

Hopi Mission School Newsletter

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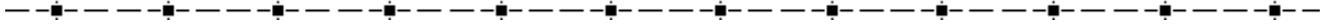
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Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand. ~ Jeremiah 18:6

Fall 2013



A New School Year Begins

Enrollment

A new school term began on August 14, with 65 students enrolled. This is ten more than the highest enrollment last year, due in part to adding 8th grade. With the usual adjustments that occur in the first few weeks, with some withdrawals and new enrollments, the number stands at 70 as of September 13. The distribution is as follows:

Kindergarten – 5

1st – 8

2nd – 9

3rd – 12

4th – 6

5th – 8

6th – 4

7th – 9

8th – 9



Staffing

It is with great satisfaction that we can report the good news that most of the staff have returned from last year, providing the kind of continuity that strengthens the program and adds benefit to the students. We are pleased to introduce the staff, as follows:

*Thane Epefania – Principal

*#Laura Nyman – Kindergarten

*Kristen Schrag – 1st grade, athletic director

*Joilyn Zimmerly – 2nd grade

*Dorothy Voth – 3rd/4th grades

*Heidi Wiebe – 6th grade writing, resource, art

*Brocia Beachy – 6th grade writing, resource

*Rebecca Yoder – 5th grade reading, development

*Katelyn Robbins – 7th grade social studies, dance

*David Mueller – 8th grade math, accounting

*Michelle Epefania – 5th grade reading, lead teacher, resource

*Effie Fountas – aide, world cultures

*Wave Dashee – aide, Hopi language

*Jolene Tootsie – aide

*Madeline Honanie – aide

*DeeAnn Shelton – Custodian

- *Nina Dewahe – labels/Boxtops
 - *Merle Calnimpewa – maintenance
 - *+Betty Outah – clerical aide
 - *+Juan Vavages – maintenance
 - *@Harriett Tenorio – cook
 - *Mary Sosolda – office manager
 - *@Caleb Waidelich –aide, chapel, P.E.
 - *Kathy Maloney – Title I
 - *+#Kim Palmer – aide
 - *+#Christopher Quotskuyva – cafeteria assistant
 - *Charles Wadsworth – bus driver
- (+ indicates volunteer assignment; # indicates new employee; @ indicates new assignment)



Of the new staff, Laura Nyman comes from Maryland, and is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University. Kim Palmer comes from near Toledo, Ohio, and is spending about 6 weeks at the beginning of the school year, to be followed by a similar time block at the end of the year, helping out wherever needed. She brought a large quantity of science supplies.

The staff gather 3 mornings a week for a centering time with responsibility for a meditation shared among them. In a recent such gathering, the scripture that was shared related to the church (and by implication this school) as a body with many members and gifts. This seemed an apt description of this group of staff, many of them young and recent college graduates, highly motivated and caring, willing to forego a competitive salary to share their gifts with the students, and in the community as they reach out to family members and friends across the reservation.

As a means of building community, the staff persons who live on campus have begun a Bible study on Monday evenings, selecting a passage for group discussion and its application to daily living. Those persons living in the villages are also invited to participate.

The Year Ahead

By Thane Epefanio, Principal

HMS started the year with 65 students, with a goal of reaching 80 or more by the end of the year. We are excited about having new students and new opportunities to minister to the local community. We have started the first school-wide Hopi Language program, as part of our effort to respect and learn from the Hopi culture in which we are serving, while at the same time upholding our belief in Jesus as the center of our faith and teaching. Plans are to offer classes in Hopi farming and cooking by year end.

A number of innovations are in effect or in prospect during this school year. With the addition of eighth grade, we have a full Junior High schedule. We have plans for many new electives. During the first quarter, students may choose from world culture, art, dance, drama, yearbook, school newspaper, Web design, and Tae Kwon Do. We are working with Reader to Reader to get Book Buddies also by the end of the quarter. As the year goes on, there will be electives in music, photography, debate, and others yet to be determined.

We are excited about our educational process here at HMS, with the restoration of a Title I program in which students will be helped with reading and math skills. This supplements our resource program, through which students have the opportunity to have one-on-one time with a teacher to help in building better reading, writing, math, and other needed skills. We are not only teaching Jesus to our children, but we are educating them in the best manner possible.

Hopi Mission School belongs to a consortium of elementary and secondary schools called the Mennonite Schools Council. Conversations are underway with some other members of the Council toward providing scholarships for promising HMS graduates to attend a Christian high school with a strong academic program. We are also working on longer-range future prospects for our graduates, looking at the possibility of attending one of several Christian colleges from which many of our teachers have come.

