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The Phoenix Times

"Spreading Its Wings and Soaring High"

The Official Publication of Albuquerque School Of Excellence
13201 Lomas BLVD. NE, NM 87112

What's Inside:

Editorial-Hybrid... (3)
Coronavirus and Personal... (4)
Students of the Month (6,7,8)
Teachers of the Month (9,10)
Man of Character... (11)
Mister Motivation... (12)
Share to Inspire (13,14)

The Woman Who... (15)
Salute... (15)
Meet the Phoenix... (16)
Historical Figures (17)
Oct-Nov Holidays... (18,19,20)
The Sun Will Rise (21)
Rosas Y Violetas (22)
Music, A Fall... (23)
Tribute (Back page)

VOLUME NO: I

ISSUE NO: 3

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2020

K-1 starts hybrid - Camree Volk

Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE) began its hybrid learning plan for the Kindergarten and 1st Grade students last October 12th, 2020,

In total, 74 students have started hybrid learning, with 42 in Kindergarten and 32 in 1st grade. 40 students from both grades continued online.

The Hybrid class teachers are Ms. Jaynee Hall, Ms. Cathy Boone, and Ms. Jolene Martinez for Kindergarten; and Ms. Dianne Barrett, and Ms. Michelle Wallin for 1st Grade.

Ms. Ozgur Yanar is the General Education - Educational Assistant (EA) and the Computer Teacher (K-1). Ms. Methvin and Mrs. Begit are the EAs who work closely with Mr. Hawley and Ms. Zolman for Special Education.

Other hybrid staff include

Mrs. Summy (Reading Interventionist), Ms. Meetze (PE), Mrs. Diaz (ESL), Mr. Hawley and Ms. Zolman (Special Education), Mr. Lance Matthewson (Social Worker), and Ms. Martinez (Special Education Coordinator).

The support staff helping

with the hybrid program are: Ms. Jessica Correa (Elementary Secretary), Ms. Doreen Beyal (Elementary Medical Assistant), Ms. Lilia, Ms. Monica, and Mr. Jose (Custodial Staff), Mr. Dokan, Mr. Myhmanov, and Mr. Ghith Ibrahim (Technological

Support), Jasmin Arias and Angela Lopez (District Office Staff), Bouthina Issa and Omar Rachidi (Campus Assistants), and Daniella Nunez (Secondary Secretary).

All ASE's Administrative Staff have all **(Cont. on P2)**



KEEP DISTANCE! ASE students attending Hybrid Classes practice social distancing during a class activity at ASE Elementary Campus on October 2020. **Photo Credit:** Ms. Angela Lopez

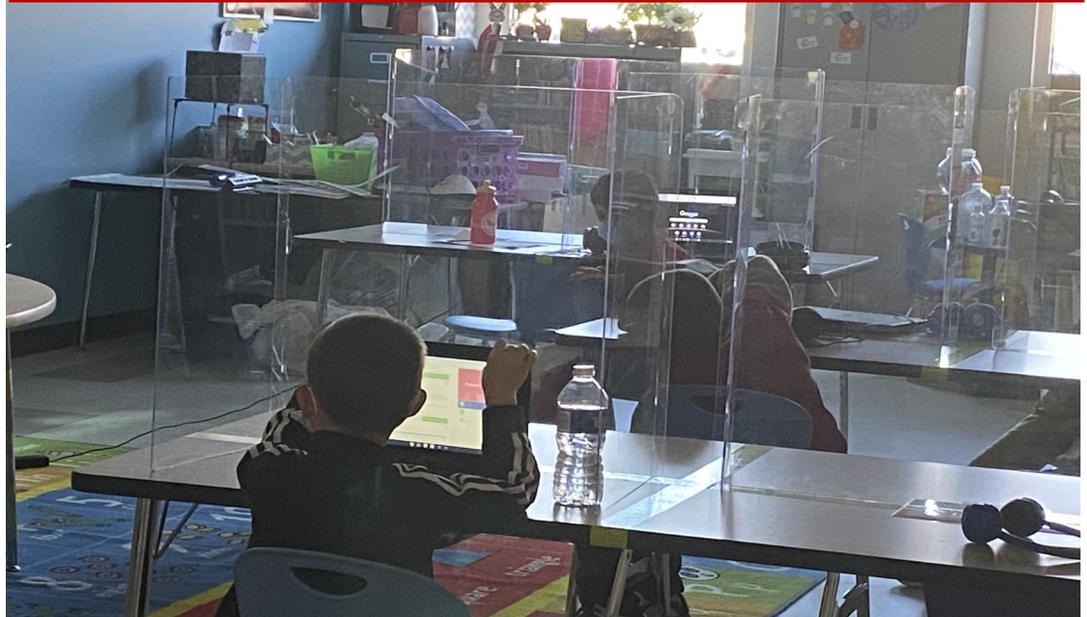
(Cont. K-1 starts...) returned to campus as well to ensure the smooth flow of the hybrid program.

The hybrid classes' schedule is as follows: Group 1 - Mondays and Tuesdays, Group 2 - Thursdays and Fridays, and fully online on Wednesdays.

ASE has been strictly following all required and recommended DOH and NMPED guidelines and protocol with regards to Coronavirus-safety practices.

Ms. Vickie V. Kwiecinski, the Elementary Department - Assistant Principal and Ms. Dora Summy, the Dean of Students (K-5) commend all staff who have made a commitment to the hybrid start at ASE; with special thanks to all the teachers and

RESPECT MY SPACE! ASE students attending Hybrid Classes work at their respective work space with a plexiglass cover at ASE Elementary Campus on October 2020. Photo Credit: Ms. Angela Lopez



support staff that made the hybrid platform a success.

In addition, they expressed their appreciation to the

Principal, Mr. Ayik, the Assistant Principals of the Middle and High School Departments, Mr. Sisek and Mr. Yanar respectively, and

Ms. Madsen, Dean of Students (6-12) for their support in making the hybrid start safe and successful.



FOLLOWING THE RULES!!! ASE students attending Hybrid Classes observe proper covid-safety protocol by wearing mask and social distancing at ASE Elementary Campus on October 2020. Photo Credit: Ms. Angela Lopez

PTO Works Amid Pandemic By: Marwa Zameer

The coronavirus pandemic becomes the background of all planned activities of the Albuquerque School of Excellence Parent-Teachers Organization (ASEPTO).

During the October 23, 2020 meeting of the ASEPTO, they decided to keep Ms. Angela Lopez's position as the PTO Liaison for the school and elected Mrs. Sandi Ortega as PTO Vice President to Grades 6-12.

It has also been discussed that the administration approved the distribution of goodie bags as a token of appreciation to all teachers who have started teaching in the hybrid program.

The PTO also provided lunch to all staff members on campus to express their recognition for the hard work they are doing during this hybrid program.

Likewise, due to the increase of coronavirus cases in the state of New Mexico, PTO decided to skip the tentatively planned Halloween Candy Drive-Thru to adhere to the Governor's public health orders.

PTO meets on the 3rd Wednesday evening of every month with the Zoom link provided on the event calendar of the ASE school website.

EDITORIAL

HYBRID PLATFORM, DOES IT WORK FOR ALL? Eli Crowley

"Success in management requires learning as fast as the world is changing." - Warren Bennis

In this unprecedented time of the Coronavirus pandemic, competence, hard work, flexibility, resilience, cooperation, and leadership is what it takes to efficiently run a school. Various components and issues have considered in decision making.

Despite the exhaustion that people feel about the present global health issue, certain decisions must be made with strategic planning, preparation, and execution.

Hybrid Learning have already started in various schools in the state including Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE), which started the hybrid platform for Kindergarten and First Grade Students last October. In as much as setting a comparison between one school to another is quite common and may seem competitive in nature, it is more vital right now to share and learn from each other. Cooperation between and among schools is important in this trying times.

Based on how all schools having hybrid program are performing in the state of New Mexico, it is fair to conclude that each one has done it successfully. All school including ASE have done a great part in recognizing the logistics, as well as the administrative and operational problems and challenges which may arise during the hybrid program.

