



# San Xavier District Wa:k Newsletter

## September 2021 ~ Volume 31 ~ Issue 9

**September** Wasai Gakidag Masad MONTH OF DRY GRASS

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### San Xavier District

**To:** Wa:k Community  
**From:** Chairman Austin Nunez  
**CC:** SXD Council  
**Date:** August 25, 2021  
**Re:** San Xavier District Closure

Dear Community Citizens,

COVID cases are extremely high in our community and surrounding areas. The best way to stop the spread is to stay home. For the safety of our staff, effective August 26, 2021, San Xavier District staff will be working from home. The phones have been transferred to the manager's cell phones.

Our programs have been placed on hold until further notice. We will allow our staff to come back to work once it is safe to do so. If you need immediate assistance please call our main line, 520-573-4000. If you have a life-threatening situation, please call 911.

Elders will be checked on daily by phone and the at-risk elders will continue to receive services on Tuesdays and Thursdays, if needed. Please call our Senior Service Director if you have any questions or concerns, 520- 585-3241.

Due to the safety of our staff, we will not allow our staff in any homes that have any cold/flu symptoms, whether it's COVID or not.

We can overcome this if we all do our part. Stay home, avoid social gatherings, and follow the CDC safety guidelines. Be patient, pray, and think positively.

Blessings,

Austin G Nunez, Chairman  
San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation  
2018 W San Xavier Road  
Tucson, AZ, 85746

# **ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED**

Due to the rapid increase in COVID-19 and Delta variant cases, and as measure to keep the Wark Community and the San Xavier District employees safe, the District is reimplementing the requirement that visitors must have an appointment to come to the District offices. This measure also pertains to the Education Center, Senior Services Center, People Wellness House.

Community members and visitors are not to come to the District Offices without a prescheduled appointment with staff members, nor are they to come if they or any member of their immediate household is experiencing cold-flu-like symptoms

If you do not know the direct number of the District staff member you are trying to reach, please call the following numbers to schedule your appointment.

SXD main line	(520) 573-4000
Education Center	(520) 807-8620
People Wellness House	(520) 807-8664
Rangers	(520) 471-8092
Senior Services Dept.	(520) 573-4064
Housing Dept.	(520) 573-4042
COVID Coordinator	(520) 573-4010

We urge everyone to continue wearing their face masks when going out in public, and please insist that their children wear face masks while at school regardless of the schools' requirements. Let us continue to work together to keep one another safe.

Appointments will be required until further notice. Thank you for your patience.

Blessings  
San Xavier District Administration

# Natural Resources

Wa:k Community, Happy September to all! Enjoy the Labor Day weekend with all the greenery all around our village. We'll have to make time to do a little weeding around our homes that were brought on by the nice rains. Our staff presented our new fiscal year budget at the August 7th Community Meeting which included Natural Resources, Monitor Program, Rangers, and Community Cleanup Project. Once the District department budgets are approved by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council, we will look forward to continuing our services for the Wa:k Community in FY2022.

## SAVING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The land surrounding our community cemetery is getting pretty messy with all the trash built up there. As the time draws near to honor our loved ones let us consider taking care of the earth as well. The best option would be to please take a trash bag when visiting loved ones, or cleaning gravesites, and discard it in your trash bins. As the wind, sun, and rain bare down on the earth through the seasons, the plastic from the flowers and the foam from the wreaths become scattered in our washes and breaks down in our soils and hurts the plants and animals. **Food for thought:** there are natural, environmentally-friendly options like making wreaths bases from cardboard or thin green tree branches. Decorations can be made from natural items like devil's claw, gourds, yucca pods, dried flowers and plants. I am sure there are many other very creative ways we can save our environment for future generations.

