

Events, Announcements, Scholarship Opportunities

SNAG (Seventh Native American Generation)



SNAG (Seventh Native American Generation) magazine seeks submissions from Native Americans 24-years-old and under. Writing, poetry, painting, drawing, and many more talents are welcome.

For more information, email: snagmagazine@yahoo.com

Hyde Observatory

Volunteer astronomers offer programs and assist volunteers as they observe the sky through three powerful telescopes. Call 441-7895 for more information Open Saturdays. September-October, sunset-11pm. November-December, 7-10pm. Admission is always free.

Americorps Members Needed!

300 hours for juniors and seniors in high school. Provide direct service to children. **Education Award: \$1000.** Contact Deb Buckman at 441-4907 for more information.

Virtues: The Gifts Of Character

Ongoing and continuous, weekly classes for children with games, activities, and fun!!

Fridays: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Indian Center. For further information about The Virtues Project call 436-9446. Sponsored by the Virtues Connection Lincoln.
www.virtuesproject.com

Graduation Demonstration Exams

All students are required to pass graduation demonstrations in reading, math, and writing in order to graduate. What are graduation demonstrations? They are evidence that a student has reached an expected high school level of achievement prior to graduation. Options for students in each subject area include passing a graduation demonstration examination, reaching predetermined scores on other tests, or completing coursework.

Students begin to have opportunities to pass the demonstrations in ninth grade. All ninth graders must take the Reading, Math, and Writing Graduation Demonstration Exams. Students in the special education program should participate according to their IEPs. Students who take the exams will receive a letter for each exam stating whether they have passed it. Passage of the demonstrations is also reflected on semester grade reports. Students who do not pass the exams can retake them in spring and fall each year until they pass the exams or meet the demonstrations through other means.

IPAC

Scheduled Meeting Locations
Meetings are held the first Friday of every month at 12:30pm-2:30pm. Please call 436-1963 or 436-1988 for additional information.

Lincoln Children's Museum Admission

Not every admission to the Lincoln Children's Museum is a paid admission. Limited-income families and groups can enjoy the Museum at no charge via the Museum's Have a Heart program, giving them the same Museum experience as those youngsters who can afford to pay for their admissions. Contact the Children's Museum for more information.
General Information Line: 402-477-4000
Administrative Offices: 402-477-0128

Kids Day Off

This is a supervised play day for kids when LPS is not in session. Activities include: games, crafts, field trips, and more. Children should bring a snack lunch and wear tennis shoes. An afternoon snack is provided. \$25/day. Sliding fees available. Call 441-8480 for more information.

Parks and Recreation Athletics Office

Contact Information
233 S. 23 Street, Lincoln NE 68510
441-7892 Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Email: Youth Sports: jjacox@lincoln.ne.gov
tlange@lincoln.ne.gov

Website: lincoln.ne.gov
keyword: sports

Lakota Language Class

Tuesday Nights
Indian Center
6:30-8:30pm
Lakota Room
Contact the Indian Center for more information at 438-5231.

Want your announcement to appear here?

contact Kate @ 436-1963

Youth Native Studies Class



Drum group
Dance troupe
Beadwork!

(for American Indian youth)
Thursdays, 5 p.m.
1100 Military Rd
Contact Jacinda or Rose at (402) 438-5231 ext-114 with any questions.

EducationQuest

Free college planning services, outreach services, need-based scholarship programs, and college access grants. **In Lincoln! 402-475-5222**

Multicultural Advantage

Opportunities include scholarships, awards, grants, and more!
www.multiculturaladvantage.com

The Posse Foundation

Identifies, recruits and selects high school student leaders for multicultural teams called "Posses", which go through an intensive college prep program and receive 4-year scholarships.
www.possefoundation.org

LPS Scholarships

The LPS Foundation administers more than 120 postsecondary and undergraduate scholarship opportunities for students in Lincoln Public Schools. Information on establishing or applying for a scholarship at:
www.foundationforlps.org

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
**INDIAN
 EDUCATION**

If we wonder often, the gift of knowledge will come.
 - Arapaho

November/December 2006

3rd Annual Native American Student Leadership Conference



Chance Rush
 (Hidatsa/Dakota/Arapaho)



Myron Long Soldier
 (Lakota)



Student Quilt Project
 Demonstration

LPS Indian Education 3rd Annual Native American Leadership Conference was held at UNL's East Campus Union during Native American Heritage Month. Our conference is designed to encourage and promote student scholars and provide an opportunity for academicians and others to discuss the issues that affect Native American individuals on a local, national and international level.