Schools administrators, support staff, teachers, and students and their families involved in the hybrid program, including those from ASE have strictly followed the mandatory Covid-related guidelines and protocol set by the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), New Mexico Public Education Department

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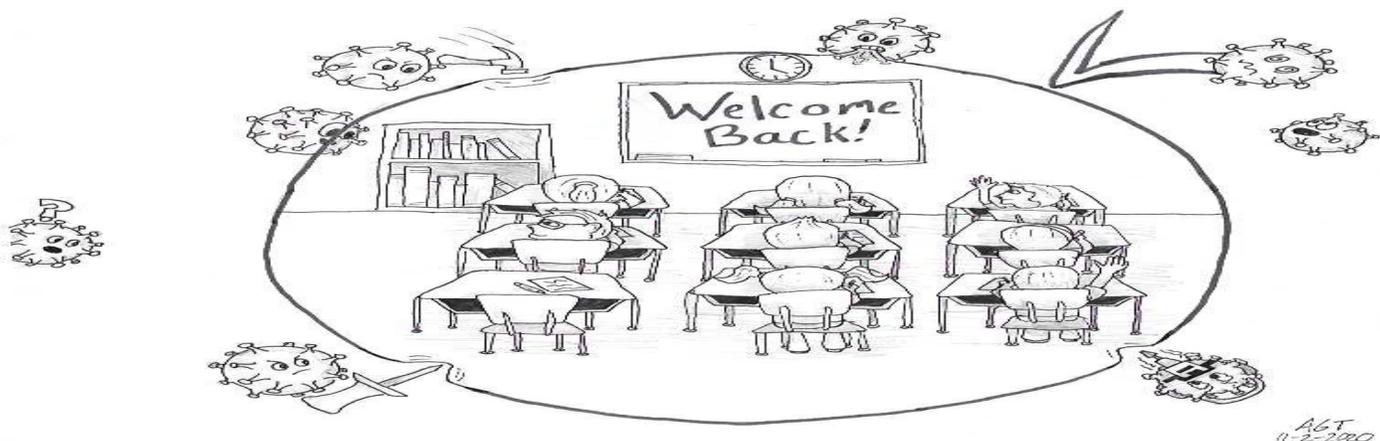
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(NMPED), and the State of New Mexico. The cooperation of the families and the schools also helped a lot in keeping the learning process safe and effective.

In as much as it is fair to acknowledge that some students, parents, and school staff yearn to resume in-person classes in order to return to some semblance of pre-pandemic normalcy; it is something, which cannot just be done based on one aspect alone. In decision making, all schools have to consider various matters and concerns; it must include safety, health, and the constant changes and unprecedented variables associated with the rise of the coronavirus infections in a locality, human behaviors should also be taken into consideration in order to make whatever decision a success during this tumultuous academic year.

"Remember, "Even the darkest night will end, and the sun will rise." - Victor Hugo



CORONAVIRUS and PERSONAL HYGIENE by Jolene Cole-Holpp

"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday, happy birthday, happy birthday to you!" - Sing it twice while you wash your hands with soap and water.

Coronavirus is still the most prevalent issue and the biggest concern that people around the world are facing today. People already feel tiresome, and exhausted dealing with it for over ten months now. The virus though does not get tired, if people keep their guards off, the virus will prevail.

Though vaccines are not readily available yet to counter the coronavirus, simple measures can be done to avoid from being infected, to slow the spread, and to contain the virus. From pre-school, teachers teach students on how to brush their teeth, wash their hands, and many other practices to keep themselves clean. Keeping oneself neat, tidy, and clean is what is referred to as personal hygiene.

In this unprecedented time of the coronavirus pandemic, it is more fitting to take personal hygiene seriously; this is important to slow down the spread of Coronavirus and keep people from contracting it.

Personal choices and practices make a big difference in dealing with this pandemic. Social distancing and wearing mask must come hand-in-hand with personal hygiene.

The first thing to remember in maintaining personal hygiene is to wash hands as often as possible. When everybody practice hand washing and it becomes a routine, it will help slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Second, avoid touching surfaces then touching the face, touching food, and/or other surfaces after; without sanitizing the hands first. Unavoidable circumstances make people touch surfaces, especially in public places. When someone touches

surfaces with coronavirus particles, then touches his/her face, food, or another surface; it enables the virus to spread in a rapid phase and put someone at a high risk of being infected. It is important to make it a point that in the absence of soap and water for hand washing, a sanitizer or alcohol come in handy to keep oneself clean and protected.

Third, cover oneself with elbow or use a tissue when coughing and/or sneezing, or when blowing one's nose; then wash hands or sanitize immediately.

Fourth, clean and sanitize all personal belongings, including phones and other gadgets constantly; tidy up the bedroom, change the beddings regularly, wear clean

clothes, and avoid piling up or accumulating trash, thus, throw it regularly.

Fifth, keep oneself clean by taking a shower or bath and by brushing the teeth regularly.

Lastly, maintain the cleanliness and make it a habit to keep oneself clean.

This virus can only be defeated when people embrace and practice good personal hygiene and follow the doctors and scientists' advice.

These precautions are very simple, yet it will make a difference in coming out victorious over the Coronavirus.



Photo Credit: <https://abstract.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/590530/>

NM Detects Coronavirus Community Spread

– Sarah Adi

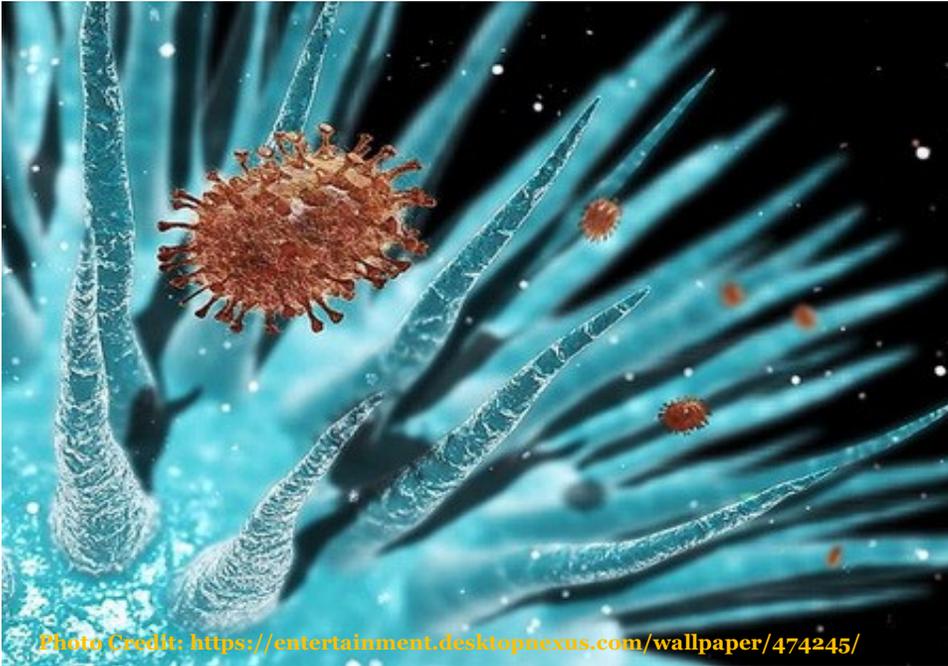


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The Department of Health has detected community spread in the state of New Mexico and is investigating cases with no known exposure.

The agency reports that given the infectious nature of the virus it is likely other residents are infected but yet to be tested or confirmed positive.

To that end, all New Mexicans have been instructed to stay home except for outings absolutely necessary for health, safety and welfare.

These additional restrictions have been enacted to aggressively minimize person-to-person contact and ensure spread is mitigated.

The New Mexico Department of Health has active investigations into the positive patients, which includes contact-tracing and swabs of symptomatic individuals who have had contact with the positive cases.

Every New Mexican is urged to work together to stem the spread of COVID-19 are asked to stay home, especially if sick, social distance, and wear a mask or face covering when in public and around others.

New Mexicans who report symptoms of COVID-19 infection, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and/or loss of taste or smell are asked to call their health care

provider or the NMDOH COVID-19 hotline immediately (1-855-600-3453).

The Department of Health strongly encourages the following groups to get tested: symptomatic people displaying the COVID-19 symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and/or loss of taste or smell; asymptomatic people who are close contacts or household members of people in their infectious period who have already tested positive for the coronavirus; asymptomatic people who live or work in congregate settings such as long-term care facilities and group homes; and patients who are scheduled for surgery and whose provider has advised them to get tested before the procedure.

