

HEMISH EDUCATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

PUEBLO OF JEMEZ AND THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO PARTNER TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE WALATOWA EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

On September 1, 2023, Governor Lujan Grisham joined the Jemez Pueblo community in a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the learning center where the Jemez Language will be nurtured and prioritized as the first language of its children. (PUEBLO OF JEMEZ NEWS RELEASE)



"I was incredibly proud to support this one-of-a-kind educational institution," said Gov. Lujan Grisham. "A culturally appropriate education means that Native languages and traditions are included as key components of a truly equitable and inclusive education system. I am excited to see what comes next at Walatowa and how we can keep growing Native language immersion programs together."

**GOVERNOR MICHELLE
LUJAN-GRISHAM, SENATOR
BENNY SHENDO, JR. AND
REPRESENTATIVE DERRICK
LENTE HAVE INVESTED
OVER \$6.2 MILLION OF
CAPITAL OUTLAY DOLLARS
TO MAKE THIS FACILITY A
REALITY**



The Early Childhood Program is a comprehensive child development continuum inclusive of Head Start and Child Care Services which currently serves approximately 100 Jemez children, ages 0-5 and their families, through a full language immersion approach since 2013. All teachers and child care providers are fluent in the Jemez Language. "Inspiring and cultivating quality early Childhood Learning Centers in our community is a very proud and important step," said Cheryl Chinana, Child Care Manager.

Lana Garcia shares, "Our unique and valuable community-based education incorporates the community's vibrant traditional calendar as well as art, music, dance, learning through movement, play, and exploration of our community and nature through science and math,"

Walatowa Child Care



Childcare News

Another summer has come to an end. August was a month of settling in and getting adjusted to their new and exciting environment.

We welcomed all new and returning students to Walatowa Child Care Center.

The theme for the month of September was crops, fields (chili, melons & corn) and all the good food that is grown in our fields.

Reminder:

If your child is sick, please keep him/her home until the symptoms have cleared. We are doing our best to keep the center clean and free from illness, but this will only work with your help! Making that conservative choice to keep them home when ill will ensure your child gets plenty of rest. It will protect the other children from developing similar symptoms.

Thank you for your help so far by limiting exposure and keeping your child home when ill.



Birthdays!

Happy Birthday Grayson!

HEAD START UPDATES



CORN CLASSROOM

On the first day of school children were excited , nervous, and a little scared of their new surroundings as they were seeing our new school. New teachers, friends and a big school was something new! Teachers introducing themselves and informing them what should be happening throughout the school year was the focus. Some cried but their fears went away as they made new friends, played with toys and on the new playground. We are looking forward to a great school year!

FIRE CLASSROOM



In our classroom, the children have transitioned smoothly from home to school. The children observed the classroom areas and all the activities they would be working on, hands on and teacher directed. We are teaching the children school readiness. We introduce rules and routines in and outside the classroom. During circle time they are working on their attention span as well as their singing skills. We are also learning our Indian names and clans. We are in the process of making a clan graph. The corn is in the lead, followed by eagle, coyote, fire, sun, fox, water and canyon people. The children explored the weather and are working with following pedestrian safety rules while on a nature walk. On our nature walk so far we have explored water from a broken pipe near the ditch. Children were able to feel the water. This is just the beginning! We are excited to teach our children more classroom and traditional knowledge.



HEAD START UPDATES

SUN CLASSROOM



The teachers and children are excited and happy to start the school year in a new Head Start building. We are in the process of getting to know one another by our Indian names (Towa). We are progressing as children transition from home to school. The children are learning to pray using cornmeal on a daily basis. They are exploring the different areas of the classroom, such as dramatic play, blocks and science. Participating in hands-on learning with a variety of manipulatives is how we learn. They are still adjusting to the daily routines and indoor/outdoor safety rules. Nature walks are taken within the surrounding area of the Head Start for experiential learning. All children participate in an Indian name giving ceremony for a non-tribal child to receive their Indian name.

OAK CLASSROOM

The children in the Oak Room have adjusted well in their new school environment. They like exploring different areas, such as housekeeping, puzzles, library and playing with different manipulatives within the classroom.