The conference raises the awareness of the history, culture and contemporary concerns of Native students while developing and building student leadership. In recognition of a strong tradition of spirituality among many Native students, the conference also addresses the spiritual growth and needs of our students through its workshops, presenters, speakers and entertainment.

This year, we were lucky to have Myron Long Soldier and Nikki Menard speak about the preservation of Native Languages, Greg Keller and Shaunna Meyer educate students on what Columbus Day means to the Native American, Amy Bearskin, who spoke to students about the importance of being a leader, Mark Awakuni-Swetland and Bill Waters who taught the students a variety of traditional Native American games, Joe Rousseau who spoke to the students about resiliency, and finally our keynote speaker, Chance Rush who made everyone laugh with his 'Rez Comedy' and his two friends Terrell and John from Oklahoma's Native American drug free basketball team.



Joe Rousseau (Lakota)

We would first of all like to thank the over 70 students who attended. We would also like to thank all the school faculty and community members who attended and helped us out so much. Finally we would like to thank LPS Library and Media services for their wonderful Native American Literature Exhibit that they created for this event.



Indian Education students!



Greg Keller (LHS Journalism Dept.) speaks about Columbus Day

The goal of our leadership conference is to bring together professionals, community members and students from throughout the Lincoln community to share and shape the Native American experience in Lincoln Public Schools.

We hope that this conference continues to inspire all students to excel in school and look forward to college in their future, create cultural awareness, empower students to educate others on the true history of Native America, and overcome adversity. As one student said, "Don't talk about it, be about it".



Mark Awakuni-Swetland (Omaha)



Students take a lunch break



IPAC/Student Spotlight

A letter to students from IPAC President, Joe Rousseau

Who are you?



Joe Rousseau

Who are you? That is the question, isn't it. The search lasts a lifetime. How does one define themselves? This is a complex process which is unique to each individual. I spent the first five years of my educational career attending a different school each year. My father and mother divorced when I was around two years old, and it was up to my mother to raise me. My mother is Irish and German, my father is Lakota and Cherokee. So who am

I? What box do I check on the census form?

It is said that a child from a divorced family, regardless of race, statistically will not do as well as children from intact families. What does this fact do to the creation of my identity? If I believed in this data, I do not think I would be in the position to speak to you through this newsletter. If I believed in the power of these labels, and allowed this stereotype to become a reality within my identity, I do not think I would have made it through the Navy to receive an honorable discharge at the end of my enlistment. I do not think I would have followed through with the idea of completing college. It took seven years, but I finished what I started at UNL, and now am employed as a science teacher.

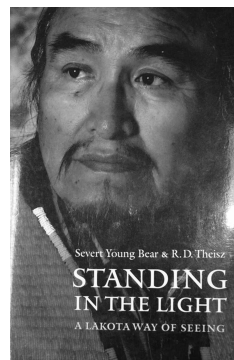
Who defines you? Your friends? Your family? Teachers? T.V.? MTV? How much influence do others have on who you are? Or do you define yourself? The search in defining yourself provides you with strength. It provides a foundation from which good decisions can be made. It fosters the resilience you have within yourself. If you were not resilient, you would not be reading this right now. But you are here, attending school, experiencing new situations, forming your identity. Once you have begun this search for your sense of self, it will enable you to make good decisions when you encounter adversity. You will be even more resilient, succeeding despite any negative situation you come across.

Other factors can contribute to your resilience. Often it is an Elder, someone you can lean on and learn from, in ways which will help you your entire life. It may be an individual from a school activity which you have made a connection with, who understands and supports you. Or it can be a friend who supports the good decisions you make for yourself and others. For many of us it may be the ceremonies and understanding which accompanies them. Language preservation is crucial to our cultures resilience. Language is the catalyst which brings us closer to our ancestors, I believe.

Enjoy your time in school, make good decisions, bounce back during tough times, and stay true to yourself, define yourself. You are on a path which only you will take. Remember, we are here because of the good decisions our ancestors have made. School is your tool, it's there for your use. Take advantage of it, let it give you opportunities, it can take you places if you let it. Ryan Wilson, during his time as president of the National Indian Education Association, spoke about conquering the English language and to not let it conquer you. I agree with him, do not let school conquer you. Do not let others conquer you. You define yourself.

