days of having fun and celebrating life!!

Special thanks to Shaundale Gamboa and her staff of Navajo Coordinated School Health, Twila Becenti-Fundark of New Mexico Department of Health, and Karen Morrison, school counselor at Rocinante for helping to make this a great success.

If you are interested in helping with future Native HOPE activities, please contact Linda LeClaire, SBHC Mental Health Counselor.



News from McKenzie SBHC



Greetings from McKenzie SBHC! We have been very busy providing quality health care services to Navajo Prep students. On September 30th, we provided 80 seasonal flu vaccinations. We are also working with ChildSight NM, funded by the Helen Keller Foundation, to provide vision screenings and free glasses to our students. ChildSight first came on October 19th and screened 148; They returned with an optometrist on November 10th to provide prescriptions and glasses for 32 students who did not pass the screening; as well as to screen those who missed the screening the first time. The glasses are FREE. But the best part is that ChildSight will replace their glasses (one time) if students break or lose them! Please contact us for more information.

We are still working toward starting up dental services at the San Juan College dental hygiene clinic. We apologize for the delay in getting this program started; and we appreciate your patience! This promises to be a great collaboration!

News about H1N1: H1N1 is the main type of flu that is hitting us right now. Signs and symptoms are the same as seasonal flu: fever (over 100 degrees), cough, sore throat, fatigue. Please remind yourself and your families to cover coughs, wash hands, and to stay home if sick – for at least 24 hours until the fever has gone away. You do NOT need to see a doctor unless the sick person has trouble breathing or other very concerning problems. Enough time to rest, fever medicine (like Tylenol or Advil), and lots of fluids will help most of us get over the flu!



Thank you for all of your support and for entrusting your child's health to us. Please feel free to contact me at ext. 115 or at rdonaldson@nps.bia.edu if there is anything I can do to support your child's health. We hope you will come and visit us in our new facility next month! -- **Rita Donaldson, SBHC Coordinator / School Nurse**

Atsa' Biyaazh Activities

Hello, Happy Veterans Day and Turkey Day to all parents, family, friends and faculty:

In the past months, students have had several memorable activities they had been involved with. Please be informed that students have been hard at work and attending these productive activities. Students were able to learn and participate with the following afterschool program which is now called Atsa' Biyaazh Activities:

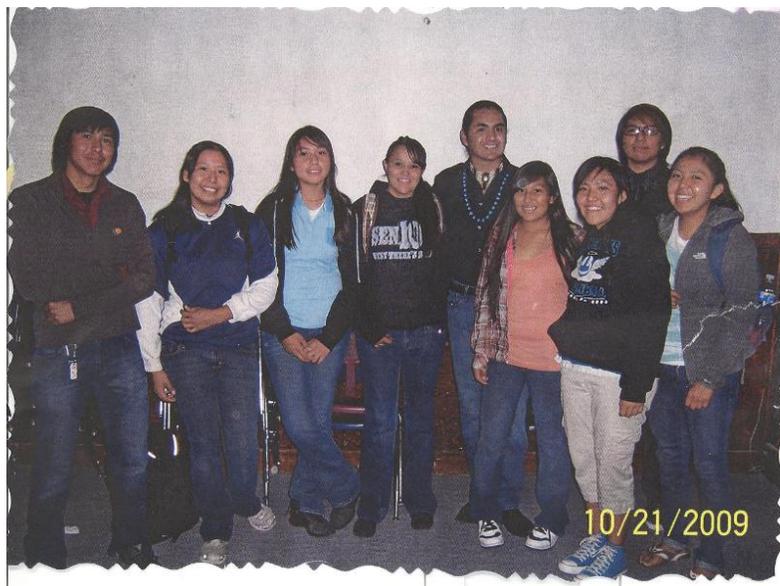
- Etiquette classes which covered essential components of fine contemporary dining.
- Proper dress attire for the ladies and gentlemen, along with table setting and proper silverware usage, and the dos and don'ts at the dinner table. Later in the semester, students will be exposed to introduction to culinary cooking and techniques.
- How to engage in polite conversation and the importance of Din4 culture and identity.
- Learned to write and hear stories in the Hogan presented by Farmington Library. Introduced to different writing styles and allowed students to start a possible career in becoming writers.
- Participate with the ROTC EAGLES led by Sgt. James of the U.S Army that was formed through our activities.
- Learn leadership, respect, discipline, selfless service, pride, integrity, honor, personal courage, drills, ceremonial flag entry, physical training and team building.
- Enjoy modern dance, Latin, hip hop, country, salsa, meringue, mambo, cha-cha and rumba presented by Rose Chaves who is an instructor at San Juan College.
- Learning healthy cooking by Toni Perue, Nutritionist. The food class allows students to learn quick, healthy and easy meals to prepare at home or college.
- Money Management by National Credit services, here students got to learn about credit, money management, check book management and financial decision making.
- Engaged in Plan Parent Hood seminars and activities by NPS Native Hope program.
- Exposed to resume writing and interview skills that was presented by Mary Schumacker of San Juan College.
- Participated in our 3rd annual basketball tournament that lasted for a month and a half.
- Students learned about the ropes course, group activities, leadership, motivation, self confidence, problem solving, and nature education.
- Students have been involved in Wal Mart trips, Mall trips, Movie trips and most recent winter swim at Farmington Aquatic Center. Students will continue to engage in several more community service activities throughout the school year.

