



BVSD Title VII Indian Education Newsletter
January-February Issue 3, 2007

PUBLIC HEARING
February 13th, 2007 (Education Center)

Hello parents,

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you about our upcoming **Public Hearing on February 13th, 2007**. The goal of this meeting is to look at the Title VII Grant that the Boulder Valley School District receives and make important decisions about its use. The Hearing will run from 6:00-7:30p.m. at the Education Center (6500 Arapahoe) and dinner will be provided for all attendees.

It would be great to have as many people as possible attend so that we are able to make best use of the funds and maximize the benefits to the American Indian Community. Generally, **\$20,000** or more is granted to the district by the U.S. Government, via the Title VII Grant. We would really love to have you at our meeting, as we are certain you have great feedback to offer in regards to the funds. We will see you there!

506 forms

Yet again, I would like to encourage you to complete and return any outstanding 506 forms. Again, if your child(ren) was missing his/her 506 form, you should have received a letter indicating such and a blank 506 form. If not, your child(ren) is on record. Please spread word to family members, friends, and other AI community members—this is crucial to the growth of this program.

Funding for this program is directly related to the number of complete 506 forms on file. Since we lost last year's seniors, our program will actually lose funding unless we receive forms from the existing students who have not turned in forms. *If we received forms from every American Indian student in the district, we could nearly double our budget and improve programs and services vastly.*

Please take a moment to send in your student's completed form. We do not check on numbers or relationships, we just need paperwork indicating your self-identification.

Many thanks!

Ryan Findley

This newsletter has been brought to you by:

Department of Institutional Equity & Multicultural Education

For additions, announcements, or comments, please feel free to contact Ryan Findley at:

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American Indian Media

The Equity Office just received the Annual Indian Books Catalog. With hundreds of titles, the catalog has something for every reader at every level. Whether looking for a story to take you away or a solid non-fiction, you can find it here. Best of all, the books are all by and for American Indians. Visit catalog online at:
www.fourwindsINDIANbooks.com

We also have a publication from "Meadowlark Media" which specializes in American Indian videos, DVDs, and books. Visit their catalog at:
www.meadowlarkmovies.com


Did you know?

*10 percent of all human beings ever born are alive at this very moment.

*A hippopotamus can run faster than a man can.

*The lunula is the half-moon shaped pale area at the bottom of finger nails.





The more you know...



The Purpose of the Reach The Rez Project is to provide proactive programs and outreach to Native American communities throughout the United States and Canada. Our programs are specifically designed to effectively reach American Indian people, especially the youth.

However, the spirit of our effort, is ultimately aimed at the betterment of all communities and the upliftment of all people. Therefore, the Reach The Rez Project will actively seek involvement in any communities, wherever there is a need for hope and empowerment.

WHY?

Statistics show that American Indians are the most underserved community of people in North America. Nationwide, each day, our children and culture are being lost. American Indian reservations and communities place highest among all minorities concerning rates of suicide, crime, high school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol addiction, gang activity, AIDS and the list goes on. Proactive nationwide outreach is immediately needed to turn the tide of problems facing future generations of Native Americans.

HOW?

It is imperative to our future generations that we reconsider all ineffective methods of preventative outreach and replace them with proactive alternatives providing immediate and long-term results. The annual Reach The Rez Tour itself, is an unprecedented 52 week long, widespread music and speaking tour throughout Native America. The Reach The Rez Tour will travel to the many areas in Indian Country where adverse statistics are rampant, bringing upliftment, hope and a healing of the spirit.

In Addition to the Reach The Rez Tour itself, high impact Reach The Rez programs have been designed to specifically appeal to the youth and work in conjunction with the Tour, to increase our project's overall effectiveness, as it travels the United States. These programs involve combining messaging, into separate areas of multi-media, to capture the attention of our community and inject empowerment and hope into the lives of hundreds of thousands of people each year. Our additional programs involve film, radio, internet and print media.

HISTORY MADE!

On November 24th, 2006, REACH THE REZ successfully completed the first year of its five-year tour. The historically-significant outreach effort traveled 54,000 Miles, visited 211 Native American Communities and touches thousands in Indian Country.



Adapted from: www.reachtherez.org





Announcements

Boulder Valley School District Position Available, Longtime AI Community Liaison Mimie Yang will be moving on effective February 15th. Applications will be accepted for Mimie's position until *Wednesday, January 31st*. Qualified applicants will be excellent communicators, self-directed, and responsible. Experience working with children and/or in education preferred. Required: Bachelor's degree (or degree-in-progress), two professional references, resume, and work history. Apply online at www.bvsd.org/Jobs/default.aspx. Contact Human Resources with any questions at 303-447-5037.

Jeffco Indian Education College Fair, Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at Arvada High School, in Arvada, CO. It will be held from 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Events are being planned. Opportunity to work on completion of online FASFA applications. Your help and participation in planning is welcomed. Middle & High School students who attend will receive free passes to the Denver March Powwow! Contact Alicia Ruste at (303) 982-8483 for more information.

