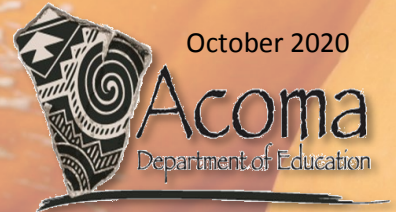


# October Newsletter

## 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.

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Greetings,

I hope everyone is doing well and in good health. We are officially heading into the Fall and so many beautiful changes are happening. Leaves are changing color, weather is cooler, and the smell of burning wood fills the air. I love the colder months.

I anticipate that the upcoming months will also bring some additional changes such as students going back to school or getting more comfortable with using technology. It has been a challenging time for all of us but we will get through this together and stronger. Maybe our technology skills will be better, too.

As many of you have noticed, the Department of Education has been distributing jetpacks, Chromebooks, laptops, and other supplies. Please let us know if you need supplies or other items to support your education. I also want to remind parents, students, and families that the jetpacks are for educational use – ONLY. It is important that items distributed to the community be used in a safe and careful manner. Accessing inappropriate sites, including gambling is not prohibited and can be tracked. So, please be careful with the technology and enjoy your time learning.

The Keres Language Program is actively preparing for its Fall Institute. We have a two-day series of discussions and presentations to offer the Pueblo of Acoma. Some people may not connect identity with language but they are tied together and if we lose one, we may lose the other. Please look on our website to get more information about the Fall Institute or give us a call. We hope you can join us.

We had two Parent/Community Forums the last two months and we had good attendance, but not an overwhelming amount of people joined us. The purpose of the forums is to provide you with answers to questions regarding your students' education and safety. The forums are also streamed live on Facebook. Our next forum is coming up on October 15, and I hope you can join us. Please look on our web page or give us a call for more information.

I want to emphasize the need for self-care during this time. It is difficult when children are not allowed to leave the reservation and we have to go through checkpoints and see barriers along roadways. The messages that children receive can be mixed with fear, uncertainty, and more stress to an already overwhelmed school year that requires technology. Talk with your children often, do activities with them, be engaged with their online learning, and let them know you are there for them. Children as well as adults may fall into an emotional trap that can lead to depression and anxiety. This may lead to problems in adjusting to school when we are able to go back. Parents who are experiencing some behavioral health challenges are encouraged to reach out for counseling or find other emotional supports to help get through these times. In the interim you may want to take some walks, exercise, have a picnic, pick pinons, or cook, etc. There is no shame in asking for help when we start feeling different but also please look for any changes in your child(ren) and make note of it – and ask for help.

Until next time,

Melissa E. Riley, Ph.D.

Executive Director



# Haak'u Community Academy News



Guu waa dzi Parents of Haaku' Community Academy,



We hope you are well and are enjoying the subtle changes of nature as fall approaches. HCA has been busy making sure all students are able to connect to their Google Classroom and attend instruction. We do recognize that certain areas of the Pueblo have problems with reliable internet due to geographical location. The school does offer Wi-Fi in the parking lot if needed. The goal is for all students to connect to the internet at home.

Every week more and more students are attending their classes on a regular basis, on average 80-90% of the students are logged on. The students are adjusting to new routines for learning. These routines include personal time-management, essential to completing assignments, and being prompt to class. Students are learning how to navigate between different programs, with parental assistance, or most often, the students teach the adults how to work technology. The new saying, "We are all in this together," is quite true these days.

The teachers and education technicians are infusing language and culture into their daily lessons, including reciting the Morning Blessing and learning one another's Indian names. Using and learning the Acoma language is possible with effort and opportunity for practice, whether with classmates online, or in the home setting.

Recently, the principal and teachers sent letters home to thank families for helping students with their schoolwork and for monitoring their work time. Once again the best learning setting is when the student is seated at a table, headphones worn to reduce distractions, and with their camera on. A wall behind the student ensures household privacy. Eating and drinking is not allowed near the computer. We appreciate your understanding. If there are any problems with the computer, contact Marcus Pino at 934-6243. If there are problems with Google Classroom, contact Mr. Autrey, Mr. Peterson, or Mrs. Perez at 552-6671.

As for academics, progress reports should be sent home this month. If you have not received your child's progress report, please contact your child's teacher. The NWEA testing will resume and conclude by the beginning of October. The time and place will be provided by the classroom teacher.