News Source: (NMDOH) Nov. 4 update
<https://cv.nmhealth.org/2020/11/04/new-mexico-covid-19-update-1022-new-cases-totaling-50251/>

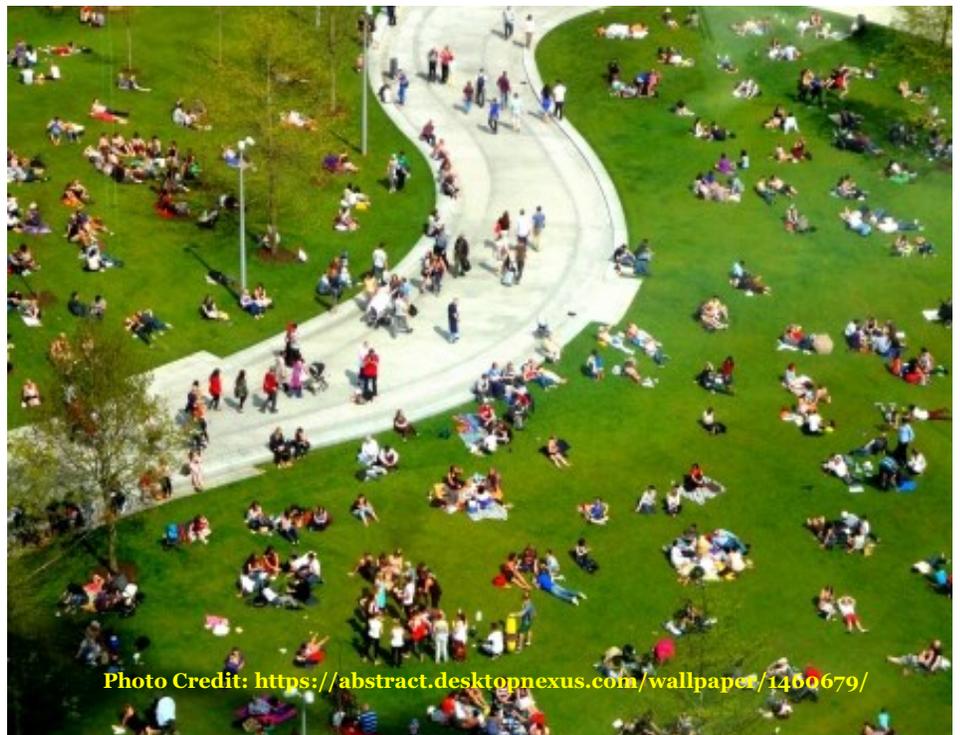


Photo Credit: <https://abstract.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/1460679/>

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

Jake Nguyen (Kindergarten)

Jake is always ready to learn. He participates every day online and completes all of his work. He is always so positive. **By: Mrs. Hall**



Saltina

Saltina Sandoval (9th Grade)

Saltina participates enthusiastically in class, asking questions that help deepen the class' understanding on the topic presented. **By: M. Tither**

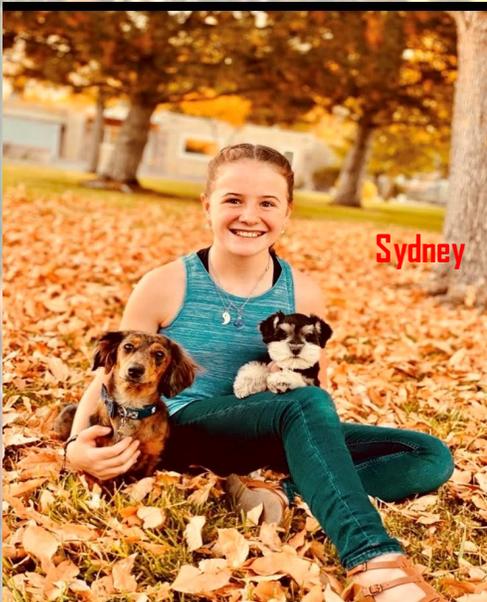
Rawan Lilo (8th Grade)

During this time of distance learning, Rawan has demonstrated exceptional time management skills and communication skills. She has always completed her academic work with high scores.

By: Judy Ma



Rawan



Sydney

Sydney Koranyi (7th Grade)

Sydney is a great student with an impressive character and values. She fosters hard-work, dependability, sense of responsibility, resourcefulness, and cooperation. She helps towards the success of the school paper.

By: Mrs. Ma. Gloria M. King



Alec

Alec Trujillo (6th Grade)

Alec is a very diligent and hard-working student. He presents great reports in the Journalism class, shows promptness in turning in works, and is a team-player in the school paper. He fosters great values and character. **By: Mrs. Ma. Gloria M. King**

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER



Trygg

Trygg White (5th Grade)

Trygg participates in class constantly and always makes sure that his work is done. He always is willing to work hard and learn as much as possible in my class. **By: Mrs. Unger**

Lorelai Hopkins (4th Grade)

Lorelai is eager to learn and always participates in class. She is dedicated to getting her work done excellently. **By: Kendyl Stromberg**

Lorelai is a friendly outgoing girl who always seems cheerful. She loves school, and is encouraging to other students. Her schoolwork is of high quality, and Lorelai loves to volunteer answers or to read or to help others with their assignments. She is a good role model in 4th grade, which is why I am nominating her for Student of the Month. **By: Lorette Lambert**



Lorelai



Nathan

Nathan Barela (3rd Grade)

Nathan is a stellar student- he is always on time for class, he participates and stays late to work on more difficult problems. Nathan is respectful to me and his classmates. **By: Alexandra King**

Angelo DeFazio (2nd Grade)

Angelo is a hard worker. He requests work from me as extras. He excels at math and is doing 3rd grade level work; has already completed the 3rd grade ALEKS work we gave him. The work he turns in is above and beyond what he was asked to do. He is a real team player. When students go to breakout rooms on Zoom I can count on him to be a leader. He is patient with the members of his group, and will walk them through the process to solve the problem or complete the task. He even reiterates what the others say to help move the discussion on, and he is very polite in talking with others and myself. Even when I can see he is frustrated with the other kids he remains calm and polite. He is a great role model and my right hand helper. **By: Jamie Blackledge**



Angelo

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER



Ahmet Yanar (1st Grade)

Ahmet is always working hard in my class. He stays in constant communication with me via email regarding his assignments and grades. I appreciate a student who takes responsibility for their learning and pride in their achievement. Ahmet also is having to come to school every day during this pandemic because both of his parents have to be at work working hard for our school. I appreciate that Ahmet comes into class with a smile on his face, always eager to complete every assignment and has become a great leader in our class that his classmates use as a role model. He is also a student that I have put down as a lead student in my substitute plans. **By: Ms.Wallin**

Abeer Abu Hatab (12th Grade)

Abeer is an excellent student! **By: Graybeal-Sellers**



Arpan Patel (11th Grade)

Arpan has a perfect attendance and he has been on top of all assignments and zoom meetings. He cares about his work qualities by retrying the topics if he can't get really good grades the first time. He can reach out for teacher's help if needed and he is very respectful in class and in email correspondences. **By: Qingqing Cui**



Selbi Sapayeva (10th Grade)

Selbi has very good self-management skills. She cares about learning and challenges herself with high level classes. She actively participated in Zoom discussions and completed her school work with an excellent quality. She is very respectful in class and in email correspondences. **By: Qingqing Cui**

Photo Credit: <https://nature.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/1479764/>

TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

Elementary Level – MS. CATHERINE BOONE

- Teya Switzer



Meet Ms. Catherine Boone, a family member of ASE since 2013. She has been in the teaching profession for over 30 years now; 20 of those teaching years is in the elementary level.

Ms. Boone earned a Bachelor of Arts: German Language and K-8 Teaching License from Hendrix College and University of New Mexico respectively.

She taught preschool, first, second, and third grade students for over 30 years. At present, she teaches reading, writing, language arts, spelling, math, science, social studies, and social and emotional well-being to her educational clients. Likewise, she is the adviser of the Sign Language Club and Garden Club.

She has been married for 33 years and a proud mother of two young adult daughters who both have families of their own now. This year, she is grateful for having been blessed with her first grandson and feels lucky to enjoy living close to her children and their new families.

