

# Hemish Education Quarterly Newsletter

March 2024



## Education Meeting with Tribal Leaders

The Jemez Department of Education hosted Tribal leaders, Governor Peter Madalena, 2nd Lt. Sean Chinana and Tribal Administrator, Vince Toya Sr. The leadership introduced themselves and their initiatives for the year. They also discussed the status of the Jemez language within the schools and community.

The Tribal Leaders applauded and thanked the whole Department of Education, teachers and childcare providers for all the work they are doing in all of the schools and educational programs that are being provided to the community. They listened to the updates that were given about the various areas that are growing daily. Before closing the meeting, they let everyone know that they are here to listen to the concerns and assist in any way they can.



MARCH, 2024



# UPDATES

The Language Team met with the Assistant Language Program Manager, Eleanor Tafoya on February 22, 2024 with nine members. They discussed and planned the next upcoming language program events. The Language Summit was held on March 13, 2024 at the CRC. The event was a success with many participants filling the room.

The other upcoming event is the Community Language Meeting scheduled for April 11, 2024, at the Walatowa Youth Center. The Language Team also shared knowledge and advice as Cultural Consults to our Film/AV, Tamara Colaques, working with Hemish Language Immersion School on a upcoming documentary.

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...  
LANGUAGE PROGRAM



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### *News Update*

### **Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative**

The Jemez Department of Education developed the Coordinated School Health Initiative to provide comprehensive health and social services to school-aged population who attend the local schools in the Jemez Pueblo area. Historically, the Jemez Department of Education has built a strong partnership with the Jemez Health & Human Services to provide health services to the students of the Hemish Language Immersion Program, San Diego Riverside Charter School, Walatowa Charter High School, and Jemez Day School. The Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative is a promising program designed to formalize existing and new partnerships, provide wrap around comprehensive services, and build a sustainable system of care for the children of Jemez Pueblo, promoting overall development of children, thereby increasing academic success.

The Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative is a pro-active solution to address the health disparities that continuously impact American Indian Alaskan Native (AIAN) communities. This framework is designed after the CDC coordinated School Health Model, including community strengths and values unique to AIAN students in Jemez Pueblo. The ten components of the Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative are:

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| -health education                  | -physical education             |
| -health services                   | -nutrition services             |
| -counseling/psychological services | -healthy school environments,   |
| -health promotion for staff        | - family/community involvement, |
| -governmental involvement          | -technology/media               |

Each of these components is incorporated into a social ecological model that will inform the research and evaluation of the framework. The Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative will take a mixed-methods evaluative approach to evaluate all the components of the Jemez School Health Initiative Framework.



# Welcome to our Team

## *Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative*

Welcome to our new Jemez Coordinated School Health Team members!



**Juan Toya**

*School Health Manager*

My name is Juan Toya and I am the new School Health Manager under the Pueblo of Jemez Education Department's Coordinated School Health Initiative Program. After 38 years in the Emergency Medical field, I am excited about transitioning into a new role. My team will be working with local schools and students in promoting healthy life styles, health education, nutrition, and other services.

Email: [juan.toya@jemezpueblo.org](mailto:juan.toya@jemezpueblo.org)



**Delila Toya**

*Parent Community Liason*

Hello, My name is Delila Toya, I recently joined the Department of Education as a Parent-Community Liaison for the new Coordinated School Health Initiative. I look forward to interacting with the community in efforts to promote school health education and wellness for our children.

Email: [delila.toya@jemezpueblo.org](mailto:delila.toya@jemezpueblo.org)



# Welcome to our Team

## *Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative*

Welcome to our new Jemez Coordinated School Health Team members!



**Daniel Madalena**

*Physical Education Coordinator*

“Hello my name is Daniel Madalena, I am the Physical Education Coordinator at the Education Department. I am excited to be back in the community helping your children in many aspects of Health and Wellness. I am eager to meet your children. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to ask!



**Kalei Yepa**

*Intern*

Hello my name is Kalei Yepa, I am the new Intern with the Education department. I am thrilled to be a part of this team and grateful to be able to play a crucial role in providing services for the students, families and staff in our community.

# Welcome to our Team

## *Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative*

Welcome to our new Jemez Coordinated School Health Team members!



