

Hopi Mission School Newsletter

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Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand. ~ Jeremiah 18:6 Spring 2012

Enrollment and Staff Update

The year is ending with a total of 40 students enrolled. This is a smaller number than usual, in large measure because our current bus driver, Nakar Alewine, was unavailable until March. The prospects for higher enrollment next year are considerably better, since plans are underway to add seventh grade, prompted in large measure by the strong interest of this year's sixth grade parents.

Several staff changes have occurred since our winter newsletter was prepared. Cook Emmet Namoki terminated his service, and was replaced by Doris Kewenvoyuma. Antoinette Honie began on March 8 as receptionist. Debbie Baker, current PTO President and Environmental, Health and Safety Manager, has been assisting with sixth grade.

Some administrative restructuring has occurred, with Ron Wyse now serving as superintendent, and Thane Epefania adding the title of Director of Development to his role as Principal. Jason Mueller will assume the role of Director of Buildings, Grounds and Vehicles on June 1.

All the current teachers are planning to continue for the next school year. In addition, prospects are good for filling the other needed teaching and support positions. A complete introduction to the staff will be made in the Fall newsletter.

Some initiatives for next school year include appointment of a lead teacher who will mentor young teachers and aides; focused attention on the Arizona state standards and so-called common core; restoration of Title I reading and math enrichment; and teaching of Hopi language, both spoken and written, in the upper grades. A significantly expanded operating budget will be required to increase staff compensation (still way below market rates); support an increased enrollment with the addition of seventh grade; and implement some sorely needed infrastructure and capital equipment additions. If any of our readers (individuals, churches or other groups) are in a position to assist with these needs on an ongoing basis, that can be indicated on the checklist at the end of the newsletter.

Steps are currently underway to enlarge the governing board, with closer ties to the HMS Foundation board. Updating the governing board bylaws will be part of this process.

Sixth Grade Graduation and Field Trip

Five 6th graders said goodbye to Hopi Mission School following their graduation program on May 31. But wait! Seventh grade is being added next year, so their goodbye was only for the summer, should they decide to return to HMS, as most or all of them plan to do. Here is an introduction to the graduates:



Kalani Honanie is a newcomer to HMS, having enrolled only in April. She is from Kykotsmovi, is a member of the Bear Clan, and has two sisters. Even in such a short stay, she has become well acquainted with the school and her classmates. She loves to play basketball, and hang out with friends and family.

Jerod Honwyte is from Shongopavi and a member of the Water Clan. He has 4 brothers and sisters. His best subject is science. He loves to play basketball and hang out with friends. He is also the class comedian.

Brenda Poleahla is from Bacavi, and has 3 brothers. She has been treasurer both of the Student Council and of 6th grade. She has enjoyed learning about God, and singing songs. Basketball is a favorite sport.

Joshua Tsavadawa is from Shongopavi and a member of the Spider Clan. He has been 6th grade class president, and enjoys all sports. His nickname fits him because he likes to josh around. Since third grade, most of his classmates have been girls, so he was glad when Jerod joined the class!

Alexandra Vavages has served as secretary of the Student Council and 6th grade. She enjoys most sports and has a medal in track. She has two sisters one of whom is also at HMS. She has been at HMS since Kindergarten, and enjoys spending time with the faculty, staff and fellow students.

6th Grade Class Trip

by Rebecca Yoder

Mr. Epefano, Miss Yoder, and two parent volunteers accompanied the sixth graders on a week-long class trip, from May 18-25, to the Hoover Dam and Las Vegas, where they stayed. The students and their parents worked very hard all year long to fundraise for the trip and their hard work paid off. On this visit, the students were able to get a glimpse of the world by seeing Paris, New York City, Rome, a pyramid, and more. The students especially loved riding the roller

coaster at New York, New York. They also enjoyed spending much time at the Adventuredome theme park, playing carnival games, and watching unbelievable circus acts. The group tasted Coca-Cola products from all around the world at the Coca-Cola factory and viewed the M&M factory as well.

