



NAVAJO PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL INC.

# Eagle Express Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Senator Bingaman Visits!
- New Weight Room
- Jr. & Sr. Class Elections
- Street Ball Tour 2010
- Booster Club Interests
- Counselor Updates

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## Message from the Dean Of Instruction

Welcome back students and parents to Navajo Preparatory School. I hope that everyone had a relaxing summer and that everyone is ready to return for a successful and productive school year. We are happy to welcome our new students, as well as our returning students, to the Navajo Prep family. We are excited as we celebrate 20 years of excellence for the Navajo Nation.

I am very happy to announce that Navajo Preparatory School has once again achieved Adequate Yearly Progress *for the ninth straight year!* Achieving AYP is a total school effort and all stakeholders are to be congratulated for this magnificent achievement. A detailed newsletter report will be available to parents at the Parent Conference Training on September 03<sup>rd</sup>. Please make every effort to attend this Parent Conference Training at the Farmington Best Western

Inn& Suites and receive your AYP newsletter report.

We have added a few new staff members. While new to Navajo Preparatory School, these individuals have an abundance of educational experience. Their knowledge will add tremendously to our already highly productive staff.

Mr. Mike Tillman is the Assistant Dean of Instruction/Athletic Director. Mr. Tillman has extensive experience in administration and athletics. Mr. Tillman previously served as Boys Basketball coach at NPS from 1996-1998. Mrs. Nancy Wray is the Academic Counselor. Mrs. Wray has experience in counseling at both the secondary and post-secondary level.

Mrs. Donna Fernandez is a Mathematics Instructor. Mrs. Fernandez is also a parent of an NPS student and is quite familiar with the school. Mr. Keith

Smith is a Social Studies Instructor. He brings over 18 years of educational experience to NPS. Lastly, Ms. Lucy Keller joins the staff as the Librarian Assistant. Ms. Keller possesses a wealth of volunteer experience.

As we look forward to another successful school year, we will once again need the continued support from all stakeholders of NPS, especially our parents and students. Your support is always appreciated and we look onward to another dynamic school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your student or the school. Thank you.

John Tohtsoni Jr.  
Dean of Instruction





## Counseling Office Upcoming Events

**September 22-College Day at San Juan College, 1:30pm to 3:pm**  
All seniors will be attending. Parents can come and visit the recruiters also.

**September 24-Senior Seminar at San Juan College, Room 7103.**  
This seminar is for Seniors and Parents. There will be a lot of very helpful information and our Seniors will be the stars of the show.

**Nancy Wray**  
Academic Counselor

## Students Enjoy Page Turners!

“Stellar standardized test scores in reading are attributed to the climate of reading”



The All-school reading initiative is well underway with students choosing from six titles this semester. Last year's stellar standardized test scores in reading are partially attributed to the climate of reading fostered by Sustained Silent Reading and the All-school reading books. After reading the book, students will choose which of their classes to report on the book with a visual they have created like a poster or a Power-Point presentation.

Books are provided free to students by

the school, and the list is comprised of books read and recommended nationally by other high school students.

Included are *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, where two young people create comic-book superheroes; *Acceleration*, where a young person discovers the secrets of a serial killer; *Feed*, a science fiction thriller; *Room on Lorelei Street*, where a young woman deals with her mother's alcoholism; *Aimee*, where a teenager struggles to cope

with her friend's suicide; and *Light Years*, where a young woman is haunted by her Israeli past while living in America.

The books are discussed in classes and in Homeroom, but in addition, teachers are coordinating with the Residential Counselor to facilitate additional discussion of issues surrounding the books.

**Teri Michael**  
Digital Imaging  
Instructor

NAVAJO PREPARATORY SCHOOL INC.

*Information Page by Betty Ojaye, Executive Director*

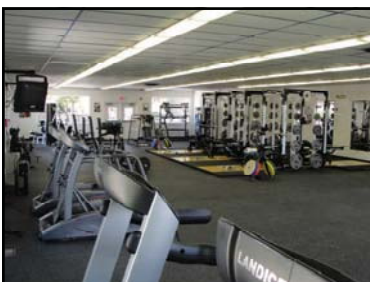
**Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence 1991-2011**



Above: Flags were raised on the new flag poles during the back to school staff orientation.

**At last!  
A New Weight Room**

It was a wise decision not to demolish the old cafeteria but to change it into a weight room. New equipment came in time for school start. Roderick Denetso, Student Success Coordinator, worked into the wee hours of the night to put the weight equipment together. The weight room gives a big boost to the strength and conditioning class and immense opportunities to improve the sports and health and wellness program.



**Senator Bingaman Visits Navajo Prep**

Navajo Preparatory School students and staff were honored to receive a visit by Senator Jeff Bingaman on August 26, 2010. Senator Bingaman visited classrooms and toured the school campus to observe the school's growth. In Ms. Manning's class, the students shared their poems with the Senator. Senator Bingaman also made short stops in Ms. Duffus, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Keeley's classrooms and spoke briefly with students and staff.

