



White Bear Lake: Native Times

January 2018

STAY CONNECTED!

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events

by Jordan Zickermann

Ojibwe Language Class

Please join us on the first and third Tuesday of every month to explore Ojibwe culture and practice the language. All levels of skills are welcomed! This class is ongoing, free, and open to the entire community. We hope to see you soon at North Campus, Room 237, beginning at 5:30pm.

ACT Preparatory Courses

Offered through WBLAS Community Services & Recreation, the ACT Prep Course will provide you the opportunity to fine tune your skills before the big day! These courses do come with a fee, but Native American students/families can be awarded funding to cover these costs through our Indian Education program. To sign up for future courses, reach out to Christine Cermak at Christine.Cermak@isd624.org.

North Winds Wilderness School

Are you or your child interested in attending traditionally-based classes in the Twin Cities area? If so, North Winds Wilderness School is the place to look. Offering classes in: moccasin making, plant based medicine making, soap stone bead carving, and much more – you're sure to find something fitting. For more information, check out their website or click [here](#).

Campus Visit to the University of Minnesota Morris

This year we are excited about the opportunity for our students to tour the University of Minnesota, Morris campus. This campus is special as it offers an American Indian Tuition Waiver to all Native American students. Further, the University is ranked highly in both the state and nation. Soon, a survey will be sent out to all families to identify the best time of year for this visit to take place. Be on the lookout!



Recap of Past Events and Meetings

Including the Native American College and Career night, the Native American Affinity Meeting, and many other important gatherings – this school year continues to go by so quickly. Which is why we'd like to recap some of what's been going on. Check it out! Page 2, 3



Student Recognition Round

As part of this quarterly newsletter, students are recognized for their academic achievements during the 2017-2018 school year. Page 2



Indian Parent Committee

by Jordan Zickermann

Established during the 2015-16 school year, the Indian Parent Committee at White Bear Lake Area Schools plays an active role in ensuring equity, inclusivity, and success for our Native American students.

This 14-member committee meets monthly, and is open to the Native community. There was no meeting during November, however, highlights from the December 18th, 2017 meeting are as follows:

- Smudging
- Prayer/Words of Wisdom
- Update on our Indian Education Coordinator, Mike Huerth

Due to inclement weather, the January 22nd AIPAC meeting was rescheduled for Monday, January 29th. This meeting will take place at the District Center, room 206 beginning at 5:30PM. Dinner will be provided.

- **Discussion around Community Feedback Session for Ancestry/Ethnic Data Collection**
- Post feedback on Native American Affinity Action meeting – refer to page 3
- Follow-up on Native American College and Career Night
- Discussion around having a 7th Generation Teaching by James Vukelich
- Follow-up on the Ojibwe Language Class
- Discussion around shifting the name of the Ojibwe Language Class

ANNOUNCEMENT

Have you filled out a 506 Form?

If so, great! You will not need to complete another 506 Form at any point for your children.

If not, please follow this [link](#) for access to the form as well as more information on what the form is and how it is used to identify our Native American students.

Student Recognition Round

Siara Sargent - 5th Grader, Lakeaires Elementary



Siara is a fifth grade student at Lakeaires who pushes herself academically by continuously creating goals for herself. Further, she uses learned strategies to ensure that she is able to meet these goals. While in school Siara is on-task, prepared, and an overall joy to have in class. Keep up the great work, Siara!

Review of Past Events

Native American College and Career Night

Held on Friday, December 8th, our Native American College and career night was an opportunity to explore the financial resources that are available to all of our Native American students. Through understanding that a majority of educational resources are offered only to enrolled tribal members, the focus during the presentation was shifted towards our unrolled, tribal students. If you were unable to make this event, but would still like to know about **American Indian Tuition Waivers** and **Cultural Diversity Tuition Waivers**, email Jordan Zickermann at jordan.zickermann@isd624.org to schedule a time to discuss these resources.

Native American Affinity Meeting: Strategic Planning Process

Affinity Meetings were held by each Liaison for the District in an effort to provide our families an additional opportunity to become involved in the Strategic Planning Process. Currently in this process, our district has broken into Action Teams to collaborate on initiatives around the eight strategies of the plan. This affinity meeting was held on December 8th and some of the ideas generated are as follows:

- Cultural Sensitivity Professional Development is needed for teachers
- Native American studies has its' place within every subject area
- An effort to create a more welcoming environment is needed for our culture
- As teachers, we must facilitate learning and allow students to voice experiences

Anything you'd like to add? Email Jordan Zickermann at jordan.zickermann@isd624.org.

Ancestry and Ethnic Data Collection - Community Feedback Session

The Minnesota Department of Education hosted a feedback session for ancestry/ethnic data collection and reporting, with a focus on American Indian families. This meeting was held in an effort to meet a 2017 legislative requirement to collect student data by detailed ancestry and ethnicity categories that are set by the U.S. Department of Education for specific groups. In general, more detailed ancestry/data information will be collected for the entire state during the 2019-2020 school year. Expect updates in the coming months.

STAY CONNECTED!

Are you following the **WBL Indian Education Committee Facebook page**? You do not need to be a member of the committee. Instead, this is a great platform for resource sharing. Follow the page by clicking on the icon below:



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions, or would prefer to receive this Newsletter in print form, please contact Jordan Zickermann at, Jordan.zickermann@isd624.org or via phone at 651-407-7647

ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS YEAR?

IF SO, YOU'RE IN FOR A SERIOUS TREAT. THE INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM AT WBLAS WOULD LIKE TO **HONOR YOU** IN A CEREMONY DUE TO YOUR EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

THERE WILL BE TRADITIONAL AND HONORARY GIFTS, AS WELL AS A DRUM GROUP, FOOD, DANCE, AND CELEBRATION.

WE COULD NOT BE MORE PROUD OF OUR NATIVE STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY OUR GRADUATES. PLEASE ALLOW US TO HONOR YOU ON YOUR DAY. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