On Sunday, they met up with Floyd Fry (a previous HMS principal) and his wife Helen (former HMS library director) at their church, Green Valley Baptist Church. Mr. Epefanio was able to share with a Sunday school class about Hopi Mission School and the class was very impressed with how well-behaved the 6th graders were. Floyd and Helen were so kind to take the group out for lunch and to see an animated water fountain show.

The students' favorite part of the whole trip though, was when they were surprised with a stretch Hummer limousine ride. During the whole trip they had been taking pictures of limos and couldn't believe when they got to ride in one themselves with others snapping photos of them!

Finally, the students were amazed to view the magnitude of the Hoover Dam. Each one was required to write a research paper about it and enjoyed being able to see it in person. With all the incredible sights, activities, and events, some of the best memories were made in the van as everyone bonded and grew to know each other better. These van rides allowed for serious discussions, reflections, many silly moments, and of course much laughter.



Kindergarten Promotion

Kindergarten promotion was celebrated in a recognition ceremony at noon on the last day of school, May 31. An appreciative audience of parents, grandparents and extended family members was present to take pictures and hear the students sing "I Wish I Were a Butterfly" and a song about the months of the year.



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.

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.

Easter Program

by Kristen Schrag

This year's Easter program was the same as last year's with a few changes. The program, "Stations of the Cross" is a simple portrayal of Christ's death and resurrection, and added this year was Christ's appearances before his ascension to heaven. There were various students who narrated the stations while other students acted them out. In between some stations students performed a variety of songs which included vocal music as well as students featured on drums and piano, Superintendent Mr. Wyse on guitar, and a 4th/5th/6th grade recorder band. Another favorite this year was when the students again sang "Jesus Loves Me" in English and Hopi. It was a lot of hard work and the students, as always, did everything they needed to do to put on a fantastic program for the many families who came to watch.



Bible Memory Camp and Bible School

Arising from the interest and initiative of 2nd-3rd grade teacher Stephanie Wyse, a group of 6 students left by van on June 2 for a week of Bible Memory Camp in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, with an intermediate stop in Halstead, Kansas. In Oklahoma they will join hundreds of other children from many states for this camp.

Miss Wyse has been involved in Bible memory work in past years both as a learner and a coach. During the current school year just ending, she offered a weekly session on a voluntary basis, after school hours, for students interested in Bible memory. Those students are the ones attending this summer camp. During the 2012-13 school year, the school will build into the calendar a more formal program of Bible memory, again on a voluntary basis.

Also leaving on June 2 is a group of 18 children and adults for Beatrice, Nebraska, where they will join the children of First Mennonite Church for a week of Bible School. This annual opportunity for building relationships and learning more about the Bible has been happening for over 5 years.

Volunteer Work Groups

The school continues to benefit from the generous contribution of labor, experience and skill from a variety of volunteer groups. An unusually large number of such groups has come or will be scheduled between late winter and mid summer.

From March 10-16, Jim and Doris Yoder from Newton, Kansas organized a group, including long-time volunteers and concrete contractor Terry and Monica Schultz, to replace the wooden cafeteria floor with concrete. They will return on June 2 to finish that project by installing tile. They were assisted in the floor project by a group of 13 students from LeTourneau University in Longview, TX. With good organization and hard work, the project was completed 2 days ahead of schedule. This enabled them to spend a day learning about Hopi life and culture, led by Bertrum Tsavadawa, the father of a current student and recognized tour guide. He will be available for similar service for other summer groups.

A side benefit to the HMS students was the coaching and encouragement of a skilled volleyball player in the group.

From March 18-24, a youth group of 11 from First Mennonite Church, Halstead, KS, and led by Dave Mueller, completed a number of landscaping projects and arranging of rock borders. They

also installed a series of wooden posts along a walkway, on which solar lamps will be installed by a group later in the summer.

From March 24-26, a group of 7 youth and 3 adults came from Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch in Clarence, MO, doing grounds work.