Thank you for your patience and for all your support as we do our best to meet the needs of your child and their education.

Mrs. E. Trujillo, Principal and Mrs. V. Perez, Instructional Coach

## **Reminders:**

- Mondays, 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M - School Work packet drop off and pick up (cafeteria).
- Teacher Office Hours - 2:30- 3:30 P.M. Daily, and Mondays as scheduled.

*Moby Max* - An individualized computer program for learning English language arts and math. All students have usernames and passwords and are required to utilize for 15-30 minutes a day.

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**Additional information is posted weekly on our website and social media accounts.**

**Don't forget to check those out!**

**Website :** [www.acomadoe.org](http://www.acomadoe.org)

**Facebook:** Acoma Department of Education

**Instagram:** [acomadoe](https://www.instagram.com/acomadoe)





# Haak'u Learning Center News

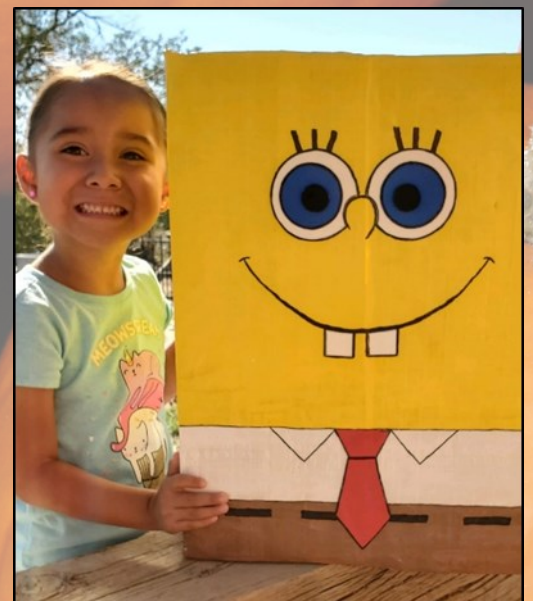
Happy October from the Haak'u Learning Center (HLC)! As we begin to see early signs of Fall, we can start to feel the oncoming of holiday season. Although Halloween may not be an official holiday per se, the HLC has always aligned lesson plan activities with the spirit of Halloween. The HLC is looking forward to all the creative ways teachers and families can connect virtually during Halloween season. HLC teaching staff will communicate virtually to help children learn Halloween songs, complete and see children's Halloween creations, and most importantly, to discuss safe and alternative ways to celebrate Halloween. The HLC staff would like to remind families that following the CDC recommended safety precautions is one way to support the eventual re-entry of students to our campus.

Over the past couple of months, the HLC staff have become comfortable with the Learn-at-Home Model and are learning new technology skills. In the month of September, the HLC launched Class Dojo and transitioned to offering videos and pictures of lesson and assessment tools. The HLC has also begun including outdoor-structured play ideas and Keres implementation. As the Director of the program, I am proud of all the new transitions and direction that the HLC has taken over the past months and am excited about the evolution of new ideas for instruction. In the month of October, one of the goals for our program is to begin incorporating family friendly assessment tools in our lesson plans and family friendly assessment discussions via Zoom.

As we continue to trek the pandemic runway, it is important to point out the positive learning experiences that the HLC staff and families have experienced with the Learn-at-Home Model. Our families are learning how to be Zoom pros, elite Class Dojo likers and posters, and most recognizable is the adjustment to becoming their own child's classroom teacher. The HLC would like to commend our families for their quick adjustment to the Learn-at-Home Model and welcome you to share some of your success stories and end-of-the-week projects. Pictured below are some of our children's creative No Contact meal delivery boxes!

Sending virtual hugs to all our children,

KatieAnn Juanico, HLC Director





# FACE Early Childhood Preschool Program

Center-based FACE family participants will focus on four components: Early Childhood (Preschool), Adult Education, Parent Time and Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time.

## Center-based Preschool Program

### Pre-K (3-4 years old)

Center-based children will develop school readiness, and be ready to learn and transition to standards-based kindergarten classrooms.

FACE students will also:

- Reflect on their culture and community.
- Participate in a daily schedule consisting of: Circle time, Small Group time, Work/Wonder/Share, and PACT Time.

