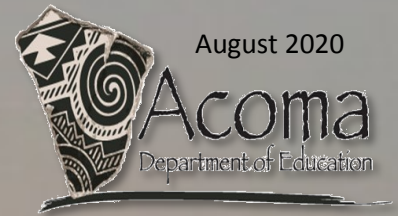


August Newsletter

Gu'waa'dzi Hau'ba!



If any community member would like to receive the Acoma Department of Education newsletter, and be a part of our mailing list, or would like to nominate a student for our student spotlight section please contact the ADoE office at (505) 552-6077.

Greetings Everyone,

It has been a while since we have prepared our department's newsletter. We are living in interesting times. The pandemic caused a shutdown of operations at the Pueblo of Acoma. There are so many things to share with you and it is almost impossible to write everything. So, I will focus on the main points.

We are preparing for the new school year. The Haak'u Community Academy and Haak'u Learning Center will start their school year on August 17. Rest assured that we have considered every option to safely provide an education to your student. We assembled a team of school staff and board members to develop a plan with three options that included, 1) hybrid model, 2) virtual, and 3) 100% face-to-face. The hybrid model is similar to what many other schools are doing where students do a portion of on-line instruction and the other would be face-to-face. The virtual instruction would offer a total on-line approach to learning. The 100% face-to-face is bringing the students back as 'normal'. We had to take many things into consideration but most importantly, the health and safety of students and staff. Our ultimate decision was to go back to school with a hybrid approach.

The hybrid approach includes providing virtual instruction for the first 9-weeks of school. This does not mean that the second 9-weeks will be face-to-face. We have assembled a school health committee that will meet on a weekly basis to monitor the pandemic and public health status which will guide our decision for the second 9 weeks of instruction.

Some questions have been raised by staff and community regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies available so that we have a safe environment. The Pueblo of Acoma Tribal Government received CARES Act funding and have graciously provided everything we need to keep everyone as safe as possible. But a lot of safety depends on the community, too. Everyone must continue to practice social distancing, wearing face masks, washing hands often, and obeying Governor Vallo's Executive Order. It is difficult to be away from family and friends who live off the Acoma reservation and not being able to do the fun things we enjoyed, but we will get back to living life the way we want once we get through the pandemic. So, please practice the safety guideline and reach out to your Tribal Departments if you need help.

Technology is another topic I want to share with everyone. Along with the CARES Act funding, we are able to purchase laptops and forms of temporary internet connections. The Department of Education is continuing to work with Grants Cibola County Schools (GCCS) and internet providers to help our students start off the school year with tools needed to learn. Virtual learning is new to most of us and we are doing our best to provide everyone with what they need during this time. I invite each of our readers who have questions about virtual learning and technology to call the Department of Education and talk to Leslie Vallo, Nolan Valdo, or myself.

I encourage everyone to be safe. Take care of yourself and others around you. I believe that this is a temporary situation only if we practice the health guidelines and obey the laws. Not wearing a face mask and gathering in large groups is irresponsible. I understand we miss our family and friends but we need to be safe and prevent the spread of this virus. For more information about COVID-19 and your community, call the Pueblo of Acoma Department of Health and Human Services 552-6661.

Until Next Time,

Melissa E. Riley, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Acoma Board of Education

(Part 1)

Craig Thomas Garcia is an educator and proud member of the Pueblo of Acoma. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of New Mexico and is currently pursuing his master's degree in Educational Leadership at New Mexico Highlands University. Mr. Garcia was honored recently when he was named the 2020 Teacher of the Year by the New Mexico Organization of Language Educators. He began his teaching career six years ago as a Spanish teacher at Cibola High School (CHS) in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Craig also serves as the Native American Club sponsor at CHS where his goals are to give Native American students the opportunity to feel a sense of belonging, a way to network with others, and to provide them a chance to stand out at CHS. He works with students to coordinate their annual pow-wow in the spring and collaborates with the CHS Best Buddies Club to coordinate their annual holiday arts and crafts show in the fall.