## MONITORS

AECOM inspected the I-19 northbound and southbound bridges over San Xavier Road, as well as the southbound on the ramp bridge to I-19. The inspectors looked for fatigue prone areas, checked if the structure is sagging, settling, or dropping, and inspected bridge columns. Putt Land Surveying set new corners for the GKW 5 Lot housing division on Go:k Ka:wulk Wo:g. Arcadis U.S. Inc. collected groundwater samples on Allotments #'s 266 & 267. TOUA conducted a survey for the Go:k Ka:wulk Wo:g Housing Project/1010-UI-18. The survey work located property corners and utility infrastructure for Lot #'s 1-12. We also had the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conduct a site visit to inspect access roads associated with their monitor wells on Allotment #'s 266 & 267.

Continued....

Please call us if you have any questions or would like more information: Sally Pablo-520-573-4052, David Tenario-520-573-4056, Cie'na Schlaefli-520-573-4054, or Geena Johnson-520-573-4055.

Sally Pablo, NRD Director

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# Human Resources

It is scary when a medical emergency occurs, especially with our Elders and children, and every second matters. The District office shares empathy and concern when Community Members face medical emergencies. However, calling the District before calling 911 delays immediate medical treatment from reaching you and your loved ones.

Therefore, the District urges Wa:k Community Members to please call 911 right away in the event of a medical emergency occurring in your household. Calling 911 and asking to be transferred to the Tohono O'odham Police Department ensures medical services reach you or your loved one as quickly as possible. TOPD can then dispatch the Fire Department or ambulatory services.

Continue to take care of yourself and each other.

San Xavier District

# San Xavier Mission

## Religious Education Classes:

- **New Student Registrations:**  
September 1-24
- **Adult Sacrament Classes:**  
On-going registration until Sept. 24
- **Baptisms for infants and school age children:**  
On-going registration. Bring Birth Certificate
- **Please call and make an appointment so we can control the number of people in the office at 294-4639**

# Wa:k Senior Services

Hello Wa:k Elders,

I hope everyone is doing well. Please continue to wear masks, wash and sanitize hands for your own safety and the safety of your family members. If anyone is sick in your family please stay home and quarantine for the safety of others. Our community students are back in school, and we need to pay close attention if students become ill quarantine for 5 days and then call the S.X. Clinic to get tested at (520)-547-8140.

The Senior Services Department has been providing all services to our clients delivering meals, home health visits, transportation and medication pickup/delivery. These last few months we have been paying close attention to the Covid-19 Delta Variant cases developing in our surrounding areas. Due to the increase in numbers this has caused our department to make some changes to the way we will provide services to our clients. As of Thursday August 26, 2021, we will provide limited services this includes meals, home health visits, and transportation we will make phone calls to check on clients to make sure everyone is okay.

We will be picking up/delivering meds if you have meds to refill please utilize the automated system the number to call is 1-(8 77)606-9301 this helps us to better serve you in a safe way or you may call our Techs and put in your refill over the phone. If you are unsure how to work this system you can call our Techs to explain and help you understand. If you require in person assistance you will need to make an appointment to be seen in our office. The number to call for an appointment is (520) 573-4064 or (520) 585-3241 or for any other concerns or questions please call me.

Continue to be safe,

Marian Joaquin, Wa:k Senior Services Program Director

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## Housing

Hello San Xavier Community.

This past month brought us some rain that we desperately needed. With that rain also brought leaky roofs. Your roof system is just like many parts of your home that require routine maintenance.

At least once a year you should do a walk around your home to check for any missing asphalt shingles or shingles that are lifting. Missing or loose shingles can become an area where water can enter the home. About every three years you want to reseal your roof penetration and repaint the pipes and vent cap that need to be touched up. Completing this routine maintenance will help your roof system stay intact which helps keep the water out.

On a side note, if you experience a plumbing leak in your home, please do your best to clean up the water and dry the area. When there is standing water left on the floor it will begin to damage the flooring system. This will add unnecessary cost to your repair.

We are always glad to answer any questions that you may have regarding an issue at your home. Our contact numbers are (520) 573-4042 or (520) 573-4044.