We are maintaining contacts with teacher education departments in a number of Mennonite and other colleges in an ongoing recruitment effort, building on the positive experience provided by these colleges' graduates. Voluntary service programs through the Mennonite and American Baptist churches also continue to be primary sources for teachers.

To provide the needed financial foundation for HMS, fundraising continues to be an essential part of our operation. In a new assignment, fourth-year staff member Rebecca Yoder has taken on an assignment in development, making contacts with churches and individuals, while continuing to teach reading 2 hours a day. Others involved in present and future fundraising include the principal, Hopi Mission School Foundation staff, and governing and foundation board members.

These are exciting and hopeful times at Hopi Mission School, given a strong staff and encouraging enrollment numbers. We are very grateful for the large number of friends and supporters all across the country, whose prayers and financial support undergird our educational and spiritual ministry here on the reservation.

Fundraising Opportunity and Challenge

Since our spring newsletter was distributed, considerable time and effort have been devoted to multiplying the personal contacts with friends and supporters of the school. The primary persons involved have been Principal Epefanio, Rebecca Yoder, and

We will continue to take maximum advantage of the Arizona state income tax credit program, which is our largest single source of financial support. Number-wise, the majority of our friends and supporters are located outside Arizona, which means that we need to find meaningful connecting points with those of you in the other 49 states.

Our proposal to invite student sponsorships at the level of \$10,000 per child will be a longer-term effort, recognizing that most churches must plan ahead, often a year in advance, to consider such participation. We are grateful to those who are considering this level of support, but also express our gratitude to those of you who have made contributions in any amount.

Kay Neff, from the Hopi Mission School Foundation office, is continuing her efforts visiting HMS supporters throughout the country. In recent months her travels have been in the Western half of the United States. Thank you to all who have so graciously provided lodging, meals, fellowship, time in worship, and financial gifts to the Hopi Mission School. (The HMS governing board and HMS Foundation Board thank Kay for all the time she spends on the road away from home contacting our donors.) Beginning this fall, the Southern and Eastern part of the country will be contacted, then up

the east coast. If you would like a special visit scheduled, or have an event in mind, please contact Kay at 316-727-1700.

Given the size of our mailing list of friends across the country, and our ability to have a physical presence in a limited number, we do have the capability of sending a DVD that gives a snapshot of school life and activity, which is suitable for showing in women's groups, Sunday School classes and even in the larger worship services when a mission project would fit into the sharing time. It can be downloaded from the school's website: www.hopimissionschool.com, or viewed on Facebook. If a DVD is preferred, we will gladly furnish one.

A Fundraising Idea for Everyone

Caramel Apple Sunday

Thanks to all of you who have been helping with donations. We recognize that many of the churches, individuals, and organizations are experiencing their own financial challenges at home. We are proposing for widespread application what we are calling a **pop-up fundraiser** that everyone can schedule, that is quick, easy, and can be done with minimal time and investment. We encourage all of you to host a "Caramel Apple Sunday." For the cost of a bag or two of apples, and some caramel sauce, you can have a freewill donation to benefit Hopi Mission School. We can provide the signs, bulletin inserts, and ideas. This could be held in conjunction with a fellowship hour, potlucks, women's or men's groups, youth groups, craft shows...the possibilities are endless. Share your event with us on Facebook, Friends of Hopi Mission School! We would love to see your pictures!

Request the easy to print PDF packet by emailing hms@hopimissionschool.org, or request a printed copy.



Arizona Tax Credit

It is our intention to contact every Arizona friend on our mailing list this fall, providing specific information about the state income tax credit program that benefits our school. In spite of our efforts to do that last year, the amount contributed through that source was substantially less than in previous years, which has created a critical cash flow problem for the school this summer and fall.

While the majority of tax credit funds come late in the calendar year, our plea to donors who are able is to make their tax credit contribution as early as possible. A pattern adopted by a few persons is to estimate their tax contribution at the beginning of the year, and then authorize a monthly Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from their bank account to the Institute for Better Education (IBE)—our primary School Tuition Organization.

The simplest way to donate is to go on line at www.ibescholarships.org, specifying Hopi Mission School as the recipient. For those who prefer to donate by check, they can print a donation form off the Institute for Better Education (IBE) website, or contact IBE or HMS for a donation form.

Special note to residents outside Arizona

If you have family or friends who live in Arizona, we appeal to you to make sure they are aware of the tax credit program. If you can give us names and addresses, we will gladly mail or email the information to them. They can also contact us either by mail or email; contact information is included at the top of this newsletter.

Open House

On Thursday evening, Sept. 12, the parents and other family members of current students were invited to an open house to meet the teachers and other staff. Principal Epefania, with several others assisting, grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst, supplemented by food contributed by family members. A large number of visitors took advantage of this opportunity to see where their children were spending their days in school.