Craig T. Garcia, ABoE President



Hello! My name is Stephanie Oyenque; and I am the daughter of Vern and Sandra Scissons. My Grandparents were the late Frances and Frank Torivio of Acoma Pueblo and the late Vern and Thelma Scissons of South Dakota. I grew up in the village of McCarty's where I attended Sky City Community School, Los Alamos Middle School and Grants High School. I attended the University of New Mexico (UNM) where I obtained my Bachelors of Science in Family Studies and Minored in Native American Studies. I continued my education at UNM obtaining my Masters of Arts in Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies with an emphasis in American Indian Education. My personal interests are being outdoors, especially: gardening, planting and hunting. While I am not inside I enjoy sewing, embroidery and reading. My favorite person to enjoy my time with is my 8-year old daughter Lexi who is a 3rd grader at the Kha'P'o Community School in Santa Clara Pueblo.

Stephanie Oyenque, Board Vice-President

While being on the Acoma Board of Education this past year, I have learned that it takes a lot of advocacy within the Education Department to be responsive to the needs of the Acoma people. In my last year serving I hope our community will be set on this positive trajectory

The Acoma Department of Education would also like to welcome Ms.

Loretta Vallo as the other Board Member.

No Photo or Biography available.



Bridget A. Neconie, Board Secretary

B.A. Cultural Anthropology – UC Berkeley

Guu w'aa dzi Gai daawa hau ba. I a member of the Pueblo of Acoma from the Roadrunner, Little Eagle clans. I am the granddaughter of George and Santana Cerno from McCarty's and I am also the current Director of the Co-bell Scholarship Program at Indigenous Education, Inc. a non-profit scholarship provider in Albuquerque.

I moved back home 4 years ago to spend more time with my relatives and the Acoma community. I reside in Albuquerque along with my husband, Earl Neconie a member of the Kiowa people from Oklahoma.

I spent 20 years living in the San Francisco Bay Area working in higher education, promoting diversity and inclusion for Native American students.

While serving in the role of Assistant Director in the Office of Undergraduate Admission at the University of California, Berkeley I became a stronger advocate for increased support services and programs that fuel student success. I have presented and conducted outreach on college prep, and scholarships at conferences that advance tribal communities.

I enjoy staying active in American Indian traditional and community activities. I love my family, traditional Pueblo culture, social dancing, making bread, pottery, learning Keres, and I enjoy swimming, music, and golf. I am proud of my son, Jacob and my two favorite people are my very special grandchildren Kekua and Gabriella.

Marveline Vallo Gabbard (Acoma Pueblo), her parents are Felix and Eva Vallo. Marveline has been at the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) since June 1998 as a Scholarship Operations Manager and has 22 years of experience with student support services. She is responsible to aid undergraduate and graduate Native American students with scholarship resources, academic counseling, financial aid and among other responsibilities.

She earned her Bachelor of University Studies degree from the University of New Mexico. Prior to joining AIGC, Marveline worked with Pueblo of Acoma Higher Education Program and where her career begin in education.

Marveline has dedicated her career to making a difference and serving Native American communities nationwide and within our Acoma community. With her education, experiences, skills and work history with AIGC she believes she can make a positive contribution to our Acoma community and members.



Marveline Vallo-Gabbard

Board Member



Workforce Development Program

Looking
For
Work,
Training,
Or A
College
Education

If you are an Adult or Youth:

Native American of a federally recognized tribe living on or near the Acoma Reservation looking to get trained, gain employment experience, or educational services, you may qualify for our program.

Please bring the following documents when returning your application for WIOA services. This information will be used in the eligibility determination process.

Required Documents:

- Proof of Age (Tribal, State or Federal Document)
- Valid State of New Mexico Drivers License or ID
- Social Security Card (Original)
- Certificate of Indian Blood
- Proof of Income for household member (past 6 months) individual or family household income (may include self-employment earning records, receipt of public assistance and disability benefits).
- Selective Service Registration (Male's Only)
- Proof of Residence (Physical & Mailing) within the Pueblo of Acoma (Contact Tribal Administration Support Staff)
- High School Diploma or GED Certificate
- If you are applying for educational support (i.e.: Associates Degree, Vocational Certificate, or Adult Basic Education or GED) a list of additional required documents will be given to upon application submittal.
- Grades for Students attending school



Department of Education-WDP
P.O. Box 307
Pueblo of Acoma, NM 87034
On the Web :
[www.puebloofacoma.org/
Workforce_Investment_Act](http://www.puebloofacoma.org/Workforce_Investment_Act)

Phone: 505-552-6077 ext. 5136
Fax: 505-552-6812
E-mail:
nvaldo@puebloofacoma.org

Contact Nolan P. Valdo at 505-552-6077 for more information.

