

San Xavier District Wa:k Newsletter October 2024 ~ Volume 33~ Issue 10

Al' Ju:big Masad/ Small Rains Month

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Please be advised of the following Dance Permit Guidelines:

- Dances must be organized for the benefit of an SXD-enrolled Community member. An SXD-enrolled member must sponsor the dance and be the requestor on the dance permit.
- The sponsor must complete the Dance Permit form at the SXD Administration office at least three weeks in advance of the requested date and request public safety support from TOPD and the Ranger Department.
- Dances are limited to the time between 1pm and 12am and should conclude by midnight.
- Only one dance per night and a maximum of two permits per month are permitted. All Feast are given priority.
- The sponsor is responsible for providing security for the dance and reserving floodlights within the San Xavier District.
- The Dance Ramada is the only approved venue for dances; private residences are not permitted.
- A \$100.00 dance permit fee is applicable, payable in cash.
- The District reserves the right to cancel dances for ceremonial purposes or funeral services and will promptly notify the sponsor in such instances.

-Upon notification of a ceremony or wake service date, the Admin Staff will notify the individual that the District is canceling the original permit due to the scheduled ceremony or funeral services. An alternative date may be submitted with three weeks' advance notice, subject to availability.

REMINDER: The dance Ramada area and its adjacent spaces are designated as an Alcohol-and-Drug-Free Zone, a No-Parking Zone, and a No-Weapons Zone (Res. No. SXDC 08-05-06).

Annual Feast Days given priority for Dance Permits: May- Holy Cross June- San Juan Feast July- Corpus Christi August- Mary's Feast October 3 & 4- St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day December 2, 3 & 4- San Francisco Xavier Feast Day December- Guadalupe December 24- Christmas Eve December 25- Christmas Day December 31- New Year's Eve January 1- New Year's Day

