

NYCP NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Happenings

Transitions

We look forward to welcoming back Lauren from maternity leave in the coming week. We are sad to lose Delina and appreciate all of the support she has provided to students this school year. Best of luck on your next adventure!

NAL Grant at Natchez!

We are excited to celebrate the receipt and implementation of the Native American Language grant to support the Paiute language revitalization efforts at Natchez, see the article on the following pages for more information.

New WCSD Trustee

We are excited to welcome Mr. Phoenix to the WCSD Board of Trustees! We look forward to have a trusted member of the community representing our students in such an important position!

Upcoming Events

- Presidents' Day, No School:
February 17
- College and Career Readiness
Assessment, High School: February
25th
- Spring Break: March 15-30



COLLEGE CORNER

The Native American Fee Waiver

In Nevada, the Native American Fee Waiver allows Native American students to attend college with no tuition cost. This fee waiver is available for all Native American students who have a tribal enrollment for themselves, their parent, or grandparent with a tribe with the boundaries of the United States. In addition to the fee waiver form, you must complete the FAFSA applications online.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact your TYAS. The form is available here and on our website: https://nshe.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Affairs/NSHE_Native_American_Fee_Waiver.pdf

Scholarships

We are in the middle of scholarship season. For our seniors, here are some resources:

- [Find My Scholarship](https://nevadafund.org/scholarships): The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada's Scholarship Program has a number of scholarships available. Their quiz will help you determine which is the best fit for you.
<https://nevadafund.org/scholarships>
- [American Indian College Fund Scholarship Resources](https://collegefund.org/students/): This site has a number of scholarships and tips for writing applications.
<https://collegefund.org/students/>
- [College Fund Connect](https://collegefundconnect.peoplegrove.com/): This resource offers information about summer internships, jobs, etc for juniors and seniors in high school. If you go to this site, you can sign up to receive the information via email.
<https://collegefundconnect.peoplegrove.com/>



2025 PAIUTE LANGUAGE BOWL

MAY 9, 2025



Time: 10:00 am

Join us in celebrating the achievements our students have made in their Paiute language classes with a friendly competition. The Language Bowl is an opportunity for our students to encourage each other in preserving and revitalizing the Paiute language.



Location:

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Gym
34 Reservation Road Reno, NV
ENTRANCE on Golden Lane Building B



Contact:

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Washoe County
School District



Native American
CULTURE & EDUCATION
PROGRAM



Saving Numu: A journey to preserve the language of the Northern Paiute



At Natchez Elementary School, a unique program is breathing life into a language that was nearly lost. (none)

By [Taylor Burke](#)

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WADSWORTH, Nev. (KOLO) - At Natchez Elementary School, a unique program is breathing life into a language that was nearly lost.

Thanks to a \$1.2 million Native American Language grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the school is leading an effort to revive and teach Numu to a new generation. The program, called "Young Mustangs—Strong Futures Project," aims to embed cultural identity and language instruction into the daily lives of students. Nearly 98% of the students at Natchez Elementary are members of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, making the initiative a deeply personal mission for the community.

Paiute elder, Reynelda James, has dedicated her life to preserving Numu as she remembers a time when speaking her native language was dangerous.

"We couldn't speak the language. But, a dear friend of mine, who has sadly passed on now, we would speak it at night. There were two other girls in our room and we could hear them speaking Shoshone, so my friend and I started speaking," recalled James. "But if we were caught, we would have to sit in the hallway with no blankets all night."

The Stewart Indian School, located in Carson City, operated for nearly 100 years as a government-run boarding school for Native American children. The controversial school forced assimilation, at the cost of cultural identity. For James, this history underscores the urgency of passing Numu to the next generation.

"It's so unnatural to punish someone for speaking their own language," James said.

Kailauni Harry, a Numu language community specialist, leads the classes at Natchez Elementary. Harry's journey with Numu began 15 years ago, inspired by her niece.

"I had to really think about what I had to offer my niece to help raise her up as her auntie / momma," explained Harry. "So language was one of the things I began to prioritize."

Now a mother herself, Harry's perspective has evolved.

"I look at all of these children here like my own. So in that thought I couldn't keep the language at home," Harry said.

The curriculum combines language learning with cultural activities, storytelling, history, art, and music, immersing students in the traditions of their ancestors. The program doesn't just benefit Native students. According to the school's principal, Jake Chapin, introducing non-Native students to Numu fosters mutual understanding.

"Before we begin to understand others, we must understand ourselves, and that's the heart of bringing this program to our school," Chapin said.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Washoe County School District are collaborating closely on the initiative. Tribal Chairman Steven Wadsworth sees the grant as a step forward in healing and awareness. "It is a day to be proud of those fighting for the restoration of our language," he says. Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Chairman Doug Gardipe adds, "The Numu language is the soul of our identity. Teaching it to our children restores what was taken during the boarding school era."

The grant will ensure that 100% of students at Natchez Elementary receive cultural and language instruction, participate in cultural activities, and engage their families in these traditions. This holistic approach aims to strengthen not just the students but the entire community. James and Harry both hope these efforts will lead to a revival of the Numu language, ensuring its survival for generations to come.

"Our Numu language and culture go hand in hand, and it is an important part of who we are as Numu," James said.

With the "Young Mustangs—Strong Futures Project," the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is not just teaching a language; they are reclaiming a piece of their identity and history. It's a powerful reminder that even in the face of past injustices, cultural restoration is possible through determination, collaboration, and the belief that the future is worth fighting for.

"Through language I found myself to be very empowered. Through my journey I feel like I found my own eyes and that's what I want for these children. I want them to be proud of themselves, I want them to stand strong on their own two feet, and I want them to know who they are so when they step out into that world, they don't get lost," said Harry.

Connect with Us

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