

WINDOW ROCK USD #8 NEWSLETTER

We exist to ensure relevant learning for all students to be successful in a multicultural society.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The change in the weather and seeing pumpkins and candy in all the stores are reminders that Fall is finally here. Classroom routines have been established and this is prime time for learning. Teachers are making the most of every opportunity to move students forward in their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. We appreciate your support at home to ensure students come to school every day, on time, and ready to learn. Open and effective communication between school and home is critical to providing the support our students need to be successful and happy. Please know that our door is always open for our families.

Letter grades were recently released from the Arizona Department of Education. The good news is that Window Rock Unified School District is showing steady improvement over the past two years. Unfortunately, that progress is not reflected in our letter grades. Our schools have established detailed school improvement plans that focus on student learning. School improvement takes time and we are on the right track to excellence.

As parents, you may ask your child(ren) what they did or what they learned at school only to be answered with the word, "nothing." Let me reassure you that learning is taking place. A student's day is filled with many experiences and activities. If you want specific answers, my suggestion is to ask specific questions. For example, ask your child what activity they did in math or ask them if they felt good about their performance on a test. Specific questions will help your child remember details from their day.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership! Go Scouts!

Lynnette Michalski, Superintendent

**ELEVATING
EXCELLENCE**
to



Bikaa' Hadiikah

October 16: WRUSD Open Forum, Board Rm at 6pm

October 18: Secondary Parent/Teacher Conference

October 9-20: Benchmark Testing
(Galileo Math/ELA/Science, Writing)

October 30: Governing Board Mtg at 6 pm

November 9: Fall Festival at 5:30 pm

November 10: Veteran's Day NO SCHOOL

November 20-24: Fall Break NO SCHOOL

November 23: Thanksgiving Day

December 6: Governing Board Mtg at 6 pm

December 11: Keshmish Celebration

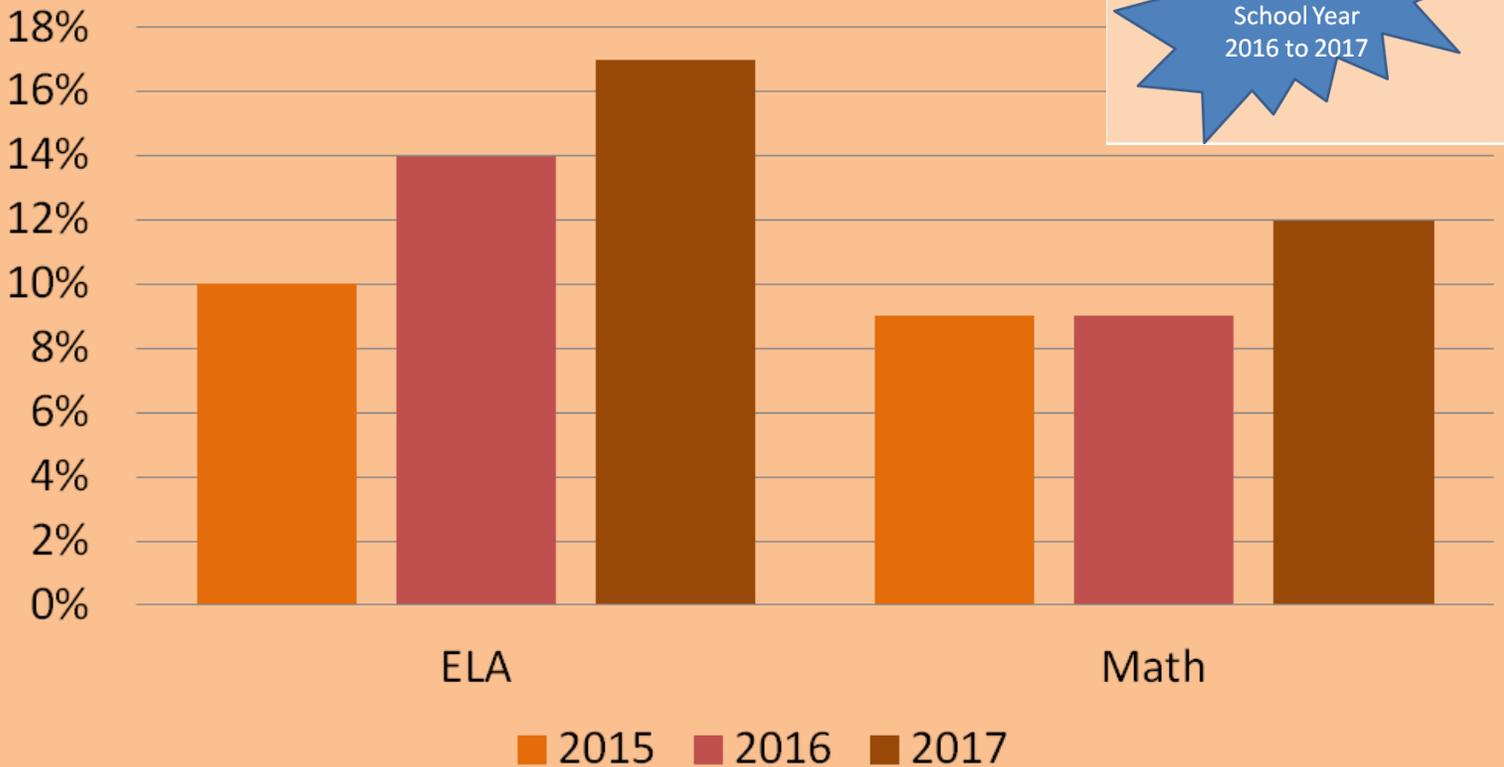
December 15: End of 2nd Quarter

December 18- Jan 1: Winter Break

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Overall District Performance on AzMERIT ELA/Math Spring 2015-2017