Pilamayaye-
Joe Rousseau

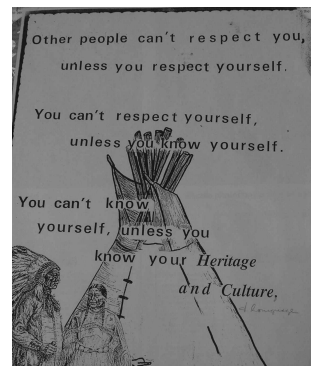
Phyllis Stone speaks to middle school clubs



Phyllis Stone, Vice Chair of IPAC, spoke to Indian Education's middle school Native American Clubs last month. She brought with her a large amount of knowledge about the importance of learning your own

culture. One of the topics she spoke about was a book titled, "Standing in the Light: A Lakota Way of Seeing" by R.D. Theisz, a college professor, and Severt Young Bear, a Lakota singer, historian, and cultural traditionalist.

In Standing in the Light, Severt sums up his reasons for agreeing to create this book.



Severt believes every powwow or gathering of Indians has four circles. The first circle is the one in which

Indians are dancing and taking part in their culture. As the circles move outwards, one finds Indians who are not as aware of the cultural activities going on in the first circle. The last circle, the circle on the farthest reaches of the gathering, holds the lost Indians, those who are afraid of learning about their culture and so lose themselves in drugs, sex, or alcohol. Severt wants to bring all of the other circles into the first circle, into the "light," so all the Lakotas may partake in their culture.

"Standing in the Light" is a powerful statement. For those who wish to learn about Indian culture, Phyllis recommends this book.

Native American Student Leadership Conference Spotlight

Photos by Brittany Canby (LHS)



Bryan!!!



Eva



Meghan



Greg represents the first year of our conference!



Erika's t-shirt



LHS!!!



Dalton



Hi Justin!



Terrell and Mikayla



Brittany, John, Terrell, and Mercedes



Our Banner!



Hi Cason!



Promise



Tyra and Terrell



Joe and Nikki



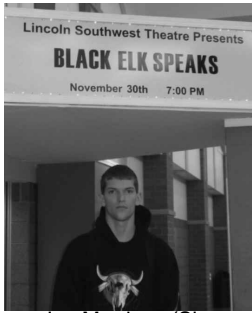
Hi Isaiah!

LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Student Spotlight

Indian Education students involved in Black Elk Speaks



Joe Morrison (Sicangu Lakota Nation)

Congratulations on the successful run of Black Elk Speaks at Southwest High School and to our Native Students involved in the production, Joe Morrison (Sicangu Lakota Nation) and Angel Geller (Omaha Nation).

Joe helped with language translations, names of tribes and correct pronunciations. Joe also played on the Southwest football team and has started the first American Indian Club at Southwest, as well as participation

in intramural sports and the hackey-sack club. He plans to attend South Dakota University when he graduates this year.

"This was an important play for our community so we can get the truth out to more people and reach people at a different level," Joe said. "I actually saw two girls leave the play crying." That is powerful stuff! Angel played the role of an old Cheyenne woman and a jingle dancer.

Victor Franklin at Huntington



Victor Franklin, Yankton Sioux, is seen working hard at the computer at Huntington Elementary School where he is in the fourth grade. Victor has had an awesome start to his school year, where he received perfect grades 1st quarter in P.E. and computer. He likes to skateboard and practice his 'ollies'. When Victor grows up he would like to be in the military or be a lawyer. But for now, he enjoys being a kid.

"When you get older, you have a lot more difficult things to deal with as an adult. I wonder what that feels like, but for now, I like just being a kid" said Victor.

Victor likes to read historical fiction. "I like to read about things from the past," he said. He also enjoys hearing stories about when he was younger. Congratulations, Victor, on a great start to a great year!

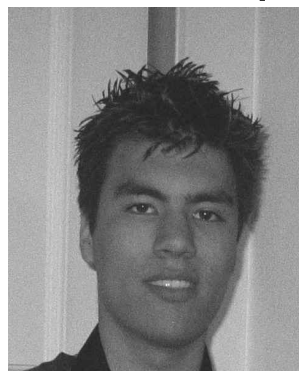
Gianni Phillips at Clinton



Congratulations to Gianni Phillips! Again this year, he has received several awards from a recent assembly at Clinton Elementary School. He was recognized for perfect scores on math tests and increased fluency in reading, along with a spelling award for a near perfect percentage. "He is very gifted in many areas, especially math," said his fourth grade teacher, Kodi Tubbs. "He is also very talented at drawing."