Chairman/ Vice-Chairwoman Monthly Reports

SEPTEMBER 2024					
9/3/24 Met with the TON Legislative Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee and presented the SXD Council ap- proved Livestock Policy. SXD Council Meeting	9/4/24 Attended SAWRSA and Coop Farm staff meeting re Reliability, Education PowerPoint, Newsletters, and Develop- ment Review Process. Met with TON Natural Resources biologist, TOKA & SXD Plan- ning Dept regarding a Pima Pineapple Cactus reserve that pur- portedly had been approved by TOKA and the Nation without SXD approval. A new site will be identified with SXD involve- ment.				
9/5/24 Met with Planning Dept. and The Planning Center consulting firm to plan the Community Meeting for final review of the Wa:k Comprehensive Plan.	9/6/24 Participated in the O'odham Ap'edag Ki (PWH) Com- munity Walk from the Education Center to the PWH; a presen- tation was provided on recovery from substance abuse, abu- sive relationships, grief & loss, for self or for others.				
9/9/24 Presented at the Tribal Water Law Conference in Santa Fe, NM, regarding the history of SAWRSA specifically as it re- lated to allottees. Continued to review comments and edit the final draft of the Wa:k Comprehensive Plan prior to tonight's community meeting. Special Community Meeting; the Planning Center presented a PowerPoint and received additional comments from communi- ty members.	9/10/24 Admin and Custodians went to the former Griffith property to go over what needed to be cleaned and cleared out of the home which will be used for the preparation work prior to the 9/20 reburial ceremony.				
 9/11/24 Provided a sunrise blessing in support of the Apache Stronghold group regarding Save Oak Flats campaign. Today they were going to present their opposition to the Supreme Court on a lower ruling that went against saving Oak Flats. Participated in a walk from south of TCC to the federal courthouse with supporters in Tucson. Asarco Technical Group meeting to discuss the stormwater control project. Attended the Finance Committee meeting wherein the SXAA presented their FY25 budget proposal. 9/13/24 Began planning meetings for the November Women & Water Convening Conference to be hosted by SXD & Planet Women. Reviewed a draft program agenda. 	 9/12/24 Green Valley Regional Water Study meeting to hear an update on Alternative Analysis Presentation: Effectiveness, Implementability, & Cost. Presented, along with Rowena Carlyle and Sammy Lopez, on resiliency in our community. The host was Toward Right Relationships with Native People, and the audience were individuals from different denominations. I provided an overview of our community and the challenges we overcame and our way of life in the past and today, and Rowena and Sammy spoke of their life experiences as community members. 9/16/24 Sent work order for Maintenance staff to deliver chairs and tables to the old Griffith property for prep work for the upcoming Reburial Ceremony. 				
9/17/24 All-staff meeting (9am-12pm) Monthly Cemetery Wash Project Update meeting SXD Council Meeting	 SXD Council held a virtual meeting where the Wa:k Comprehensive Plan was approved by resolution. 9/18/24 TON Legislative Council session to review all District's FY 2025 Budgets; they approved the SXD Budget by resolution. 				
9/19/24 Monthly SAWRSA Projects Update meeting. 6pm Community Meeting; afterwards a Special SXD Council Meeting on SXAA and SXCA FY 25 Budgets.	9/20/24 Attended Community Reburial Ceremony				
9/20/24 Provide welcome address at the Wa:k Ceksan Royalty Farewell event.	9/24/24 Met with Ian Milliken, Pima County Middle Broad- band Infrastructure Project.				
9/25/24 Districts Leadership meeting at Chukut Kuk District.					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 Election, 5:30 pm Council, 6 pm	2	3	4 SXD Closed Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	5	Vacancies:
6	Culture & Natural Resources, 5:30 pm	8 Health & Education, 5:30 pm	9 Finance, 6 pm Planning & Housing, 6:30 pm	10	11	12	 Election (1) Finance (1) Planning and Housing (1) SXD Council Alternate(1) TOLC Alternate (2)
13	14	15 Council, 6 pm	16	17 Community Meeting, 6 pm	18	19	Recruiting Community members to f vacant positions on a voluntary basis Please submit letters of interest to th SXD Council Department . Council Secretary—Rina Encinas
20	21 Culture & Natural Resources, 5:30 pm	22 Health & Education, 5:30 pm	23 Finance, 6 pm Planning & Housing, 6:30 pm	24	25	26	520.573.4028, Administrative Assistant Melissa Moreno 520.573.4026
27	28	29	30	31 DEADLINE to submit all meet- ing Minutes			Happy



Melissa Moreno– 5 year Service Award

The San Xavier District wants to recognize two individuals for their service and commitment to the Wa:k Community/ District.

- Melissa Moreno– 5 years
- Ivan Jose– 15 years

As well as welcome our new on comers to our team

- Andrew Garcia– Senior Accountant
- Rodolfo Gutierrez– Temp Housing Tradesman
- Teresa Castillo- Sales Manager
- Michael Lake- Ranger
- Victor Villa– Temp Housing Tradesman













O'odham Ap'edag Ki:/ People Wellness House

Wa:k Recovery walk

September is the month of Recovery. Recovery can be many things. Recovery from substance abuse, Recovery from grief and loss, Recovery from an abusive relationship.

The People Wellness House and the SX Education Center collaborated to honor those who are in recovery. The recovery tree was created to help acknowledge those individuals who struggle in their recovery and to also celebrate those who are standing strong in their recovery.

Come by the People Wellness House and place a leaf on the Recovery tree in honor of those who are in Recovery.

Irma Tucker



O'odham Ap'edag Ki:/ People Wellness House contd.

S-Keg Tas Wa:k Community,

September was Recovery and Suicide Prevention Month. There have been wonderful and meaningful events that the Ap'edag Ki (People Wellness House) sponsored, assisted or participated in.

09/04/24—Ap'edag Ki: Set up an informational booth at the Pasqua Yaqui Health Center to share program information and upcoming events.

