



U:walig Masad

you can expect:

Chairman/Vice Chairwoman Updates	Pg. 2					
Council Calendar	Pg. 3					
SXD Event Calendar	Pg. 4					
Housing Department	Pg. 6					
Natural Resources Department	Pg. 7					
Wa:k Senior Services	Pg. 8					
COVID Department	Pg. 9					
Ranger Department	Pg. 10					
O'odham Ap'edag Ki:	Pg. 11					
San Xavier Mission	Pg. 12					
Wa:k Spirit	Pg. 13-16					



SAN XAVIER MISSION | 1950 W SAN XAVIER RD **VENDOR FEES:**

February 16, 2025

>>> SWAP MEET <<<

COMMUNITY MEMBERS - \$10 NON-COMMUNITY MEMBERS - \$20



household items jewelry baked goods arts/crafts





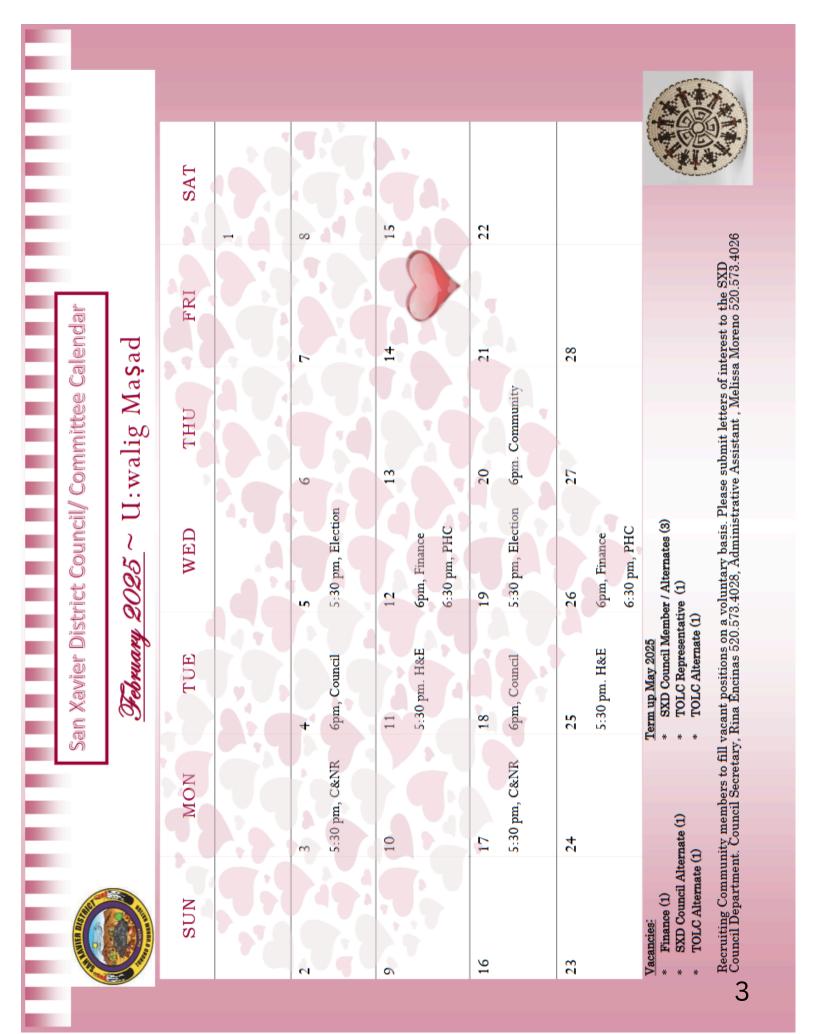
SPACE IS LIMITED, CALL TO RESERVE A SPOT (520) 573-4000

Sponsored by the SXD Health & Wellness Committee

REPORTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Chairman Nunez /Vice Chairwoman Pablo