Gianni's favorite subjects include art, p.e. and computer. Some recent computer art he did was in honor of his Uncle Travis, who passed away last year. "He was a really special uncle so I wanted to remember him," said Gianni when asked about his work of art. The piece was titled "Here Lies Travis". "I wrote R.I.P. on his shirt because my Uncle Travis died on January 11. I made the color blue because it is my favorite color. I put blue around him because I think he liked blue, too" We can all look for Gianni, Omaha Nation, to do more great things in the future!

Artist and multiple award winner



Jay Ferguson, Omaha Nation senior at Southeast, participated in the High School Art Exhibit, which was held in conjunction with the Lincoln Arts Festival.

The festival was held at the South Pointe Pavillions on September 23 and 24. Jay entered a six piece series of graphic illustrations and received the award of Excellence for his work.



Student Spotlight

IPAC welcomes new student representatives



Joe Morrison
(Sicangu Lakota
Nation) SW
representative

IPAC (Indian Parent Advisory Committee) at LPS would like to encourage any high school student enrolled in Indian Education to volunteer the first Friday of every month to be a student representative on the committee. Joe Morrison is our most recent addition. We appreciate and look forward to implementing many of Joe's ideas into our schools. We are excited to hear from you. Please contact Kris or Kate at 436-1963 for more information.

Congratulations, Aden Marshall!

Congratulations to Aden Marshall (Rosebud Lakota) on his role in the one-act play for Lincoln High that took second place, falling just 2 points short of a first place title. Lincoln High performed "The Birds" for the state wide competition.

Indian Education College Fair Event

Indian Education and the Migrant Education Program are proud to invite you to our Second Annual College Fair Event. This one day event is open to all ELL, Migrant and Native American High School Students and their families. We will hold our event in the south wing of the Lincoln High School Building (Randolph St. entrance of the building) on Thursday, December 21st from 6-8 pm. We will help answer your questions on requirements, scholarships, grants and applications for admittance to college. In order to get the full experience, we highly encourage you to attend the full two hours. You will agree it will be well worth it.

The event will feature speakers from Education Quest and UNL. We will also provide computer access to initiate the online application of FAFSA, as well as staff that will walk you through the long and sometimes arduous task of college admission forms. If enough interest arises, as in the past, we will provide small but informative tours of area colleges.

This event is geared towards families who are new to the college application process as well as families who would like a refresher course on the new requirements to various colleges. Interpreters will be provided for families who wish to use these services. (Food will be provided for those who attend.)

Please RSVP in order for us to provide enough food those all who plan to attend. If you have any questions about the college fair, please do not hesitate to call. (Liaisons in your buildings will also have information on the college fair.) Please contact Kate or Kris at the Indian Education Office at 436-1963.

Bracelets on sale, donations go to Pine Ridge and Rosebud schools

Southwest High School American Indian Club made and sold bracelets at parent teacher conferences this past Tuesday. They are selling bracelets to raise money to donate to Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservation schools. The bracelets are beaded on a leather band, made by a parent, in many colorful designs. They are \$10 each. There are also stretchy bead bracelets made by students that are selling for \$5. Call Kris or Kate at 436-1963 for more information.

American Indian Read-A-Thon at LHS for Native American Heritage Month



LHS American Indian Read-A-Thon

On November 16, 2006 all English classes at Lincoln High attended Lincoln High's American Indian Read-A-Thon held in the library. Many students not in English classes were invited to attend when they had the time during the day. Many Native American students at LHS were on site reading throughout the day and encouraging other students to read and understand different aspects of Native American culture.



Mary gives some pointers

The goal of this day is to have someone from Lincoln High School reading works written by American Indians all day long from 8 a.m.-3:00 p.m. to observe Native American Heritage Month. There was no break in the reading during the day, readings continued during all passing periods.

Any student who would like to read and had brought their own material, was encouraged to sit by the podium in the seats designated "Reader". Many students had to wait for a seat, but were able to proceed as soon as the seat emptied.

Any student who would like to read and had no material of their own, could go to the tables in the middle of the circle and pick out some of the works that were on the tables and then proceed to the "Reader" seats.

The day was a success with hundreds of students who turned out to promote and participate in this event.