9/06/24 The People Wellness House and SX Education collaborated to acknowledge Recovery Month. The Recovery Walk started from the SX Education center and ended at the Wellness House, participants received & placed leaves on the recovery tree (these leaf's represented individuals they walked for). Informational booths from different programs were available and a lite lunch was served. Our children's art activities were also a part of the wellness tree. (see picture below).

09/08/24 Ap'edag Ki: assisted in the Suicide Prevention event hosted by the Norris and Osegueda families.

Children at the Ap'edag Ki continue to learn various O'odham words about the month, activities, or our himdag and are engaged in art activities using their imagination to create projects such as rock formations, wall hangers, and other fun activities. Birthdays were celebrated for the months of June through September, and children are reminded to be respectful to one another as well as to adult figures; also, to keep our children safe from harm, we have introduced awareness to "Stranger Danger and the Effects & Harm of Vaping" as these are now within our children's schools and our community.

Thank You

Margaret Unito - People Wellness Case Manager



San Xavier District Social Committee

The purpose of the SXD Social Committee is to assist in building positive working relationships by planning fun activities for the employees to bring joy, laughter, appreciation, and support.

During the month of September, our employees had a Guacamole Contest for National Guacamole Day, 9/16. Eight employees entered the contest.

1st Place:

Maggie Alvarez

Carmen Martinez

2nd Place:

Natana Gastelum

3rd Place:

Elizabeth "Lisa" Ortega

Shawna Perez

Thank you to all who participated. They were delicious, and many of us had to go back around a second and third time.









Ranger Department

Hello Wa:k Community,

Curbside Service:

Reminder if you don't have curbside service. Tohono O'odham Solid Waste provides curbside service for \$18.00 every three months. If you are interested, please contact the Ranger Department. We will provide you with the application. Please do your part to keep the community clean. Also, if you have any large items you need to be picked up, you can contact Tohono O'odham Solid Waste.

New Employee:

The Ranger Department is fully staffed. I would like to introduce the newest Ranger, Michael Lake. Michael is from the San Xavier Community and resides here in the village. His Mother is Melissa Moreno, and his Father is Tyler Lake. Prior to working at the district, Michael worked at Lucky Wishbone for four years. Michael looks forward to assisting the Community and the District.

Important Telephone numbers:

Emergency	911	Tohono O'odham Police	(520)383-3275 or (520) 383-3276
T.O.N Animal Control	(520) 383-6482	Ranger Dept.	(520)807-8499
SX Ranger Cellphone	(520) 471-8092	Ranger Supervisor	(520)471-7875

Stats for September 2024

Community Assist	1	Illegal Dumping	2	Suspicious Activity	2
Property Damage	1	Public Assist	3	Environmental	1
Trespassing	1	Animal Control	9	Vandalism	1

Animal Control:

Please contact Tohono O'odham Nation Animal Control if you have a dog or cat problem. T.O.N Animal Control 520-383-6482. Also, remember to get your dog or cat spayed and/or neutered to help control the pet population.

REMINDER:

This is a reminder to report any suspicious persons, activity, or vehicles to the police department. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our community safe.

The staff sends their prayers and thoughts to all the families who have lost a loved one in the past month, May the Creator be with you during this time.

Natural Resources

Greetings Wa:k Community!

It's that time of year again for the upcoming 2024 CAP Outage taking place from October 21st-November 23, 2024. Some of the planned projects for this year's outage include: Discharge manifold coating improvements, discharge electromagnetic inspections, and valve seal replacement throughout the Tucson Aqueduct. This outage will affect the Wa:k Hikdan and Site II temporarily, and both sites will be without water during this time.

The Natural Resources staff have attended or been involved with the following: made 4 homesite visits & provided assessments along with the Land Assignment Committee, attended the Cemetery Wash Project Meeting to discuss cultural & biological requirements, met with Asarco & UKLA representatives on livestock matters, and attended the SAWRSA Update Meeting.

Three of our staff members attended the Society for Ecological Restoration Conference. Some of the presentations included topics such as land restoration, changing climate, and re-establishing a healthy relationship with nature and culture.