We would like to thank Mr. Lenard Lee, Substitute Teacher, and Bobby Charley, Residential Advisor, for their hard work with the students. Both individuals are NPS employees and an asset to our after school activities. In Mr. Lee's classroom, students work with canvass, acrylic, charcoal, water colors and most recently, students have started rug weaving in our Hogan. Mr. Charley engages students in team building and is also certified in the Red Eagle Curriculum.

NPS would also like to thank Betty Ojaye and Sabrina Hood for their support in the development of our children.

I would like to inform the parents that "It is a joy to working with your children". We have managed to balance activities as fun and productive learning. Parents feel free to visit our school web site for our evening activities. I encourage parents to attend activities and call me if you have any ideas or if you would like to present an activity to our children.

Atsa' Biyaazh Activities



NPS Students get to meet movie star Wes Studi and other movie stars!

NPS students attend a special trip to Ft. Lewis College in Durango, CO.

The students got to meet and speak with movie star Wes Studi. Mr. Studi answered several questions from NPS students and also took time to take pictures with our students.

Students also got a special visit from Deshava Apachee who is best known for the movie "Turquoise Rose".

The afterschool program now called the Afterschool Atsa' Biyaazh Activities is funded by our Title IV Student Activities Budget under the NCLB Legislature, Safe and Drug Free Communities. Thank You, Roderick Denetso, SSC and DO.

Student of the Month!



Sarafina Gorman is currently a senior and she is from St. Michaels, Az. Sarafina has been on the Dean's list and Honor Roll for the past three years. Sarafina has received awards for Chemistry Academic Excellence, Act Camp Participant, and the President Award. Over the summer, Sarafina attended Native American Volleyball Academy, College Horizon in New Haven, CT and Phillips Academy, in Andover, MA. Sarafina is also very active in volunteering on campus and the local community. Sarafina has participated with the Adopt-a-Highway Program, Nursing House, Senior Citizen Center, Recruitment Trips, Toys for Tots, Halloween Safety and Thanksgiving Dinner at the Indian Center. Sarafina also excels at Volleyball and is a proud member of the Future for Children Leadership Program. Sarafina enjoys snowboarding, hiking, swimming, traveling, reading and exploring. Student of the month is sponsored by the BEST+ Committee funded by Title IV.

