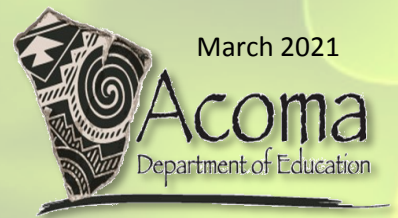


# March Newsletter

## 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 Everyone,

I hope you and your families are doing well. We are a few months into the new year and preparing for several new events at the Department of Education. It has been a challenge to try and maintain some normalcy within our department, schools, and programs. But I think we have met that challenge quite well by trying to keep up to date with basic services and trying to find creative ways to communicate with everyone.

Events to look forward to in the upcoming month or months are the college and career fair, monthly parent community forum, and some new virtual learning opportunities. The staff is working hard to make learning, training, and support for everyone as easy as possible. This doesn't always turn out that way especially if you do not have the internet connection or lap tops. We are still offering jetpacks and laptops at the Department of Education. Give us a call if you need some assistance.

I do want to mention that the jetpacks, hotspots, and all other devices require a form to be completed and you can get that by calling our office. These items are valuable tools that we can offer and sometimes we do not always get the items back the same way we gave them. Also, we are required to make sure there are filters on the jetpacks and hotspots so for the safety of our students we will monitor each device. Please make sure that you are taking care of the laptops and other devices while they are in your possession.

We have been hosting monthly forums for parents and community. These events are intended to share information with everyone about what is happening on the education front. As we move towards the end of the school year, there is much work to be done so that our students are successful. Please make sure you participate in parent teacher meetings and check on your child's progress in class(es). Lack of communication between families, students, and teachers is a major issue as it relates to grades, credits, and attendance. Remember that your child(ren) will possibly return to their classrooms next year but it will be an even more difficult adjustment if they have not maintained a daily routine to be in class, be on time, and following rules and instruction. We are preparing for the fact that we will have to do some re-orientation with students at all levels and with all social and academic topics so help your child(ren) by reminding them of their education journey and expectations.

The Keres Project is running full speed and we are preparing to launch a password protected dictionary for all Acoma tribal members to enjoy. We will share more information as we near this final stage of a relaunch of the online dictionary. I would invite any community members to please phone Rebecca Martin or I, if you have questions related to the dictionary project.

Finally, I kindly ask that all of our readers please adhere to the Governor's Executive Order and all other healthy and safety guidelines. Your health and safety are just as important as the next person so please continue to practice social distancing, wearing face masks, and washing your hands. These practices will help us open back up safely.

Until next time,

Melissa E. Riley, PhD

Executive Director





## Haak'u Learning Center News



Hello families,

I hope that you enjoyed all the snow and cold, windy weather in the month of February. I am happy that our Haak'u Learning Center (HLC) families have access to the Class Dojo app – this was my quick way to inform families about school closures and delays. Not only do we communicate with our families and post videos for children on the Class Dojo app, we are learning that Class Dojo is a great avenue for school communication and announcements. If your child attends the HLC and you have not downloaded and registered on the Class Dojo app, please do so immediately. The HLC teachers and providers continue to use the app as a way to build relationships with families and children while children learn safely from home. During this month and moving forward, all administrative staff will begin creating videos about information that families can use with their children. The HLC is excited to further expand our technology skills and integrate more exposure of all staff at the HLC.

As the HLC classrooms continue to move forward with new integrations to our Learn-at-Home model, we are also preparing for transitions in the various service areas of our program. Some of the service areas of our Head Start program include, Education, Disabilities, Enrollment and Recruitment, Facilities and Transportation, and Health and Nutrition. There is no doubt that the pandemic has affected the way our Head Start program operates within each of these services areas. When the children are not on campus, the services that are provided to children and families had to be adjusted and in some areas, stopped for some time. However, the HLC is looking at ways to enhance the way we offer services into the coming months and for the upcoming school year. For example, in March, all teachers will begin individual zoom sessions with all our students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and will eventually transition to individualized zoom sessions for all enrolled students.

