



The Cougar Bytes

The official newsletter of Tohatchi Middle School

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August—September, 2017

Welcome Back To School



Dear Parents/Guardians, Community Members, Staff, Faculty & Students of Tohatchi Middle School:

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer. I also hope that all of the students are anxious to return to school and are ready to learn! At the end of last year and over the summer we said goodbye to some staff. I would like to thank Jean Blackgoat, Howard Paytiamio & Delaine Manuelito for all of their service and wish them well in retirement. In addition Arsenia Balue, and Andrew Madarang have left us and I wish them well in all of their future endeavors. While it is sad to say goodbye, it is always exciting to welcome new staff. I would like to welcome Mary Ann Clark-Technology and Library EA, Garland Rivera-P.E. Teacher, Carmelita Nez-Parent Liaison, Elmer Invento-Woodshop Teacher, Shellie Mariano-Sp.Ed. EA, Ronald Serrano-6th Math Teacher, & Melisa Novak-Sp.Ed. Teacher. Welcome to our team and thank you for being an awesome member of our Cougar Team!

In addition, as preparations are made to return to school, there is no dress code but offensive materials, gang related paraphernalia & immodest clothing will not be permitted. In addition, fidget spinners will not be allowed during instruction time. If seen during class time or assemblies they will be taken away. Cell phones are never allowed, though we know that many students bring them; if they are seen they will be confiscated. The school is in no way liable to purchase a replacement for lost, stolen, and broken cell phones and electronics. So please, refrain from bringing them to school. Athletic items, we know many students enjoy bringing basketballs etc. to school; these items are not allowed in the classrooms or halls and will need to be checked into the office and are only for use during lunch. Also, the school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged athletic equipment and the school will not purchase new replacements for any lost, damaged or stolen items.

By way of important announcements, there are a few major changes this year: early release will no longer be on Monday. Early release has been moved to Wednesday. This is for Tohatchi Elementary, Tohatchi Middle and Tohatchi High. This will start on the first day of school, which is a Wednesday and will continue on throughout the entire year. The only exception will be on delayed start days. If school is delayed due to weather then there will be no early release on that particular Wednesday. In addition, to meet the demands for excellence of student academic achievement, I will no longer have meetings unless the meetings are by appointment. The scheduled appointment time for parents will be 7:30 to 8:00am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. I know it is very important to make time to meet with parents and time will be set aside for all meetings but they will need to be made by appointment. I thank you for your consideration and support in this matter! As always, I am grateful to be a part of this team. Welcome to Tohatchi Middle School and I look forward to another terrific Cougar Year!

Sincerely,

TOHATCHI MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION

Vision: Together Molding Scholars

Mission: The Tohatchi Middle School community will strive to provide a safe environment that allows children the confidence to be creative builders of their own future by embracing their culture, developing positive character and celebrating academic achievement in all subject areas.

Newspaper Club Members

Orlan Dale

Caitlin McLaughlin

Kandice Chavez

Rachel Charley

Brianna Begay

Teacher-Adviser: Ms. Nemia Tan



First day of school: August 9, 2017: Students were ushered to the gym for a welcoming program.



Mr. Morrison gave students a pep talk on how it is to be a true Cougar.



Teachers welcomed students and introduced themselves.



The newest middle-schoolers, the 6th graders, were intently listening.



The 8th graders were excited to start a new school year!!

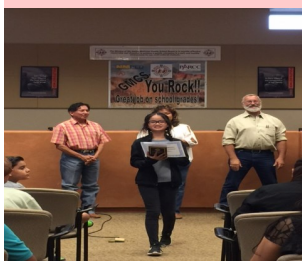


7th graders were happy to see their classmates and friends again.

GMCS Honors Achievers

In recognition for exceeding the expectations in PARCC and NMSBA last school year 2016-2017, the Gallup- McKinley school district awarded students in a board meeting last September 5, 2017. Three TOM students made it to the list of awardees.