NAVAJO PREP STUDENTS MEET WES STUDI

On Thursday, November 5, 2009, members of the Youth Leadership G&T, along with additional Navajo Prep students, traveled to Fort Lewis College to attend a speech given by prominent Native American actor, producer, activist, and Vietnam Veteran Wes Studi. As an actor, Wes Studi has appeared in popular films such as “Last of Mohicans”, “Dances with Wolves”, and “Geronimo”. In addition, Mr. Studi also played the role of Navajo Detective Lt. Joe Leaphorn in three movies based on Tony Hillerman stories. Mr. Studi’s speech focused on challenges he faced growing up as a Cherokee in Oklahoma. He talked about challenges he faced that still plague tribal communities today. It was very beneficial for our students to hear firsthand the trials and tribulations of a fellow Native American who grew up in an orphanage, without running water, and electricity. Perhaps his most inspiring message to our students was to “not think of ourselves as poor Indians and we need to learn to live with what we have” so we can focus on positive solutions and outcomes. Mrs. Joe.



Mr. Wes Studi



Residential News

Enjoy the atmosphere with the changing colors of the fall leaves. This winter is going to be a cold one so make sure you bundle up this winter and take good care of yourself to avoid the flu. Don't forget to wash your hands regularly. Also, we have residential updates and a monthly evening calendar posted on our new school website so make sure you check this out.



REMINDER to Residential Students:

The holidays are coming up very quickly. I just wanted to remind students and parents during this time of the year about locking up personal belongings that are valuable. Don't forget to take home valuables as well over the holiday break such as Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Enjoy your holidays this season!

Safety Issues:

If students forget to bring their towels, toothbrush, mouthwash, etc., on campus we do have some toiletries available. Have them request an order through their Residential Advisor.

Student Safety- Visitors on Campus

On behalf of our school safety program, we would like to encourage all student visitors to visit inside the dorms or in a well lighted area since we have changed back to daylight savings time and that it does get dark earlier. The NPS Security will be patrolling the campus to look out for visitors who are visiting on campus. We discourage students sitting in private vehicles so please help communicate this to your child for student safety. Sabrina Hood, Dean of Student Life ext. 121

Twilight Teachings Singing Group News



Twilight Teachings Singing Group is based on Cultural awareness and ongoing growth in self-identity, being Native American. The group meets three times a week, singing, dancing and practicing their clan/ kinship self-introduction.

In October, the group performed for "Native HOPE", a student suicide prevention training sponsored by Contract School Health.

We also sang at the District Volleyball Championship game – NPS gym. Parents/Guardians can nominate their child to become a member, please see Ms. Holiday for a parent permission form.

New members are always welcome!

Submitted by: Mrs. Beverly Washburn, Twilight Teachings Instructor



NPS MISSION STATEMENT

Navajo Preparatory School

1220 West Apache Street
Farmington, NM 87401

Phone: 505-326-6571

Fax: 505-564-8099

E-mail: mholiday@nps.bia.edu

The mission of the school is to educate talented and motivated college-bound Navajo and other Native American youth that have the potential to succeed in higher education and become leaders in their respective communities. The school provides a rigorous academic program based on a strong foundation of Navajo philosophy supported by a residential environment that enhances individuality and independence. This mission is reflected in the School's motto, "Yisdeeskáággó Naat'aanii – Leaders Now and Into the Future."



Yisdeeskáággó Naat'aanii
Leaders Now and
Into the Future.

**Next PAC Meeting:
Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 2:00 PM**



**Next IEC Meeting:
Wednesday, December 02, 2009 at 8:00 AM**

Vacancies for the following Parent Advisory Committee (PAC):

1. Michele Peterson, PAC President
2. Ronald Weston, PAC Vice-President
3. Tammie Wilson, PAC Secretary
4. Vacant..... Member-at-Large
5. Vacant.....Member-at-Large

Vacancies for the following Indian Education Committee:

1. Rose Woody, IEC Chairperson
2. Carrie Tsosie, IEC Vice-Chairperson
3. Sarah Litson, IEC Secretary
4. Dabra Gonnig, IEC Member-at-Large
5. IEC Member-at-Large.....Vacant

Stop by the office or call 505-326-6571, ext. 126 if you are interested. Contact: Marilyn Holiday

