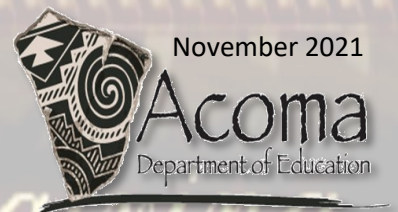


November Newsletter

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.

Guu waa dzii,

Greetings to Parents and Community Members,

Welcome to Fall weather. I want to thank everyone for working so hard on our Covid Mitigation so that students and staff members stay well and are able to attend school in person. Again, if you are feeling ill or have close contact with someone feeling ill, then please stay home. Try to get a covid test as quickly as possible. A negative test result means your child, or a staff member can return to school if they have met the re-entry requirements. To date, we have only had one (1) student and two (2) staff members test positive and no contact illness at the school. Together we can help keep Covid out of our community. Remember: handwashing, masking, and social distancing! Currently, staff members are scheduled to test for covid every two weeks.

Governor Vallo and Acoma tribal leaders advised students at HCA on October 12th, 2021. Their words were very powerful, sincere, and I believe very helpful for students to hear. This advisement is reinforced by parents and grandparents each morning as children head off to school.

Some good news is that by the time you are reading this we will have completed interviews for the new HCA principal and hopefully the selected person has accepted and started. Please help the new principal feel welcomed to our community.

Tutoring and enrichment have started. We are focused on providing enrichment, tutoring, and STEM activities. We are excited to have an opportunity to provide after school activities for the 2021-2022 school year. Keep a look out for surveys and enrollment forms as we firm up our after-school schedule in the Fall and next Spring. You should also have received your child's student handbook and returned a receipt of handbook signed documentation. November 11th there is no school for Veteran's Day. Please thank our many veterans for their service and remember those who have served. Thanksgiving break is November 22-26, 2021.

October saw the end of the first quarter of school and parent/teacher conferences. We are now in our second semester and be sure to check our calendar for important dates in November and December.

November 18th and 19th is our COGNIA Accreditation visit. We want parents, community members, and students to participate in this accreditation. Please consider volunteering in the process to give feedback on these days as part of a focus group. The accreditation visit is virtual.

We have positions still available that we are trying to fill. Have you ever considered working in a school as a substitute teacher, bus driver, or other needed position? Contact our new Human Resources (HR) department for more information about joining our community at HCA!

In October we continued the expansion of the Acoma Language Program use and implementation, the Second Step Social Emotional Learning (SEL) support, and Accelerated Reader (AR) implementation. Our school librarian also started, part time, in October. This should help improve access to student literature in a safe way. Encourage your child to read each night and to have good attendance.

The Acoma Department of Education (ADoE) Board of Education (BoE) approved the new mission statement at the September 13, 2021, board meeting. The mission statement is:

Haak'u Community Academy Mission Statement: HCA will develop self-confident students prepared to become future leaders through culture, language, and academics.

Dawaa 'e,
Alton Autrey
21st CCLC Site Coordinator
Interim Principal HCA



Acoma Department of Education-Haak'u Community Academy Human Resources Newsletter

WHAT'S HAPPENING

With upcoming holiday celebrations, it is important to remember to be safe and continue to use COVID safe practice when shopping and visiting family and friends. Wear a mask whenever possible, sanitize your hands as necessary and social distance as much as you can.

HCA will be closed on the following days:

- November 11th, 2021 -Veterans Day
- November 25th Thanksgiving Day
- November 26th National Heritage Day



ENJOY YOUR TIME WITH YOUR LOVED ONES!

UPDATES

FALL BACK on November 7th, 2021! Remember to change your clocks back an hour for the annual time change this fall.

COVID-19 testing is still mandatory and is required for all HCA employees. The testing is to be completed on a bi-weekly basis. Once you receive your results, please send them to our School Nurse and HCA Human Resources.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

A fun game to play when you are with your family and friends is "What are you thankful for". Get a white or light-colored tablecloth and some colorful markers. Place the tablecloth and markers on the table where you will be eating. When everyone sits down, have them use a marker and write what they are thankful for on the tablecloth. Then, go around the table and have each person share what they wrote. This is a fun way to open a conversation with your loved ones!