Indigenous Boys Club, Fridays from 3:30 -5:30 p.m. at Brady, Room 305, 5290 W. Ohio Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80026. The emphasis is on positive expression of Indigenous power. An after school project for Native boys and Brady School boys will feature hip hop poetry, writing and indigenous art forms, tribal and multi-cultural. To register, call Jason at (303) 982--0389.

Cafe' Cultura Open Mic Night for Red & Brown Unity! 2nd Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m., at the Denver Inner City Parish, 9th Avenue & Galapagos Street, in Denver, CO. It is located 2 blocks east of Santa Fe on the NE corner). Come express yourself creatively or just chill out with your people. Everyone is welcome! Free! All ages Open Mike Night. **January 13, 2007,** is the date for January. For more information: cafe_cultura@yahoo.com (720) 436-1830 and look at <http://www.myspace.com/cafecultura>

Crosswinds Project: Attorney Services & Mentoring for American Indian Youth Ages 11-17. Contact Brenda Bellonger, North American Indian Legal Services, (NAILS), 1710 South Balsam Street, in Lakewood, CO 80232; (720) 840-5438, bellonger@gmail.com for more information about mentoring, or donating money.

"DIC Family and Community Resources," are Emergency Food Bank, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 - 11:45 a.m. Emergency Referrals and Information, and Volunteer Opportunities are available. Call (303)936-2688.

"DIC Youth Program", Native American Dance Classes, are held Tuesdays, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This will be pot-luck so bring something to eat and drink. The DIC Math & Science night will be held on Wednesdays will last through Thanksgiving. Snacks are served, youth are encouraged to bring a dish to share! Games! Prizes! Awards! Look at <http://www.denverindiancenter.org> or Contact Cathy Ortega, Youth Coordinator at (303)936-2688 ext. 19 or email Cathy at cathy@denverindiancenter.org or call Larry Left Hand Bull at ext. 35.

Denver Indian Family Resource Center, 393 S. Harlan, Suite 100, (Villa East II Building), in Lakewood, CO. Call (303) 871-8035 for support, referrals and Indian Child Welfare Advocacy for families that are involved with county departments of social services. Please call if you have questions on child welfare issues, youth prevention programs or need information on tribal enrollment process.

Coming up down the road...

May 4, 2007

AIYLI 2007 Conference

University Memorial Center; University of Colorado at Boulder

June 16-20, 2007 and June 23-27, 2007

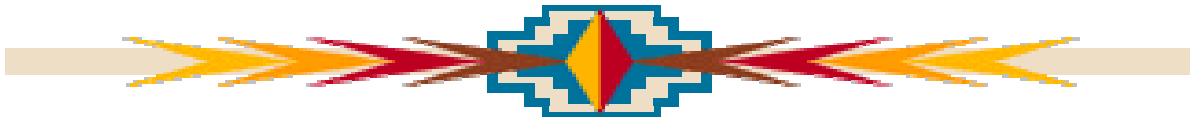
Pre-College Workshop for Native American Students

www.collegehorizons.org for more information (\$150+airfare; scholarships available)

Visit: <http://kgnu.org/indianvoices/newsletter.html> for more!

Thank you Theresa Halsey for this amazing community asset!





Book Reviews



“Encounter”

By, Jan Yolen

Story Synopsis:

This is a story of the first meeting between a Taino boy and Christopher Columbus; we know that the Taino nation had an established culture and civilization, and that the boy’s instincts sensed that the voyagers from the other world would destroy his people. In reading the author’s note, of Columbus’ landing in San Salvador among these gentle, generous people, we become aware that there are no actual written records of this first encounter, therefore the author has realistically recreated from historically incomplete records, what most likely occurred. The boy’s intuition senses the need to depart quickly from a trapped situation. What limited records did exist are from Columbus’ point of view which we now know was very ignorant and lacking in ethics to say the least. How can any one story fully describe the genocide, yet this is a wonderfully beautiful account of this painful time in history. Most of the Taino artifacts were either melted down or burned; those that are left are made of stone, as the one fin-shaped “zemis” on page one.

Chris Columbus landed in the Bahamas on San Salvador Island southeast of Miami, Florida in 1492. He was lost! The Taino tribes people lived there; Columbus mistakenly called the Taino “Indians” thinking that he was in India or the West Indies. A Taino boy had a bad dream which warned him that the new strangers were dangerous. The boy could see evil in their eyes and smiles. No one would take his warnings to heart, and they trusted the new visitors.



“Did You Hear the Wind Sing Your Name”

By: Sandra De Coteau Orie, 1996

Story Synopsis:

This beautifully illustrated song of Spring reflects the Oneida Indian’s deep relationship with the earth. The Oneida nation of New York and Wisconsin enjoy the celebration of Spring as they share with us this poem. The three sisters of the garen, the spider, the smell of sacred cedar and sweet grass almost fills our senses as we reflect on the gifts of nature portrayed her so vividly.

Note to students and parents: The Equity Office has a lending library in the Media Center at the Education Center located at 6500 Arapahoe. Here, you can find the books above, along with many more focused on American Indian culture and awareness. Feel free to stop by at any time and check one out. The library has reading for both children and adults available at no cost!