**Sydney Tosa**

*Intern*

“Hello my name is Sydney Tosa, I am an intern here at the Jemez education department for the school health initiative program. I am looking forward to working with kids and our community on what is best for our children and community in more healthier ways possible.”



**Okoya Gachupin**

*Intern*

“Hello My name is Okoya Gachupin. I recently joined the department of education as an Intern for the new coordinated School Health Initiative. I look forward to interacting with the community in efforts to promote school health education and wellness for our children.”

# Welcome to our Team

## *Jemez Coordinated School Health Initiative*

Welcome to our new Jemez Coordinated School Health Team members!



**Kateri Shendo**

*Administrative Assistant*

Hello, My name is Kateri Shendo. I recently joined the Department of Education Coordinated School Health Initiative. I am excited to embark on this new journey.



**Eldrick Toya**

*Student Program Coordinator*

My name is Eldrick Toya, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Student Program Coordinator for the Education Department. In this role, I will work closely with students, teachers, and parents to ensure students receive the best education and support. As the new Student Program Coordinator, I am committed to bringing my skills and experience to our community. I am passionate about helping students succeed, and every student has the potential to achieve great things.



# Welcome to our Team

*Department of Education Creative Team*

Welcome to our new Creative Team members.



**Perfilia Toya**

*Creative Team Member*

Hello! My Name is Perfilia Toya. I am a new member to the Creative Team. I enjoy my hobbies which are sewing, beading and video editing. I believe the love of my hobbies will help build language and culture in schools and our community.



**Jelayne Yepa**

*Creative Team Member*

Hello, my name is Jelayne Yepa. I am a new member of the Creative Team here at the POJ Education Department. I enjoy doing what I do and being surrounded with an astonishing group of staff members. I look forward to seeing what the near future brings for my fellow co-workers and I. Some fun facts about me are that I love to travel to different places across the country, and learn new things across a wide spectrum to expand my knowledge. Lastly, my most favorite hobby includes playing sports such as Softball and Volleyball during my free time. Thank you for taking the time to read my short biography!

# Welcome to our Team

*Walatowa Early Childhood Program - Child Care*

Welcome to our new Child Care provider.



## **Evelyn Chinena**

*Childcare Provider*

Hello, my name is Evelyn Chinena and I recently started working at the Walatowa Child Care Center.

I mainly take care of the children between the ages of 1 & 2 yr. old, but I still interact with all the other children at the center. My background and education is in the field of Nursing and I have had many years in the care giving role. I am happy to say that I am enjoying taking care of our Walatowa children.



# AMAZON TRIBE VISITS



## Walatowa Headstart Students Perform

The Walatowa Headstart Students had a visit from Amazon tribal leaders and their people. As the children waited, the teachers and students sang to the community. Once the group arrived the students honored them with the shield dance followed by the butterfly dance. The Amazon group was guided by Brophy Toledo, Roger Fragua and some translators.

## Amazon Tribal people sing and dance with the community

After the students performed for the Amazon group. The spiritual Amazon leader sang and prayed for the community. Once he opened up with prayer the Amazon leaders began to sing with community and then invited them up to dance with them. It was a beautiful cultural exchange.



# SUN CLASSROOM

**FROM GLORIA TSOSIE & SHALANA GACHUPIN**

Upon return from the holiday break, the teachers reiterated and reviewed classroom rules, outdoor safety rules as well as nature walk rules. The teachers informed the children of ceremonies that occurred in the plaza in January. Some of the children shared what they observed with the society initiations. It is considered experiential learning for the children as well as adults. This month, Blue Corn was reintroduced and the children made blue corn tortillas. The class has been focusing on self-help skills; the children are learning and demonstrating, putting on/taking off their jackets, zipping/unzipping to strengthen their fine motor skills and serving themselves during meal times. They are doing a great job in cleaning and picking up after themselves. The children enjoy performing and participating in our school wide daily morning protocol; prayer and dancing conducted outdoors.



# ***Oak Classroom***

## ***From Bertha Gachupin and Andrea Chinana***



The Oak classroom started off to a great new year "2024." We all gave one another a hug to show that we are happy and grateful to see every one back at school. Each child shared and talked about how they spent their holidays with families and what they got for Christmas.