Hopi Language Instruction

One of the regrets of a number of Native American tribes is that the younger generations are not learning their native languages. Given the fact that much of the history and culture has been passed along orally, with written language capability a relatively recent phenomenon, the loss of the mother tongue is the source of grief for the older generations.

The Hopi tribe has been making an effort in recent years to provide for regular instruction in the Hopi language in the public schools. Hopi Mission School is responding to that interest and initiative by including Hopi language instruction in the curriculum. Wave Dashee, a Hopi staff member at HMS for over 10 years, is now doing group instruction to grades 5-8, and individual class work with grades K-4.

When Mennonite missionaries came to the Hopi reservation in 1893, and in the decades following, they created a Hopi language hymnal which is in use in the churches today. Some of the hymns are familiar tunes with the words translated into Hopi, and others are songs composed in the Hopi language and set to original melodies. A favorite hymn in the former category is *How Great Thou Art*.

Title I

After a hiatus of 2 years, HMS is once again benefiting from the federal Title I program especially targeted to low-income populations, providing remedial and enrichment programs. Our participation is connected to the Cedar Unified School District located about 40 miles west in a Navajo community, which receives its funding through the state government rather than the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

This year, Kathy Maloney, a Title I teacher assigned by Cedar USD, is located full-time in our school, living on campus. She reports that Title I is up and running. The first two weeks were spent testing every student enrolled at HMS. Twenty plus students (about 1/3 of those enrolled) were identified as qualifying for special services from Ms. Maloney, who is a reading specialist. At the beginning of the year, the focus is on phonics and decoding.

Later in the year, the students will be concentrating on reading fluency and vocabulary development. Progress is being made, thanks to the addition of the Resource Room, in which some of the students will get another intervention in either reading or math. Title I is also a resource for all new teachers who can benefit from staff development.

Summer Volunteers

In our spring issue, we identified a number of volunteer groups and individuals, who are important contributors to the culture of service and caring that is an important component of Hopi Mission School. We now introduce those who have spent time with us during the summer.

A group of 12, led by Bill Morningstar, came from Big Chimney Baptist Church in Charleston, WV. They volunteered on Hopi for a week at the beginning of June. The group ran a 4-day Vacation Bible School in the mornings at Hopi Mission School. In addition, they helped with work at Sunlight Mission Church.

From June 9-13, Paul and Doris Zimmerly (parents of teacher Joilyn) came from Crown Hill Mennonite Church in Rittman, OH. Along with Pastor Thomas Dunn, they brought a group of 7 high school and college students. This group led a 3-day Vacation Bible School focusing on Daniel and courage for community children at Hopi Mission School. The VBS was complete with dramas, crafts, worship, games, and snacks. Along with the Bible school for the children, they provided a barbecue dinner for families during the week. The group also helped at the school for two days with weeding and cleaning of the building and grounds.

A group of 10 from Sawmill Baptist Church in Powell, OH came to Hopi from June 16-20. The group was led by Robert Hoffman, and put together Vacation Bible School with a family cook-out. They also helped with some community needs by weeding and working outside. After returning home, the group prepared and sent some school supplies for the current school year.

United Methodist churches were also well represented. On July 6-12 a "Hopi Volunteers in Mission" team from the Baltimore-Washington area came to help on the Hopi reservation. The group, led by Jill Maisch and Cheryl and Norm Minekime, had 17 team members in their group, representing 7 different churches in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Many in the group had come to Hopi year after year, but for some, it was their first trip. The churches represented included Covenant UMC, Damascus UMC, Poolesville Memorial UMC, Providence-Fort Washington UMC, Millian Memorial UMC, Sandy Mount UMC, and Epworth UMC. The group came as volunteers and helped with a lot of community needs. They helped individuals in some of the villages, at the local radio station, and with many jobs at the school.

A large group of 28 team members from Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Hurricane, WV volunteered at Hopi Mission School from July 22-28. The group consisted of many high school/college kids with their sponsors Josh and Bethany Callaway, as well as many adult volunteers. They put on a Vacation Bible School for 5 days and a family cook-out. Their Bible school consisted of Bible story focuses with crafts, snacks, skits, and games. Part of the days consisted of a basketball camp for older students who attended. Beyond Bible school, the group also helped with odd jobs at the school including organizing and setting up classrooms.

Fifteen members of Montebello (CA) Christian Fellowship came to the reservation from August 4-11. The group led a revival and other programs at Kykotsmovi Mennonite Church and helped with other needs there. They also volunteered at Hopi Mission School, especially with last-minute school preparations. They assisted teachers with getting their classrooms and materials ready for the school year and worked on weeding/landscaping the school grounds.

