

'ASTÁ BIYÁÁZH dóó WÓÓZHCH'ÍID NEWSLETTER

February & March | Issue 2 | Newsletter



IEC NEWS & UPDATES

Did you know?

- ▶ The IEC is comprised of members who are PUSD parents and registered voting members of the Chapter they represent.
- ▶ The IEC meets monthly (virtual for now)
- ▶ Meetings are public via Google Meets
- ▶ Past agendas and meeting minutes on our PUSD Website!

We need YOU!

- ▶ Are you a Coppermine or Bodaway/Gap Chapter member?
- ▶ Are you a parent of a child who attends PUSD?
- ▶ Do you want to be involved in decisions made for your child and all Native Students??

....YES? YES? YES? YES??

We still have **TWO VACANT** positions for IEC members for Coppermine and Bodaway/Gap. Also, we need alternates for every Chapter. Call us at (928)608-4286

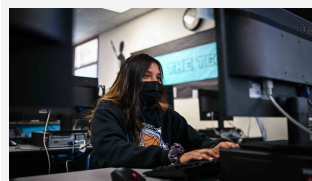
FEBRUARY MEETING UPDATES

- ▶ JOM (Johnson O'Malley) Monthly Meeting
- ▶ No public comments were made
- ▶ Reports made by Native Language & Cultural Programs Coordinator and IEC Members
- ▶ Discussion of December & January JOM Budget
- ▶ Discussion of JOM Fund request for Page Middle School and action to be taken next month for approval
- ▶ Approval of December Meeting Minutes
- ▶ NEXT MEETING: MARCH 24th @ 6:00 PM



Yá'át'ééh shí'ke' doo shí dine'e!

It's good to see students again and they are glad to be back! We've had the opportunity to walk through the PUSD campuses



and take a peek into classrooms and we can see the excitement of students and

teachers. Although, we are far from being back to "normal," everyone at PUSD is striving to make safety of students and staff a priority.

Native Language & Cultural Programs of PUSD has been making extra efforts to keep our surrounding Navajo Communities informed of every part of the process at PUSD. We are releasing newsletters, videos, social media posts, and getting into those chapter meetings (virtually) to keep everyone informed. We are looking at making a few trips, in the future, out to homes to ensure that everyone is reached.

In addition to our efforts to keep our community informed about all school events and news, we are working hard to help our Native Students succeed in the classroom. We will update you on that soon!

'ASTÁBIYÁÁZH DÓÓ WÓÓZHCH'ÍID

'Asta Biyaazh translates to "hatching of the eagles young" representing the month of February. Woózhch'iid translates to "Eaglet's cry" representing the month of March.

In Navajo (Dine) culture there are many stories of the importance of Eagles.

Also, during these months the Dine people begin to listen for the first 'i'ni' (thunder) which signifies the end of telling winter stories and teachings.

PUSD COVID-19 INFORMATION:

PUSD recognizes and respects the decisions of the Navajo Nation. Currently the Navajo Nation is still on the "Stay-at-Home" order. Our school and district leaders attend weekly virtual meetings of the Department of Dine Education to keep up-to-date with Navajo Nation COVID-19 information. With the data showing a decline in cases and the number of vaccinations increasing on the Navajo Nation and local communities we are at a safe place to invite our students back to the classroom.

As of the end of February, we have 295 of 395 district staff/teachers vaccinated! This number will be even more as you are reading this due to the great work of our local healthcare providers. The LeChee Clinic is having a vaccine blitz on March 2nd which will increase our vaccinated numbers significantly.

Also, we have a member of the PUSD team that focuses on contact tracing, Peter Jones. Contact tracing is done in coordination with all surrounding health agencies including the Navajo Nation. Our PUSD website gives up-to-date information and numbers on COVID-19 in the district. Stay up to date on the how we are keeping your children and community safe. If you have any questions or concerns you can reach us at (928)608-2468.



DISTRICT



NEWS

DATES TO BE AWARE OF IN MARCH	
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Desert View Intermediate:	March 8th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Page High School:	March 9th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Page Middle School:	March 10th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Lake View Elementary:	March 11th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Manson Mesa High School:	March 11th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ All Schools (Day):	March 11th
- Spring Break:	March 15-19.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
March 8th - 11th
Make your Appointments!

- ★ **SPRING BREAK**
March 15th - 19th
- ★ **PHS AZELLA TESTING**
March 22-25th
- ★ **DVI AZELLA TESTING**
March 29-April 2nd
- ★ **Manson Mesa AZELLA TESTING**
March 25th
- ★ **DVI School Picture Day**
March 25th
- ★ **Page Middle School Parent Night**
April 1st

JOIN US IN LEARNING ABOUT NATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT PUSD

For the next 4 months we will describe and discuss each program/funding source that contributes to the Native Language & Cultural Programs (Indian Education) at PUSD. This month we will cover Johnson O'Malley (JOM). Often, we hear ourselves being called "JOM Office" or "JOM Committee." This may have been a name at other schools or used in the past, but we are much more than just JOM! We will begin our series by answering some common questions about JOM and how it works with our office, district, community and students.

What is JOM?

JOM, or Johnson O'Malley, is a federally funded program that provides supplemental services and instructional programs to eligible Indian Students. School Districts work with the Indian Education Committee to develop, approve and implement ALL programs, including programs approved by the IEC.