Hello Acoma Students and Families,

As we approach the re-entry of all our children into school for the 2020-2021 school year, the Haak'u Learning Center (HLC) staff would like to remind everyone that the health and safety of our children is our top priority. In the month of July, the Acoma Board of Education approved re-entry plans for the HLC. The HLC will begin the school year following a Learn-at-home Model. The first day of school is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2020. During this week, enrolled families can expect a visit from HLC teachers to begin delivering supplies and other introductory materials for families and students. Although the beginning of this school year will be different than previous school years, the HLC is working to continually improve the quality of services provided to our families even if it is remotely. Our HLC teaching staff will be receiving training at the beginning of the school year to learn about the Learn-at-home Model and become more knowledgeable on various ways to deliver remote instruction to families. We are all looking forward to new and innovative ways in which we can deliver our services to all our enrolled families and hope that our families will be open to new ways of interaction.



The HLC is currently accepting enrollment applications. Families can call to the center to request for an enrollment application to be e-mailed however, the HLC is open from 9AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday. Applications can be picked up and dropped-off at the HLC. In this newsletter, there is a "HLC Back-to-School" flyer with more information.

If your child is currently enrolled in our program, you can expect a phone call from an HLC staff member to identify your child's teachers, answer questions, and share more about the HLC re-entry plan. When you enroll your child in our program, you can expect quick communication on what to expect for the 2020-2021 school year – ENROLL NOW!

On behalf of all the staff at the HLC, thank you for your continued support for our program. We are all looking forward to connecting with you soon.

Be well.

KatieAnn Juanico,

HLC Director

Follow our social media accounts and website for the latest news and updates.

Website: www.acomadoe.org

Facebook and Instagram: Acoma Department of Education

HAAKU LEARNING CENTER



back
to
school



FIRST DAY:

**AUGUST
17th**

RE-ENTRY PLAN:

**LEARN
AT HOME**

**MEALS
PROVIDED:**

**BREAKFAST
AND
LUNCH**

SY 2020-2021 INFORMATION:

- Haak'u Learning Center's first day of school for enrolled children will be Monday, August 17, 2020.
- Children will begin instruction using the Haak'u Learning Center Re-Entry Plan "Learn at Home" model.
 - All enrolled children will be assigned a Hatch Tablet to use for instruction.
 - All classrooms will be assigned a Facebook communications page with teacher videos and much more.
- Enrolled children will receive daily meals – breakfast and lunch.
- **ENROLL NOW!** Pick up an application at the Haak'u Learning Center.
- Children who are currently enrolled can expect a phone call from an HLC staff member to share more information and answer questions.



Any questions? Call the Haak'u Learning Center at (505)552-6959.



A C O M A L E A R N I N G C E N T E R

CURBSIDE **PICK-UP**



MONDAY - FRIDAY | 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

How do I request for services?

Printing | Copy | Fax

By phone: Call (505)552-5160 or (505)331-8151

If we miss your call, please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we're able.

Email: alc@poamail.org

Social Media: "Acoma Learning Center"

Facebook | Instagram

USB: Place USB Flash drive in bin and return to vehicle.
Staff will place prints and USB back in bins.

How do I pick up?

Call (505)552-5160 or (505)331-8151 to arrange a time to pick-up materials. Items will be placed in plastic bins outside of the ALC. Please wear gloves and a protective face mask.

NOTE: We are striving to make these services safe for you and our staff. Services will be contactless.

