

Friday, April 18, 2025

Lapwai School District Superintendent's Weekly Update



Celebrations & Pictures of Wildcat Scholars & the Dedicated Staff Who Serve Them





Karee Picard
Kindergarten



Shirley Allman
1st Grade

Elders Reading to Lapwai Elementary Classes

The Lapwai Elementary Native Culture and Language Team invited elders to read to students on March 27.

qe'ciyew'yew' Mrs. Arthur, Mrs. Beckman, Ms. Calkins,
Mrs. Paris, Mrs. Stamper, Mrs. Wheeler &
Mr. Woodford for sharing pictures!

Nez Perce Cultural Principle:
Community Orientation



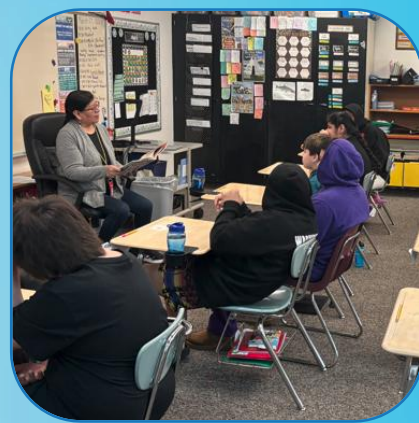
Ann McCormack
2nd Grade



Robert Kipp
3rd Grade



Mary Jane Miles
4th Grade



Brenda Axtell
5th Grade

National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair



Left to Right: Isaiah Painter, Rease Maconnell, NaTalia Bisbee, Mr. Morgan, Emma Chief, Ms. Hewett, Mr. Sidener, Mr. Whittaker

Congratulations to our Wildcat Scholars for their success at the National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair on March 28-29 at the University of Oklahoma! We are proud of you!

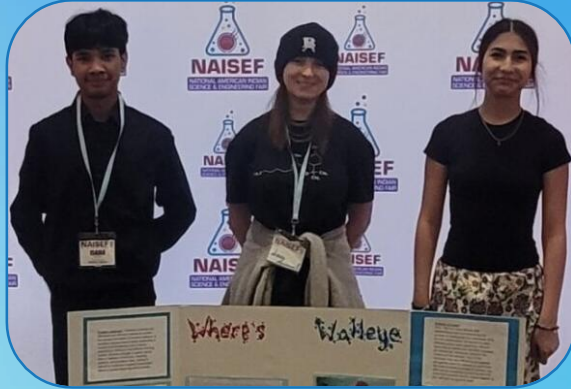
A Wildcat thank you to Ms. Hewett, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Sidener, and Mr. Whittaker for supporting their success!

Nez Perce Cultural Principle:
Experiential Learning



qe'ciyew'yew' Emma Chief, Ms. Hewett, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Whittaker for sharing pictures!

National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair



Isaiah Painter, Rease Maconnell,
NaTalia Bisbee, Grade 8



Where's Walleye?

The 8th graders' project was titled, "Where's Walleye?" (like the Where's Waldo books) and focused on creating an inexpensive, viable method of identifying walleye in the rivers in our area. The walleye are an invasive species that have recently migrated from the Columbia River as the waters have warmed due to global climate change. They decided to focus their project on this as walleye are decimating the salmon spawn, a very important resource to the Nez Perce Tribe, and it is a cost-prohibitive process for the fisheries department to take on. They built an underwater ROV with live video feed and sonar capabilities enabling quick and reliable identification the target species.

For their efforts, they were awarded 2nd place in their division, Environmental Engineering, and were also awarded two additional specialty awards. One was for their project effectively battling the effects of climate change and the other was the AISES Professional Chapter Native American Heritage Award, given as their project used STEM to support and protect their native culture and way of life.



National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair



Emma Chief, Grade 12



Watershed Restoration Benefit Analysis

Our project focused on analyzing the benefits of watershed restoration by testing the water quality at different locations. We conducted this study to evaluate the impact of restoration efforts, particularly at Beaver Spring Creek, where willow trees were planted last year to support beaver habitat. Water testing was done with the help of the Nez Perce Tribe's local water management employees.

Importance of Water Restoration

- Clean water is essential for healthy local ecosystems and wildlife.
- Restoration efforts, such as planting willow trees, help create sustainable habitats for beavers, which in turn improve water retention and filtration.
- Restoring water sources directly benefits the Nez Perce Tribe's cultural and spiritual practices, particularly for sweat lodges, where clean water is vital for purification and tradition.
- Water plays a sacred role in Nez Perce culture, as it is used in ceremonies, sustains traditional foods, and supports the overall well-being of the community.
- Contaminated water poses risks to both human health and aquatic life, making restoration projects crucial for community well-being.



qe'ciyew'yew' Mrs. Williams for sharing additional pictures! – qe'ciyew'yew' LCSC!

Lewis-Clark State College Native American Awareness Week



Every time I take these dancers it is such an honor. They are like taking a professional dance troupe, and I am just the observer. They are so amazing, and I would like to make sure they are recognized for their service.

– Jenny Williams



Nez Perce Cultural Principle:
Experiential Learning





The Lapwai Band was able to travel to Spokane and see the Broadway hit Hamilton. Thank Ms. Knight for coordinating such engaging opportunities for our Wildcat Scholars!



Nez Perce Cultural Principle:
Experiential Learning

qe'ciyew'yew' Ms. Knight for sharing pictures!





Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival

Ms. Knight and our Wildcat Scholars welcomed talent from the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. Our collaboration with prestigious musicians from the festival, including the late Lionel Hampton, has been a tradition for 30 years. This collaboration has included cultural exchanges with our students dancing for our guests as well. A Wildcat thank you to Andre Picard for joining us this year to share this history with jazz.



Nez Perce Cultural Principle:
Community Orientation