All of our summer groups came joyfully, ready to volunteer in many ways and left impacting, and being impacted by, the school and community. Beyond volunteering, serving, and sharing the good news, they built many lasting relationships with the kids, staff, and community. Each group went back to their home areas, sharing about their time on Hopi and the ministry of Hopi Mission School. Many of the groups have continued to raise support for the school after their summer trips.

We would love to have every week in the 2014 summer filled with volunteer groups coming to learn and serve. If you are interested, let us know by checking the line at the end of the newsletter.

Students of the Month

Interviews done by Chris Beetso (8th grade)

Each month, two students from the lower grades and two from the upper grades receive the “Student of the Month” award. Students are nominated by teachers based on good grades, (or improvement in grades), good behavior, positive attitudes, and good reports from all staff members.

Elise Sakenima is a fourth grader in Miss Voth's class. She is the daughter of Lola and Orrin Sakenima and lives in Sipaulovi housing. Elise is from the Spider clan. She likes the color purple, playing outside, and riding her scooter. According to her teachers, Elise treats others very nicely, works hard in school, and is an all around good student.



Lyle Poseyesva is a fourth grade student in Miss Voth's class. He is the son of Philbert and Elizabeth Poseyesva. He lives in Kykotsmovi and is Roadrunner clan. Lyle's favorite hobbies are playing outside and riding his bike around. He also enjoys school and likes doing homework. His teachers said that he has been working hard, listening well, and treating others very well.



Shaelynn is from the village of Kykotsmovi and is Spider clan. She is in the eighth grade. She is the daughter of Lydia Werito. Shaelynn's favorite hobbies are cross country, volleyball, football, basketball, and softball. Teachers chose Shaelynn because she works hard and has enthusiasm for life.



Joshua is a sixth grade student. He is from the village of Sipaulovi and Spider clan. His parents are Lola and Orrin Poseyesva. He enjoys playing outside, playing basketball, football, soccer, baseball, and even softball. Josh also likes school and kind of likes homework. Joshua's teachers all agree that Joshua always has a positive attitude in and out of class, does a wonderful job participating, works hard, and gets along with everyone.



Reader to Reader Project

Readers to Readers has continued in the efforts to raise money for 25 laptops. They will be working with HMS this year to start a Reading Buddies program here. This will entail college students from all over the USA working on reading with our children via the internet. Each student will have an opportunity to work with one of these capable volunteers. We are excited to have programs like this coming to HMS, and we expect to see a significant bump in reading skill due to this and other programs we are starting.

Sports Report

By Kristen Schrag, Athletic Director

New Cross Country Trail

Last Spring I got a crazy idea in my head. *“Hey why not make a new, better trail for Cross Country?”* There were many reasons for this thought. One, our current course didn’t quite meet the 2-mile requirement for Varsity races. Two, the area I wanted for a new course would have more hills making for better training and would be a greater challenge for our junior high athletes. Three, our current course went right past a graveyard and a new course could re-route around it.

So, I got started: first talking to the principal, then to a parent who works for the tribe, then I wrote a proposal for the Kykotsmovi Village Governor. Then I waited...and waited...and waited. Finally, right when school was starting, I got the news...**IT'S APPROVED!**

I got to work walking through brush and tumbleweeds, picking the best route, marking it, and finally organized a work day. We had about 17 parents, family members, and HMS staff show up throughout the day...some for about 8 hours straight in the hot sun. We had a heavy metal drag pulled behind a truck to clear brush while the rest of us set to work by hand, hoeing, shoveling, and raking.



On September 5th we had our first home cross country meet and used the new trail for the first time. The meet went without a flaw! And the kids said the hills were fun! Without the help of committed, hard working parents and awesome co-workers, this dream would not have come true!

Cross Country Report

Our season is off to an exciting start! With the growing number of students at HMS, the cross country team is the biggest it has been in years. We currently have 28 1st-8th grade athletes running in two different leagues. The 1st-6th graders are competing in the Hopi Elementary Athletic League (HEAL) and the 7th-8th graders are competing in the Nava-Hopi Area Junior High League (NHAJHL).

The coaching staff is returning from last year. David Mueller is coaching his second season, and Kristen Schrag and Rebecca Yoder are coaching for their fourth seasons.

The HEAL league has had three meets so far this year, and the Junior High athletes have had two. In these few meets, we have had numerous top ten finishes from both the Junior High and Elementary teams...some of them have even been top three! No matter where they place though, we are always proud of their hard work and heart.