The students are making new friends and getting to know each others and their Indian names. All children are happy when coming to school and are curious learners everyday.



K-6 Hemish Language Immersion Pilot School



It's been an eventful month so far here at Hemish Language Immersion School. Our students have been busy planting seeds and taking care of what is already growing in our garden boxes. We have a healthy tomato plant that is producing many beautiful tomatoes. We recently planted lettuce, rainbow carrots, spring mixed lettuce and spinach. We are learning to grow our own food and talking about how this type of food makes up a healthier diet. It is great to see the excitement when their seeds begin to sprout. Through their observations they are learning the stages of the plants and noting their measurements in their plant journals. While keeping track of these plants and their growth the students are learning about measurement, photosynthesis, and the stages of growth.

The students were invited to dance at the ribbon cutting ceremony of our new Walatowa Early Childhood Learning Center. These opportunities help enrich the learning of our traditions and culture. It encompasses many other learning objectives for our students such as social skills, dance etiquette as well as learning of the clothing and reasons why certain dances come at certain times in the year. This instills pride and helps them learn to value the culture and traditions of our Jemez people.

We partnered with Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) to learn about bird banding. As a part of this partnership, we created our own lessons about the local birds and the students learned of the different types of birds, their habitats, migration paths etc. (all in Jemez). We were able to go to the mountains and have a hands on experience with the bird banding. This unit will culminate into learning how these different birds tie into our cultural traditions and ceremonies.

K-6 Hemish Language Immersion Pilot School



Our instruction with Montessori is moving along. Our primary students are in an "absorbent stage", working on sensorial material that is working to prepare their minds to organize, classify and abstract information.

Our elementary students have been listening to stories of how our earth came to be and how the earth prepared itself for human beings. Stories of these timelines incorporate history, biology, geography and of course math. This includes working on the Number Base Board and moving into working with the large Bead Frame to gain an in depth understanding of our numbers.

Our goal at our Hemish Language Immersion School is to teach the "whole child". Helping children become truly capable and productive while focusing on the moral, emotional, and intellectual development of our children is our primary goal.





Upcoming Events

Join us for our next Language Community Meeting on October 3, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Walatowa Youth Center.

Please join us for our next upcoming events!

A Note from Education Dept

The Pueblo of Jemez Education Department has now moved into two buildings. Buildings F and G on Bear Head Canyon Rd.

Building F is now dedicated to student services with the offices for the Education Department Assistant Director, Student Services Manager and Coordinator.

Building G is now dedicated to Education Department Administration as well as the Jemez Language Program Manager, Creative and Media teams.

Read more about Ed Dept at
www.jemezpuablo.org

MEET THE TEAM

Walatowa Early Childhood Learning Center



Lisa Romero

All About Me

Hello, My name is Lisa Romero! I am the new Administrative Assistant for the Walatowa Early Childhood Learning Center. With great honor I am pleased to meet & greet each and every student, parent, and community members upon a daily basis! I am here to provide and assist you with information and any type of matter pertaining to our new school! Please feel free to stop by to say hi and take a look at our new school! Thank you and have great day!

All About Me

Hello, My name is Penelope Vigil and I am the new Family Services Coordinator at Walatowa Early Childhood Learning Center. My job entails assisting, promoting, supporting family involvement and community engagement to our students and staff.



Penelope Vigil

MEET THE NEW CREATIVE TEAM

Roxanne Vigil

About

Tay-noh-aye, My name is Roxanne Say-cohn Pohn (My Towa name). I am Coyote Clan, my moiety is Turquoise and I live at the north end of the Pueblo called Thu-tho wah. I recently started working as a Creative Team Member here at the Education Administration Modular. I am glad to be a part of the team making Native regalia, arts and crafts for the little ones to wear and enjoy throughout their stay during school. Last of all, I also have a stance in our Towa Language Immersion Program, to keep it going, keep it alive and strong. #TowaStrong.