In the month of February, the Pueblo of Acoma (POA) Health Command and the Acoma Board of Education (ABOE) approved the HLC No Contact Delivery Services Plan. This is one major and exciting transition in the service areas of Education and Health and Nutrition. The purpose of the HLC No Contact Delivery Services Plan is to ensure the safety of all HLC children, families, and employees, when performing meal and educational supply delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. The HLC is excited to announce that meal service and educational material delivery will resume on March 1, 2021. During one of our first delivery routes, all HLC children will receive school supplies and items that promote hand washing. As children receive these school supplies, it is important for families to help children self-regulate and use the supplies for activities assigned by teachers. With access to school supplies, families can better assess their children and provide data to classroom teachers. Please review our HLC No Contact Delivery Services Flyers in this article and posted on Class Dojo. Use the flyers to talk to your children and other household members about the meal delivery procedures. Videos of how to safely receive meals and supplies will be posted on Class Dojo in the month of March. The HLC hopes to announce more transitions and additions to the our Learn-at-Home model in the coming months.

Continue to be well and stay safe,

KatieAnn Juanico, HLC Director

## HLC No Contact Delivery Services: Family – Friendly Flyer (Bus Stop)

**Note:** All educational supplies and curriculum materials will be sent home to families on each Monday of the week. If families do not retrieve the materials on Monday, the bus drivers will attempt to deliver materials on Tuesday of the same week. If families do not retrieve materials on Tuesday, materials will be delivered on Monday of the following week. When families do not retrieve materials during delivery, families can schedule a day for materials to be picked up at the HLC. HLC staff will follow all CDC guidelines when greeting families in their vehicles to provide the materials while on campus.



Step 1: HLC will drive to the designated bus stop.



Step 2: All HLC families must stay in the vehicle. The HLC staff will place the meals on the hood of the family vehicle.



Step 3: All HLC staff must get in the vehicle.



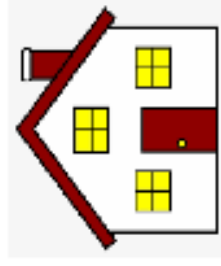
Step 4: When HLC staff are in the vehicle, family can retrieve the meal.

Step 5: HLC must document whether meal was delivered on the Meal Count/Delivery Form.

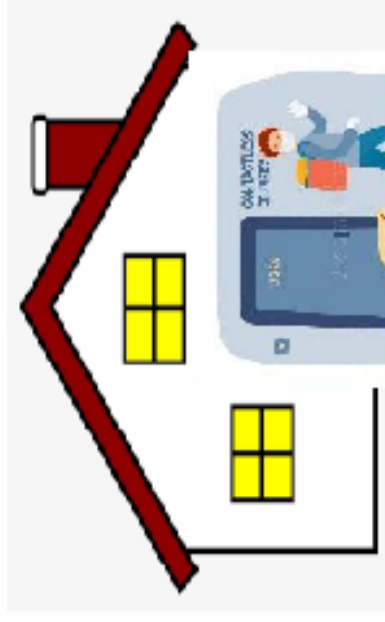


## HLC No Contact Delivery Services: Family – Friendly Flyer (Home)

**Note:** All educational supplies and curriculum materials will be sent home to families on each Monday of the week. If families do not retrieve the materials on Monday, the bus drivers will attempt to deliver materials on Tuesday of the same week. If families do not retrieve materials on Tuesday, materials will be delivered on Monday of the following week. When families do not retrieve materials during delivery, families can schedule a day for materials to be picked up at the HLC. HLC staff will follow all CDC guidelines when greeting families in their vehicles to provide the materials while on campus.



Step 1: HLC Staff will drive up to the home.



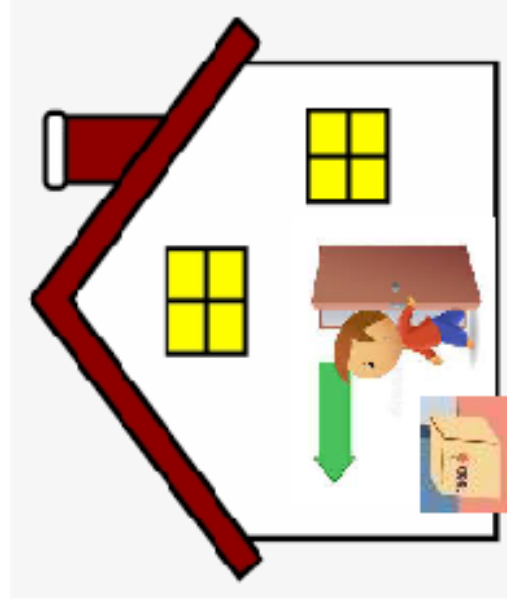
Step 2: All HLC families must stay in their home. HLC staff will place the meals outside the door.



Step 3: All HLC staff must get in the vehicle



Step 4: When HLC staff are in the vehicle, HLC staff will honk the vehicle horn.



Step 5: Family can retrieve the meal.