It is always exciting to compete at home, and we are happy to be hosting three home meets this year. We had one meet already on September 5th, and with the help of many parent and staff volunteers, the meet ran without a hitch!

We have a lot of the cross country season ahead of us yet and look forward to seeing how our athletes improve and become the best runners they can be!



Newsletter via e-mail

We are committed to keeping our valued friends and supporters informed of school activities and plans via the newsletter, and attempt to keep our mailing list up to date. We are being honest, however, when we say that printing, folding, sealing and sorting about 2,000 copies three times a year is a major task, not counting the cost of postage.

It would help us tremendously if we could move toward converting the majority of our recipients to e-mail delivery. The advantage to recipients is that the newsletter will come immediately upon completion (whereas it can take up to a matter of weeks before all the folding and sorting is done, depending upon volunteer help), and the pictures come through in color.

In spite of our best efforts, we occasionally send a paper copy of the newsletter to persons who receive it via email. If this is the case with you, please notify us of this duplication and we will eliminate it.

You can request to be added to the e-mail list by sending us the checklist at the end of the newsletter; or better yet, you can send an e-mail request to hms@hopimissionschool.org. Please also include your mailing address so we can more easily remove you from the paper distribution list.

We also invite our readers to send us names and addresses (preferably via email) of friends who have an interest in our school.

Ongoing Facebook Opportunity

Participating in Facebook continues to be the means by which some persons choose to keep current on happenings with persons or groups important to them. Or not, for some who still think email is high tech! If Facebook is your thing, be aware that there is a Hopi Mission School Facebook account, to which a number of readers have signed on during the past several months, sharing memories, pictures, commentary and suggestions. We welcome additional participants to join the Facebook group called **Friends of the Hopi Mission School**, developed in conjunction with the Hopi Mission School Foundation. On the school website: www.hopimissionschool.org, you can click on the top tab that reads "Join us on Facebook" to subscribe to our group. We hope to include events, as well as a place for students, alumni, teachers, volunteers, and contributors to connect.

Important Information Regarding Campbell's Product Labels

Persons who shop at supermarkets with their club membership cards can now register those cards in Hopi Mission School's name. By so doing, the purchase of any eligible products automatically transfers credit points to our school. Two dozen or more supermarket chains are participating, including Safeway, Kroger, Dillons, Fry's, Smith's, and Genuardi's. A complete list can be accessed on the internet: www.elabelsforeducation.com. On this site, you can log in your email address and proceed to register your supermarket card(s) and select Hopi Mission School. If a ZIP code is requested, enter 86039.

You can still clip and send in the paper labels from the products. The latest report indicates that the school has about 1,400,000 labels to its credit. A new 7-passenger van will cost 1,600,000 labels, so continued participation by groups and individuals will help us greatly.

One note of caution: When you prepare your labels, be sure that the entire UPC barcode and Labels for Education figure are included (see illustration below).



The Boxtops for Education collection program is still important to our school. You can keep up to date on eligible products by going online to the school's website: www.hopimissionschool.org, and follow the links to Labels. It is now possible to download and print a copy of the latest lists. There is also a poster that can be downloaded and printed that could enhance the visibility of a collection box or bag in churches or elsewhere.

Under the providence of God, our Mission School is now beginning its 63rd year of serving Hopi, Navajo and other students. We are able to face daily opportunities and challenges because of being blessed with so many faithful friends and supporters, whose prayers and gifts continue to sustain us.

Here are some of the ways to become involved with our ministry at Hopi Mission School:

I/we would like to share the vision of an increased enrollment, improvements in staff compensation, and capital improvements with the following pledge _____.

Please accept my/our gift of \$_____ to help where needed.

Please accept my/our gift of \$_____ for this designation:_____.

Please accept my/our gift of \$_____ from Caramel Apple Sunday.

I/we would like to become a sponsor of a student, with a one-year pledge of:

\$10,000 \$5,000 \$1,000 Other (specify \$_____)

Please contact me for a possible date for a sponsorship visit.

I/we are interested in exploring a date for a summer 2014 service trip.

Please accept my/our gift of \$_____ to help cover student meal costs.

I/we enclose \$_____ to help purchase a replacement laptop computer.

Please send a DVD giving an overview of the school.

I would like more information about the Arizona individual state income tax credit.

I would like information about the CORPORATE income tax credit.

I would like information about the eScrip program (Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Adams Super Stores, or Genuardi's club cards—circle ones that apply).

I would like updated information about Campbell's labels collection and/or General Mills Boxtops for Education (circle ones that apply).

Please send my newsletter via e-mail to this address:_____

Please note address corrections:

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Prov. _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____