# WASAI GAKIDAG MASAD

## September

### Dry Grass Moon 2021



Greetings Wa:k Community,

By now everyone is back in school and on their way to success, learning and absorbing all information needed to stay on top. I would like to start the new 2021-2022 school year by saying, "Thank You" to all Wa:k parents/guardians. You are to be commended for your flexibility, hard work, and dedication to your child during the most challenging past year that we have faced thus far. Even in the midst of the pandemic, we had many accomplishments to celebrate, such as celebrating our 2021 Honorariums within our Wa:k Community.

For all Wa:k students, as you continue with your schooling, please do your part to keep each other safe. Students and parents, please commit to the universal safety measures. Kindly wear your mask on the bus and in school each day and wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds. Please do not go to school if you are not feeling well. Finally, it is important to respect everyone's personal space (6 feet of social distancing) to the best of your ability. By following these simple rules, which are difficult to do consistently, we will protect one another and minimize the potential of a significant outbreak. Once again, please help protect everyone by doing your part!

The San Xavier District Education Center will continue to share school information with the Wa:k Community and support you and your child during this school year. Remember, the Education staff is here to HELP YOU throughout your educational journey. We cannot stress enough the importance of getting the help you need now before it is too late. So, please give us a call if you find yourself struggling.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the rapid increase in COVID-19 and Delta variant cases, and as a measure to keep the Wa:k Community and everyone safe, All visitors must make an appointment to utilize our educational services. Once again, you must have a pre-approved appointment prior to visiting the Education Center. Please call 520-807-8620 to schedule your appointment.

We thank you for your continued support of your child's education. Looking forward to serving you and everyone else as you continue your education.

Carmen H. Martinez, Education Program Administrator

## Introducing the new SUSD Native American Education Program (NAEP) Director

S-ke: Tas Wa:k Community,

It is with great excitement that I introduce myself as the Sunnyside Unified District's Native American Education Program Director.

My name is Ernesto Gallego Badilla. It has been my honor and privilege to serve in this community for the past 12 years. I am looking forward to strengthening and supporting the growth of our Native American students, K-12.

Our NAEP program will be working hard this year to ensure that students are receiving the guidance and help needed to achieve their full potential. Our goals are to provide opportunities for students to learn, grow, and contribute to their school and community.

I look forward to working together on the great things that I know are possible.

T'em Nei,  
Mr. Badilla



## Back to School Supplies Donations Thank You

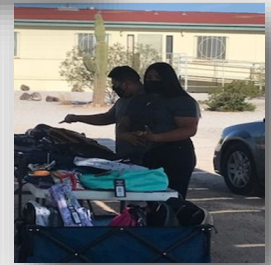
Our “Back to School Rally” event was a huge success, thanks to our generous donors!

The “Back to School Rally” event is always one of the most important times of the year for our Wa:k Community. This year’s event took place on Saturday, July 17, 2021 and was different due to the Tohono O’odham Nations Executive Order of no social gatherings/events, however, our objective remained the same. As an Education Center, we hold this event to make sure that our Wa:k students get off to a great start and make sure that the children of the San Xavier District go back to school with everything they need, so that the children have a successful and happy school year.

We are so thrilled and grateful that this year’s “Back to School Rally” drive-thru event was a huge success, thanks to not only the San Xavier District but as to two donors for their support to the backpack and school supply distribution. A big thank you to our school supply donors:

• **TOHONO O’ODHAM GAMING AUTHORITY (DESERT DIAMOND CASINOS)**

• **TOBACCO BARN**



Thank you once again for your support. We deeply appreciate your dedication to the children of the San Xavier District.

Carmen H. Martinez, Education Program Administrator



*Thank You*

S-ke:g Tas!

We have been blessed with so much rain this summer. We hope you are enjoying all the green and life it has brought to our surroundings.

**Tuition & Books Grant**

All funds have been depleted and all approved applications will not be able to receive assistance till **October 2021**.