How does JOM, the IEC, and PUSD work together?

PUSD (Page Unified School District), IEC (Indian Education Committee), and JOM (Johnson O'Malley) work together to address the need of our Native Students. at PUSD. The IEC is essential in bringing the parent/committee view that is needed for PUSD to make the best decisions for our Native Students.

What has JOM done for students and teachers recently?

JOM has funded various teacher funding requests to help students learn during the virtual/hybrid time this school year. We have funded 30 guitars to Page High School, 24 guitars to Manson Mesa, Books and Navajo Calendars to The Preschool, and we have pending requests for Page Middle School.

How much funding does JOM provide to PUSD each year? What is the plan for next year's funding?

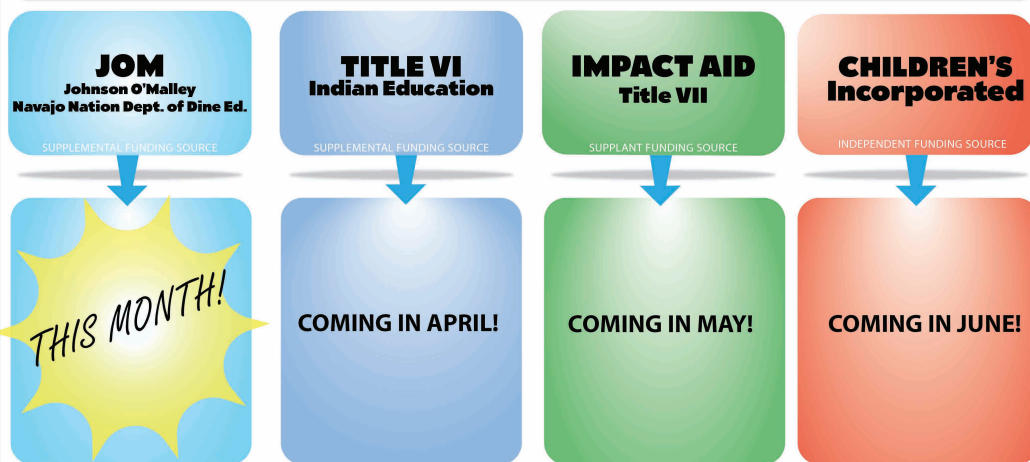
Funding for JOM has remained fairly consistent over the years. The past two school years PUSD has recieved about \$149,074.77. We are not certain as to what next school years funding will look like.

Certain ares of the budget are allocated to supplement salaries/pay for our teachers and staff for certain programs/classes that focus on our Native Student acheivement and learning. The remainder of the budget will fund small stipends for IEC members for meeting attendance, allowable student assistance, teacher funding requests for materials to benefit Native Students, funding programs and activities, and more with Native Students as the focus.

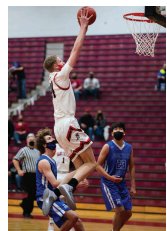
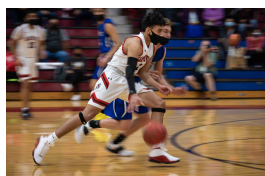
Please contact us if you have any questions about JOM or funding possibilities at (928)608-4286 or email ltso@pageud.org

How can I request to use JOM funds for my child or my student(s)?

We are glad you asked! As our office was in transition of employees we were off to a rough start and learning the process. However, we are getting there and we are ready to help you. If you are a parent, please give us a call at (928)608-4286. If you are a teacher/staff/admin you can email us at ltso@pageud.org. From there, we will discuss funding opportunities for your educational needs and begin the application process. The final step in the process will include fund request approval by the IEC at our monthly JOM Meeting.



A TRIBUTE TO OUR PAGE HIGH SCHOOL SAND DEVIL SENIORS



#25
J. Holiday

#1
R. Smith

#15
D. Dugi

#33
J. Beard

#25
S. Sandall

#10
N. Redhair

#30
C. Smith

#3
E. Yazzie

#14
D. Secody

#1
F. Keyonnie

#50
T. Begay

Manager
M. Little

THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNORS ORDER ON PUSD AND SURROUNDING NAVAJO NATION SCHOOLS

On March 3, 2021 Arizona Governor Ducey issued an Executive Order (EO) for schools to offer in-person learning. Initially, the order was recieved with confusion as to what "in-person" meant. According to the EO, schools are to return to in-person learning by March 15th or after spring break if the 15th falls during the school spring break, which is the case for PUSD. The confusion lies within many of the "exceptions" put forth by the EO. For example, schools that are in communities/counties that are considered "high transmission" counties are not required to open (Coconino is currently considered "High-Transmission").

So what does this mean for PUSD? According to Executive Order 2021-04 schools will return to in-person, "teacher-lead instruction" WITH the option of virtual instruction as well. So as it turns out, this order has little effect on what PUSD is already doing as we had returned to hybrid learning in February. PUSD is continuing to vaccinate staff and teachers with over 90% of staff and teachers vaccinated. PUSD is continuing to social distance, require masks, handwashing, cleaning, and much more to ensure the safety of our children, staff, and community.

PUSD continues to be in communication with the Navajo Nation Department of Dine Education. The EO does not go beyond the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation, so they will continue to keep schools in virtual learning as they get more of our Dine People vaccinated and monitor the numbers.