For the month of January, the children were introduced to learning the name of the month, the newly appointed Governors and leadership. We talked about the upcoming cultural events that will be happening for the month. Blue and white corn were also introduced. We talked about how important corn is and what foods can be made with both corn. We first talked about the blue corn and made atole. Some children said their grandma makes some and others said that they have not had atole before. Children are learning from observing and experiencing.

Thursday, February 1 was the first day that the whole school went out to pray together. After we prayed with the corn meal, Lawrence, Delvin and Shawn sang for us to dance. We all danced to butterfly, buffalo and Zuni comanche. The children just love to dance. That is how we have started our mornings everyday if weather permitted. If it was too cold, we danced down the hallway and into our classrooms until the song is over.

The week of February 13th we went on nature walks to observe our village and view the petrified rocks that are within the village. Since it was Heart Health Month, we took nature walks when the weather permitted. The children enjoyed going on walks because they love to observe and get to know where their classmates live.



# ***Oak Classroom Continued...***



On February 14, we had Father Engagement Day. Fathers were invited to the school to spend time with their child and to have lunch. Before lunch, the 4 classrooms along with the fathers that went to visit participated in dancing with the children outdoors while Lawrence, Delvin and Shawn sang. It was a great turn out and all the children enjoyed having their fathers at school. In our classroom, they made necklaces.

The day before Valentines, we also made blue corn tortillas. Each child was given a dough to feel the texture and to make one on their own. They enjoyed making and eating them. Mmmm, they were so delicious!

February 16, Behavioral Health Department came in to speak with our students about anger management. Mr Stuart Gachupin taught the children how to use techniques for exercising when they are feeling emotional.

Our newly appointed Governors visited our school, introduced themselves, shared their positions and spoke to the children. The Police Department and the Dental Hygienist also visited the school. Children met and greeted the officers who shared their roles and duties.

We have also been demonstrating self-help skills, taking off/putting on jackets, zipping, snapping, and buttoning, taking off/putting on shoes, Fine Motor Skills, how to hold a utensil, a writing tool and learning how to cut.

**Parents, please help your child with this at home too. Do as much as you can for your child. We thank you in advance for all you do for them! We also would like to thank all the fathers who joined our fatherhood engagement day! The children were happy and enjoyed the time they spent with their fathers. They made necklaces.**



# Fire Classroom

## Jacque Magdalena and Joslin Sandia

Hello from the Fire Classroom. In January we learned how to say the month in Jemez, “Say-kun-paa” also known as Eagle Society Moon. We reiterated the rules and routines of the classroom. January 10 was our first visit to the library, the children observe the library and got to look at books and use the computers. January 22, we went to pray at the Kiva where the Eagle Warrior Society are. We did a lot of cultural learning in January.

In February, we learned to say the month in Jemez, “Kqee-chi-nuu-kae-paa,” Wheat Planting Moon and the process of planting wheat. In Jemez, we have learned parts of the body and recognizing the numbers 1 – 5. We are learning about the landmarks that surround our village and the directions where our Petrified rocks are located. We are excited to do more cultural learning in the upcoming months.

Thank you for the fathers who came to our first fatherhood event of the year!



# Corn Classroom News

Pauline Armijo &  
Shirley Chinana



On January, 2024, we resumed school after the holiday break. The children happily talked about what they did over the holidays, presents they received and shared stories about what they observed watching the buffalo dances. We discussed traditional activities including the newly appointed Governors and officials.

Teachers reviewed classroom rules, cleaning up, sharing and helping one another. The children continued working on their self help skills such as tying their own shoe laces and working the zippers, snaps and buttons on their jackets. Children are learning numbers 1 to 5, working on activities that will help them learn to count in Towa. We had lessons on Wildlife and the animals that live in our mountains. The children learned the names of the animals, what they eat and where they live. They also acted out movements of different animals. We reviewed their names, family member's names, body parts, colors and shapes in our Towa language. We had a visit from members of a native tribe from Brazil. The visitors included tribal members and the chief of the tribe. The chief wore traditional clothing and a beautiful feathered headdress. In honor of our guests, the children danced the butterfly and the shield dance. All parents are welcome to visit our Headstart center at anytime. Please have lunch with us and spend time with your child as they learn our Jemez language and traditions.



# HEMISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION PILOT SCHOOL



Hemish Language Immersion students were excited to be introduced to audio and video equipment. With Film/AV crew they worked on their filming project. They worked together to film their shots, edited and submitted their final project into the Film Prize Jr. NM film festival.

Our students have been working on various math lessons ranging from large number frame, golden bead material for number base, colored beads for multiplication, checkerboard for multiplication, long chain bead material for geometry and squaring. For language we are learning about the history of the written and spoken language. In geometry we have been introduced to how geometry got it's name and now working on solid shapes. For social studies the students are ending their unit of African American history.

For biology and traditional farming lessons we will be introducing the timeline of life and students will hear how long the earth took to prepare for the human being. Montessori teaches using a cosmic approach. So the earth, the sun, moon the stars and everything in nature becomes a teaching tool as well as the children learning the value and gain the respect for nature. This allows for great opportunity to tie in our Hemish culture, ceremonies, and traditions.

In the daily engagements of our culture and traditions our students are proud to be Jemez learning their connections to their culture and their community. Their pride in the knowledge they have gained through our language and culture lessons as well as their involvement in recent dancing events. Their self-confidence will allow them to thrive and preserve through daily challenges.

Hemish school doors are always open to welcome in any visitors that would like to see our students at work.

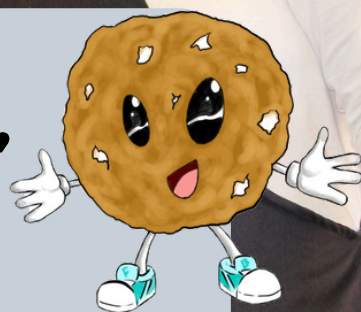




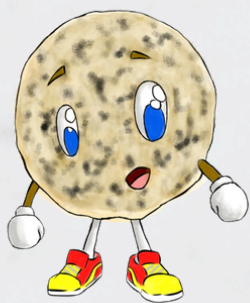
# NUTRITION



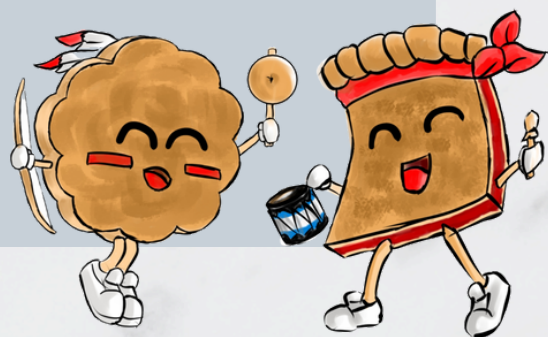
## IN THE KITCHEN, WHAT'S NEW?



The nutrition program team is always busy serving the Walatowa Early Childhood Learning Center and Hemish Language Immersion schools. They continue to cook and deliver foods to each class ensuring they are all getting their healthy nutrients daily. The kitchen team feeds the community when they are needed for meetings and special events!



**Thank you Kitchen Team!**





# JEMEZ COMMUNITY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES



The Jemez Community Library & Archives has been busy in the new year.

We have the following Community Schools scheduled for Library Visits:

- Hemish Language Immersion Pilot School, Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Head Start, Wednesdays
- Walatowa Child Care Center, Mondays
- San Diego Riverside Charter School K-1st grade, Fridays

The activities from the Calendar are a Big Hit! We send the calendars to the local schools every month. As a result we have a full library after school with children laughing, reading, playing games, on computers, and most of all learning something new.

Tutoring Schedule: Mondays & Thursdays, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, K - 12. Please inform your families, children, students, and other parents.

- We have four skilled volunteer tutors.
- Two individuals are interested in tutoring. Their background checks are in the process. Once they check out we may be able to provide tutoring Monday - Thursday.
- Two other individuals are also interested. Their background forms will be submitted to Human Resources for background checks.





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[lenora.loretto@jemezpuablo.org](mailto:lenora.loretto@jemezpuablo.org)  
575-834-9102





# **PUEBLO OF JEMEZ**

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

# **GED CLASSES**

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