



El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

www.nmabe.net

Vol. 34, No. 1.2

December 2009

Students Demonstrate Their Talents at the NMABE Native American Language Festival

by Carline Murphy
NMABE Board Member

In conjunction with its 37th Annual Conference, the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education held its annual Native American Language Festival on September 26, 2009 at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque.

Approximately 175 students participated in the five competitive categories of Singing, Dancing, Speaking, Reading and the Navajo Spelling Bee. As the students competed in these categories, they proudly demonstrated their talents and skills in the Navajo language and culture. Four schools were represented:

- Alamo Community School from Magdalena
- Ft. Wingate Elementary School from Ft. Wingate
- NM Tohatchi Elementary School from Tohatchi
- Ojo Amarillo Elementary School from Central Consolidated School District.

Students introduced themselves in Navajo, giving their name, school, grade and, most of all, their membership in the four

clans (mother, father, maternal grandfather and paternal grandfather). This was an important requirement for participation. It is crucial to identify oneself and one's clan in the Navajo culture. Doing so shows respect for oneself as well as for the Diné people, and for being representatives of the elders and their communities.

The students could participate in up to three categories:



1. The Reading Category consists of stories from the students' experience in the Navajo culture, stories they themselves composed, or stories read from a book written in Navajo.
2. The Speaking Category measures fluency in speaking and comprehension about topics from their experience, their sense of humor or their home lives.
3. In the Dancing and Singing Categories, the students demonstrated their knowledge of cultural traditions. They could compete as a solo or as part of a group.

It was impressive to see the young students show their skills and talent while wearing their traditional clothing, although this was not a requirement for the competition. All the students were beautifully dressed and well behaved. Their performances were outstanding.

Approximately 400 parents packed the general session prior to the start of competitions. Parents, grandparents, siblings and other relatives who were in attendance showed their support for the competitors and their sponsors. The Navajo elders continue to teach the grandchildren to identify themselves with their clans to maintain their heritage. Parents make an effort to support their children's use

of Navajo and appropriate clothing while engaged in language and cultural events, such as the Festival.

After the competitions, families sat together, enjoying the luncheon and the presentation of the trophies. Students liked the catered meal; for some, it was a new experience.

NMABE appreciates the generous donations made by businesses in Gallup and by



the Navajo Nation in Window Rock, Az. This support helped defray some of the costs for the luncheon, trophies, and door prizes that everyone enjoyed at this worthwhile event. The sponsors were the Fire Rock Navajo Casino; the

Navajo Nation President's Office, Speaker's Office, and Councilman, Raymond Max; the Navajo Nation Oil and Gas; Butler's Office and Equipment Supply, Inc.; Earl's Restaurant; the Golden Corral; JC Penney Co.; the Perry Null Trading Co.; the Shush Yaz Trading Co.; Tri-Star Trophies and Millennium Media, Inc.

NMABE thanks the members of the Native Language Festival Planning Committee who together made the event possible. Committee members were: Louise Benally and Willard Zunie of the Gallup-McKinley County Schools, Florence Acque and Arlene Romero from the New Mexico Public Education Department's Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau, and Carline Murphy of Wingate High School.

The Festival would not have been complete without the Navajo judges who

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Proud Students and Winners at Native American Language Festival



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El Noticiero is published monthly by Language Magazine and provides information on current affairs concerning the education of language minority persons in New Mexico and the United States.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

- No. 34:1 Fall 2009: October**
(Conference Edition)
- No. 34:2 Winter 2010: January**
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day, Call to Action)
- No. 34:3 Spring 2010: April**
(Institute Announcements)
- No. 34:4 Summer 2010: July**
(Summer Activities)

Monthly Inserts/Wraps with Language Magazine

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volunteered their time and expertise. NMABE presented each judge with a certificate and an official Zuni hand-painted NMABE coffee cup. NMABE also thanks the Gallup-McKinley County teachers and its Indian Education Director, Carmen Moffett, who helped with the Festival.

The Navajo Nation supports the teaching of the language and culture--which are so important and essential to Navajo students--through its Title 10 Code. It provides the Chief Manuelito Scholarship to deserving students. It also recognizes the value of offering Navajo as a foreign language for high school students, enabling them to maintain and preserve the language as they take on the responsibility of being recognized as Diné People.