Riparian Restoration:

The Hikdan groundskeepers have been keeping busy these past months. They each attended and completed their SmartScape training, which gave them a deeper understanding of how to care for the trees, plants, soil, insects and anything else that they come in counter with every day while working in the field. They continue to assist the community by clearing and maintaining the roadsides. When roadside work is being conducted, the Groundskeepers do use signage and wear their safety vests to caution drivers. Please remember to drive safe and be cautious.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us: David Tenario (520) 573-4056, Geena Johnson (520) 573-4055, Cie'na Schlaefli (520) 573-4054, or Morgan Parsons (520) 573-4057.

Housing Department



Here are a few friendly reminders from the Housing Department

• Please call the Housing Department as soon as possible if something needs to be fixed in your home. Don't wait until the last minute or until it gets worse. Waiting may lead to a very expensive fix.

- As the weather changes, be sure to patch all cracks in your home to keep the cold air out
- Declutter your home if needed.
- We are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.



Have a safe and Happy Halloween!



San Xavier Mission District Talented Artists

For many decades, the images of the Man in the Maze and the school's name adorn the front of San Xavier Mission School building. This work of art is a part of the history of the school that generations of students continue to be proud of. While we honor the past, we also embrace a promising future. The new design on the school building tells a story of culture and faith that is embedded in the identity of the school. The school's name is in the center with the Man in the Maze on either side. The silhouette of the mountains appears just above the school's name and below are roadrunners representing the eleven Districts of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Lastly, but not least, a single cross located above the bell as a reminder that God our Creator is above all things. It is a work of art that future generations of students will be proud of.

This work of art was created by Wa:k Community artist Christopher Gastelum. He devoted several months designing various versions in collaboration with the school principal, Minh Solorzano and pastor, Fr. Ponchie Vasquez. The intentionality and thoughtfulness show in Chistopher's design.

Omar Chiago is a local artist who is from the village of Kaka, Hickiwan District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. He worked alongside Christopher to paint the entrance wall. In addition to being a talented artist, Omar is an employee of the San Xavier District Housing Department. He has been drawing and creating art projects for most of his life.



Christopher Gastelum Oma

Omar Chiago

"A:ni hab ce:gig Chris Gastelum N-Oks 'o hab ce:gig Natana Gastelum. Most people know me as Dega I am a community member of Wa:k . I work for the San Xavier District as the SXD Housing Manager. I have been working there for over 15 years.

I am a really big fan of all types of art styles. I have been drawing all my life, so I was honored when Minh asked me to design the front sign for the San Xavier Mission School. This was one of my biggest projects I have done. I wanted to give it a modern design to reflect the new life that is in the school. Throughout the process I had a lot of help, and I want to give thanks to my wife, for her constructive criticism, Omar Chiago, for his help painting and sharing his experience and talent, Lucky Salway for sharing his knowledge, and Nacho and Susie for lifting us up. I Thank you all."

It was amazing to see the drawing gradually come to life. Thank you Christopher and Omar for sharing your gift.



Omar and Chris meticulously painting

San Xavier Mission

Oct. 4: Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Oct. 5: Baptisms

-Next openings for March 8th

October 7-12: Fall Break for Religious Education classes

October 27: Gathering of Liturgical Ministers. 4pm -6pm in St. Clare Room

We need more ministers at the 8:00 mass. If you are interested, please come to the gathering.

Altar Servers: All who have made their First Communion are invited to help at Mass as Altar Servers. Contact Sister Carla at 294-4639 if you are interested,