The approach used in FACE is the National Center



For any questions about our Center-based FACE Program, please contact our team at  
(505)-934-1714

### **Melissa Riley, Ph.D.**

Acoma Department of Education Executive Director  
FACE Coordinator  
(505)-552-6077

### **Christen Tenorio**

c.tenorio@haakuca.org  
FACE Adult Educator

### **Ashley Mariano**

FACE Co-teacher  
a.mariano@haakuca.org

## Adult Education program

### (Open to any FACE family member in the household)

While the children are receiving their educational services, FACE parents are working toward their own learning goals in our Adult Education Classroom!

Adult Education services include:

- G.E.D. prep and testing.
- College readiness.
- Job guidance and training.
- Health and wellness goal setting.
- Improvement on reading, writing, math and technology skills.

“Our unique Adult Education services are Student centered. It is our job as a FACE team to help guide students in accomplishing their goals!”

## Parent Time

Parents will learn how to help their children in school. Lessons are designed to develop knowledge of native culture and language. They gain knowledge about effective family life, child development and how to help their family be healthy. Parents learn about other ser-

## Parent And Child Together (PACT) Time®

Parents and children interact together in the children's FACE classroom.

Parents will also:

- Support and participate in their children's play.
- Learn how their children are growing and developing through observation.

## NOW ENROLLING!

## The Family and Child Education (FACE) Program

**Located at the Haak'u Community Academy, Acoma Pueblo, NM.**

## Home-Visiting Program (Prenatal-3 Years Old)

**SERVING NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILIES IN THE ACOMA, LAGUNA AND GRANTS AREAS.**

FACE was initiated in 1990, and currently has programs in 47 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funded schools. It was designed as a family literacy program; an inte-

**VIRTUAL HOME VISITS/ ACTIVITY PACKETS**  
**ARE NOW AVAILIABLE via ZOOM and MAIL!**

## What we offer

Personal 1-hour home visits will be scheduled at a convenient time and place for your family.

Certified Parent Educators will provide fun and educational activities for you and your child that promote early learning.

Parent Educators will help guide and discuss your child's development and helping parents achieve the goals they have set for their child.

Parent Educators also offer:

- Progress of Infant Milestones
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) Screenings
- Hearing/Vision screenings

## WE ALSO OFFER INCENTIVES!

Free Books for families, Sippy Cups, Potty Chairs,  
Strollers, Breast Pumps, Diaper Bags full of items, and

## FACE Certified Parent Educator

## Larissa Judd

(505)-934-2144





# Helping children and youth deal with COVID-19

## What can I do to help my child cope during this time?

**Schedules.** Help your children set a regular schedule and stick to it as much as possible, while allowing for flexibility where needed. Children benefit from knowing what is going to happen and when. They will do better with at-home schoolwork with a regular routine that includes set bedtimes and wake-up times.

- Have your child help with creating the schedule. Post it in your living space.
- If transitioning between activities is a challenge, try using a timer, which will alert the child that it is time to transition to a new activity.

**Activities and exercise.** In times of social distancing, museums, activity centers, playgrounds and many other places are closed. It can be challenging to find new ideas or activities that will help engage the children. To address this, ask the children to help brainstorm ideas for new activities.

- Many zoos, museums and activity centers are offering free, online tours of their facilities. See what you can find.
- Many child and youth physical activity videos are available online and can help you incorporate a recess or activity during the day.
- It's beautiful outside and many neighborhoods are doing special activities for children who are out on walks, like sidewalk chalk art, hiding a bear or figure in the window, etc. As a family, look for opportunities to spend active time outside

## Manage your anxiety and stress

Often children will pick up on anxiety a parent is experiencing, so take steps to manage your anxiety and stress.

- Try to limit children's exposure to media coverage.
- Avoid talking about your anxiety or stress with or in front of children.
- If you become overwhelmed, take a step back and give yourself a break – go for a quick walk, go into another room, etc.

## Staying connected

**Connecting with friends and family.** We've been asked to "socially distance" but not socially disconnect. Help your child stay in touch with friends and family in unique ways.

- Have fun activities such as a "drive by" to wave at friends and family or engage in a service project that will help a neighbor or community organization cope with the pandemic.
- Set up virtual play dates and visits with relatives.

**Connecting with children.** Some children may not be fully aware of or understand what is happening but do recognize that things are different, and that people are worried and upset. Children may exhibit this increased anxiety as an increase in tantrum behaviors, defiance, or acting out.