For information call us at 505-552-5160 or 505-331-8151

Keres Language Dictionary Project Update

The summer of 2020 has been a strange one indeed. A bit scary, a bit frustrating and a bit long. While it was frustrating and scary, the Keres Language Group pressed on with the dictionary project. Most of whom worked from home. Surprising how much can be accomplished while working via phone. We went through 7,400 words editing the dictionary. We are now on the third phase of editing. It is said that at least 8 to 10 edits are necessary before publishing a novel. Perhaps that goes the same for a dictionary, as we find more changes each time we review a word or phrase.



Aay'aach'ani – To share with many

Aay'aach'ani – Individual gifts

Chausduutsa – Someone dug a hole

Chausduutsa – Did someone dig a hole?

We find that when these almost virtually identical words and phrases are used in varying forms, the diacritical marks have to change and both have to appear in the dictionary as such.

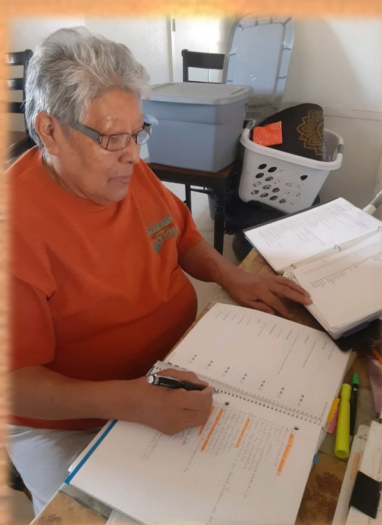
We are also gearing up for the re-opening of our schools. While we are still in the midst of hybrid school or virtual school, we are preparing our share to teach Keres to the students of Haak'u Learning Center (Turtle) and Haak'u Community Academy. We find it necessary to teach our students Keres and culture to promote and enhance their academic achievements and promote self-confidence especially in these times of uncertainty.

As always, we look to you, the community, for your involvement and interest. We now have a new language building. Give us a week or two, to get the Center plumbed, electrified and stop by to see us. We are always looking for volunteers and help.

Continue your safety practices. We want our community and people to stay healthy and survive this pandemic.

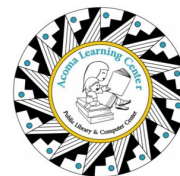
Hauba, m'ey'uuna h'atsrvsaim'ee -- k'um'ee.

For more information regarding the Keres Dictionary Project, please call 505-552-6077.



N O W A V A I L A B L E

at the Acoma Learning Center



WORLDe**BOOK**

Access to over 2,500 ebooks and World Book ® exclusive content!

Access to 460 proprietary World Book eBooks

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Readers can take the library with them!

Mobile app gives patrons access to ebooks on their device of choice!

Offline access to ebooks saved to a patron's personal bookshelf.

Each reader can personalize his or her reading experience.

Bookshelves can be locked to protect user's titles.

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Access to content for an immersive reading experience.

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Stunning photographs and visuals entice and educate readers.



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www.worldbookonline.com

Stop by the Acoma Learning Center
to step up your FREE account.

Moving Forward

Hello, my name is Thor Peterson and I run the Acoma Leadership Development Initiative or ALDI, here at Haak'u Community Academy. My program is with the Acoma Department of Education.

I hope that this update finds you and your families safe, healthy, and in good spirits. It is a chaotic time in our world and I would just like to give these little words of encouragement to each and every one of you. With that said ALDI is going to be changing with the world too. We are going to be doing our best to bringing quality programs via technology to our students at HCA and the tribe overall. We are looking in to routes to support our students in a new learning atmosphere. Online learning is something that takes some time for everyone whether it be the parents, students, teachers, or administrators. It will be a rocky start to the beginning of the school year. We are going to be doing several projects in conjunction with Acoma Learning Center, FACE, ADoE, and any other tribal or non-tribal programs that are willing to help and support you and your families the best way we can during this time. We hope to be doing a creative challenge, possible YouTube videos, physical activity challenges, social clubs, cultural classes, and many more we have yet to think of or get recommendations to do. These will all be virtual by nature as gatherings and groups are restricted. But ALDI wants to bring out the inner child out of our children once again and even if that is not in person, we will do our best to do it virtually.