JANUARY 2025					
 1/1/25 & 1/2/25-New Year's Day Holidays 1/3/25 - Reviewed Office of Emergency Management (OEM) questionnaire on extreme heat to identify climate change impacts to our district, how risks can be reduced, and identify resources for mitigation. -Custodians began deep cleaning the Community Building and kitchen for the 1/9 TON Environmental Heath Officer's inspection. 	1/5/25 – Participated in the cleanup of the small hill behind the Feast House and held a men's planning meeting in preparation for the A'atha ceremony on 1/14 & 15.				
 1/6/25 – Executive Team (Chairman, Vice Chairwoman, Director of Operations) met to discuss project updates, pending housing issues, contracts, community requests, and schedules. -Requested Rangers to schedule roadside cleanups during the next couple of weeks. 	 1/7/24 – Met with Housing Department staff to review current HIAP applications for this fiscal year. Chaired evening SXD Council meeting. 				
 1/8/25 – Attended Young Men's Winter Gathering planning meeting. -Received final report from TON Health Care for the 2024 Fall District Vaccination Campaign; San Xavier District members received a total of 161 COVID-19 and/or Flu vaccinations. Vaccinations are available anytime at the local SXD Health Center. 	 1/9/25 - TON Environmental Health Program inspected the Community Building kitchen. -Attended Young Women's Gathering (YWG) planning meeting. Save the date for 5/25th – 28th. -Attended Old Pueblo Archaeology Board meeting; Vice Chair was nominated and accepted to join the Board. 				
1/10/25 – Reviewed EcoTruth, an Indigenous youth group, request for collaboration with the SXD Natural Resources Department (NRD) staff. This program helps provide critical thinking skills to understand, critique, and create environmental policy. A resolution will be presented to the SXD Council in February.	 1/13/25 - Virtual planning meeting for the upcoming Cultural Resources seminar at Ft. McDowell, presented by ICE International, Inc. -Finalized responses to OEM questionnaire on climate change impacts with input from NRD Director David Tenario and submitted it by today's due date. 1/14/25 – First night of the A'atha ceremony. 				
 1/15/25 - Attended the quarterly TO Nation Health Care Collaborative virtual meeting for updates from Community Partners and Health Care Clinical Sites. Provided a PowerPoint presentation on the San Xavier District for the current Miss TON Autumn Parra/1st Attendant A'Dream Lake and committee members along with Council member Michael Enis and TO Legislative Representative Janice Felix. -Second night of the A'atha ceremony. 	 1/16/25 – Attended employee Health & Wellness committee meeting; discussed collaboration with the Healthy O'odham Promotion Program (HOPP) and the SXD Health/Education Committee upcoming events. 1/17/25 – 1/19/25 - Winter Retreat for Young Men's Gathering. 1/20/25 – Holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day District Offices closed. 				
 1/21/25 – Attended monthly Managers Meeting. Monthly Cemetery Wash Project Coordination meeting to update on the watershed plan, environmental impact statement, and action items. Chaired SXD Council meeting; accepted nominations for 3 seats on the District Council and 1 seat for Legislative Representative for upcoming TON Elections. 1/30/25 – Chaired monthly Community Meeting. 	 1/22/25 – Attended staff Drivers Training hosted by the SXD HR staff and Mr. Juan Valdez from the TON Risk and Safety Office. 1/23/25 – Young Women' Gathering planning meeting. Special evening Community Meeting to accept nominations for upcoming TON Elections. 1/28/25 – Attended Green Valley Regional Water Study meeting. 				



	>	l										
	SATURDAY	I	8		15		22	9am KI:ki Presentation	1			
Calenda	FRIDAY	31	7		14		21	Ed. & Desert Museum Field Trip	28			
then to	HURSDAY	30	9		13	Drivers Safety Awareness and Van Certification	20	Tucson Rodeo Parade - Wa:k Senior Service & Education 6pm, Community Meeting	27			
Sferic 1	WEDNESDAY	29	5	5:30 pm, Elections, CR	12	6 pm, Finance, CR 6:30 pm, Planning & Housing, CR	19	5:30 pm, Elections, CR	26	6-730pm Family STEM Night @ Edu 6 pm, Finance, CR 6:30pm, PHC, CR		
avier D	TUESDAY	28	4	6 pm, Council, CC	11	5:30 pm, Health & Education, EC	18	6pm, Council, CC	25	5:30 pm, Health & Education, EC	Notes	(C)- Chambers CB- Community Bldg PWH- People Wellness House
an Lau	MONDAY	27	e	5:30 pm,C&NR, CR A	10		17	 5:30 pm,C&NR, CR A 	24		0	
	V SUNDAY	26	2		6		16	8-2 Community Swap Meet - 5:30 pm,C&NR, CR A SXM	23		2	



All young O'odham Women ages 10-17 years (age limit enforced) are invited to participate in an outdoor event of spiritual, physical, social, and educational activities presented by local O'odham women leaders and elders. Participants will camp throughout the event. Meals will be provided and may be prepared by participants.