From May 29-31, a youth group of 8 with 3 adults, including youth pastor Caleb Regehr, came from three south central Kansas churches: Inman, Buhler and Hoffnungsau Mennonite. They assisted with the Field Day (see separate article), set-up for sixth grade graduation, and grounds work, ending with a visit to the Grand Canyon. They brought as a gift two Elmo Visual Presenters, a quantity of Boxtops and Labels for Education, and a monetary gift.

From June 10-16, a group of 16 led by youth pastor Eric Hayslett from First Baptist Church, Hurricane, WV, will come to do landscaping work.

Beginning June 17, the American Baptist Church USA Men's Organization will mark its 50th anniversary by scheduling week-long service projects through the end of July. They chose the Hopi reservation as the site for this anniversary celebration. Coordinator of this weeks-long effort is Lucky Ray from Parkersburg, WV. Site supervisor throughout will be Bill Morningstar, working with a new group each week comprised of volunteers from all over the country. During the week of June 17, another group will be present, led by Larry Dale from the Baptist Temple of Parkersburg, WV. These groups will be working with three Baptist congregations on the reservation on a variety of work projects, plus some tasks at the school. In particular, a paint crew will work on school buildings from June 24-30.

Hopi Mission School has been abundantly blessed and benefited from the presence and participation of these volunteers. The Volunteer Center, now 3 years old, is a godsend in providing modest but comfortable accommodations for such groups.

Field Day

A popular end-of-the-year activity is Field Day, in which the students, staff and some parents spend the morning in a variety of games. This year, the Parent-Teacher Organization took the lead in organizing the event on Wednesday, May 30. PTO leaders Debra Baker, Harriett Tenorio and Camille Quotskuyva went further and used this as an occasion to invite a number of agencies to participate, for many of whom this was their first opportunity to set foot on the campus.

Students were divided into six teams of 6 or 7 members scattered among the grade levels, led by staff members. They were assisted by a youth group from Kansas whose 3-day service trip coincided with Field Day.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement organized a variety of water games, welcome on a warm and sunny day. Tribal offices or agencies that were involved included the Hopi Wellness Center, Cancer Program, Early Intervention Program, and Hopi Rangers. Their activities included relay races, PacMan game, bowling, hula hoop and Frisbee competition. The PTO itself organized a water sponge relay, and a student's parents provided a bean bag toss.



Favors from the various agencies, plus CellularOne and Hopi Telecommunications, Inc., distributed to all participants, included SnoCones, backpacks, water, juice, balls, and potato chip packs.

The morning ended with a lunch of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and other side dishes provided by the school's food service director with assistance from many parents.

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 1,219,747 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.



The Boxtops for Education collection program is still important to our school. Last school year, the school earned \$4,120 from boxtop redemption. Since July, \$3,147.60 has been earned.

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.

Recycle Program

Hopi Mission School has taken seriously a reservation-wide effort being promoted by the Hopi Tribe to recycle all possible materials. Separate containers for recyclables have been placed in various buildings, including the Volunteer Center occupied by visiting groups. These containers are then emptied into bins in the old stone garage, on which doors were installed earlier in the year. These bins are then transferred to a collection point in the village, and from there transferred to a processing center in Show Low, a town off the reservation.

To date, Hopi Mission School is the first school on the reservation to implement a comprehensive recycling program, with commendation by tribal officials.

Student Reports and Writings

Becca Yoder, 4th-5th grade

The American Library of Poetry hosted a student poetry contest in which most of our students entered. Following is one student's entry.

Beautiful Flowers of Joy

By Marquis Timms (5th Grade)

Beautiful flowers of joy,
makes me smile when I walk by.
So wonderful the flowers are bright,
like the amazing sky.
Also so lovely,
make some people want to cry.
So rare,
like it is one of a kind.
Smells so good,
like the divine breeze.

Students responded to the prompt "One morning, you wake up and find a magic carpet that offers to take you anywhere in the world. Write a story that tells about your adventure." Every student wrote captivating stories of travels all around the world from Phoenix to New York, New Zealand to Rome and everywhere in between. Following is one student's work.