Ms. Boone loves playing with her grand pet dogs and those at each of her kids' homes as well. She also enjoys teaching young children using hands-on activities and experiences. She always makes it a point to enjoy and have fun every day with her students, friends, and family.

Her hobbies include listening to music, growing house plants, walking, swimming, playing tennis, riding bikes, and learning languages other than English.

"Working at ASE has been the most positive teaching experience of my career because students want to learn, and parents try to help. The elementary team of teachers, support staff, office personnel and administrators are the best I've ever been a part of," said Ms. Boone.

Secondary Level – MS. SARAH FIELDING

- Beau Weaver

"I've been absolutely terrified every moment of my life - and I've never let it keep me from doing a single thing I wanted to do." - Georgia O'Keeffe.

Meet Ms. Sarah Fielding, the Teacher of the Month for September – Secondary Level. You may have already seen her in the first issue since she is one of the new teachers here in ASE.

Ms. Fielding earned her degrees in BA English and MFA Creative Writing from University of California, Berkeley and Syracuse University respectively.

She has taught College Composition, College Research Writing, High School English, and Middle School English. She is an avid painter and poet.

Having been a part of ASE for several months now, she expresses appreciation for the rigor and high expectations ASE sets for the students.

In parting, Ms. Fielding said, "I do the best I can in every situation. I have confronted many challenges in life; these obstacles have made me more empathetic. I have learned to be independent and to work as hard as I can regardless of the circumstances."



Photo Credit: <https://nature.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/1479764/>

TEACHER OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

Elementary Level – MS. SUZANNE ZAMORA - Camree Volk

"Anything worth doing is worth doing well." - Ms. Suzanne Zamora.

Ms. Suzanne Zamora, Albuquerque School of Excellence's (ASE) current 5th-grade Science teacher and 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade gifted teacher, is truly quite a remarkable woman and educator.

She has been at ASE for 3 years and has 23 years of teaching under her belt. She has previously taught 1st grade, Technology for grades K-3, 7th and 8th-grade Science, and all subjects of 6th grade at the elementary level.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Adams State College in Colorado, and a Master of Science degree in Science Teaching from New Mexico Tech.

Ms. Zamora enjoys being outside, camping, fishing, and riding bikes. Pre-Covid, she spent lots of her time watching her daughters, ages 14 and 10, play sports such as Volleyball and Soccer. She also likes to make t-shirts, wood signs, and mats.

She has been married for 20 years to her high school sweetheart. She is a proud mom of two amazing daughters. She recently obtained her admin license, and is working on receiving her Gifted Certification as well.

Ms. Zamora says ASE is a school of hard workers, from the teachers to the students; and she enjoys learning new things from the interesting staff on a daily basis. ASE is truly lucky to have Ms. Zamora!



Secondary Level – MS. JUDY MA - Camree Volk



Ms. Judy Ma is an 8th grade Math teacher here in Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE). She earned a degree in Bachelor of Arts in English from Zhengzhou University. She has a master's degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and a Ph. D in Educational Inquiry, Measurement, and Evaluation from Brigham Young University, Utah.

If there is something she wants, it is that her students, parents, and colleagues feel comfortable to communicate with her to improve and better help the students learn.

Ms. Ma said that it was surprising news to be the recipient of the award since she did not know that there is the teacher of the month recognitions. She also said that despite the challenges brought by distance learning, she feels that the support from the school, the staff, and the families make the learning environment successful.

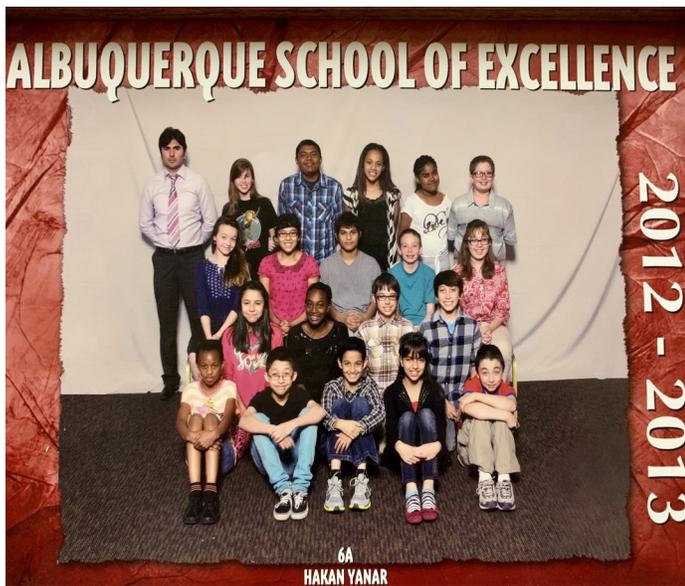
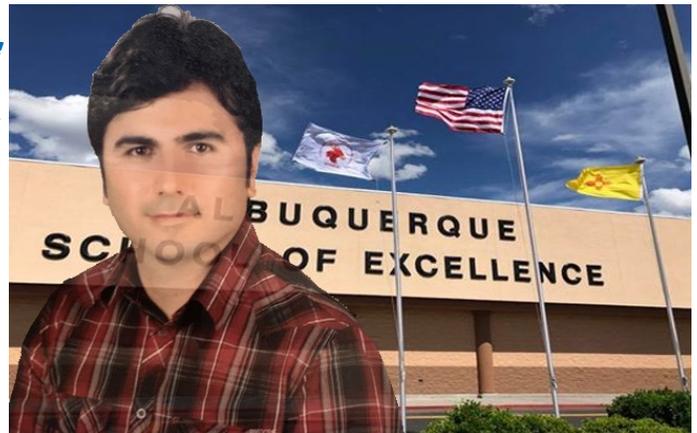
In parting she said, *"I am grateful for the recognition! I believe that all the ASE staff are doing the best to help students learn in our current situation. I have been learning a lot from my colleagues who use creative ways to engage students and connect the class to real life. Every time I meet with my colleagues in Zoom, I realize there is something new I can improve on. Furthermore, I am fortunate to have students and their families who do their best to communicate with me so that I can best help the students. I hope this communication continues as the school year goes on."* Ms. Judy Ma is a great addition to the ASE family.

Man of Character and Loyalty By Sydney Koranyi

"Education is the most powerful tool you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela

For students who have been in ASE for years now, you surely know the newly promoted Assistant Principal of the High School Department, Mr. Hakan Yanar who embraces Nelson Mandela's quote on Education.

Mr. Yanar has been an educator for eleven years now, and eight of those years is with Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE). He has been with ASE since 2012 and has since considered it as his second home. His eleven years of experience included being a Math Teacher, Department Chair, and College Counselor.



He received his bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Selcuk University. He then earned his Master of Education in School Counseling and Administration Certification from Lamar University in Texas.

Mr. Yanar is a devoted husband and a proud father of two boys, ages seven and four years old. He enjoys playing soccer, table tennis, skiing, watching anime, and most of all, spending time with his family.

He is a firm believer that in order to meet students' social, emotional, and academic needs; the school, parents, teachers, and students should work together as one and establish a harmonious relationship between and among each other.

As an administrator, Mr. Yanar states that, "Albuquerque School of Excellence, continuously works on providing effective and efficient services to our students in order to ensure that each and every one of them receives the quality education that they deserve. We also thrive to produce students who can reach their full potentials in order to make monumental positive changes in the world. Hence, I believe that

education is an essential investment we can make for our kids."

Mr. Yanar, your dedication, and mission towards a positive change means a lot!



Mister Motivation, Inspiration, and Determination

By: Jolene Cole-Holpp

"I share ASE's vision that every single student succeeds in school and has options to enter Math, Science and Engineering careers; and be given the opportunity to learn, grow and be ready for their future. As a member of ASE, I believe that excellence in Math and Science prepares youth to succeed in college, the workplace, and the 21st century." - Mr. Hakan Sisek

Meet Mr. Hakan Sisek, the ASE - Assistant Principal for the Middle School (6th-8th grades). He was previously the Dean of Academics for 7th - 12th grades and taught Pre Calculus at the same time. He has a total of eight years of experience in the academic field, which included teaching 7th grade Math, 8th grade Math, Algebra I, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus; and

joined the ASE family in 2018.