Step 6: If a family member does not retrieve the meal after the first honk, HLC staff will honk a second time. If a family member does not retrieve the meal after the second honk, HLC must retrieve the meal and place back in the ice chest.

Step 7: HLC must document whether meal was delivered on the Meal Count/Delivery Form.

# News from Haak'u Community Academy

Guu waa dzii Greetings Families,



Warming temperatures and breezy winds are signs we are in a time of change. There are a couple of important changes at Haak'u Community Academy. One change is opening the HCA campus for essential staff to start up the school lunch program. Lunches will be delivered to homes however, we ask for no-person to person contact. A schedule will be provided. Also, on March 8th, the school plans to resume "homework packet-drop-off and pick-up days." The times are between 9:00 and 1:00 P.M. Some teachers do all learning activities on the computer and may not send home packets. Check your child's Google Classroom account and talk with the teacher for more information. Twenty students in grades 4-8 are participating in the Battle of Books program, and they will need to exchange books on these days. The goal is to read at least five to 10 books by April. Reading every day improves memory and writing skills, so good job students for participating.

The end of the 3rd quarter is March 12th and report cards will be sent out the following week. Thank you parents and family members for helping your child with their education, by making sure they log on and stay until the end of class. We recognize how difficult it is and appreciate your patience and willingness to troubleshoot the technical issues. Students who have chronic attendance issues due to other circumstances have been receiving truancy letters. Parents, please contact the school regarding attendance as necessary.

Some exciting news is the learning of technology. Teachers have been working with Moya Solutions consulting, which has provided amazing online resources for engaging students in lessons. In weekly meetings, teachers have been discussing the importance of writing in all subject areas. Students' sentence writing and essay development are encouraged and those skills improve with frequent practice. Often these lessons occur in small group work. So, if your child is scheduled to attend, please make sure they take advantage of the extra assistance.



And finally, we are happy to announce HCA as a recipient of the Enhancement/Focus Grant. The grant is for SY 2021-22, in the amount of \$58,000 and it is to continue the development of technology use by staff and students. Last year's 2019-20 budget allowed the school to send teachers to the Digital Literacy Conference last June, in preparation for distance learning. In addition, the school was able to purchase three SMART Boards as well as supplies and materials. With the grant award for SY 2021-22, the school will create a new Technology Maker-space STEM

Lab. It will be staffed part-time by Mr. Alton Autrey who coordinates our 21st Century Program. The lab will be located in the old woodshop classroom. The room will be remodeled, rewired, and furnished with large-size work tables where small groups of students will have hands-on access to technology kits to learn about building computers, virtual reality devices, 3D printing, making items that are powered by solar and wind energy. It's a good beginning to provide an opportunity for HC students to have a hands-on experience with technology. We feel lucky and fortunate to have secured additional resources for our students.

Enjoy the beauty of each day and continue to be safe,

Mrs. Perez,  
Instructional Coach

Mrs. Edwina Trujillo,  
Principal. 505-934-0888

Gil Sanchez,  
Education Program Administrator

Technical Issues contact Marcus Leno, 505-934-6243

## Reminders:

March 12 - End of the 3rd Quarter

March 14 - Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - 28 - Spring Break





## **Family and Child Education (FACE) Program**



**Happy March ADOE Families and Students!**

**On behalf of the Family and Child Education (FACE) staff, we hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during these uncertain times. As we move forward with the COVID-19 Pandemic our FACE team is deliberately working to provide safe services via Zoom, and Educational Activity Packets via mail for our enrolled participants.**

**As a new program through the Bureau of Indian Education and the Acoma Department of Education, we have worked hard to ensure we are meeting the needs of our Acoma families through structured Preschool (4 years-5 years) classroom instruction, Home-visits (Birth-3 Years) that are based on the educational growth/ goals of families, Adult Education classes and ensuring the implementation of the Acoma culture and language. In the month of February, we had moved our enrollment numbers up to a total of 8 Pueblo of Acoma Families, since we began offering our services in 2020.**

**In February, FACE offered our families the opportunity to participate in our monthly “FACE Family Circle,” which allowed our enrolled families to meet and interact as they worked on a fun activity with their children! This Family Circle focused on the importance of Children’s Oral Health and Teeth brushing, and each child was gifted with a new toothbrush! Along with this lesson, our families also spent time making their own Valentine’s Day Cards, and received a Valentine Gift Basket that included snacks, a teddy bear, and a coloring book!**