YOUNG WOMEN'S GATHERING COMMITTEE IS SEEKING

Volunteers

FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL GATHERING. EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEER POSITIONS INCLUDE GROUP LEADERS, MONITORS, KITCHEN COOKS, & OTHER AREAS AS NEEDED

PLEASE JOIN US TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 | 6-8 P.M. SAN XAVIER COMMUNITY BUILDING

> This meeting will be potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share.

2025 **JUUWI HEM** Wad HEMAKO TAS'O E-HEM

Young Women's Gathering

1-Day Retreat



Empowering Young O'odham Women with Vision and Guidance to Stand Strong in their Identity, Strength, Self-Love, and Self-Respect.

Funded by the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Registration

-Free gathering for all O'odham Young Women 10-17 years old (age limit enforced). -Limited to the first 30 participants. - Open Registration: Feb. 3, 2025 - Registration Deadline: March 17, 2025 Registration forms are available at the SXD

Office & SXD Education Center. Submit paper applications to: ywg@waknet.org.

For more information call: Stacy Hernandez at 520.573.4000 OR Danielle Stephens at 520,573-4000

https://forms.office.com/r/Ezbr9QfbGi

Or use the QR Code to register

All participants are expected to behave in a respectful and responsible manner.

Prohibited: Absolutely NO Drugs, Alcohol, Gang Attire & Weapons allowed!

Electronic FREE (Please Leave Your Devices @ Home): Cell Phones, Ipods, Ipads, Japtops, tablet, MP3, any type of stereo systems, and more! An emergency phone will be provided as needed.

ng O'odham Women are invited to participate in outdoor retreat filled with activities presented ham women leaders and elders.

he retreat will allow participants to experience w like at the Annual Young Women's Gatherings. Iso give participants a chance to make new friend atch up with old friends while learning about our

Neals and snacks will be provided and may be prepared



Natural Resources Department

Greetings, Wa:k Community! We hope you are doing well and getting outdoors as much as possible to enjoy all the activities this time of year, such as the O'odham Wapkial Ha-Tas in Sells or even the upcoming Wa:k Pow Wow. It's a good time to be outside and appreciate Jewed Ka:cim (Mother Earth) as we move towards spring.

There are a few notices and announcements we would like to take a moment and share with you:

Natural Resources Specialist: Winter is upon us in Wa:k as the O'odham traditional calendar refers to this moon as Gakimdag Masad or "the moon where animals lose fat". This time of year is challenging for both people and animals due to the dry weather and scarcity of food in the desert. Many animals are searching for food and water, especially the deer. Recently, a deer was hit on Mission Road (south of the community). The deer pose a particular safety hazard to vehicles and passenger safety, especially around dusk and dawn. As such, I would encourage community members to use caution and lower their speed while moving about in their vehicles for both animals and people's safety.

Also, there has been some activity from at least (1) mountain lion near the Misson & San Xavier Road area (photo attached). Again, please use caution while walking about the community around dawn & dusk time. Be mindful of your pet's welfare, especially during the evening, as mountain lions are nocturnal hunters.

Please call our Ranger Department at (520) 471-8092 if you would like to report an accident involving wildlife or encounter wildlife at your home.



Monitor Program: The Misson Road Pole Replacement Project is set to take place in early February and is expected to be completed by May. TEP has subcontracted Sturgeon Electric to replace approximately 90 old poles and install new poles in their place. The work area will be on Mission Road (heading south from Valencia Road to Pima Mine Road). TEP will keep our office updated weekly, and notices will be placed on Facebook indicating which area pole replacement activity is taking place. Please take caution when in these areas; we appreciate your patience & understanding!

Our department has been involved with the following meetings or activities: staff participated in the Green Valley Core Group Meeting to receive updates on the Green Valley Regional Water Supply Appraisal Study. We attended (2) Asarco Update Meetings with UKLA & Asarco representatives to discuss livestock issues & solutions. Staff met to discuss the SXD Wa:k Comprehensive Plan and attended the Driver's Safety Awareness & Van Certification Training. We were also involved with the EcoTruths for Indigenous Youth group to take measurements of cottonwood & cattails as part of a request made by SXDC.

Natural Resources Contd.

Last month, our new Natural Resources Specialist, Mr. Ulrick Francisco, joined our staff. We'll have him introduce himself in next month's article, and we've included his office extension number below. Also, temporarily, Ms. Miranda Flores is assisting our department until we hire an Administrative Assistant.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us: David Tenario (520) 573-4056, Geena Johnson (520) 573-4055, Morgan Parsons (520) 573-4057, Ulrick Francisco (520) 573-4054, or Miranda Flores (520) 573-4053.