- It's ok to talk with your children about the pandemic, but do so in a positive, honest, open, and age-appropriate manner. Use language they understand. Control the messaging your children receive by taking the lead to talk with them. Don't have media coverage playing when they're in the room, if possible.
- If a child has a tantrum, respond in a calm, consistent, and comforting way. Find times to gently talk to them about how they're feeling and if they have any questions you can answer or fears you can help alleviate. Make sure they know you're available for ongoing conversations.
- Play with your child and look for themes of fear or danger where you can be reassuring, comforting, supportive, and shift to positive outcomes.



# **Acoma Department of Education and Acoma Leadership Development Initiative**

## **Looking for:**

- Math and Science Tutors for grades K-12**
- Cultural Teachers**

**All sessions will be virtual.**

**Contact Thor Peterson or Leslie Vallo for more details by calling 505-934-4937, 505-552-6077 or email inquiries to: [t.peterson@haakuca.org](mailto:t.peterson@haakuca.org) or [lmvallo@poamail.org](mailto:lmvallo@poamail.org)**

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## **Need Help with Math or English??**

**ADoE/ALDI has TUTORS. Please send all request for tutors to**

**Thor Peterson: [t.peterson@haakuca.org](mailto:t.peterson@haakuca.org)**

**At this time, we have tutors for English and Math.**

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## **JOM/Higher Education News**

**Hello Community Members! I hope that you and your families are well. Here at the ADoE we have been working diligently to help students get the necessary tools and supplies for school.**

**Last week we held our School Supply Distribution for those students that pre-registered. We are also working on getting supplies to additional students that are in need of Jetpacks, Chrome-books, or supplies. If your student is in need of a Chromebook please call Leslie Vallo or Joanie Sanchez at (505) 552-6077 or (505) 401-0016.**

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## **ATTENTION ALL CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS!!**

**For next month's issuance we would like to recognize all our Acoma Tribal Members that are currently attending college. Please email a picture of yourself, name, institution you attend and your major. Email us at [lmvallo@poamail.com](mailto:lmvallo@poamail.com) or [jsanchez@poamail.com](mailto:jsanchez@poamail.com) by OCTOBER 23, 2020.**

**For more information call Leslie Vallo or Joanie Sanchez at (505) 552-6077 or (505) 401-0016**



# ACOMA LEARNING CENTER

PUBLIC LIBRARY & COMPUTER CENTER



## GO BOND B 2020

*By Omar Durant, Bonds for Libraries Chair Special Interest Group, New Mexico Library Association*

This November 3rd, New Mexico citizens will vote on General Obligation Bond Issue B, which if passed, will provide publically funded New Mexico libraries with a total of \$9,500,000.00.

This GO Bond will provide \$3,000,000 each for Higher Education libraries, Public libraries and Public School libraries. It will provide \$500,000 for NM Tribal libraries.

Thanks to funding from the New Mexico Library Association, the Bonds for Libraries Special Interest Group (BfLSIG) is working on several ways to promote public awareness for the 2020 GO Bond Issue B.

99% of the total allocation (\$500,000) is distributed equally among the 19 tribal libraries for the Library System Distribution. Ninety-nine percent = \$495,000; \$26,052.63 for each library

bondsforlibraries



## Embroidery Class - Online

We are so proud of our students who participated in our online embroidery class. Online learning has been a challenge in itself, but our students have managed to learn through a computer screen. The Acoma community has gained five new tapestry sewers and two new youth sewers.

The second session for the embroidery class will be announced soon. Stay tuned.

Every  
**VOTE**  
Counts!



**Monday - Friday**

8:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Saturday**

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

### CONTACT US

(505)552-5160 - Office

(505)331-8151 - Mobile

(505)552-9613 - Fax

[alc@poamail.org](mailto:alc@poamail.org) - Email

**Curbside Pickup**

now available



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# Mark your Calendars

Aak'um'e Dzeeni Keres Language Dictionary Project Presents:

Virtual Language Seminar

The importance of language revitalization and retention

(Acoma Tribal Members only)

Tuesday and Wednesday October 20 and 21, 2020

9:00 am to 1:00 pm each day

Registration to begin October 1, 2020

For more information please call, Rebecca Martin at (505)552-6077

**DOOR PRIZES AVAILABLE!**

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P.O. Box 307  
Pueblo of Acoma, NM 87034