Our gardening project: Niutemahgu (it will sprout) is well on its way with our children having built up their own raised garden beds. We hoped to continue this project on the Mesa but, with things being the way they are we decided to do this for now. We hope the children will appreciate the hard work and love that goes into our traditional farming methods and that one day they are inspired to take on a plot and continue the tradition that is so important to us. Pictures of the projects can be seen at the ALC's Facebook page.

Gathering Voices: Tribal Youth Symposium on Education, Culture, and Well Being was a success. This event was hosted by the Acoma Department of Education and co-hosted by Angelia Manuelito and Thor Peterson. A variety of conversations were had with youth from far and near. Subjects on college success, college preparation, Film/Photography, and panels by ADoE School leadership, and a special Q & A panel with Tribal Administration. It was wonderful to see and hear all the many participates. We hope to grow this event. If you missed out, we will have the recording posted at a later date and time for you and your families to share.

We will be sharing a lot more information as it comes about including upcoming projects. Please feel free to email me at t.peterson@haakuca.org with questions, concerns, recommendations, or just to talk. Please follow our social media to get the latest information.

As always please be safe, take care, check on one another often, pray with your cornmeal, get up and run around, learn something new today. We'll see you soon.

Thor Peterson

ALDI Program Manager

SebcoBooks

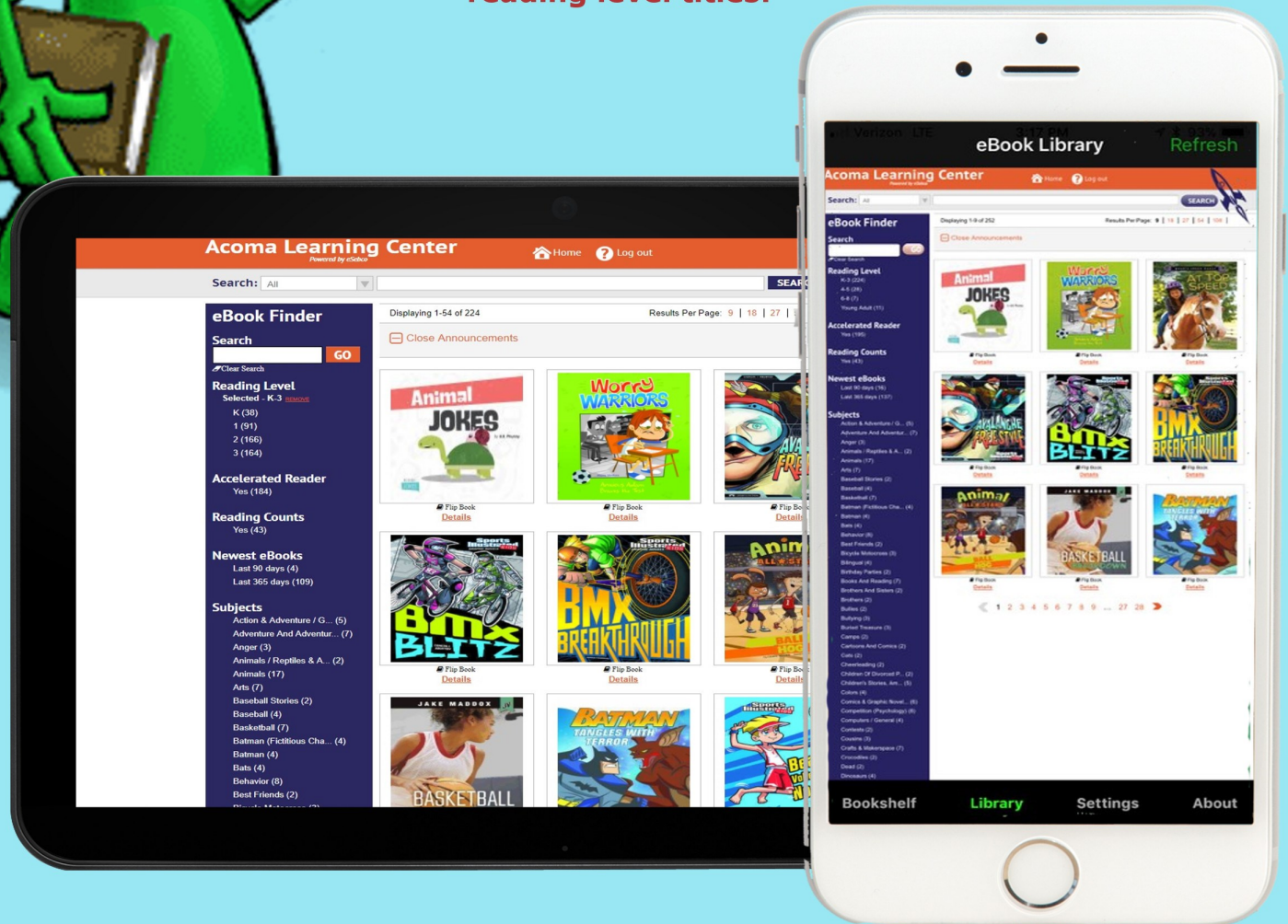


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Stop by the Acoma Learning Center to step up your FREE eSebco account and enjoy 292 (K-12) reading level titles.



Welcome to School Year 2020!



A virtual start for the first nine weeks or more is an incredible beginning for a new school year and is one for the history books! However, we are striving to make this a safe and relevant start for our students and families. We have a great staff and Governing Board who have been working diligently since March 13th when notices went out that HCA was suspending operations until further notice due to COVID-19. Our Essential staff stayed on since that time to clean and disinfect the facility, buses and all equipment while also helping to prepare and deliver lunches. Our Board has been meeting via zoom calls and been in constant touch with our Executive Director on a weekly basis concerning many issues regarding pre-school to adult education plans and issues. The principal and teaching staff have continued to work beyond the end of the past school year to develop plans for SY 2020-21. All of the plans had to include COVID-19 guidelines for the health and safety of students and staff. They have also been learning about a new method of teaching utilizing technology and strategies to teach their students. These are just some of the notable impacts. The process for improving began with learning more about COVID-19 and checking with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on a daily basis and learning that there was not a lot known about this virus but to follow the recommendation of health officials who continue to stress that we must; **wash our hands, wear a mask and maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more**. That hasn't changed and we need to continue to practice these measures if we are to get back to some normalcy.

