



ISNA WICA OWAYAWA



THE EYAPAHA

January, 2019

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WEEKLY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2019

- Tutoring Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 PM.
- Bake sales every Tuesday and Thursday starting at 2:30PM. See your school calendar to determine which classroom is hosting
- Basketball, movie, and concession night every Wednesday beginning at 5:30PM. Hosted by your 8th grade class.

Ft. Robinson

Outbreak Spiritual Run

Isna Wica Owayawa had six of our students participate in the Ft. Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run this January. Our runners travelled from Nebraska to Montana on January 8th - 14th, 2019. This 400 mile run has been held on these dates for the last 23 years. The runners were commemorating and replicating the 1879 Northern Cheyenne breakout of Fort Robinson. The run originally began as a tribute to the Northern Cheyenne ancestors; now, it has become a forum for healing and wellness, and culture and language preservation (continued on p.6).



Girls' Basketball!

The girl's basketball season is officially over, check out their wins below!

18/19 Girls' Basketball Stats

November 15	Crazy Horse	A - win	C - win
November 20	Red Cloud	A - loss	C - loss
November 29	O.L.L.	B - loss	
December 4	O.L.L.	B - loss	
December 6	Little Wound	A - loss	B - loss C - win
December 18	Pine Ridge Girls School	A - win	C - win
January 9	Wounded Knee	A - win	C - win
January 10	Pine Ridge Girls School	A - win	C - win
January 15	American Horse	A - lost	C - win
January 17	Porcupine	A - win	C - win
January 18-19	C - Team Tournament	4th place	
January 21-23	B - Team Tournament	did not compete	
January 24-26	A - Team Tournament	3rd place	



Boys' Basketball!

Boys basketball season begins in February. This year our boys will be coached by Jaasir Naviq and Manuel Yellow Horse. We're looking forward to an exciting season!

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
February 7	Wounded Knee	Home	3:30 PM
February 12	O.L.L	Away	3:30 PM
February 19	Porcupine	Away	3:30 PM
February 21	Little Wound	Away	3:30 PM
February 26	Oelrichs	Home	3:30 PM
February 27	Red Cloud	Away	3:30 PM
February 28	Wounded Knee	Away	3:30 PM

January Family Night

Isna Wica Owayawa hosted our monthly Family Night on Monday January 28th. Families came together at the school to enjoy a meal of beef stew, fry-bread, and peach wojapi. After the meal, families moved to the gym to participate in the various activities organized by our school's wonderful staff members.



Mr. Martin had students and their families play a game using dice and a simple, homemade game board. Game players used addition and subtraction skills to move forward in the game.



Ms. Bobey helped out students create artwork starting with their handprints.



Mrs. Kayt had students see how many U.S. states they could locate in 30 seconds!

Our staff always do a great job coming up with fun activities for students and their families to work together on to complete. Sometimes it's a make-and-take activity for students to take home and enjoy. Other times it is an educational activity that students and their families can then use at home for even more practice. Please join us for our next Family Night at the end of February. Dinner will be served at 5:00PM and activities run from 5:30-6:50 PM with a door prize drawing for participating families at 7:00PM.



Ft. Robinson Run

OUR RUNNERS:

From our elementary school: Elias Blacksmith (3rd grade), Akaydian Little (4th grade), and Mr. Jaasir Naqvi (3rd grade teacher). From the middle school: Chaytan Palmier (6th grade), Anthony Warrior (6th grade), Dante Espinosa (6th grade), and Akicita Weston (7th grade). Our Gifted and Talented teacher Alicia Running Eagle and Principal Melissa Blacksmith accompanied the runners as well.



The students who went on the run described it as medicine for them. The students did miss five days of school, but returned excited to be back with their classmates and eager to share what they learned.

NA VENO OTANO
~
I AM RUNNING FOR MY
LIFE



End of December Activities

Talk from College Students

Before school ended in December for the winter holidays four college students from this area came to



speak to our students. Santana Young Man Afraid Of His Horses, Eriq Swiftwater, and Davian Stands

took time out of their own lives to speak to our students. Over the course of an hour and a half, students listened to encouragement about why they should attend college and how education can impact your life. Our students were also able to hear about what it's like participating in college level athletics from Eriq. Additionally, the kids got to hear from Davian about joining the military and what opportunities lie with that life choice.



Oyate Blihelya Winter Celebration

On the last day before winter break the Diabetes Prevention Program came to school and hosted a Winter Celebration. Students got



to decorate stockings, make snow-globes, decorate cookies, and decorate ornaments. Students were given numbers for door prizes

where the winners got to pick out a wrapped gift. Some gifts included blankets, pillows, decorate your own purse, and other fun items!