Mr. Hakan, as he wished to be called, earned a degree in Bachelor of Science in Math in Secondary Teaching from the University of 19 Mayis and earned his master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas - Tyler (UT Tyler).

As an administrator, he expresses his delight to be in an amazing working environment and be able to work with a great dedicated team. He describes the

ASE staff, faculty, and his fellow administrators as caring, competent, hard-working, mission-oriented, and passionate about providing the best possible learning climate for students.

He is happily married, and is blessed with two wonderful children, a one-year old baby girl and a four-year old boy. He enjoys living in Albuquerque; and engaging himself into new hobbies which include hiking, skiing, and cycling. He also still enjoys playing soccer, table tennis, reading, and traveling. Yet, the most that he loves is spending time with his family.

In parting, he says, "I would like to give the message that all the staff at ASE are doing their best to serve our students and all ASE families better during this unprecedented time. We hope that we can go back to normal soon to better serve our students and meet their needs."

We are so grateful and proud that you are a part of the ASE family, M. Hakan!



Share to Inspire

Great Adventures in Teaching by Celeste Bivens

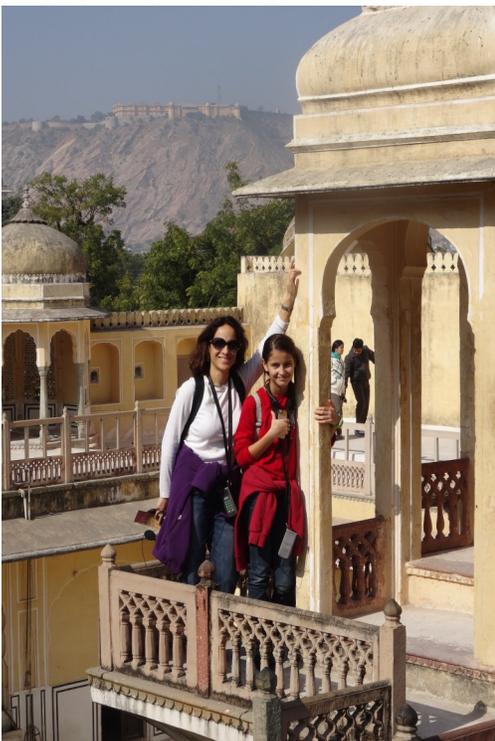
Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. - T. S. Eliot.

This quote can be considered as the best description to give Ms. Cristina Sherman, an extraordinary teacher with extraordinary adventures and experiences.

It all started in 2003 when Ms. Sherman was teaching in Santa Fe, New Mexico, feeling lucky to have the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains to look at while on recess duty when a colleague of hers told her about teaching overseas; how wonderful it was, and told her about the son he adopted while living in Lebanon.

She was very intrigued by it that even though she was expecting for their first child, she convinced her husband to consider teaching overseas with her. She was determined to apply for a job and move to another country.

In 2004, a year after giving birth, she moved with her husband, baby daughter, and her mother to Numazu, Japan. Waiting for them was a teaching job at Katoh-Gakuen (Katoh School), a private, English-Immersion school. She taught Math, Science, and Computer classes in English language to Japanese 1st graders.



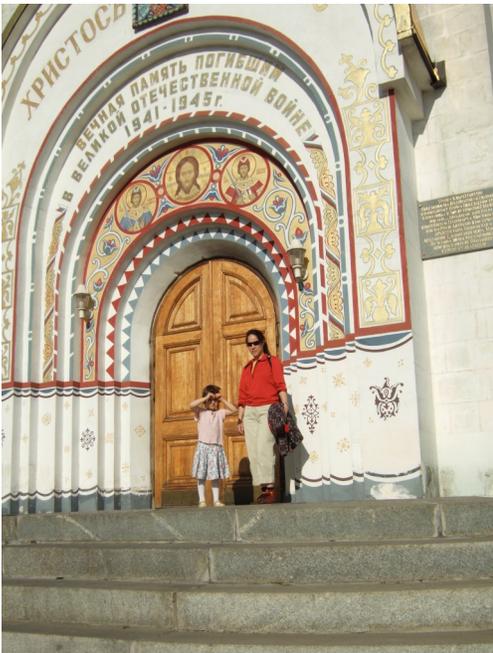
During the first few months, she felt out of place not knowing how to read the signs, communicate with anyone outside of the school, nor know much about the Japanese culture. They eventually learned some Japanese language and customs in their two years of stay; travelled around the southern part of the country and explored the Japanese food, art, and architectures including temples. They also learned to live in a community where there were very few foreigners and were able to establish friendship with people of various nationalities, including Japanese, Canadian, Australian, and New Zealander (Kiw) teachers, whom she is still in touch with today. Her first job overseas as amazing as she describes it and opened up a whole new world of teaching and learning experience for her.

After their first teaching adventure, they then attended another teacher job fair in Boston, which gave them the opportunity to teach in Moscow, Russia. They were off again to the other side of the world, to a country where they cannot even read the alphabet nor understand the language.

In Moscow, they both taught in an Anglo-American School comprising of teachers coming from all over the world; and caters to students of various nationalities. The school uses English as the medium of instruction with a curriculum like that of the United States. While in Moscow, she was given the opportunity to attend teacher conferences in Switzerland and Turkey. She was also able to visit various Russian schools, which she described to be very strict. (Cont. on the next page)



(Continuation...Great Adventures in Teaching)



During their two-year stay in Russia, they were able to spend holidays in other places including Egypt, Italy, Portugal, and Austria. Though winter is harsh as she described it, she still considers it as an amazing country with lush forests all around, big, beautiful buildings, and impressive paintings, furniture, and jewels in museums. The Russian people are funny, welcoming, and hospitable.

After finishing their contract, her family decided to go back to the United States to be around her family and in time for her daughter to start Pre-school.

Three years later, it was time for another adventure in Chennai, India (formerly called Madras) where they taught in the American International School of Chennai. Interestingly, though it is an International school with students coming from all over the world; a big number comprised of Koreans, since there are large Korean car factories situated in Chennai. There she taught ESL while teaching a regular 3rd grade class.

Ms. Sherman and her family lived in the tropical south of India but were able to visit and explore the northern side, where there are deserts and the snowy mountains of the Himalayas. They fell in love with the country that they stayed there for four years, despite not being able to learn the Tamil language.

Their stay in India was a great adventure. They went on a tiger safari, rode on elephants and camels, swam in beautiful warm waters, and ate delicious food. They explored and experienced the grandeur of great palaces,

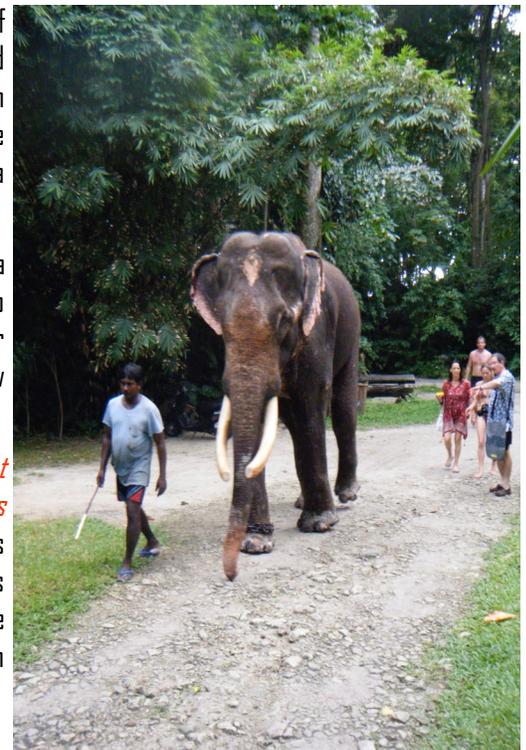


forts, and temples.

Ms. Sherman describes India as an amazingly large country which is full of diversity and is rich in culture and traditions. The people are great and in their four-year stay, they made friendships that she considers lasting a lifetime.

"I've had wonderful experiences as a travelling teacher. It is a great way to combine what I love to do in my career with the joy of traveling and having new experiences," says Ms. Sherman.

"To love what you do is satisfying, but to love and enjoy it at the same time is fulfilling, and worth treasuring." That is how Ms. Sherman considers her travels and adventures in teaching. Thus, she looks forward for her next adventure in the nearest future.