Additionally, a Navajo Ambassador (Miss Navajo) represents the Navajo Nation throughout the United States. She advocates for the good of all people. Miss Indian World is an indigenous woman who also represents native people worldwide.

As lifelong learners, the Navajo people are committed to preserving the language and culture with support from home, school, and community. It is critical that Navajo students learn more about the richness of the Native American cultures, past and present, as the Diné continue to seek wisdom and truth to help the students realize their goals in life. Knowledge of the Navajo language and culture help enlighten the students about identity and heritage. The Navajo children in schools today are future Chapter House officers, Navajo Nation officers, teachers, professors, doctors, state and national representatives. Perhaps someday there may even be a Navajo President of the United States of America.

Mark your calendars! The next Native American Language Festival will be held in April, 2011 during the NMABE conference. NMABE looks forward

And The Winners Are....

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Elementary Reading - Duet | | 3rd Place | Jade Henry Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| 1st Place | Mykel Yazzie and Sage Werito-Yazzie Ojo Amarillo Elementary | | |
| 2nd Place | Lane Williams and Jay Marshall Ojo Amarillo Elementary | | |
| Elementary Choral Reading | | | |
| 1st Place | Ojo Amarillo Elementary | 3rd Place | Brian Shorty Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| 2nd Place | Ojo Amarillo Elementary | | |
| Elementary Dance - Group | | Navajo Spelling Bee - 4/5th Grade | |
| 1st Place | Tohatchi Elementary | 1st Place | Kyla Pinto Ojo Amarillo Eementary |
| 2nd Place | Tohatchi Elementary | 2nd Place | Gary Jordan Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| 3rd Place | Alamo Community | 3rd Place | Brian Shorty Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| Elementary Singing - Group | | Navajo Spelling Bee - 6th Grade | |
| 1st Place | Ojo Amarillo Elementary | 1st Place | Glendale Allen Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| 2nd Place | Tohatchi Elementary | 2nd Place | Taymica Talk Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| 3rd Place | Ojo Amarillo Elementary | 3rd Place | Nixolas Bedonie Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| Elementary Singing - Duet | | Middle School Reading | |
| 1st Place | Danyel Johnson and Charliz Fernandez Tohatchi Elementary | 1st Place | Frederick Davis Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| | | 2nd Place | Gerard Secatero Alamo Community |
| | | 3rd Place | Dixie Apachito Alamo Community |
| Elementary Singing - Solo | | Middle School Singing Group | |
| 1st Place | Kassandra John Ojo Amarillo Elementary | 1st Place | Ojo Amarillo Elementary |
| 2nd Place | Hylynn Mooret Wingate Elementary | | |

to more participation from other indigenous groups in New Mexico. It is a fine opportunity for educators and communities to engage their students in their languages and cultures, to help them be successful in two worlds.



Navajo judges deliberate during competition.

NMABE Remembers

Kathy Bemis, long-time advocate for English language learners, recently passed away. Kathy served students by successfully assisting districts prepare grants under Title VII of the ESEA for Bilingual Education funding. Kathy was also an external evaluator for numerous programs that carried out federally funded programs for ELLs. She will be missed.



NMABE
Annual Bilingual Educators' Institute
January 26-27, 2010
Santa Fe Community College

Differentiating Instruction for English Language Learners



Featuring

*Patricia Latham
Adrian Sandoval
CESDP*



The Marriage of Sheltered Instruction with the New English Language Development Standards

Sheltered instruction engages English language learners with content in a way that provides opportunities for interactive learning and discussion while integrating the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Teachers who implement the new ELD standards properly will be able to shelter content appropriately for ELL students according to their proficiency level in English.

Patricia Latham and Adrian Sandoval will spend an entire day building understanding on how to use the standards and engaging participants in specific content area activities. The following day, seasoned teachers will demonstrate how to implement the standards when multiple levels of English language learners and English proficient students are present in a given classroom setting.

REGISTRATION: \$150 www.nmabe.net

The Annual NMABE Bilingual Educators' Institute is cosponsored by the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau, NMPED.

HOTEL: Santa Fe Courtyard by Marriott -- 3347 Cerrillos Road -- Santa Fe, NM 87507

ROOM RATES (Single or Double): \$65.00 King Suite \$95.00

RESERVATION METHOD: Hotel reservations must be received at 505 473-2800 **no later than Monday, January 18, 2010.**

Please ask for the "Bilingual Education Conference" group rate to receive the discount.