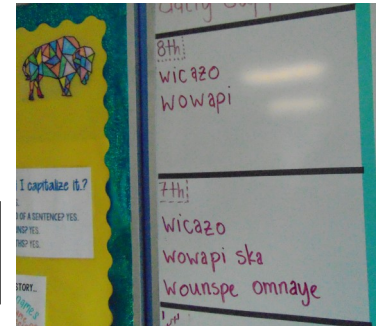
Lakota in the Classroom

Our students are very fortunate to receive Lakota instruction daily. Our middle school students have Lakota for 54 minutes every day and our elementary students have Lakota for 30 minutes every day. However, it is not

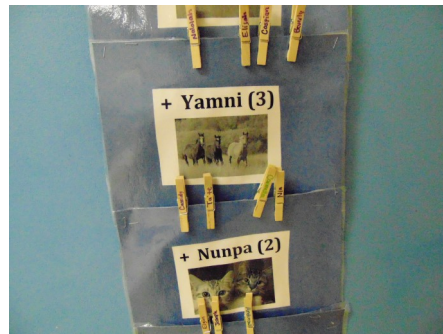
only under the instruction of Leksi Moreno, Avis Blacksmith, and Gilma Stands that our students are learning their culture and history as well as practicing the language. Our teaching staff works diligently to include as much Lakota language, history, and culture in their standard classes as possible. Here's just a small taste of the thing our teachers are doing:



Mrs. New Holy not only has colors and numbers posted in Lakota, but she has welcome signs in Lakota and tumpula hanging in her room (left)



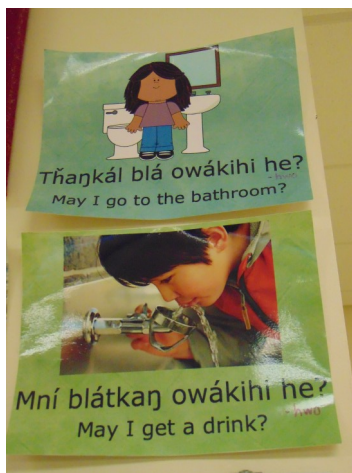
Ms. Dorrell lists her daily supplies needed for class in Lakota (right)



Mrs. Benson has the colors translated in Lakota in her classroom (below)



Ms. Bethany uses numbers in Lakota to help students keep track of their Eagle Points (right)



Mr. J requires his students to ask to go to the restroom or to get water in Lakota (left)



Ms. Pipe On Head's second grade class has the days of the week translated into Lakota on their wall (left)

Mr. Buckman's class has the numbers in English and Lakota on the wall (below)



Standards Based Grading

If you're the parent/guardian of a middle school student, then you may have heard some buzz about a switch in the grading scale. Isna Wica Owayawa has decided to switch our middle school students to a Standards Based Grading system for the second semester. If all goes well for the middle school, then it's likely that our elementary classes will switch for the 2019-2020 school year.

What is it? Standards based grading (SBG) involves shifting our thinking around grades and what they mean. Ultimately, a student's grade should reflect what he/she actually knows; however, it's more common than you think for non-academic factors to be included in grades. This muddling of academics, participation, behavior, and other things in a student's grade, makes it confusing to know what our students really do and do not know. The muddled grades that our school system functions in now has contributed to the issues we're finding of our students not working on grade level. Switching to SBG can help relieve some of this confusion. SBG helps teachers ensure that our grades reflect what our students actually know.

What does SBG look like? This system is a complete shift from our current 0-100/A-F scale. Rather than students receiving a letter or percentage grade, they will receive a 0-4 score indicating their understanding of specific concepts and skills. Each number (0-4) corresponds to a level of understanding:

4 – advanced

3 – proficient

2 – partially proficient

1 – unsatisfactory

0 – incomplete/missing

This is a very brief overview of the new system, if you have more questions please come parent/teacher conferences on February 7, 2019 from 3:00-6:00PM to ask for more details and information. If you cannot attend conferences on February 7, call the school (605)867-6875 to set a meeting with the principal Melissa Blacksmith to voice any questions or concerns.



Child Find

Child find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA '04) that requires schools to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with disabilities, aged birth through 21, located within their boundaries of responsibility who are in need of early intervention or special education services.

Child find applies to children who are:

- Suspected of having a disability even though they are advancing from grade to grade
- Highly mobile, such as migrant and homeless
- Wards of the state
- Private school students
- Homeschool students

If you suspect your child or a child of having a disability that is affecting their educational progress – please contact the school and speak to the following individuals:

Judy Martin-Hillman - Director of Special Education Department
605.867.6875 ext: 6895

Ronald Ten Fingers - Special Education Teacher
605.867.6875 ext: 6960

Melissa Blacksmith - Principal
605.867.6875 ext: 6904



Staff Update:

Members of the Isna Wica Owayawa staff have been participating in a number of trainings and courses to help make our school even better!

- ♦ Some staff members have been attending a classroom management course through Sinte Gleska University
- ♦ At the end of January twenty-five of our staff will be participating in a training organized by our School Safety committee to learn how to safely and properly restrain a student who may be out of control
- ♦ All classroom teachers are participating in a second NWEA MAPs training to learn how to help our students improve on these standardized assessments
- ♦ Melissa Blacksmith, Avis Blacksmith, and Celena Bear Robe travelled to New Mexico to visit the Native American Community Academy and see what ideas we could adapt from their school to apply to our own

Upcoming Events:

February 7, 2019	Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 18, 2019	No School - President's Day
February 21, 2019	Middle School trip to School of Mines
February 22, 2019	Spelling Bee - No School for Students
February 22-24, 2019	Science Trip to Ft. Collins
February 25, 2019	No School - Tribal Liberation Day