NOW HIRING

If you want to be a part of our team or for more information, check out our open positions at www.haakuacademy.org or contact Human Resources at hr@haakuca.org.

Human Resources contact information:

Danika Dekker
Haak'u Community Academy
44 Pinsbaari Drive, Acoma, New Mexico 87034
d.dekker@haakuca.org

Keres Language Group News

Guwaadzi hauba,

Hayaatsi is coming to an end. Kuuku will begin in a few weeks.

Three specific events come to mind when November comes -

First, it is the month we honor our departed loved ones. Our Nawa'aititra (ancestors) for thousands of years existed and lived where we are today. One of the most important things they left us, was our language to continue our culture.

Second, November is Huwehe month (Thanksgiving). Our nawa'aititra left us food to cultivate to continue our existence. We still grow and harvest corn and squash - not too many people grow beans anymore. They also taught and left us knowledge of foods in the wild, some of which are:

- waakə e shi'iipa (both wild spinach)
- tsitiyani (prickly pear berries)
- shame (wild parsley)
- dyaa'y'ani (pinions)
- tiskaa'wi (tea)



Third, it is hunting season. Our nawa'aititra had no calendar to follow for hunting. Hunting was anytime of the year. They knew when to hunt and where to hunt for certain game. We still follow the traditions when kuyaiti (game) is brought into the home.

- acknowledge and welcome kuyaiti to the home of the clan
 - welcome back the kasaruura (hunter(s)) and thank them for bringing kuyaiti into our homes
 - prepare the meal with dyaa'y'ani (pinions), hiitrəni (seeds), and make traditional hayasruni (corn meal mush)
 - families and friends are invited to come and partake
- the aunt (on the father's side) of the kasaruura has the honor of returning it to the wild

All this is done with prayer and cornmeal, a tradition left for us to continue.

The fear of losing our language and culture is very real. It is vitally important that we preserve and maintain what we have today, as the working Language Group, we know we have lost some of our words. We have a difficult time trying to find words of things that we knew existed hundreds of years ago and still exist today. As we forget our words, we lose part of our culture.

We welcome and invite you to help or just visit to listen and learn.

From the Language Group - we wish you a happy and safe November.

Rebecca Martin
Language Project Coordinator



Haak'u Learning Center News

Hello ADOE families and children,

Happy Fall Everyone! October is sure flying by, soon we will be moving our times back an hour in November. We have been in school since the mid part of August and the children and staff continue to adapt well to in-person learning along with the added precautions within the school. The Department of Education has implemented bi-weekly testing for all our staff. Our first test date was on October 8th and I am happy to announce that during this test date all results were negative. Some of our staff have started to sign up for the booster shots that were approved by the Pfizer vaccine. As more booster shots become available, our staff will be receiving those as well—for those who received the Pfizer vaccine.

With the frequent changes in weather, more children are displaying sniffles, sneezes, and slight coughs. For now, the HLC is taking every precaution and sending the children home if they are showing any symptoms of illness to ensure the remainder of the children and staff in our program are safe. Our increased handwashing and frequent temperature checks are some of the precautions taken in the classroom to ensure our children are safe. We are encouraging families to keep their children home if they are not feeling well, but also to communicate with the school if they will be absent. As part of Head Start Performance Standards, HLC staff are required to call families one hour after school has begun if a child is not present.

Family Conferences for the HLC are scheduled for November 18th and 19th. Teachers will be reaching out to families to schedule the conferences. We will be offering phone call and Zoom conferences for the Fall and depending on the number of cases this may change in the future. Please make every effort to attend the conferences and share with our staff what types of learning your children is sharing at home.

Our Keres language teacher Kiwaityuwitsa (Marietta Juanico) continues to move classroom to classroom implementing lessons and simple phrases for our young children. One of the most common phrases children are learning, are the phrases “Come In” when staff knock on the door and simple greetings. Majority of our children have learned the Good Morning song as well as our Goodbye song that we sing at the end of the day. Teachers are starting to utilize the children’s Indian names throughout the day.

We held our first Fire Drill during the month of September and that was a good turnout. The bus evacuations have not taken place yet, however, the bus drivers and facilities transportation manager made a trip to each bus stop to paint a blue line to identify where families can safely wait for their bus to arrive.