Thank you from the NRD Staff & Happy Valentine's Day! David Tenario, NRD Director



Wa:k Senior Services Department

Senior Services Director Marian Joaquin

Greetings Wa:k Elders,

The Senior Services Program would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Wow, 2025 is here and moving fast forward; we are already in the second month of the new year and busy providing services to the Wa:k Elders. These services include meals, home health visits, medication refills, pickup/delivery, transportation to and from congregate and doctor appointments, and medical supplies deliveries. If you have any questions regarding our services, please get in touch with us or stop by our office for more information.

The recent weather has changed. In January, we had plenty of very cold days and nights. Our bodies were trying to adjust as we got used to the warm weather we had in November and December. With this cold weather, colds come. If you are experiencing cold/Flu symptoms, please stay home and get tested, as COVID-19 is still prevalent. We have seen the numbers of COVID-19 going up again across the Nation, so be cautious and continue to mask up, wash hands, and sanitize.

If you have any questions regarding our services, we can come to your home. Please call us, and we can set an appointment for us to provide information and answer any questions you may have.

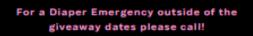
COVID DEPARTMENT

DIAPER & MENSTURAL PRODUCT MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

February 10-25, 2024 8am-4pm

Availability varies! Limit per month! For (children of) SXD members





COVID NEWS

Covid cases are raising at rapid rates across the country!

Due to the holiday season there has been an increase in covid cases throughout the country. Current wave is currently affecting those 65+ making up 32% of positive reported cases, followed by 19-44. In Arizona, there were over 100,000 positive reported cases in December 2024.

According to Arizona Department of Health Services. Please note that these are reported cases, data will be skewed due to at home positive tests that are not reported.

The CDC recommends keeping your covid vaccination up to date. According to the CDC vaccination reduces risk to serious complications by 50%. 2023-present, 95% of covid hospitalizations were not up to date on their covid vaccine.



COVID OFFICE PROVIDES...



- Covid Tests
- Covid Box <u>(if you test positive)</u> includes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies for your household.
- PPE for community events, funerals, and anniversaries, when requested.

For any questions, reach out to the Covid Office: 520-573-4010 or covid@waknet.org

Ranger Department

Hello Wa:k community,

We hope your year is off to a great start; here are some friendly notices and reminders from the Ranger Department.

Notice: Please be advised that Hunter Bothof will serve as the Interim Ranger Supervisor until further notice and can be reached on the Ranger's cellphone at (520)471-8092 or extension 8483.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency-911

Tohono O'odham Police- (520) 383-3275 or (520) 383-3276

San Xavier Ranger Department (520) 807-8499

San Xavier Interim Ranger Supervisor-(520) 471-8092

Animal Control: Please contact Tohono O'odham Nation Animal Control if you have a dog or cat problem. T.O.N Animal Control 520-383- 6482. Also, remember to get your dog or cat spayed and/or neutered to help control the pet population.

- Please be on the lookout for any suspicious people dropping off their animals on the reservation. If you see anything, please call us.
- For any deceased animals, please contact us as soon as possible.
- We highly encourage you to keep your pets on a leash and be considerate of your neighbors.

Curbside Service: If you do not have curbside service, Tohono O'odham Nation Solid Waste provides curbside service for \$18.00 every three months. If you are interested, please contact the Ranger Department; we will provide you with the application. Please do your part to keep the community clean. If you have any bulk items that need to be picked up, you can contact Tohono O'odham Solid Waste.

The Ranger Department has started to do roadside cleanups internally. Please do your part and pick up your trash. Rangers will be out twice a week working on San Xavier and Mission Road. Please keep a lookout for our staff and obey the speed limit.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Stats for December & January	Security/Welfare Checks-O
Public Assist- 6	Suspicious Vehicle-1
Community Assist- 6	Accident-1
Animal Control- 9	Property Damage- 2

REMINDER: This is a reminder to report any suspicious persons, activity, or vehicles to the police department. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our community safe.



10

O'odham Ap'edag Ki: / People Wellness House Case Wellness Manager Margaret Unito

S-ke:g Tas and S-hekig Wecij Ahidag! (Good day and Happy New Year!) After a short time without students attending the Ap'edag Ki: we now move forward into the beginning of a new year starting with January 2025 "Gakimdag Masad." Staff are confident that the students have enjoyed their winter break, being at home with their families and are welcomed back.