**FACE would also like to welcome our new Preschool Teacher Ms. Marissa Pasquale! Ms. Pasquale is from the Pueblo of Acoma, and is also the former Miss Pueblo of Acoma! We are delighted to welcome her and know she will bring great knowledge to our team, families, and students!**

**We look forward to the days we can host our families in person! Please continue to be safe, and well. If you would like to inquire more information about the FACE Program please contact us at 505-934-2144, we are available Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

**Respectfully,**

**Family and Child Education (FACE) Staff**



# Keres Language Group News

Guuwadzi hauba, gaidawa tru draidraasrka

Last month we touched on general start-up conversations. We have many words that are not "stand alone" words. While these words are said and used in conversations they need prefixes (at the beginning of the word) or suffixes (at the end of the word) to better understand the meaning.

Some of these words are:

ainə which means a location downward

- ainə piicha - put or lay it down
- ainə s'icha - I put or laid it down

ainə shuku - down below

daa'akuya - which means to sit

aisinə daa'akuya - they were sat down

kuw'a which means south or southward

- kuw'a mii - south

aisi kuw'a - to the south or southerly direction

nuipəgu which means to enter

- kee nuipəgu - he/she is going in
- wee nuipəgu - he/she is coming in

It seems difficult to read and write, but when we are able to say words, then phrases, and then we can carry on a conversation, the reading and writing will become easier.

Our language and culture have been passed down to us for generations - let's keep it going. Together, we can work to make our culture and language last another thousand years.

There are many ways for us to maintain and retain our a'akuume dzeeni:

Speak it at home

Create some home language time or create some projects or activities using Keres

The Keres Language Group

Rebecca Martin, Language Project Coordinator



# Computer 101 Training

## For Parents and Families

**Date:**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021 4pm-5pm**

### Agenda

- Navigation of Chromebook
- Introduction to Google meets/  
Google classroom/ Zoom



**Location:**

**Zoom meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82529894957pwd=YWtYUFZzVFpzLzloeGJoZoVzOVNDQTog>

**QUESTIONS?** Contact: Cassaundra Garcia

[Cassaundra.Garcia@state.nm.us](mailto:Cassaundra.Garcia@state.nm.us) / 505.500.5152



# ATTENTION ALL GRADUATING SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS! **Scholarship Opportunities**

**American Indian College Fund – Full Circle Scholarship**

**Application Deadline: Feb 1 – May 31, 2021**

**<https://collegefund.org/student/scholarships/>**

**Tribal Colleges**

**<https://collegefund.org/students/tribal-colleges>**

**American Indian Graduate Center**

**[AIGCS.org/students](https://aigcs.org/students)**

**Application Deadline: May 1, 2021**

**AISES Scholarships**

**<https://www.aises.org/students/scholarships>**

**Application Deadline: May 31, 2021**

**Cobell Scholarship**

**[cobellscholar.org](https://cobellscholar.org)**

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2021**



**APPLY NOW**





# **ADoE Scholarship Deadline Dates**

## **First Time Applicants for the Acoma Higher Education Program**

- Due Date for Applications: May 1, 2021
- Due Date for Supporting Documents: July 1, 2021

## **Continuing Applicants for the Acoma Higher Education Program**

- Due Date for Application: June 1, 2021
- Due Date for Supporting Documents: July 1, 2021

## **All Applicants for the Pueblo of Acoma Education Funds**

- Due Date for Application: May 1, 2021
- Due Date for Supporting Documents: July 1, 2021

If you have any questions or would like an application emailed  
to you

please contact Leslie M. Vallo or Joanie Sanchez

at (505) 401-0016 or (505) 285-0166

Email: [lmvallo@poamail.org](mailto:lmvallo@poamail.org) or [jsanchez@poamail.org](mailto:jsanchez@poamail.org)





# STUDENT SPOT LIGHT

**CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Ian Lewis!!!**

**Ian is currently attend UNM pursuing his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. We are proud to announce that, Ian was 1 out of 4 undergraduate students, who was recently selected to participate in an Ethics Case Competition. The Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program Case Competition exposes students to a thought provoking business ethics case similar to a situation that they might face in their professional careers. This competition will help build on the solid principle based ethical framework central to decision making in a complex business environment. Student teams collaboratively analyze, present, and respond to questions posed by a panel of judges. Students compete with teams from other Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program schools.**

**Ian stated, "I am super excited and know that everyone's support/encouragement will get me through. I'm not only representing UNM, but I'm representing the Pueblo & native community, as the only Native American on our team!"**

**We are very proud of you Ian, and we wish you the best of luck!!**