Our HLC team continues to grow. Since our last update, we were able to welcome Ms. Mallory Nutumya as a teacher assistant in to Kaweeshtima Classroom. She continues to be an asset to our program and continues to learn more about her role every day. We still have a few vacancies within our program—please see our flyer included within the newsletter for open positions. We are also continuing to accept children ages three to five years of age into our program.

Sending blessings to you and your families,

Cassandra Sanchez, Interim Director



Family and Child Education (FACE) Program



Hi Families!

The FACE Program is officially conducting classroom instruction for our Preschool children. Our children and families have been able to make great transitions into our program, and we are very excited to see the growth within our Preschool & Adult Education courses! Each FACE family has been enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the Unite for Literacy Programs, where they are able to receive free books! Families in the FACE program are also making great strides in completing monthly reading logs and Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time take home activities, that engage their at home learning away from school! We are so proud of our families!

Our FACE home-visiting program is also conducting in-home and virtual visits for Acoma families Prenatal-6 Years of age (Monday-Friday). Our certified parent educator allows for families to pick a time that works best for their schedule, bringing fun hands on activities to engage the child's learning, snacks and books!

For more information about our program and services please contact
505-934-2144!

Have a wonderful month! May you all continue to stay warm and safe!

-FACE staff





PUEBLO OF ACOMA - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HAAK'U LEARNING CENTER

PROGRAM VACANCIES

We are hiring for the following vacancies listed, vacancies are open until filled or date of closure is noted:

Director

Child Care Provider – Two Open Position

Teacher/Teacher Assistant

Disabilities Assistant

Bus Driver – Part Time Position

Custodian

Cook – Part Time Position

Job description(s) & application(s) can be picked up at Haak'u Learning Center, Pueblo of Acoma Human Resources (Community Center), or found online at Pueblo of Acoma website. Below is the link to PoA Human Resources Department:

<https://www.puebloofacoma.org/departments/departments-of-support-services/human-resources-department/>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Haak'u Learning Center
P.O. Box 428, Pueblo of Acoma, NM, 87034
Fax: (505)552-9445
Phone: (505)552-6959



Pueblo of Acoma – Human Resources
P.O. Box 348, Pueblo of Acoma, NM, 87034
Fax: (505)552-6771
Phone: (505)552-6728



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)

Nolan P. Valdo
Phone: 505-552-6077 ext. 5136
Fax: 505-552-6812
E-mail: nvaldo@poamail.org



Flu season is upon us it is that time of year to get your flu shot. Every year, up to 20 percent of Americans get the flu and approximately 200,000 are hospitalized every year. Since the flu changes its strain and strength each year, the CDC recommends not only recommend that adults get the flus shot, especially, people who have a suppressed immune system, working with children and/or the elderly.

There are several benefits to getting the flu shot. It reduces your chance of getting ill, it is covered by many health plans, and helps to keep your family healthy during the colder season. Other benefits include:

- Reduces absences from work
- Improves your health
- Convenient
- Improves work-related morale

There are several places that give the flu shot and, in most cases, they are covered by your insurance. Some places you may look for these shots are:

Walgreens
Personal Physician
ACL
CVS

With all the other health concerns going around, it is important to take care of yourself. Not only for your family and work but for YOU. Along with a healthy diet, a good night sleep, why not add a flu shot? Let's stay safe and healthy this flu season!



For more information, see the sites below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/business/promoting-vaccines-workplace.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>



Acoma Leadership Development Initiative

Recruiting:

***After-School Instructors/ Assistants**

***Cultural teachers (rattle makers, jewelers, embroidery, dress-maker, and basket weaving, etc...).**

Minimum requirements: Ability to work with children K-8th, be physically active (such as being able to sustain running, lifting, hiking for extended periods of time), must pass a background check and drug test. Must have valid Covid-19 vaccination card.

For more information, please contact Thor Peterson at

(505) 934-4937 or email t.peterson@haakuca.org



Tribal Administration Advisement

Thank you to Governor Brian Vallo and his staff for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit and share some words of advice with the Acoma students. We appreciate everything you all do for our Acoma people.



MT. Taylor Elementary



Cubero Elementary



Mesa View Elementary



Grants High School



Haak'u Community Academy



Santa Fe Indian School