During December and due to the short month, the students were engaged in a few activities before their winter break. Students made candy cane sleighs and cone-shaped Christmas trees. Their Christmas trees were used for centerpieces at their Christmas party held with the Education Center on 12/18/24. Students received gifts from Santa and were served Indian Tacos and goodies. It was an enjoyable event with games, prizes, and a visit from Santa Claus. We also want to thank Ben from the COVID department for Being a good sport in the Reindeer antelope toss game!! (See Photos)

The Ap'edagi Ki: extends our deepest condolences to the families who have lost a loved one, and we pray that the Creator will comfort you throughout this difficult time.

Thank you







K-3rd Grade – Are accepting applications for Monday afterschool program 3rd-6th Grade-Afterschool program is on Tuesday and is currently full.

ALL Parents and Guardians please update applications for your child.

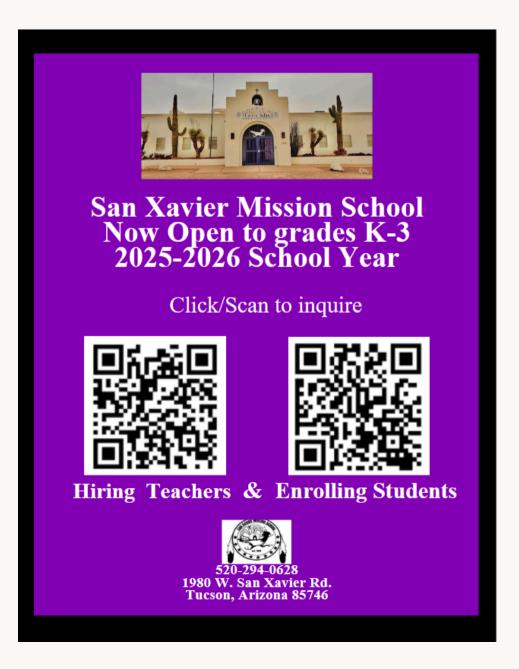
Stop by the office or we can bring an application to your home Youth Talking Circle focus on building and strengthening multiple aspects of all Individuals: Mental/Intellectual Emotional Physical Spiritual Cultural Social

For questions call O'odham Ap'edag Ki: Office 520-807-8664 Feb. 8: Baptisms Next openings June 7

Feb.15: First Reconciliation Retreat for Religious Education students

Feb. 17: 7:00 PM Reconciliation Service in the Church

All are welcome



Wa:k Spirit U:walig Masad/Deer Mating Month

S-keig Tas Waik Community,

Half of the 2024-2025 school year is complete. I want to thank the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and more for your ongoing dedication to your child's education. Please know how much we value the importance of your role as a supporter and motivator for your child you are your child's coach! Please continue to check daily with your child on their progress, asking them to show you the completed assignments and affirm when you see them working independently or being involved in live instruction. If you have questions regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or a staff member at the Education Center, as they/we are always more than happy to discuss and assist you in any way.

To continue focusing on the well-being of our students, parents, and community, we need to nurture what makes us whole and balanced. Here are some new proposals for a new approach to motivate your students to have a successful school year:

Emphasis on mental/behavioral health: 1. Students and parents should have time daily to go outside, spend time with their pets, or engage in any activity that helps address anxiety.

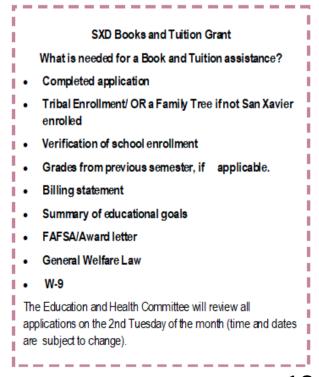
2. A daily period of physical activity.

Nature activities. A daily period for 3. exploration of nature or being in nature with awareness or a research project that allows families to get outside of the home, even if for a short period of time.4.

4. Focusing on writing, reading, and math skills will allow students to maintain a level of proficiency that will be the basis of their learning when we can finally return to regular schooling.

5. Guided discussions about current events and discussions about how to do internet searches, fact-check information found on the internet, and look for opposing points of view on current issues, etc.