The Woman Who Runs the Business By Jareth Torres

"My passion is to work hard every day in ensuring that our school meets our administrative goals in the areas of enrollment, curriculum orders, grants, and state PPE requirements. I love being part our community and enjoy coming to work every day." - Ms. Jasmin Arias

Ms. Jasmin Arias holds a vital role in the ASE community as Federal Program Coordinator-Equity Council Lead; District Secretary-Student Recruitment; and PPE Coordinator-Curriculum Purchaser.

Prior to her present position, she was an Educational Assistant for Special Education. She sees ASE as a growing school with a unique community, filled with passion and diversity; thus, as part of the school, she wants to help more in making the school grow further.

Ms. Arias earned her associate degree in Administrative Accounting with Business Fundamentals Certification from the University of Phoenix, Arizona and holds eight years of experience in Business Management.

Before moving to Albuquerque, she was a former business owner, and salon manager for multiple salons. She moved to Albuquerque with her family a year ago. Having lived here for quite a while now, she says that she has been enjoying it a lot and is having fun.

Ms. Arias is a mother of a 7th grader student at ASE, Jason Arias. They love going on fishing trips, BBQ nights, watching football, and family game nights on the weekends. She also enjoys hanging out, giving to others, and making people laugh, as well as spending time with her two dogs, two cats, a bird, and several fish.

"No matter what happens, knock the dust off and get back on that horse and ride," and "It is what it is. It's your choice if you let it ruin your day or learn your lesson and move on." These are the two quotes that Ms. Arias lives by in facing her endeavors.



SALUTE to Frontline Workers and First Responders

Photo by: SYDNEY KORANYI



Mindy Mason

Slany Shine

Jaclyn Trujeque

Photo by: JARETH TORRES



Christopher Torres

MEET The Phoenix Times Editorial Board



JACKSON TIESI

My name is Jackson Tiesi and I am an Associate Editor for The Phoenix Times. I have two little brothers, one of whom goes to ABQSE. My mom, Mrs. Angela Lopez, is part of the professional staff at ASE, while my stepdad works for Sysco. My dad and stepmom both work for Presbyterian.

I am a National Karate Champion by getting gold in forms. I enjoy making Comic Books and Skateboard during my spare time, as well as play ing video games like Super Mario Bros and Pokemon.



I am a big nerd. I went to Comic Con this year 2020 dressed as Ash Ketchum and played lots of Dungeons and Dragons. This year, I wore a Spider-Man suit for Halloween.

I am a highly intelligent person. I have always been fascinated by the wonders of Mathematics, Science, Electronics, and the English Language Arts. I am also interested about how things work. I am a very inquisitive person, hoping to learn something new every day. Currently, I am studying the Japanese language and enjoying it a lot.

I am a great fan of Nikola Tesla. He inspires me to strive for my dreams and to remember that I do not need to be a celebrity to make a change in the world. You could be as quiet as a mouse to the world, and it is fine, because what you do to the world is what matters most.

I enjoy meeting new people and helping them out! Until then, keep reading the newspaper and I will see you through zoom! I hope to meet all of you once this coronavirus crisis is over.



SYDNEY KORANYI

My name is Sydney Koranyi. I am a seventh grader at Albuquerque School of Excellence (ASE). I was born in July of 2008. I am part Irish and Hungarian, Hungarian on my dad's side and Irish on my mom's. I hope to visit Hungary, Ireland, Greece, Hawaii, and Alaska one day.

I enjoy skateboarding and playing softball, where I play catcher. I love being in every play and having a lot of action. I also enjoy painting and doing art illustrations with watercolors, markers, and colored pencils. Most of all, I love spending time with my family. For me, family and friends are a big part of what has shaped me to be who I am today. I am an only child with a mom, stepmom, and father.

I have two puppies, ages four and eight months old. I also have a turtle named Spike and a fish named Pepper.

I believe that global warming, habitat destruction, social equality, and human rights are especially important

issues that need immediate attention. I have participated in science fair since first grade and placed every year. My passion in Science and humanity made me more motivated to be a part of the positive change that the world needs today.

When I grow up, I would like to receive an undergraduate degree in environmental engineering from Duke University. After which, I want to pursue my studies and earn a law degree from Harvard, thus, becoming an environmental lawyer.



HISTORICAL FIGURES

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS with ties to NM

Compiled by: Jackson Tiesi, Rebecca Hernandez, Beau Weaver

A code talker was a person employed by the military during wartime to use a little-known language as a means of secret communication. The term is now usually associated with United States service members during the world wars who used their knowledge of Native American languages as a basis to transmit coded messages. [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: <https://blogs.k-state.edu/kansasprofile/2015/09/16/kansas-profile-now-thats-rural-chester-chez-code-talker/>

Chester Nez (January 23, 1921, Chi Chil Tah, NM – June 4, 2014, Albuquerque, NM) [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narciso_Abeyta

Narciso Platero Abeyta or Ha So Deh (December 15, 1918, Canoncito, New Mexico – June 22, 1998) He was also a painter and silversmith. [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/24/us/navajo-code-talker-dies-new-mexico/index.html>

John Pinto (December 15, 1924, San Juan, NM - May 24, 2019, Gallup, NM) He also served as a Democratic member of the New Mexico Senate from 1977 until his death in 2019. [Wikipedia](#)

COURTESY: NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE

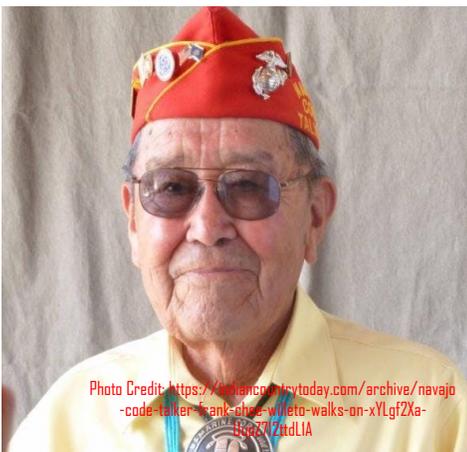


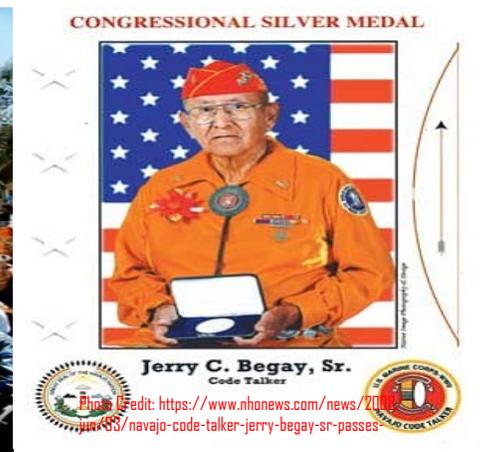
Photo Credit: <https://azstarnet.com/news/navajo-code-talker-frank-chee-willeto-walks-on-xYlgf2Xa-688377ndLIA>

Frank Chee Willeto (June 6, 1925, Lupton, AZ – June 23, 2012, Gallup, NM) was an American politician. [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27340893/frank-tsosie-thompson> - Added by [Andrea's Daughter](#)

Frank Tsosie Thompson (September 4, 1920, Crystal, NM – June 2, 2008), Breadsprings, NM. [Wikipedia](#)



CONGRESSIONAL SILVER MEDAL

Photo Credit: <https://www.nhnews.com/news/2019/05/03/navajo-code-talker-jerry-begay-sr-passes>

Jerry C. Begay (December 8, 1924, in Sheep Springs, NM - May 26, 2008, Albuquerque, NM) [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: <https://navajotimes.com/news/code-talker-alfred-k-newman-passes/>

Alfred K. Newman (July 21, 1924, Rehoboth, NM – January 13, 2019, Albuquerque, NM) [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: https://archive.boston.com/bostonglobe/obituaries/articles/2011/06/15/lloyd_oliver_88_marine_was_code_talker_in_wii/

Lloyd Oliver (April 23, 1923, Shiprock, NM – March 16, 2011, Avondale, AZ) [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: <https://navajotimes.com/news/2009/10/09/101509oliver.php>

Willard Varnell Oliver (May 2, 1921, Shiprock, NM – October 14, 2009, Prescott, AZ) [Wikipedia](#)

