

Huchoosedah Newsletter



Message from our Program Manager

Update:

Happy mid-Fall! We have been so busy (in a good way) and have made new after school partners. We are happy to announce we have an after school program at Olympic View and supporting South Shore K-8! I am still currently trying to hire a teacher for this year for Uti Hawkins, while she is on maternity leave, and will keep you posted. I wanted to thank Haida Heritage for a wonderful Indigenous Peoples Day performance before the school board on October 12, 2016, AND, a to ALL the families that came and did a board presentation on November 2, 2016. It was very spectacular to see so many Native students from all over the district representing their tribes and schools, Way To Go! Lastly, I would like to thank the Tlingit and Haida Chapter for helping out their fellow tribal members here in SPS, Adriel Foxley for helping many Native families find support this holiday season, and the many CBOs helping with resources as well!

Huchoosedah Afterschool Programs offered at John Muir, South Shore, Olympic View, and Highland Park are off to a wonderful start.

Adriel Foxley, FSW

The afterschool homework program is off to a great start at John Muir. We are focusing on completing and turning in homework and as well as doing some culturally relevant arts projects; we are also starting a culture board next week! They are already starting their homework asking their parents and grandparents about their own family's cultural history. It is exciting as they begin to find out their heritage and be proud of who they are. I have been extremely busy this year school year. There has been a massive increase of families that are experiencing homelessness and lack of resources. I have the honor of already serving over 100 students this school year and helping 39 children with holiday present assistance and hoping to help more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 12th
Culture Night
5:30-7:30pm
K-8 Boren Stem Elementary
- December 19th
Huchoosedah Holiday Supper
5:00-8:pm
Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center
- January 12, 2017, PAC Meeting
at John Stanford Center
Educational Excellence
5:00-6:30

Native Youth Leadership and College Readiness

On October 28th, Huchoosedah students from Chief Sealth International High School went to Washington State University's EXCEL program. WSU's Native American Liaison, Autumn Jones runs this program annually. 20 Native students from around the state participate in college readiness programming over the weekend to boost their knowledge of the application process, campus life and familiarizing themselves with the local Native community and support services.

In September we also started Native American Youth Leadership Academy. Four times over the school year myself and four to eight students will be going to Puyallup's Youth and Family Center to participate in team building and leadership exercises. The program will culminate in an overnight, two-day youth conference in April, completely planned by the students, with little help from adult facilitators. Currently we have Native students from Franklin, Garfield and Ingraham participating. Our next NAYLA session will be in mid-December.

For more information, please contact Richard Summers at rwsommers@seattleschools.org

Jenny Miller, Native K-5 Liaison

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up and I know that our students are making steady progress because they are working hard to stay focused on reading without getting distracted (even our kindergarteners). I am proud of their effort and look forward to seeing them grow.

It is a privilege to work together with our Native students at Highland Park Afterschool Program. Mrs. Houston, Sioux Nation, brings her wealth of knowledge as a certificated teacher and ensures a positive learning environment. She offers much needed support around literacy. We are looking forward to our partnerships with community organizations to offer learning opportunities, next week we will be learning about engineering with Play-Well TEKologies.

Janine Tillotson has been working throughout the North End with a number of schools and Native Students.

She is currently running an after school program at Olympic View where Native students are learning about their tribes, how to introduce themselves, working on raven masks, and working hard on their homework. They are also playing a number of Native games for exercise.

Janine has also initiated a Native Leadership Council and Whitman Middle School. Students there meet twice a month during their advisory period. These students are connecting with other Native students at Whitman, learning about contemporary issues in Indian Country such as that at Standing Rock, learning advocacy and leadership skills. Janine will also be starting an after school Native club at Sandpoint school next week.

In addition to running these programs Janine meets with parents, teachers and administrators at schools throughout the region to track Native student academic progress, attend Special Ed meetings and student staffing, and to advocate to be sure that schools are providing the services that students need. She also assists teachers with curriculum resources.

Huchoosedah

Seattle Public Schools Title VII
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Students with 506 forms are enrolled for these services and provide the majority of funding for our Native Education Programming.

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