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



SXD Culture & Language Teacher Elizabeth Ortega

S-ke:g Taṣ wesig 'Em Wui In December 2024, the SXD Education Center invited community members to participate in the annual Christmas Caroling. The community rehearsed from the end of November through December 11. The SXD Community Caroling sang at the SXD Community Christmas dinner. Then, on December 19 and 23, the group shared their Christmas songs with the Wa:k Community, bringing Christmas cheer to the elders and more. Thank you to everyone who came and shared their joy and laughter.

Have a safe month and continue to stay warm.

















Learning Resources Coordinator-Gertrude Lopez Learning Center Aide-Elissa Encinas

We are excited to announce our STEM night on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, from 6pm-7:30 We continue to serve Headstart, Elders, Afterschool and infant/toddler programs with reading time. The library hours are Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

Basic Guitar classes are on Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30 for teens and adults. Please call Gertie for more information.

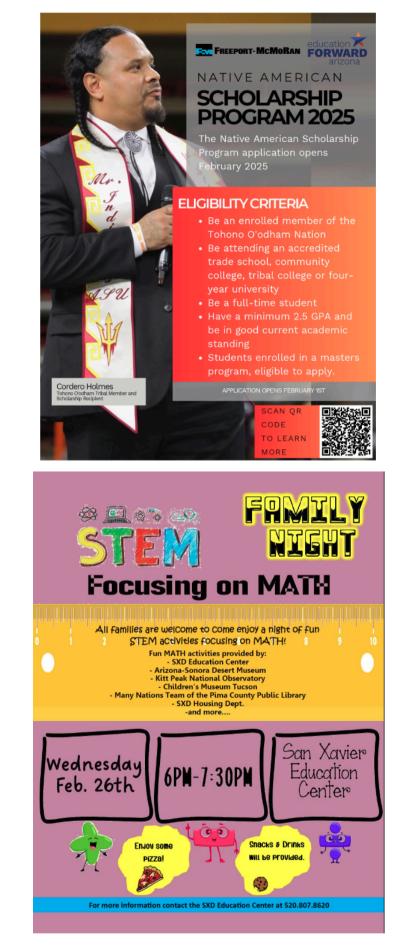
Pima County Bookmobile continues to visit the Education Center every first Wednesday of the month from 3 to 4 p.m.

We have two little libraries outside the Education building with books that you are welcome to come and take, especially if your child needs a book for homework or if you just need a good book to read. You do not have to bring the book back.

We will also have the tax program installed on a computer in the library for those who come in to do your taxes. You are more than welcome to have someone come in and help you with your taxes. Please note the library staff are not trained to help with taxes.

For information or questions regarding the library, please call Gertie at 520-807-8621. HAVE AN AWESOME FEBRUARY!





Community Liaisons Anna Butler & Aliza Osegueda

Skeg Tas Wa:k Community

We are off to a great start of a new year with our students! We would like to give a shout out to all of the parents for continuing to do a wonderful job with getting students to school on time. Please continue to keep up the wonderful work.

Our ASP (After School Program) had a wonderful Christmas Party with a visit from Sant a Claus before their Winter Break. During our Christmas party, Santa Claus handed out presents to all our students in the ASP program. Thank you to our staff for all your hard work. The party turned out great!

Our VOY (Voices of Our Youth) students had the opportunity to climb Baboquivari Mountain during their Winter Break. Following the hike, we took them to Peter Piper Pizza and a movie at Harkins.



It's the beginning of a new semester and we would like to encourage all the students to continue to do your homework and bring your grades up. Continue to get to school on time and be present. It makes a big difference in your grades. If you need help, please don't hesitate to ask your teacher, your Native American advisor, your parents/guardians or us here at the Education Center.

Parents—we know it's the beginning of the semester, but we would encourage you also to take time and spend a few hours with your child and their homework. It makes it easy for both of you and your child to stay on top of their homework before the semester ends. Our children need all of us to be successful in their education and we all need to be supportive of our students.

May you all be safe. Please continue to encourage your students to wash their hands and wear a face mask if needed. SAPE



Tucson Rodeo Parade

Rodeo Parade Outing!

3rd Grade and up February 20, 2025

Seats are limited, sign up with the San Xavier Education Center beginning Monday, Feb. 3, 2025 520.807.8620



100th year anniversary 16



San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation 2018 W. San Xavier Road Tucson, Arizona 85746 Phone: (520) 573-4000 Fax: (520) 573-4089



Save The Date

Elders Day May <u>10, 2025</u>

Desert Diamond Casino II Sahuarita, AZ

Online registration for Elders - TBA
Online registration for Elder Assistants - TBA