Congratulations to **Langham Bitsoi**, **Kassandra Castañeda** and **Lean Andre Madarang** for a job well-done! In our own school TOMs assembly, *Langham* and *Kassandra* were given recognition by Mr. Morrison for making TOMs proud of their achievement.



After School Program

TOM students: If you are interested to join after-school programs, here is a list of activities you may choose from. You may see the teacher-adviser and have yourself listed.

Student Council

Stephanee Nez and Leah Kayonie

National Juniors Honors Society

Joy Castaneda

Yearbook Club

Melissa Novak

Newspaper Club

Nemía Tan

MESA

Jorge Gutierrez

Tutoring

Joy Castañeda and

Hannah Streeter

Clubs are every Thursdays; After-school Tutoring is on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays.

celebrate SUCCESS

6th Grade

Brooke Badonie	Telishia Haley
Kassandra Castaneda	Marisa Denetso
Genesis Smith	Mya Ashley
Jacelyn Yazzie	Brenna Chee
Jade Yazzie	McKenzie Gilmore
Calvina Fuson	Zechariah Howard
Micah Ben	Kaden Rico
Raeanna Hunch	Tyrelle Brown
Leah Robinson	Samantha Casuse
Jacob Yazzie	Talan Long
Loretta Mike	Malcolm Brown
Cynthia Livingston	Sonja Charleston
Shawna Manygoats	Ariel Chee
Riley Morris	Letisha Lee
Tyler Whitehorse	Shanelle Sam
Trent Smith	Evan Yazzie
Xzeria Sam	Jacob Gruber
Demetria Hawthorne	



AUGUST 2017 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH AND PRINCIPAL'S AWARDEES

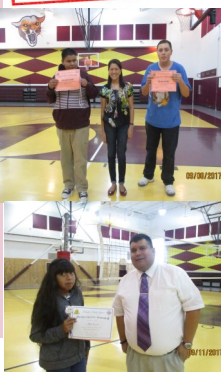
8th Grade

Brianna Begay	Elias Moose	Jada Peterson
Rachel Charley	Eden Nelson	Alisha Jarvison
Joseph Gibson	Kinley Tom	Nizhoni Bah Martin
Melvin Scott	Farrah Barney	Alana Robinson
Razhinder Bitsoi	Kandice Chavez	Demetri Yazzie
Kobe Capitan	Calena Fuson	Blane Long
Wyatt Chischilly	Lucas Joe	Aliah-Kaiya Conde
Jaymee Miller	Kaitlyn Chato	Kiyanna Benally
	Myranda Morgan	Jordan Begay

7th Grade

Alyssa Tsosie	Elijah Chato-King	Langham Bitsoi
Cecil Begay	Natasha Gibson	Kiana Bia
Javin Cadman	Dewayne Hunch	Kayleigh Nelson
Kaydene Capitan	Lindsay Mitchell	Samantha Roanhorse
Kiana Bia	Alyssa Tsosie	Leland Johnson
Lea Long	Mallory Watson	Sarah Johnson
Lindsay Mitchell	Javin Cadman	Erianna Tayah
Mallory Watson	Rodney Joe	Natasha Lee
Shane Jones	Amy Anderson	Ranondo Brown
Tristan Claw	Shaylee Dawes	Isaac Avery
Jacob Tom	Samara Joe	Drake Smith
Kaydene Capitan		

**YOU
ROCK!**



Principal Awardees

6th Grade

Kassandra Castaneda
Malcolm Brown
Renee Lyons

7th Grade

Samantha Roanhorse
Rodney Joe
Langham Bitsoi

8th Grade

Aliah Conde
Alarik Joe



BE A STUDENT of the MONTH!

Students of the month are recognized for their effort and excellent academic performance. These students inspire others to perform better. To qualify, one must have:

1. no referrals for the month
2. 98% attendance record for the month
3. 3.5 (85%) in your respective classes (not GPA)

A **Principal's Award** is given to six students (two for each grade level; one boy and one girl) every month. The Principal Awardees are nominated by their teachers.