Once upon a time a magic carpet was mailed to a ten year old girl. She thought it was a ordinary carpet sent to her. So like everything she got she used it until one day when she got home from school she seen it flying so she got on the carpet. It had a little button on it so she pushed it and a voice said "Ask for destination." So she said "Take me to Phoenix." So the carpet unknown voice said "Calculating Phoenix Arizona." The little girl told her mom then she told her father. Then they packed their clothes, money, pillows, blankets, and other stuff. The magic carpet had a key in it so when they turned it and they flew off it flew so fast they were in Payson in two seconds. So they stopped to get a few things. The carpet had a huge compartment so they opened it and guess what they found a chest. They opened it and there was money in there so they closed the chest and bought school supplies, shoes, clothes, toys, mattresses, desks. They changed their destination and went to Kenya Africa instead to help the needy children there. When they got to Kenya they unloaded their stuff and started looking for children to give it to. Lots of children and their families came running to them. Did I mention they brought food too? They did this because they weren't mean and selfish

they wanted to help people not hurt them. They wanted to do what was right. They didn't have prejudice in their heart. They said prejudice was wrong. They all lived real happy.

by Garylyn Poocha (4th grade)

During the week of Earth Day, the students wrote short “Letters to God” thanking Him for His creation and the things He’s provided. They also made promises of how they can be stewards of the earth. All the students wrote thoughtful and touching reflections. Following is one sample.

Dear God,

I want to thank you for the earth. Thank you for the animals that give us food. And for the trees and plants that give us oxygen, paper, and pencils. I want to thank you for cotton plants that give us clothes to wear everyday. And for the clouds that give us shade. Also for the rain that keeps our plants growing. I appreciate the sun that keeps us warm. I really want to thank you for my family and friends and everyone on earth that provides us with everything.

I want to promise you that I will take care of the environment. I will try to help save the animals and plants on earth. I will also make sure not to litter. I will make sure that I will do all my chores that will help the environment. And make sure that I will take better care of myself. Thank you for this world!

Love, Hollie Honahnie (5th grade)

1st Grade Writing

Kristen Schrag, teacher

Easter at My House

by Leonard Cheresposy (unedited)

ToDay is Easter!!! Last night we colerd the eggs. that morning we fownd the eggs! we cownt our eggs! I fownd 69 eggs! I stomp on one egg and we’d went to eat food and It was good! I had fun! but that was not It. Me and Ms. Schrag and Ms Yoder and her mom watch “Tangled” in my room I had fun!!!!!!!

Football

by Dalen Pashano (edited)

Me and my dad play football at Hopi High School. My dad tackled me. My dad made a point. I scored a point. I had fun on the football field. I scored a point. I won the game. I won a trophy! The End.

Phoenix

by Lynnice Leslie (edited)

I was at home waiting for my mom to get home from work. Then we went to Phoenix. First we went to Days Inn. They did not give us our pillows. My mom got mad. Then when our motel at 7th Avenue we ate breakfast in the cafeteria. I went to Greyhound Park. We went to go look at the yard sale. I got to ride the rides!

Field Trips

On May 3rd Miss Wyse's 2nd/3rd grade class traveled to the Grand Canyon. There they had a guide who explained the rock layers of the canyon and gave them Oreos to model tectonic plates.

While Miss Wyse's class was at the Grand Canyon, the rest of the school joined many other local schools at the Hopi Veterans Memorial Center for an Earth Day Field Trip. Many organizations from around the Hopi and Navajo Reservations and beyond had booths to teach the kids about things such as solar energy, water use, planting, animal care, Hopi foods, and more! Smoky the Bear was there too!



Grades K-6 had another field trip on May 15 to Bearizona Wildlife Park near Williams. The kids enjoyed the walk through Fort Bearizona Zoo where they saw baby bears climbing trees, porcupines sleeping in high branches, and animals in the petting zoo. Next they sat in on the bird show where various High Country Raptors flew just inches above their heads! They finished by riding the bus through the animal enclosures where they saw rare white bison, arctic wolves, and black bears right outside the bus! The kids enjoyed seeing all the animals up close making it a very fun day!