26 students have been awarded for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year to the following schools:

- ⇒ -Grand Canyon State University
- ⇒ -Carrington College
- ⇒ -University of Arizona
- ⇒ -Pima Community College
- ⇒ -Glendale Community College
- ⇒ -California Miramar University
- ⇒ -University of Phoenix
- ⇒ -Central Arizona College
- ⇒ -Arizona State University
- ⇒ -University of California, Los Angeles
- ⇒ -Math & Science Success Academy
- ⇒ -Truthful Beginnings



**September Calendar**

**September 1st:** Health & Education Committee meeting

**September 1-3:** MASSA Parent/Teacher Conferences

**September 6th:** Labor Day– SXD Offices CLOSED

**September 14-17:** SUSD Parent/Teacher Conferences

**September 15-17:** TUSD Parent/Teacher Conferences

**September 15:** ALL staff meeting

<b>2021 SEPTEMBER</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

**Across**

3. it is sweet, red and watery
5. this plant is different colors and pretty
7. all plants and animals walk and grow on it
9. our traditional bean

**Down**

1. it goes good with corn and cheese
2. We can eat it off the cob
4. Also known as a garden
6. We can't live without this
7. it falls from the sky
8. it is hot, bright and lives in the sky

**San Xavier Education Staff**  
**520.807.8620**  
 Carmen Martinez, Administrator  
 Rowena Carlyle, Administrative Assistant  
 Elizabeth "Lisa" Ortega, Culture & Language Teacher  
 Anna Butler, Receptionist  
 Gloria Rios, Community Liaison

**San Xavier Learning Center (Library)**  
**520.807.8621**  
 Gertie Lopez, Library Coordinator  
 Aliza Osegueda, Library Aide



Skeg Tas Wa:k Community,

The children should have been in school now for about a month getting used to their classes, where to go, and how much time to get there before the bell rings for the next class. I hope your child or children are having fun being back in school and also being safe.

Here at the Education we were looking forward to seeing the children for the after school program and the VOY program but due to the rise in the COVID 19 cases we had to put our programs on hold for a little while. Hopefully it won't be for too long.

Be on the lookout for flyers and notices when we will start or have applications ready. In the meantime I would like to encourage all the students to do your homework and don't get discouraged. If you need help please ask your teacher, your parents or you can call us and we can try and help you over the phone or a video contact. Remember there is no such thing a stupid questions. We as adults sometimes need to ask questions when we get stuck on something. So it's okay to ask questions. Don't let anyone tell you different.

Parents I encourage you also, to take time and spend that few hours with your child and their homework. If they tell you they don't have homework, you can always call the school or email their teacher. Any problems give us a call and we will assist you anyway we can. Children need all of us to succeed in their education and we need to be there for them.

Soon we will have a new Community Liaison joining our team. They will be able to help me out on some of things we do here at the Education Center. We will be on the lookout for our announcement soon.

You all be safe out there be sure to wear your masks, wash your hands and stay 6 feet apart. Also this is a big thing, PLEASE, PLEASE stay home if you are feeling sick, if you know you have the virus or you came in contact with someone that has the virus. Think of others you might infect and also your family. THINK BEFORE YOU ACT!

PRAYER:

Lord, I ask you as this new month starts that you watch over our children, our elderly, our family, our friends and watch over us that we may be blessed with the rise of the sun, the rain and the moon to guide us in the right path. All this I ask of you in Jesus Name, Amen.

SAPE

Gloria F. Rios  
Community Liaison





San Xavier District of  
the  
Tohono O'odham Na-  
tion  
2018 W. San Xavier  
Road






Facebook.com/sanxavierdistrict



The San Xavier District Plaza currently has two vacant shops available for Native American Arts & Crafts

*Shop 1 ~ 165 sf.*

*Shop 2 ~ 341 sf.*

**San Xavier  
District of the  
Tohono O'odham  
Nation**

**Attention All Native American Tribal Enrolled**

## Two Shop Spaces Available For Rent



Located Across  
from the historic  
San Xavier Del  
Bac Mission



Please contact  
Sandi Alvarez at:  
Ph: (520) 573-4008  
Email: salvarez@waknet.org