3%
Growth from
School Year
2016 to 2017



You can become more involved with your child's education by:

- * Supporting your schools extra-curricular activities
- * Volunteering at your child's school
- * Keeping your child's teacher informed about events in your child's life that may affect his/her performance at school
- * Attending parent teacher conferences
- * Communicating with your child's teacher regularly by phone, email, or notes
- * Ensure your child is at school everyday, . all day
- * Support your child with homework

Reminder:

Every WEDNESDAY
EARLY RELEASE Day
for Students

UPCOMING BENCHMARK TESTING DATES

October 9-20, 2017

Benchmark 1

*Galileo - Grade 1-12 ELA/Math
Science - Grade 4, 8, & Biology
Writing - Grade 1-12*

January 9-19, 2018

Benchmark 2

*Galileo - Grade 1-12 ELA/Math
Science - Grade 4, 8, & Biology
Writing - Grade 1-12
DIBELS - Grade K-6*

October is National BULLYING Prevention Month



According to PACER center's Kids against bullying, **bullying** is when someone is purposely being harmed by actions or words, this makes the person feel bad. The harmfulness usually occurs repeatedly, this makes the person feel bad about what is being done. Stopping the bullying behavior can be difficult to do. We can all help to stop bullying:

- We can take a pledge against bullying.
- **Promote to wear the color orange on October 25, 2017**, this is a day for everybody to gather to show their meaning of care.
- Hosting a poster contest to see who is able to create an awesome poster in celebration of awareness during National Bullying Prevention Month.
- Launching a bullying report systems gives an opportunity to see if students know who to talk to in the school if they are being bullied.
- Some things to think about is finding out how to make the reporting anonymous and figuring out what resources to utilize, for example an email address or a phone number they can call.
- Students are encouraged to design cards with instructions on steps to obtain help and hand out to the students.
- Hand out ORANGE unity ribbons, utilizing 8 ½ by 11-inch construction paper. Write "unity" on each of the strip and pass out for your classmates to wear.

The different types of bullying behavior:

- verbal or written abuse-name-calling jokes;
- violence – threats of violence;
- sexual harassment – unwelcomed conduct of sexual nature, this can be humiliation or intimidation;
- homophobia – having an aggressive behavior to students relating to gender and sexuality;
- discrimination and racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is treating people differently because of their identity.
- cyberbullying- occurs through mobile phone or online.

Halloween Safety Checklist

Review these rules to keep ghouls and boys safe!

1. Stay on the sidewalk.
2. Don't eat any candy before it is inspected by adults.
3. Don't eat any unwrapped candies.
4. Stay with your group.
5. Wear a reflecting item on your clothing so cars can see you.
6. Observe the trick or treating hours.
7. Have a hauntingly good time!



CULTURAL/WELLNESS PROGRAM

Student Author Project

For a second year, the district Johnson O' Malley Indian Education Committee proudly supports the Student Author Project. Students Preschool to 6th grade will write, illustrate, and publish their own hard covered book. This project is all about motivating our students to write. We want to spark their imagination and the writing process from start to finish. Nothing motivates students more than seeing their work in a REAL book they get to keep. This hands-on project makes reading and writing fun. There is nothing more rewarding than to see our students excited to learn. And, our students have incredible stories to tell.

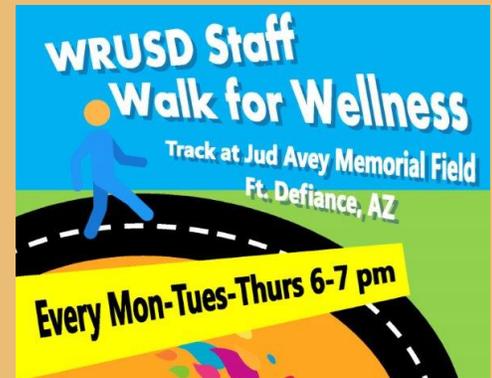


Navajo Rug Weaving Parent Involvement Program

In partnership with WRUSD, the Tsehootsooi Medical Center presents the Navajo Rug Weaving Parent Involvement Program for our parents and students. Prevention Specialist, Janet Hoskie is teaching each student to weave. The class also incorporates lessons about traditional female identity and supports parent-child bonding and communication skills. This is just one of many projects our district joins in with the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Division of Healthy Living and Outreach.

WRUSD Staff Walk for Wellness

District staff are enjoying the evening walking the track at Jud Avey Memorial Field with TILC teacher, Dr. Rachelle Jones. In focusing on wellness and personal enjoyment, staff has a safe alternative to walking alone. If you decide to add walking to your day, remember to stay hydrated, dress for the weather and wear proper walking shoes.



BOARD OF EDUCATION / INDIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WRUSD Governing Board

Mr. Scott Tomlinson, President

Ms. Josephine Dawes, Clerk

Mr. Floyd Ashley

Mr. Carl Hillis

Ms. Brenda Wauneka

SY 2017-18 WRUSD Indian Education Committee

Mr. Lanbert Perry, President, TPLC Rep

Ms. Francelia Yazzie, Vice President, TMS Rep

Ms. Willencia Bia, Secretary, WRHS Rep

Ms. Carrie Anderson, Member, TDB Rep

Ms. Geraldine BinettneeKirk, Member, TILC Rep

For more information contact:

Lynnette Michalski, Superintendent

PO. Box 559 Navajo Route 12 Fort Defiance, AZ 86504 Phone: (928) 729.6705 Fax: (928) 729.6841

Website: www.wrschool.net