Some of the changes to support distance learning has been initiated and will be ready when school starts on August 17th. First of all, our students will have a laptop computer assigned to them and part of their work involves using the laptop. They will also continue to complete assignments much like homework. The teaching staff has been learning to use technology in a different way so it will be new for them as well. Second, our school has linked on to the recently installed fiber optic cable this summer and the school facility has been rewired and upgraded with CAT 6 cable. The school will now have wireless access out into the parking lot. As the year progresses there will be many more improvements made as students and staff become more proficient in using technology. However, it should be noted that while we have updated our technology at the school, the community as a whole still does not have the same access to the internet. But plans have been made to provide wireless access around the community which will allow students to receive and submit their school work.

Other notable changes include; our new Family and Childhood Education program (FACE) has recruited some families into the program. We have a new 21st Century Coordinator, Alton Autrey moving over from the Grants School District. Lastly, we will have a school website where community members can log on to learn about events and access information throughout the year. More information will follow to access the website. Best wishes for a successful school year stay healthy and stay safe! For additional information or have concerns, contact Gilbert Sanchez at g.sanchez@haakuca.org or call 505-552-6607.

NOW ENROLLING!

The Haak'u

Family and Child Education (FACE) Program

Contact our team! (505)-552-6671 EXT. 226



Serving American Indian Families within the Pueblo of Acoma and surrounding Pueblos and Communities.

FACE offers...

Home Visitation (Prenatal-3 Years old)

- Personal home visits would be scheduled at a convenient time and place for your family.
- Certified Parent Educators will bring fun activities for you and your child that promote early learning and development based on your schedule.
- Parent Educators will help guide and discuss your child's development and provide hearing and vision screenings to make sure your child is on track.

WE ALSO OFFER INCENTIVES!

Free Books for families, Toddler aged toys, Puzzles, Strollers, Breast Pumps, Diaper Bags full of items, and monthly Field Trips, etc., at sign up and throughout your FACE journey!



We are located at the Haak'u Community Academy, but can also service families in the surrounding communities.

