

## Indian Parent Committee Newsletter

September 2021

*The mission of the Charles City County Education Advisory Parent Committee is to increase knowledge of cultural identity and awareness in order to improve students' community and the world while supporting the core values of integrity, heritage, learning, communication, and respect.*



### What's Been Happening?

- The 2020-2021 school year was the first time Charles City County Public Schools participated in the Indian Education Grant.
- Through collaboration, the Indian Parent Committee purchased a kiln for Charles City High School. This will align well with the new "Art History" class.
- In addition, the media centers established a Native American Resource Center with funding from the grant. Books and posters will be a wonderful addition for our students.

### Did You Know?

12% of students (65 out of 540) in Charles City County Public Schools identify themselves as Native American Students?

### Getting Ready for National Native American Heritage Month

The Indian Parent Committee has started preparation to recognize National American Heritage Month in November. We hope to have a pottery guest speaker at both Charles City Elementary School and Charles City High School, school assemblies, daily morning announcements with "facts of the day", and more!

## September's Highlight

E. Preston Adkins



Mr. Elvis Preston Adkins has been married to his lovely wife Tina for 27 years. He has a son, Wesley, and a daughter, Stormie. All are graduates of Charles City High School. Mr. Adkins was elected as an At- Large School Board Member in 2007, re-elected in 2011, and again in 2015. He has a passion for getting the job done and working with the parents of students and the employees of the school system. Mr. Adkins serves as head usher at Samaria Baptist Church, where he also serves on the Church Council.

He is an enrolled citizen of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, where he is a member of the Chickahominy Tribal Dancers. Mr. Adkins has spread the culture of his Native people for 35 years through dance and teaching. He has had the opportunity to visit France twice sharing his culture. He has also been a part of the last nine governors' inaugurations.

Mr. Adkins had the opportunity to participate in opening Interstate 895 with Governor Mark Warner. He also had the opportunity to meet and talk with former Pres. George W. Bush when he visited Charles City County in 2008. He currently enjoys working everyday as a truck driver, which he has been doing for the past 31 years.

The 2021 Chickahominy Fall Festival and Pow Wow has been canceled.



## Upcoming Plans for the Indian Parent Committee for 2021-2022

- 1) Increase membership
- 2) Plan for a November "Educational Day"
- 3) Create and distribute a survey to Native American students and families to gather data on Indian student needs
- 4) Initialize an "Indian School" after school club

**Next Indian Parent Committee  
Meeting: Tuesday, September 14,  
2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom**