
May
2020

Employee names

**Sashay
Donovan
Chadwick**

BPS Indigenous News

Greetings

We are excited to announce this kickoff to our first newsletter! At Bismarck Schools, we currently have more than 1,400 Indigenous students in K-12. Those students represent over 50 Tribal Nations from across Indian Country. A majority of the students are members of five Tribal Nations that are located in North Dakota: Standing Rock, Spirit Lake, Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara, Turtle Mountain Chippewa, and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. In addition to those five Tribes, this year we also have graduating seniors who are Cheyenne River, Crow, Crow Creek, Eastern Shoshone, Flandreau Santee, Fort Peck, Klinkit and Papago, Nambe Pueblo, Navajo, Northern Ute, Omaha, Pueblo of Zia, Red Lake, Rosebud, Salt River Pima-Maricopa.

Bean Kits

MONDAY

4th



Delivery Starts

The BPS Indigenous Education team are creating starter kits to grow beans in your own home! Indigenous peoples had existed for thousands of years with their own traditional food systems. These systems were disrupted by colonialism and as a result our communities face many health problems today. Food sovereignty is about healing and reclaiming our health as Indigenous peoples. Chelsey Luger, cofounder of Well For Culture asserts, **“Strengthening ties to the seeds that sustained the people for thousands of years is a tradition that our future generations will depend on for global economic and environmental sustainability. True sovereignty is the ability to feed oneself. It is a spiritual act that brings teachings which are essential for a well life. Connecting with seeds and soil have positive benefits on our overall sense of wellbeing and ability to heal”** (Luger, 2020). Check out the Well For Culture website and podcast for more information and resources!

Please fill out the survey below for a bean growing starter kit! Kits will be delivered to your home in the mornings starting Monday and through the rest of the school year.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdd7f0-WxmY_bv-6UCwjp9Wn4ykEjfPBJZSjmKOO0IWrBK5rQ/viewform

References

Luger, C. (2020, January 16th) 6 Ways to Establish a Healthy Relationship with Food. *Well For Culture*. <https://www.wellforculture.com/blog/2020/1/16/6-ways-to-establish-a-healthy-relationship-with-food>

A word from our Parent Committee

Dear Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians

First, let me say I hope you and your family are safe and healthy as you read this letter. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we have been adjusting, like you, to the drastic changes in life during the last month. I am extremely appreciative of our students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators for their positivity, flexibility and resilience during these trying times. A huge debt of gratitude also goes to all of our doctors, nurses, hospital employees, first responders, essential workers and our state leaders for all they are doing to keep us safe and healthy.

As you know, distance learning for the Bismarck Public School District is in full motion. The BPS Indigenous Education Family Committee's goal is to help ease the emerging challenges this pandemic presents. Therefore, we've compiled contacts for the Indigenous Education Program support for families while schools are closed. While it is our responsibility to continue to educate our children, we also want to compassionately take into consideration the variety of difficulties our families and employees are enduring during this time.

Our Indigenous Education Program team is here to support you. If you have any barriers related to Distance Learning, please contact one of our coordinators from the team or the teacher so that we can help. Also, if you do not have internet at home or if you have not yet picked up your student's Chromebook, please contact us and we will connect you with someone at your student's school to address your needs.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know. Emails and voicemails will be answered promptly during the school day, although we are not in our school buildings.

Title VI/ JOM Program Office: (to leave a voicemail for staff)
(701) 323-4050

Sashay Schettler: (701) 425-2416 or
sashay_schettler@bismarckschools.org
Donovan Lambert:(701) 516-2916 or
donovan_lambert@bismarckschools.org
Chadwick Kramer: (701) 955-0448 or
chadwick_kramer@bismarckschools.org

Please like our Facebook page @BPSIndianEd. We are posting regularly about Social Distance Powwows, college scholarships, food distribution, and more.

Stay strong! Stay healthy!
Serving you,