Center-based Program located at the Haak'u Community Academy Pre-K (3-4 years old)

- Center-based children will develop school readiness, so that children come to school ready to learn in standards-based kindergarten classrooms. FACE will incorporate active learning, and include evidence-based teaching strategies—particularly in the areas of language/literacy learning, social skills and mathematics
- Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time, will focus on Culture and Language.
- Meals and snacks will be provided daily.



Adult Education Program

- Adult Education participants will focus on building life skills, such as reading, writing, math, technology, etc.
- Education, Job Guidance and Training will be offered for Adult Education students.
- -G.E.D prep and testing, college readiness, improve work skills, etc.
- Adult Education participants will participate in Parent and Child Together Time daily within the center-based classroom
- Refreshments will be provided daily

“Through our student centered instruction, it is our job as a FACE team to help guide and support our participants in accomplishing their goals!”

School Based Services: (Kindergarten-3rd Grade)

- Parent and Student Interaction within the classroom.

FACE Coordinator
Melissa Riley, Ph.D.
MRiley@poamail.org

FACE Parent Educator
Larissa Judd
ljudd@haakuca.org

FACE Adult Educator
Christen Tenorio
c.tenorio@haakuca.org

Gathering Voices: Tribal Youth Symposium on Education, Well-Being, and Culture

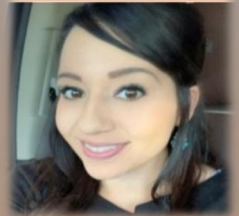
On July 14th to the 16th, the Acoma Department of Education hosted its first Youth Symposium on a virtual Zoom format for all Acoma tribal members near and far. It was an event created in the sole purpose of offering an opportunity for all Acoma members, especially the youth, to engage in conversation about their education, future careers, and how anxiety or worry from current global events can be healthy managed. Our guest speakers ranged in career diversity and were very pleased to take part in a successful event.

The first day of the Symposium was opened with a traditional address by our Governor, Brian Vallo, and the rest of the Acoma Tribal Administration. We had a series of speakers who found their own pathways on giving back to their communities while sharing their voice proudly as indigenous peoples. From Dr. Lee Francis, to Dr. Melissa Riley, Leslie Vallo, Christen Tenorio and Larissa Judd, our participants were enlightened about educational services our own tribe offers while feeling inspired to unleash their indigenous imagination in this great world.

The second day had a diverse range of presentations. There were conversations about our own beloved Keres language with Marietta Juanico, native college success with Michael Ray and Nathan Moquino, tribal law with Judge Randolph Collins, medical school guidance with Anya Cruz, film and photography with Johnathon Sims, and a live panel discussion with directors at our educational institutions: Haak'u Community Academy Principal Edwina Trujillo, Haak'u Learning Center Director KatieAnn Juancio, Acoma Learning Center Director Tracey Charlie, and Grants Cibola County Schools Representative Renee Sanchez. It was an exciting day as the Acoma people spoke first-hand with dedicated experts about what their profession is like, exploring new interests, and what the upcoming school year may look like with COVID-19.

The third day was focused on well-being and the importance of female representation in our communities. We had Jennifer Nanez share her expertise within the mental health field about ways we can keep busy while staying at home and practicing whole mind and body care. New Mexico State Representative Georgene Louis shared her journey through law school that led to her current successful career where she represents her district, the state, the tribe, and native women. Joseph "Brophy" Toledo shared beautiful stories about his own life and Jemez culture which blossomed into his teachings on how to keep oneself grounded during an unfortunate time. Thereafter, we closed the Symposium with an engaging Q & A segment with Tribal Administration. The questions they received from the public were within the areas of education, COVID-19 efforts, current events, and what each official wished to share with the people. They received good feedback and continued strength from the people.

It was a privilege to put together the first of many Symposiums to come. We cannot be thankful enough for the public and Department support in hosting this event which definitely upheld expectations and respect for the Acoma people and traditions. It was wonderful to see our Acoma people's faces and to be able to engage from afar. We meant for this event to wish wellness and confidence into the hearts of all and we absolutely saw it as the Symposium carried on. We look forward to how this event will inspire, encourage, and benefit our people in the years to come.