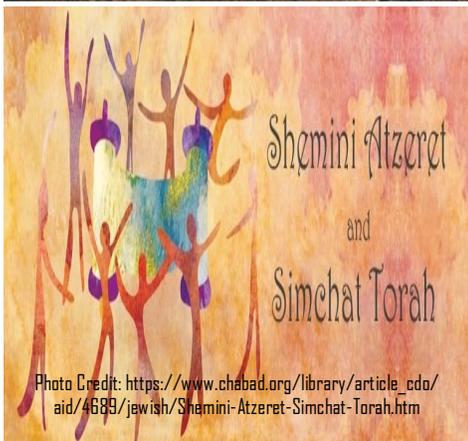
OCTOBER—NOVEMBER: HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES, AND CELEBRATIONS



SUKKOT FEAST

October 2 – 9, 2020

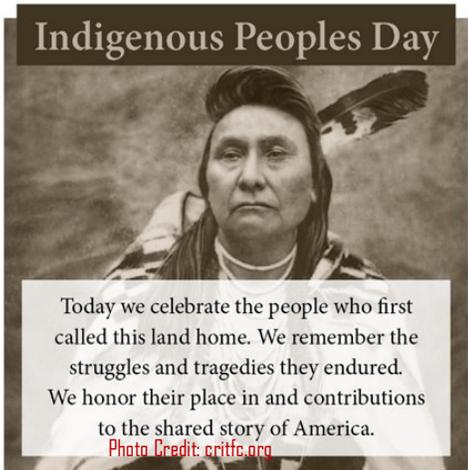
Sukkot, commonly called the Feast of Tabernacles or in some translations the Festival of Shelters, and known also as the Feast of Ingathering, is a biblical Jewish holiday celebrated on the 15th day of the seventh month, Tishrei. [Wikipedia](#)



SHEMINI ATZERET

October 9 – 11, 2020

Shemini Atzeret is a Jewish holiday. It is celebrated on the 22nd day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei in the Land of Israel, and on the 22nd and 23rd outside the Land, usually coinciding with late September or early October. It is a prayer for rain; includes the celebration of Simchat Torah. [Wikipedia](#)



Indigenous Peoples' Day

Monday, October 12, 2020

Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates and honors Native American people and commemorates their histories and cultures. It is celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October, and is an official city and state holiday in various localities. [Wikipedia](#)



Mawlid

October 28 - 29, 2020

Mawlid, Mawlid al-Nabi al-Sharif or Eid Milad un Nabi is the observance of the birthday of the Islamic prophet Muhammad which is commemorated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. [Wikipedia](#)



OCTOBER—NOVEMBER: HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES, AND CELEBRATIONS



Photo Credit: <https://abstract.desktopnexus.com/get/2678746/?t=glulfbstr87ni7dvoa2aldvq75f9d1747e65a>

Halloween

Saturday, October 31, 2020

Halloween or Hallowe'en, also known as All Halloween, All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve, is a celebration observed in many countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: <https://entertainment.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/2316636/>



Photo Credit: <https://stjosephchurchbluffton.org/all-saints-day-mass-times/>

All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 1, 2020

All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, the Feast of All Saints, or Solemnity of All Saints, is a Christian solemnity celebrated in honor of all the saints, known and unknown. [Wikipedia](#)



Photo Credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints%27_Day#/media/File:All-Saints.jpg



Photo Credit: <http://www.newcreationchurches.org.uk/annual-all-souls-day-service-a-time-of-remembering/>

All Souls' Day

Monday, November 2, 2020

All Souls' Day, also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead, is a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died, which is observed by some Christian denominations. [Wikipedia](#)

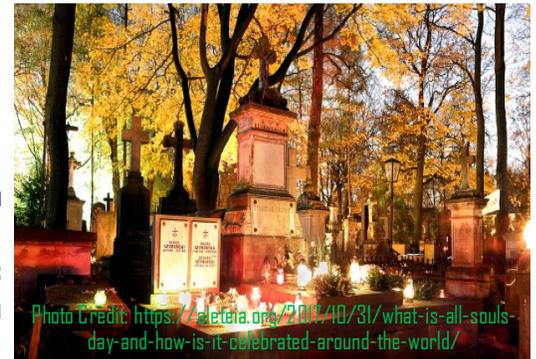


Photo Credit: <https://aleteia.org/2017/10/31/what-is-all-souls-day-and-how-is-it-celebrated-around-the-world/>



Painting by: Sydney Koranyi

Day of the Dead (Día de Muertos)

November 1 - 2, 2020

The Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday celebrated in Mexico and elsewhere associated with the Catholic celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died. [Wikipedia](#)



Painting by: Sydney Koranyi

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER: HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES, AND CELEBRATIONS



Photo Credit: <https://princetonx.gov/early-voting-and-election-day-polling-locations/>

Election Day 2020

November 3, 2020

The 2020 United States presidential election will be the 59th quadrennial presidential election. Voters will select presidential electors who in turn will vote on December 14, 2020, to either elect a new president and vice president or reelect the incumbent president and vice president respectively.

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election_Day_(United_States))



Photo Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election_Day_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election_Day_(United_States))

Honoring all who have served and who are serving

Thank you to all Veterans



All gave some, Some gave all
Photo Credit: <https://abstract.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/2160992/>

Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans, that is, persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterans_Day)



Photo Credit: <https://entertainment.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/161022/>

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 26, 2020

Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on various dates in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Liberia, and the sub-national entities Leiden, Norfolk Island, and Puerto Rico. It began as a day of giving thanks and sacrifice for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving)



Photo Credit: <https://abstract.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/1888329/>



Photo Credit: <https://entertainment.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/508859/>

ADVENT

November 29, 2020–December 24, 2020

Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. Advent is the beginning of the Western liturgical year. Preparation for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus.

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advent)



Photo Credit: <https://discalcedcarmel.org/advent-is-the-carmelite-season/>

wishing a wonderful mysterious advent season

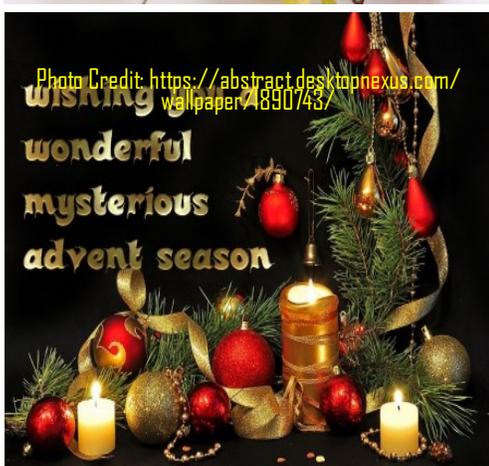


Photo Credit: <https://abstract.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/1890743/>

THE SUN WILL RISE *Written by Ericka Defazio*

Photo Credit: <https://nature.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/130247/>

Chapter 2: Realizations

Michael was quiet as the taxi sped along. They came to yet another stop sign. At any other time, Michael would have feverishly checked his watch, begging the already-annoyed driver to go another way. The aura that the woman cast off, however, drove all other things out of his mind.

She seemed to be foreign, Michael observed. She wore a long shirt that said, "Strive to Survive." Michael thought that was odd. How could someone, "Strive to Survive" if they were surviving? She also wore a watch, but a strange one. Instead of numbers, there were letters, and the hands of the watch had little suns at the tips. The watch buzzed periodically, and Michael jumped. What kind of watch buzzed every five minutes?

He was staring at the watch, transfixed, until the woman, who had been staring out the window, remarked pleasantly,

"You know, Michael, it's not polite to stare."

Michael hit his head on the ceiling from the shock. How did she know he was staring at her watch thing? She was looking out the window! And... how did she know his name? Michael racked his memory. Had he told her that morning? Had it just slipped out without his noticing?

He had no time to think of that now. She was turning around. She smiled.

"I think you are wondering how I know your name. Am I correct?"

Michael nodded mutely.

"Well, you see, we actually have known each other for a greater time than you think. And my watch, which I see you are interested in, is a Communicator. "I know you are confused", she added, looking at Michael's puzzled face, "but when we arrive at your office, I'll explain everything."

She smiled again and resumed staring out the window.

Now that Michael was regaining his senses, he felt annoyed with the stranger. How dare she suggest that he would invite her to his office? And he had not even invited her! She had invited herself!