Sports Report

by Kristen Schrag

Varsity Basketball

The varsity basketball teams had a great finish to their seasons, saving their best performances for the Hopi Elementary Athletic League Tournament. The boys pulled everything together for a nail biter game at the beginning of the tournament. It wasn't enough and they lost but they certainly showed how much they learned and improved by the end of the season.

The girls team made it to the semi-finals of the tournament, also giving the crowd a show! They played against First Mesa Elementary School and sent the game into overtime.

Unfortunately they didn't pull off a win but still earned themselves a third place trophy which is something to be very proud of!



Athletic Awards Banquet

On May 8, coaches, student athletes, families, and staff gathered to celebrate the Cross Country, J.V. Basketball, Varsity Basketball, and Cheerleading seasons with an Athletic Awards Banquet. Like any good gathering, we began with a delicious meal provided by the school. After the meal, Mr. Epefania led the ceremony, aided by coaches: Miss Wyse (cheerleading), Miss Yoder (cross country), Miss Schrag (cross country and basketball), and Mrs. Dashee (basketball). In each sport, awards were given for participation, Most Improved Athlete, Most Valuable Player, and Heart of the Lil' Bruin. We also got to watch a video of the cheerleaders' dance at one of the basketball games, and a slide show highlighting each of the seasons. It was a great night to remember and celebrate the efforts of the student athletes throughout the year! We're proud of our Lil' Bruins!

Arizona Tax Credit

A state-level development has occurred of potential significance to Hopi Mission School. The maximum amount of tax funds that can be redirected for private school tuition has been doubled. Instead of a limit of \$1,006 per year for a married couple, it is now possible to contribute \$2,006. For single donors, the increase is from \$503 to \$1,003. A stipulation for the recipient schools is that the added amount must be applied to tuition accounts of students enrolling in a private school for the first time.

As we have reported during the past, the Arizona tax credit program has been of vital importance to the funding of the school for the past decade. This is even more the case as the school expands to offer grade 7, with a resulting increase in staff compensation and related costs for other resources. **We appeal to all of our Arizona readers who pay state income tax, to take advantage of this unique means of supporting our school.**

We understand that for many persons, it may not be financially feasible to contribute the maximum allowable all at one time, especially now that it has doubled. It is completely acceptable to donate smaller amounts periodically, up to the maximum, by April 15 for the prior calendar year. Two long-time supporters have founded a way to manage their donation; they have divided their annual donation into twelve monthly installments, forwarded by their bank to the School Tuition Organization.

The simplest way to donate is to go on line at www.ibescholarships.org, specifying Hopi Mission School as the recipient. If paper is preferred, we are pleased to provide the necessary remittance form upon request.

Community Survey

An increasingly common term being heard in organizational circles is “branding”—identifying what images, perceptions or ideas come to mind when hearing a name, a word or a phrase. A long-time friend of Hopi Mission School offered to spend two days at the school, May 6-7, interviewing its primary “stakeholders”—students, parents, community members, school administration, faculty and staff.

That friend is Lois Dirksen, whose father built some of the original buildings and residences, and who with her family spent a number of her growing-up years at the school. Lois is an associate in a brand consultancy firm based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The time spent with all of the stakeholders resulted in insights and observations covering six categories: Values, Culture, Brand, Reputation, Experience, and Important Attributes. Her findings will form the substance of productive discussions involving the boards and staff for years to come.

We wish to acknowledge with sincere gratitude this contribution of time and expertise by Lois, providing a service and product otherwise unavailable to us.

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.

Under the providence of God, our Mission School is now completing its 61st 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 \$_____ to help cover student meal costs.

NOTE: Scholarship assistance is not needed since all tuition charges are covered by the tax credit.

___ I/we are interested in exploring the possibility of volunteering for occupying and managing the Volunteer Center.

___ 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 _____