Senator Bingaman played a vital role in the school's history in 1991 when he obtained funding to address fire alarm deficiencies that became a major obstacle to the school's opening. Since then, the Senator always makes a brief stop at the School when he comes to the four corners area.

Ms. Ojaye and members of the administrative team provided a school update and presented a

proposal for additional funding needed for the school. The Senator was pleased to learn that the Navajo Prep School made AYP for nine consecutive years since the No Child Left Behind Act was passed in 2002. He remarked that the School has been extremely resourceful on its own and encouraged the staff and students to continue their hard work.

Senator Bingaman's visit marks the beginning of the school's 20-year anniversary celebration to highlight its achievement and moving forward to the next challenges ahead. Senator Bingaman's visit is the second visit by a congressional leader this year. See story below of Congressman Ben Lujan's visit.



Senator Bingaman visits Kevin Keeley's Environmental Science Class.

**Congressman Ben Lujan makes a stop at Navajo Prep**

Congressman Ben Ray Lujan met with the Board on July 7, 2010. This is the first visit made by Congressman Lujan to NPS and he remarked that NPS school statistics are not found in education across the country—referring to the school's educational excellence of placing 95-100% in colleges and nine years of AYP. Congressman Lujan stressed the importance of STEM Programs and placing students in academies such as West Point. NPS will work closely with Congressman Lujan.



# Gifted & Talented Program starts off the Year!



## Reading and Cooking across the Continents Advanced Reading Group

This Gifted and Talented Group is made up of 11 enthusiastic book readers and led by Lesley Duffus. The group meets every Monday night to discuss books, world cultures and explore and cook different cuisines found in those books. Currently the group is reading The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. September is “banned book month” and the students will be researching the reasons behind why books in American society have been banned and how over time those reasons have changed. A few other titles the group will be reading this fall semester are:

Somewhere Inside by Lisa and Laura Ling

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

Sky Burial: An Epic Love Story of Tibet by Xinran

The Street of 1,000 Blossoms by Gail Tsukiyama

In the spring semester, the students will be delving into Sweden by reading the trilogy that begins with The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Steig Larsson.

Leslie Duffus  
G&T Instructor

## NEW MOON RUN

**Cultural Significance:** Elders encourage running toward the east to greet the morning sun and receive its many blessing. To promote a healthy lifestyle focusing on physical endurance, mental strength, and spirituality.

**To Participate:** Meet in the Hogan at 5:45 am on the morning of the run. After a brief morning prayer, participants run/walk to the Apache Elementary School and back to campus.

**New Moon Run T-Shirts:** People who participate in at least two New Moon Runs will receive a t-shirt.

## Greetings from the Junior Class!

The Junior class is hard at work preparing for the big event of the year-Prom. This year's Junior class sponsors are Scott Rodgers (ext 301) and Lesley Duffus ( ext 313). The class has met and is in the process of determining a location and a date. We need your help however in fundraising for this event. We need to pay for the venue, order decorations and put on the best Prom

ever! We have established a fundraising committee, and if you are interesting in helping with this, we would really appreciate it. The juniors have come up with lots of ideas themselves, but we need your help in being successful. Please contact either of the sponsors if you'd like to help.

Leslie Duffus  
Jr. Class Sponsor

### **Junior Class Officers:**

**President:**

**Eryka Peterson**

**Vice-President:**

**Nicole Benally**

**Secretary:**

**Katrina Pat**

**Treasure:**

**Nakisha Antonio**

## NEW MOON RUN SCHEDULE:

SEP. 10

OCT. 8

NOV. 12

DEC. 10

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

The New Student Orientation was held on August 8-10, 2010 with a total of 86 students attending. The purpose of the orientation was to give students an opportunity to meet teachers, staff and experience a classroom setting. Students were divided into groups led by student ambassadors Delta Higdon, Lynshellray Begay, Waylon Stevens and Damon Clark. Each group rotated through a vari-

ety of classes each day of the camp that included Math, English, Library skills, Class scheduling, Navajo language and Culture, Health, Science and Team building. Students then enjoyed an off-campus activity of skating. As a result of the orientation students made new friends and were more familiar with the campus and staff.

Submitted by  
Char Franklin,  
New Student Camp Coordinator



Student ambassadors talking to new students about experiences at NPS



Students enjoying a trip to Skate Way

## FRESHMAN ACADEMY NEWS!

Welcome new students! The first semester at Navajo Prep can be a little overwhelming for students who are transitioning from middle to high school. The Freshmen Academy is here to help students transition and adjust. The Freshmen Academy includes teachers, academic and residential staff. In addition, the Freshmen Academy also in-

cludes study hall, the big brother big sister pairing with seniors, At-Risk, referrals, interventions, parent conferences, grade checks, incentives, and freshmen of the month all to help the student. Study halls are mandatory for all freshmen every Tuesday and Thursdays from 4 -5 pm. Day students are always encouraged

to attend, but not required. This is a team effort between teacher, student and parent. Encourage your child to work hard in school. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the school at 505-326-6571.

Char Franklin, Freshmen Academy Coordinator  
[cfranklin@nps.bia.edu](mailto:cfranklin@nps.bia.edu)



## ~Senior Class Elects 2010-2011 Officers~

**PRESIDENT:** Stacey Tsosie

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Reno Tsosie

**SECRETARY:** Derrick Sheperd

**TREASURE:** Jennifer Begay



Stacey



Reno



Derrick



Jennifer

*Congratulations to the Senior Class Officers!!!  
Sr. Class Sponsors: Denise Joe & Char Franklin*

# Residential News

Enjoy the atmosphere this fall, and appreciate the beauty of our environment. The school will be participating in several community service projects and outdoor recreational activities through out the school year. We promote healthy living, so to start off this year we will be sponsoring our first Health & Wellness day on Sept. 22 so parents if you would like to volunteer feel free to contact me. Getting involved with the schools helps you give back to your community. Sign up sheets will be available on Parent Day which is Friday, Sept. 3.

## STUDENT SAFETY REMINDERS

### Visitors on Campus

On behalf of our school safety program, we would like to encourage all student visitors to visit inside the dorms or in a well lighted area. The security will be patrolling on campus to look out for visitors who are visiting on campus. We discourage students sitting in private vehicles so please help communicate this to your child for student safety.

### Security of Valuables

Our first holiday is coming up very quickly. I just wanted to remind students and parents during this time of the year about locking up personal belongings that are valuable. Don't forget to take home valuables as well over the holiday weekend. Enjoy your school year by taking preventive measures to avoid this situation.

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

If students forget to bring this on campus we do have some toiletries (Toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, hair brush, etc...) available. Have them request an order through their Residential Advisor.

Sabrina Hood, Dean of Student Life ext. 121



Sponsored by TUPAC & Wal-Mart

## NPS After School Program

*The purpose of the After-School Program at Navajo Preparatory School is to develop and implement activities that will challenge the students Emotionally, Spiritually, Mentally and Physically. Navajo Prep's after school program enables students to develop awareness in health, nutrition, leadership skills, horsemanship, Native Culture, visual arts, and outdoor experiences. These opportunities contribute to producing NPS students who are able to live a successful and in-*

*dependent life through new experiences and exposures. By end of the school year NPS students will feel confident, respectful, motivated and above all learn to be leaders. In conclusion, it is our goal for students to develop socially and mentally for the ever changing world and society.*

*NPS after school program has managed to gain partnerships with the local community and other communities across the Navajo Nation. For the 2010-2011 school years*

*the After-School Program activities include workshops, seminars, group activities, field trips, guest speakers and special projects. The list of Partnerships and Supporters are as follows. Parents will be able to view activities on the school website.*

*Parents and family are encouraged to call NPS for ideas or suggestions that would benefit the students. Parents are also welcome to join students in activities!*

**Rod Denetso**

**Afterschool Activities**

**Coordinator**





“Yideeskaagóó Naat’aanii”  
Leaders Now and Into the Future.

## NPS MISSION STATEMENT

### *Navajo Preparatory School Inc.*

1220 West Apache St.  
Farmington, NM 87401  
Phone: 505-326-6571  
Fax: 505-564-8099  
E-mail: Roxanne.lee@bie.edu

The mission of the school is to educate talented and motivated college-bound Navajo and other Native American youth that have the potential to succeed in higher education and become leaders in their respective communities. The school provides a rigorous academic program based on a strong foundation of Navajo philosophy supported by a residential environment that enhances individuality and independence. This mission statement is reflected in the School's motto, “Yideeskaagóó Naat’aanii”, Leaders Now and Into the Future.

## Street Ball Tour Coming to NPS!

The Native American Street Ball Tour 2010 is being organized by Rod Denetso our Navajo Prep Afterschool Activities Coordinator.

This event is a fundraiser for the Afterschool program and features NBA players and numerous other professional Basket-ballers. They will go head to head with NPS students, staff and Navajo Nation Legends, coached by Rainy Crisp.

This tour is a Drug and Alcohol free event that is open to the community! The sponsors are TUPAC and Wal-Mart so come and join the fun.

LIVE AT FARMINGTON, NM...  
STREETBALL 365 LIVE PRESENTS  
**THE NATIVE AMERICAN  
STREETBALL  
TOUR 2010**

STARRING...  
**PROFESSOR, HIGHRIZER  
50, SPRINGS**  
AND MANY OF THE AND1 LEGENDS!!

COME SEE THE LEGENDS PLAY  
RODDELL DENETSO, JARVIS MULLAHON, PAT DALGAI  
AND THE BEST IN THE FARMINGTON AREA...

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM /// GAME TIME 7:00PM  
ADMISSION: \$10

**THURS. SEPT 23, 2010**  
NAVAJO PREP HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES NEST  
FARMINGTON, NM

SPONSORED BY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AND TUPAC PROGRAM