Congratulations

To Ms. Nemia Tan for being voted as

**STAFF
spotlight**



For August, 2017

From your TOMs family



Ms. Tan has served Tohatchi Middle School for more than two years now as a Special Education Teacher. She teaches Reading and Life Skills classes and is an inclusion teacher for Language Arts.

Welcome! NEW TEACHERS & STAFF



Melissa Novak - Special Ed Teacher

Ms. Novak is from San Diego, California where she worked as Pre-K and Kindergarten teacher's aide. She also taught 1st—8th grade Art. Ms. Novak finished a Masters in Special Education from the Grand Canyon University. She describes herself as funny, artsy, adventurous and an animal lover. Ms. Novak worked as an environmental scientist, technical illustrator and a computer analyst, but she turned into teaching because she wants to help kids realize their potentials. She feels happy when her students enjoy what they are learning in her class. She wishes that her students achieve what they want in life. Ms. Novak likes Tohatchi, she thinks the area is beautiful and she appreciates all the support she gets from the staff. Her message to TOM students: "I will try to support you in any way I can." Ms. Novak is also this year's Yearbook Club adviser.



Ronald Serrano - 6th Grade Math Teacher

Mr. Serrano brings with him 13 years of teaching experience, with a Masters degree in Education from the Philippines. He chose to be a teacher to be able to make a positive difference on the future of children. He says that being with students and watching them learn to succeed is his passion. Mr. Serrano enjoys the people he works with, the friendly and fun atmosphere, and he is excited to go to work every morning. He dedicates himself to build a positive classroom culture and focuses himself to implement instructional practices to improve student performance. His message to students: "I will work hard to ensure that you will master your grade-level skills to reach your goals. I will pour my heart into my work to give you a wonderful learning experience."



Garland Rivera - P.E. Teacher

Mr. Rivera has 14 years of experience as a PE teacher in the Philippines. He also worked as a fitness and swimming instructor. He thinks he has the coolest job as a PE teacher because he is paid to be fit! He likes seeing his students everyday with a smile on their faces ready to learn new skills. Mr. Rivera likes working with computers. He describes himself as a man-of-few-words—he talks less, but works more. His message to Tom students: "Keep doing what you love the most because the best is yet to come! Don't be afraid to lead when asked to do so. Always remember that leadership is not a position; it's a combination of who you are (character) and what you can do (competence). You were born to lead!"



Carmelita Nez - Liaison Officer

Ms. Nez joined Tohatchi Middle School way back in 1992 as a Bilingual assistant for three years. When the Bilingual program ended after 3 years, she was assigned as the Librarian assistant. She then worked as a counselor's assistant, a discipline secretary for a couple of weeks, and eventually as the school secretary for 10 years from 2002-2012. She left Tohatchi Mid school in 2012 to work elsewhere. Ms. Nez also served as a substitute teacher for many years. This year, she is back to TOM as our new Liaison officer. She likes her job and enjoys serving our students and their families. Her message to parents: 'Communicate with your kids so they will listen to their teachers.' Welcome back to Tohatchi Mid, Ms. Nez!



Mary Ann Clark - Technology and Library EA

Ms. Clark has this to say to students: "Start with the responsibility you have to yourself. Every single one of you has something that you are good at. Every single one of you has something to offer. You have a responsibility to yourself to discover what that is. That's the opportunity that education can provide." Ms. Clark taught Navajo Language for 30 years in a different school. She is a presenter and talk to people about weaving and creation stories telling about Navajo History. She loves working at TOM, be with students and staff, and believes that a caring, hardworking and passionate relationship are key to building trust with them. She says, "If people know you care about their feelings and that you are willing to listen, many difficult situations can be handled." Ms. Clark considers herself to be strong, kind, humble and independent. She knows what she wants in life. She is soft-spoken, happy and a compassionate person. She loves working with children and treats them like her own grandchildren.



TOM held a Parent – Teacher's conference on September 18, 2017 at the gym.



TOM had two Open Houses held on August 19, 2017 and September 12, 2017.

Thank you, parents, for visiting and collaborating with the teachers!

