

Tac Titooqan Article October 2017

Celebrating Families in Our Community

The Lapwai School District would like to thank the students and their families who participated in the Celebrating Families in Our Community event on Tuesday, October 24th. We would also like to share our appreciation with Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises for the food and beverage donations. Our partners included the 21st Century Community Learning Center Elementary After School Program, State Tribal Education Partnership, Nez Perce Youth Mentoring Project, Lapwai Community Coalition, and the Lapwai City Library. The programs seeking input from parents on our educational programs included Title IA and Impact Aid.

Impact Aid

While making up for the shortfalls in state education funding, we are unable to rely on supplemental levies (raising property taxes) due to the high presence of tax exempt trust property in our district. The federal government recognizes their role in this dilemma and provides revenue in lieu of property taxes through a program called Impact Aid. 31% of the Lapwai School District budget is in the form of Federal Impact Aid funds.

The purpose of Impact Aid is to provide formula grants to school districts affected by the presence of nontaxable federal land to make up for the lost revenues of property taxes. It is one of the few formula programs where districts receive funds directly from the U.S. Department of Education rather than through their states. Impact Aid was first signed into law by President Harry S. Truman in 1950 and has been amended many times since then.

The funds become part of local district's regular budget. No restrictions are placed on the use of the funds except for money earmarked for children with disabilities. Our impact aid allocation is based on the number of children who live on trust property as well as parents who work on trust land. We are currently only receiving 8.5 cents for every dollar we would receive if the program were fully supported. Your help with verification by completing the needed forms will help us hold them accountable to provide this funding obligation to all Lapwai students

Winter School Closures

As we approach the winter season, should school closures due to weather be necessary you will be alerted with our autodialing phone message program. In addition to this call, Lapwai School District closures will also be reported by the following television and radio stations:

Television Stations:

KREM Channel 2

KXLY Channel 4

KHQ Channel 6

Radio Stations:

KATW 101.5 FM

KCLK 94.1 FM

KRLC 1350 AM

KZID 98.5 FM

School closures are also posted on our Facebook page: Lapwai School District #341