



# SHONTO PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

Haleebbee Na'nitin Binahji' Da'ólta'í Binitisékees dóó Bina'nitin Bidziil  
Empowering Student Learning Through Quality Education

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April 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Students of SPS,

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our valued community member, Mr. Bruce Peaches. Mr. Peaches worked for our school district 20+ years as a Bus Driver and Cafeteria worker. He was a dedicated employee who contributed to the education of our students by ensuring that our students were safely transported to and from our school, as well as educational activities and sporting events. Mr. Peaches was a vital part of the memory and history of the school and a beloved member of our Shonto family. He will be missed dearly by our school and community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this time.

## Counseling Services

As we remain at home due to "Shelter in Place" and practicing "Social distancing," individuals may be experiencing unpleasant feelings such as anxiety and loneliness. Mr. Gerald Etsitty, our School Psychologist has offered his services. He can be reached at (928) 401-6285. If not, please reach out to your teacher or family.

## Navajo Sovereignty Day

*"Tribal sovereignty refers to tribes' right to govern themselves, define their own membership, manage tribal property, and regulate tribal business and domestic relations;..."* (Dodson, 2017). The learning and growth of our students will ensure the continuous growth and development of our Navajo Nation.

## 8th Grade Promotion and High School Graduation

The district is considering postponing 8th Grade promotion and the High School Graduation to later date. We will evaluate and plan according to the ever changing situation with COVID-19 virus. We know, in time, this virus will subside and want to celebrate our student's achievements at a more appropriate time.

Thank you for your understanding and remaining at home to reduce the spread of the virus. Stay home, stay safe and stay connected.

Melanie Dewakuku

K-8 Principal & Acting Superintendent

Cheryl Grass

High School Principal