Mary Ellen Toya



About

My name is Mary Ellen Toya. I am 1/4 Laguna and 3/4 Jemez. I have 3 children , Garret, Myra and Mary Beth. I have 4 grandchildren Anthony, Analynn, Dory Jr and Cheyenne. I have 7 sisters and 1 brother. I worked at Jemez Day School for 41 years, retired 2 years ago. I enjoy working with children, staying home is a lot of work. I joined the creative team 3 weeks ago. I visit the library twice a week to work with the Hemish school children. I love working with awesome people at the Department of Education. I hope to work for another 10 years.

Education Services



Walatowa Head Start
Language Immersion
Program



We hope the 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start for our Jemez Children. We are excited for this school year; the Education Services Center is here to help our children succeed in your education endeavors.

For SY 2023-2024, we have students attending various schools throughout the state ranging from Head Start to High School. Here are the numbers of students enrolled at different school districts:

Albuquerque Public Schools- 121

Rio Rancho Public Schools- 78

Bernalillo Public Schools- 34

Santa Fe Indian School- 74

Walatowa High Charter School- 54

Jemez Valley Public Schools- 125

San Diego Riverside Charter School- 55

Jemez Day School- 133

K-6 Hemish Immersion Pilot School- 13

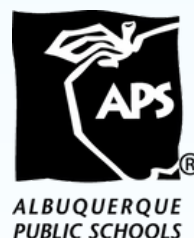
Walatowa Early Childhood Learning Center- 58



Walatowa High
Charter School



We would like to wish all of the students a great school year and to be proud representing our Jemez Community.



NORTHERN New Mexico College



Career Technical Education



We are in our second year of Career Technical Education with Northern New Mexico College and Jemez Valley High School. This partnership was developed in the Fall 2022 with five students enrolled for Dual Credit. JVHS increased the number of students enrolled for the second year to 14 students. The electrical courses are being offer to both year one and year two students. This opportunity provides the college course experience for our Jemez students.



Walatowa High
Charter School

Our Walatowa High Charter School students have begun their first year with Career Technical Education. Our first six students from WCHS are taking electrical courses through Northern New Mexico College. The students will be OSHA certified at the end of the first semester and have college credit that will benefit them after high school.



AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

WHAT IS ACP?

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an FCC administered and US Government funded program designed to help households better afford internet service through their Internet Service Provider.

HOW WILL THIS BENEFIT JEMEZ?

Jemez' internet service is provided free of charge through the Jemez Pueblo Tribal Network or JNET and funded by COVID Treasury funds. However, the Treasury funds will eventually expire and new funding will be needed. The funds through ACP can be used to improve internet connectivity and expand services to all tribal members and households.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help support internet connectivity in Jemez and keep it free by signing up for ACP through JNET. JNET and Education Department staff can assist you with applying for ACP and uploading supporting documentation.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

If your household income is at/below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or a member of your household qualifies for any of the programs listed below, you're household is eligible for ACP:

- Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program
- Federal Pell Grant
- WIC
- SNAP
- Medicaid
- Public Housing
- SSI
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribal TANF
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Tribal Head Start (Income based)
- Affordable Housing Programs for American Indians, Alaska Natives or Native Hawaiians and more.



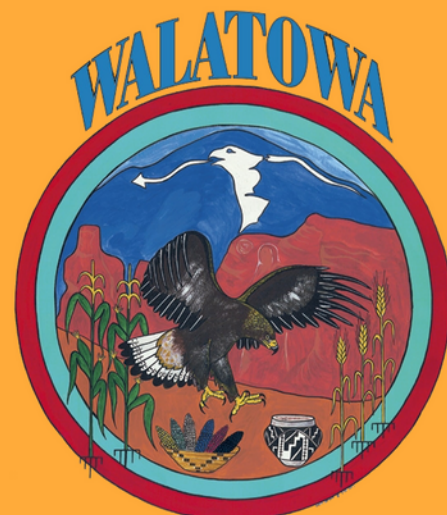
FOR HELP APPLYING OR
MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:

**JNET DIGITAL
NAVIGATOR**
(575) 834-6500

DEPT. OF EDUCATION
(575) 834-9102

AND VISIT

WWW.FCC.GOV/ACP



PUEBLO of JEMEZ