This was enough, Michael told himself. He had to put a stop to this unscheduled business. He cleared his throat, and said,

"Listen -er- mam, not to be rude, but I have no idea who you are or what you want. I can't have you in my office without an appointment and since Margalo hasn't told me anything about you, I actually can't let you in, sorry."

The woman turned again, "Margalo! Oh, she is amazing! Exceptionally good member of the S.U.N. And Michael, I can schedule an appointment right now."

She rummaged in her bag, looking for something, and she pulled out a smartphone. Michael wanted to yell. Forcing himself to keep calm, he said, in a voice of deadly softness,

"Mam, my office only admits lawyers. I barely know you; I don't think you even know who Margalo is, and I am, quite frankly, tired of your nonsense!" He felt his voice rising to a shout.

The taxi stopped. After paying the driver, Michael scrambled out of the taxi, straightening his tie as he did so. As the taxi drove away, he sighed in relief. At least that woman was out of his hands.

When he walked into the skyscraper, he felt that he was at last in the right place. Phones ringing, respectable people walking, or in his case, running toward offices, and the voices of hundreds of people. Nevertheless, as he approached the elevator, he felt some sense of loneliness.

This did not last long. As soon as the elevator opened, he heard a familiar voice, and as he stared, in his shock, the woman from the taxi waved and said, "Hello, Michael! I never expected to find you here!"

"Bad luck," he thought as the elevator churned its way to the ninth floor. "Bad luck, that's all it is." The woman had followed him. There was no other explanation. She had not climbed out of the taxi, but Michael was sure she had gotten off before him somehow. As he stepped off the elevator onto his floor, the woman followed him.

"Is Margalo here?" she asked in a cheery voice.

Michael ignored her.

They reached his office. As Michael opened the door to find Margalo, the woman began observing the things on his desk. Michael was infuriated. He was going to shout at her, until she said, very seriously,

"Now, I have to explain myself. I know you are very confused."

"Yes, I am. Confused as to why you are standing in my office!" he shouted.

"Please sit down. I can explain," she asked, as if it were her office.

Michael closed the door and sat down. She remained standing.

"Now, this may come as a bit of a shock," she warned, "but we actually know each other much better than you think."

"That's all you've been telling me! You aren't explaining who you are, why you're following me around- "

"That- "she said, "is enough." "I am going to explain, but you have to be quiet and listen. First question first. You asked who I am?"

She took a deep breath.

"I am your sister, Michael. I am Raymie."

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE...



PHOTO CREDIT: <https://people.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/113419/>

ROSAS Y VIOLETAS

Judah Chavezrose

Las rosas son rojas, como el fuego entre nuestra confianza y nuestra deshonra.
 Las rosas son rojas, como el veneno en nuestra sangre.
 Las rosas son rojas, como el sol ardiente, agotando mi esperanza.
 Las rosas son rojas, como mis cenizas.

Cenizas cenizas, todos somos víctimas de nuestros miedos y lágrimas.
 Volamos, lloramos. Caemos, nos desmoronamos.
 El rojo es el color de mi destino.
 Los opuestos se atraen, del azul al rojo,
 Violetas!

Canté mi canción, ahora estamos cantando.
 Tú lo llamas amor, yo lo llamo química.
 Ahora, eres el veneno en mi sangre.
 Ahora eres mi sol. Ahora eres mi fuego. Ahora que estamos juntos.



Photo Credit: <https://nature.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/386379/>

Translation:

ROSES & VIOLETS

Roses are red, just like the fire in between our trust and our dis-honesty.
 Roses are red, like the poison in our blood.
 Roses are red, like the burning sun, draining my hope.
 Roses are red, like my ashes.

Ashes ashes, we all fall victim to our fears and tears.
 We fly, we cry. We tumble, we crumble.
 Red is the color, of my destiny.
 Opposites attract, blue to red,
 Violets!

I sang my song, now we are singing along.
 You call it love; I call it chemistry.
 Now, you are the poison in my blood.
 Now you are my sun. Now you are my fire. Now, that we are together.

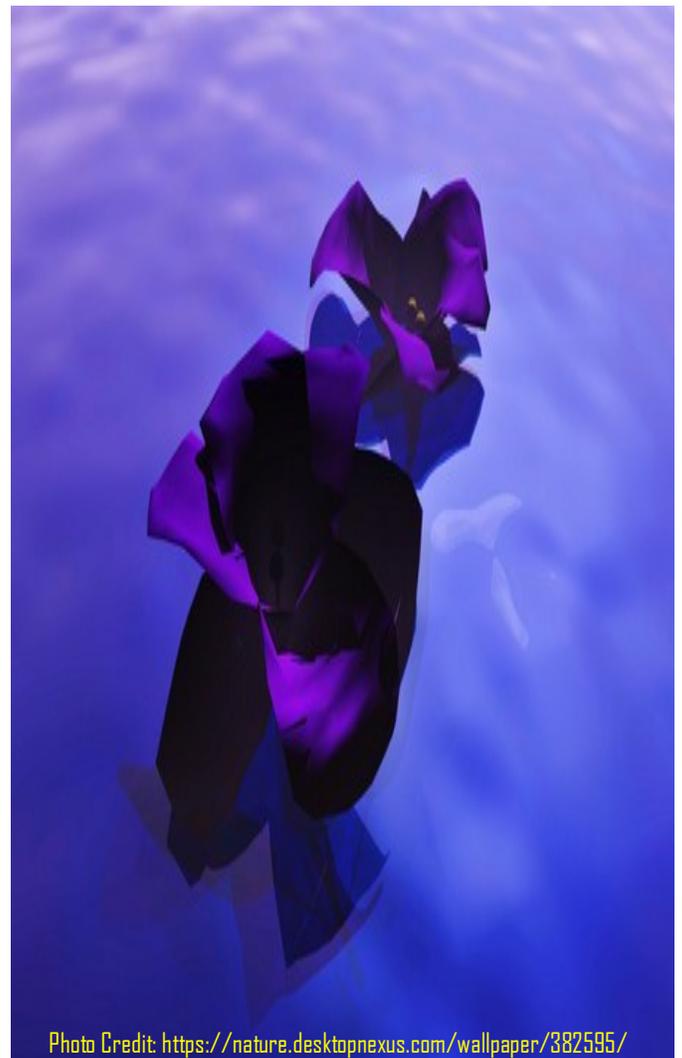


Photo Credit: <https://nature.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/382595/>

Music

Sarah Jwary

It warms my heart

It sets the mood

It sounds like art

But still too good

Changes your feelings

Depending on the tone

It is like a healing

It puts you in the zone

Music is so fine

It changes with time

It is more than one line

It often do rhyme

Whatever the song

It always soothes the soul

It feels so strong

It always soothes the soul

Wherever you go

You will always adore

You follow the flow

There is always more

Photo Credit: <https://abstract.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/96060/>

A Fall Poem

Teya Swizer

The sun rises over pure golden leaves

Branches dance in the autumn breeze

Color is painted on every tree

And the beauty falls upon me

Far in the distance, in ocean or sea

The autumn sun speaks right to me

He whispers in the wind

He smiles in the leaves

Illuminating every last little thing

In the sun or in the shade

There are hints of the last leaves of jade

Rubies and gold stuck to the trees

On the ground are fiery leaves

Autumn flows in chilly air

And there's the feeling of being everywhere

Far away this mystic land

Of wonders and treasures held in my hand

Color floods in every tree

The autumn winds flowing around me

The never ending sea of jewels

Shining and lighting the endless woods

Then as quickly as it had come

It disappeared in the setting sun

Photo Credit: <https://nature.desktopnexus.com/wallpaper/2032581/>

TRIBUTE: Loved ones who passed due to Coronavirus



Mr. Jackie Wesley is the grandfather of Azriell Begay of 7TUFTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!

- November 23-27 - THANKSGIVING BREAK
- We pay tribute to loved ones who lost their battle against the coronavirus, contact us to share your story.
- Send us photos of your family members who are frontline workers and/or first responders, and we will include them in the next issue.

FOR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS OR ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION:

Please email Mrs. Ma. Gloria M King at mking@abqse.org

SUBJECT LINE: The Phoenix Times
(Comment/Suggestion/Article Contribution)