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	1 S:30 Wreath Making Class (EC) S:30 pm Election, (CR) 6 pm Council Meeting, (C)	2 Wa:k Youth Council Meeting - 6 PM PWH- women's circle11-1pm, 530-7pm	3 St. Francis Assisi	4 St. Francis Assisi SXD Office Closed	5	6
7 *Covid Assistance Application opens *October Diaper Distribution begins CNR - 5:30 pm,CR	8 5:30 Wreath Making Class (EC) 5:30 pm Helath & Education, (EC)	9 PWH-women's circle 11am-1pm, 530-7pm 6 pm, Finance, (CR) 6:30 pm PHC, (CR)	10	11 PWH-sweat lodge 6pm	12 1st year Anniv Irene Begay-CB	13 PWH-White Bison Talking Circle-1030- 12pm
14 Indigenous Peoples Day SXD Office closed	15 S:30 Wreath Making Class (EC) Election, S:30 pm (CR) 6 pm Council Meeting, (C)	16 Wa:k Youth Council Meeting - 6 PM PWH-women's circle 11am-1pm, 530-7pm	17 6 pm, Community meeting, ©	18 Wa:k Ceksan Pageant	19 Wa:k Ceksan Tas	20 8-2 Community Swap Meet (SXM)
21 5:30 pm, Culture and Natural Resources(CNR) , CR	22 5:30 pm Helath & Education, (EC)	23 PWH-women's circle 11am-1pm, 530-7pm 6 pm, Finance, (CR) 6:30 pm PHC, (CR)	24	25	26 1st year Anniv Yolanda Campus-CB	27 VOY-Haunted House PWH-White Bison 1030-12pm
28	29	30 VOY-Haunted House	31	1	2	3

4	5	Notes:	CB= Community Building
	-	Hotes.	C= Chambers
			PWH= People Wellness House
			EC= Education Center
			CR= Conference Room



Greetings Wa:k Community,

September has just flown by, and fall is now in full swing. I'm excited about the Fall and the cooler weather. October will be full of exciting activities and events at the SXD Education Center. At the SXD Education Center, we are planning fun fall-themed activities for our students this month, and we will be excited to share photos with you in November's Wa:k Newsletter. Up to ten (10) students, grades 1st—6th grade, will be enjoying a week-long "FALL CAMP" at the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum (see attached flyer), as well as building a "Haunted House" by our Voices of Our Youth.

Halloween, one of the most celebrated holidays of the year here at SXD Education Center, is just around the corner. This particular day will offer opportunities for fun and exciting activities where you will see the colors orange and black, jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins, and scarecrows. Our After School Homework Help Program classrooms will celebrate Halloween by doing crafts, playing games with their classmates, and wearing costumes at their Halloween Party. As for our Haunted House, the Voices of Our Youth is planning for another successful year of scaring you! We invite you to their Haunted House on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

As another school month has been completed, please keep telling your children that attendance is essential! Attendance is a parent and student responsibility. Let your child know that you think attending school daily is important. Show them you are interested in their school activities and tell them you want them to do well. Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for school success. Attendance increases student achievement and improves the quality of their educational experience. It prepares them for college, promising careers, and successful adulthood.

Thank you for your commitment and support of your child's education. I look forward to serving you and everyone else as you continue your education.

Carmen H. Martinez—Program Administrator



SXD Books and Tuition Grant

What is needed for Book and

Tuition assistance?

Completed application

- Tribal Enrollment/ OR a Family Tree if not San Xavier enrolled
- Verification of school enrollment
- Grades from previous semester, if applicable.
- Billing statement
- Summary of educational goals
- FAFSA/Award letter
- General Welfare Law
- W-9

The Education and Health Committee will review all applications on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (time and dates are subject to change).

GREETINGS FROM THE LIBRARY HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Greetings to all our Ghosts and Goblins!

The library has been extremely busy with the After-School Program! We are proud of our students who have come for homework help and to improve their reading and vocabulary. I would like to thank you, parents and guardians, for allowing your children to attend the After-School Program Homework Help.

The library staff continues to assist with computer help and research.

Library hours have changed since the after-school program began on September 9, 2024:

Monday & Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.-12 noon

Thursday & Friday: 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

We continue to take appointments for computer use, although walk ins are always welcome. Please do not hesitate to call if you need to reserve a computer for a certain date and time. 520-807-8621.

Have the spookiest Halloween ever!

Gertrude Lopez—Learning Center Coordinator

HAVE A SAFE HALLOWEEN!