The Haak'u Family and Child Education (FACE) Program

Hello everybody, we hope you and your families are all doing well and staying safe during these uncertain times. For those of you who do not know us, we are the Family and Child Education (FACE) Program, serving the Pueblo of Acoma and surrounding communities in the areas of Home-visitation, Preschool and Adult Education. Our FACE program is currently based at the Haak'u Community Academy in Acoma, New Mexico, and are staffed by the Pueblo of Acoma Department of Education Executive Director Melissa Riley, Ph.D., Larissa Judd, FACE Parent Educator, and Christen Tenorio, FACE Adult Educator. Our FACE program began in September of 2019, and has been deliberately working toward developing our curricula, gaining training, and planning for a virtual start for the 2020-2021 academic year.

We know these past few months have been tough, but we hope to bring about new innovative ideas and ways to serve your families and children virtually. Our program is currently enrolling students in our Home-visiting program, preschool, and parents to participate in Adult Education. We are also advertising for a full-time Preschool teaching position. We would be delighted to hear from any interested families looking to utilize our program services, in the hopes of building a stronger community within the Pueblo and surrounding communities.

For more information, please contact us at (505)-552-6671 Ext. 226.

We are available Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm.

We can also be reached at l.judd@haakuca.org or c.tenorio@haakuca.org

Meet Our Staff

Hello, my name is Joanie Sanchez from the Pueblo of Acoma and I am the new Student Support Assistant. I am very thankful and excited to be part of the Department of Education team. My goal while working here is to provide great service to the community. I will be attending NMSU this fall to continue my education for my associates degree. I want to show my children and others that, if you put your mind to it you can accomplish anything. I look forward to working with students and parents from our community.

A portrait of a woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling slightly. She is wearing a dark blue jacket over a red patterned shirt. The background is dark and textured.



Looking for:

- 
- Help
Wanted!**

All sessions will be virtual.

Ask Thor Peterson or Leslie Vallo for more details. Please have individuals call at 505-934-4937, 505-552-6077 or email inquiries to: t.peterson@haakuca.org or lmvallo@poamail.org



Haak'u Community Academy

Home of the Eagles

Guu waa dzi Families of HCA,

The academic school year is right around the corner, and we here at Haak'u Community Academy have spent a good amount of time over the summer preparing for your child(ren)'s safe return to classes. Initially, the plan was for limited in person attendance. However, with the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases in our state, the decision by the school board is to start school with computer-based, online instruction for the 1st quarter. There were many factors considered and, in the end, taking a slower cautious approach to bringing students and staff back to campus is safer and logical. What does that mean for our students and families? First of all, the school will checkout a computer laptop to each student. With the support from the Acoma Department of Education and tribal administration, the school expects "hot spots" (connection devices for the internet) to be placed in the community and possibly in HCA's parking lot for students to connect to the internet, if a household needs access.

As for instruction, HCA has decided to use Google Classroom, an online computer program that manages teacher assignments and student learning materials. Four days a week, Tuesday through Friday, students will meet live using video from the internet. A schedule of classroom meeting times will be provided so each grade level has a specific time slot for this live virtual session. In addition, teachers can provide "At-Home" work packets as another means for learning, followed up with teacher phone calls. In any case, the school administration and teachers are very committed in assisting parents and students in learning how to do school at home for the 1st quarter.

Our safety plan was developed with the CDC guidelines in mind, and when students do return to campus all persons will have to wear masks at all times. HCA's Re-entry plan for COVID-19 outlines safety guidelines and all requirements for being on-campus, and changes to bus transportation to ensure social distancing.

Registration for SY 2020-2021 is open. New students must fill out a new registration packet and returning students only submit an updating of records form. All students and parents must sign a Technology Use Agreement and a receipt for a student handbook.

We can agree current times have been extremely difficult and unpredictable. It is HCA's goal to be supportive to our families and find ways to make learning happen.

We have missed all of you and look forward to continuing our partnership of education excellence for our community. Contact the school at 505-552-6671 for more information.

Mrs. Trujillo, Principal

Mrs. Perez, Instructional Coach



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