Shiloh, the Reading Education Assistance Dog

Throughout last year's 2023—2024 After School Program, Howard B. and his dog Shiloh have visited the Education Center twice a month. Their purpose in visiting the Education Center is that Shiloh is a therapy dog that children read to animals such as Shiloh. The benefit of having Shiloh visit our after-school program is that children learning to read are often hesitant about their reading abilities. Many kids feel more at ease reading to pets, who are there to listen — not judge how well they read. Even when reading to pets in a structured program is not feasible, it's still worthwhile to provide opportuni-

ties for young readers to read with an animal. Research shows that there are numerous benefits to reading to an animal:

- Students who worked with the dogs demonstrated improvements with net gains of more than a year's growth in reading rate, accuracy, fluency, and comprehension.
- Reading to a dog may improve reading abilities, specifically reading fluency (the ability to read accurately and smoothly and quickly comprehend the content).



- For some children, reading to a canine can be a pressure-free experience. This is likely because dogs offer a comforting, non-judgmental presence. Students reported feeling more relaxed about reading after experiencing reading to a dog.
- Kindergarten children who were part of a dog reading group achieved higher end-of-year reading scores than those in a control group that did not include a therapy dog.
- A pilot study found that children were better able to stay on-task in their reading program when a therapy dog was involved.
- A literature review found that reading to a dog may positively impact children's behavior, thus creating a learning environment that fosters enhanced reading performance.
- Reading aloud to a therapy dog team increased children's scores on oral reading fluency tests much more than reading aloud to peers.
- Reading to a dog can improve a child's self-confidence, especially at school.

For this upcoming school year, the SXD Education Center was looking forward to having Shiloh visit and participate with our After-School Program students. It is with a heavy heart and sadness that we received word from Shiloh's owner, Howard B., that Shiloh passed away on September 16, 2024, due to falling ill. Shiloh will be sorely missed. Thank you for your service to our SXD students.

San Xavier District Education Center



FALL CAMP

AT THE ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

OCTOBER 7TH - 11TH Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3pm

Students will need to bring:

- Packed Lunch
- Water Bottle
- Hat

And wear sturdy shoes/layered clothing for weather Transportation and snacks will be provided by the SXD Education Center



bit.ly/3XPjY4B

ACCEPTING ONLY (10) SXD STUDENTS:

- 5 Students from 1st thru 3rd grade.
- 5 Students from 4th thru 6th grade.

Student must be committed to attend week long camp! Parent/ Guardian must register student by using QR code on flyer or using link below:

https://desertmuseum.doubleknot.com/ event/fall-camp-for-san-xavier-desertmuseum-cholla-buddies-grades-1-

Contact the Education Center for any questions at 520-807-8620.







COVID DEPARTMENT

RENT/MORTGAGE & Utility assistance

The Covid Department will begin accepting applications,

Monday, October 7, 2024

FUNDS ARE LIMITED, once all funds are exhausted, this will conclude the assistance program under the Covid Department

A COMPLETED Application is needed to process application.

may affect your total. Application is not processed until all required documents programs Bills must be in SXD members name, assistance from other ARPA are filled out and turned in.

Covid cases are raising at rapid rates across the country!

up to date. According to the CDC vaccination reduces risk to The CDC still recommends keeping your covid vaccination serious complications by 50%. 2023-present, 95% of covid hospitalizations were not up to date on their covid vaccine.

OCTOBER 7TH-25TH Size MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION MENSTURAL PRODUCT DIAPER &

availability vary.

lity varies! Limit per month! For children of SXD members Availabi

For a Diaper Emergency outside of the distribution dates please call!

COVID OFFICE PROVIDES...

- **Covid Tests** •
- cludes Personal Protective Equipment 'PPE) and cleaning supplies for your Covid Box (if you test positive) inhousehold.
- PPE for community events, funerals, and anniversaries, when requested.



(520)573-4010 or covid@waknet.org









Tucson, AZ 85746

Fax:

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