

Wak Newsletter



VOLUME 34 ISSUE 09

SAN XAVIER DISTRICT

September 2025

Wasai Gakidag Masad / Dry Grass
Month

In this newsletter
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Under the Stars
Swap Meet *Free Admission*

SAN XAVIER MISSION | 1950 W. SAN XAVIER ROAD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

4:00 - 11:00 P.M.

Food, Music, & More!

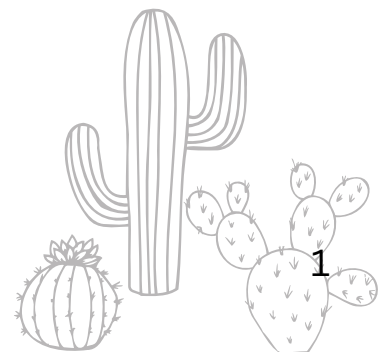
Vendor Fees:
Community - \$10
Non-Community - \$20

Find Unique Items:
HOUSEHOLD GOODS
JEWELRY
ARTS & CRAFTS
BAKED GOODS
SNACKS, ETC.

50 50 RAFFLE

LIMITED SPACE, CALL TO SIGN UP | 520.573.4000

Sponsored by SXD Health & Wellness Committee



Report & Highlights

AUGUST 2025	
8/1/25 – Attended a retirement luncheon in honor of Mr. Peter Steere, former Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. Presented him a Pendleton blanket on behalf of the SX District to thank him for all his work and the trainings he conducted for our Monitors.	8/6/25 – Worked with the Finance Director, ARPA Coordinator on budget amendment No. 2, justification, draft resolution, and met with the SXD Finance Committee who approved it.
8/7/25 – Attended Sgt. M. Robleto's retirement celebration in the Community Building and also presented him with a Pendleton blanket for his honorable work and dedication to the SX District.	8/8/25 – Met with the Attorney General's Office staff and 2 UKLA members to discuss livestock matters.
8/14/25 – Met with the elders in Senior Services to provide an overview of the SXD FY2026 budget and answered questions. -Attended a special Finance Committee meeting wherein the SXAA presented their FY26 budget using 9B funds.	8/16/25 – Chaired the Special Community meeting for the SXD FY26 Budget presented by department managers and voted on by the community. -Chaired a Special SXD Council meeting immediately following the community meeting to pass a resolution approving the FY26 budget.
8/18/25 – Met with Consultants JE Fuller and Natural Resources Conservation Service to work out a plan for the Cemetery Wash Project alignment; staff from the TON Environmental Protection Office also attend to provide their perspectives. -Attended the Cultural/Natural Resources Committee meeting regarding the reburial ceremony.	8/19/25 – Attended the monthly Managers' meeting. -Attended the Cemetery Wash Project Coordination meeting. -Attended a meeting for a proposed River/Water Festival event in Tucson. -Met with a prospective consultant regarding economic development matters. -Chaired this evening's SXD Council meeting.
8/20/25 – Attended District Chairs meeting hosted by the Chukut Kuk District. -Provided a blessing at the Celebrating All Things Cuk-son held at a multi-denomination prayer service held at St. Augustine Cathedral.	8/21/25 – Land Assignment Committee met to discuss current and future land assignments and housing issues. -Attended a joint Young Women's/Young Men's Gatherings meeting.
8/25/25 – Prepared to attend the Budget & Finance Committee this week to present our FY26 Budget prior to presenting it to the TON Legislative Council.	8/27/25 – Attended the Community Language class
8/28/25 – Held a virtual update meeting with the TON's ARPA Team. -Attended the Le Nu'u Legacy Foundation First Gathering. -Toured Barrio Kroger Land with the SXD Culture/ Natural Resources Committee.	8/29/25 – Attended the SXD People Wellness House wellness event.

San Xavier District Events Calendar

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 SXD Closed- Labor Day	2	3 Community O'dodham Lang. Class 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Senior Service Bldg.)	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Community O'dodham Lang. Class 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Senior Service Bldg.)	11	12	13 4-11pm Community Swap Meet - SXM
14	15 After School Program Begins (EDU)	16	17 Community O'dodham Lang. Class 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Senior Service Bldg.)	18 Voices of Our Youth Meeting (EDU)	19 Re-burial Ceremony	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

5	6	(C)- Chambers CB- Community Building PWH- People Wellness House (CR) - Conference Room
3		

Planning Department Update

WA:K COMMUNITY PARK:

The Planning Department is pleased to provide major updates on the Wa:k Community Park Project. Fencing has been completed around the perimeter of our park, and community members will notice that the park area itself has been cleared up entirely, ready to move into structural development in a short amount of time. Contractors have been advised to keep dust levels at a minimum throughout construction. Additionally, a large deposit of trash near the back end of the park has been collected and removed from the premises. We will continue to ensure that the project is conducted with high standards of care directed at the design and construction of our park. It is the goal of our department to execute the vision of the San Xavier District community.



BROADBAND PROJECT:

Our department also recognizes the importance of internet access and providing this community with adequate Broadband services. The community can expect the installation of three 50' wireless poles, three concrete pads, 21 wireless eNodeB (ENB) radio unit base stations, three wireless communication cabinets (electronics & power storage), three 5x5 fencing enclosures, three 25' electrical meter poles (including secondary connections). Progress on this endeavor is ongoing, and the Planning Department continues to monitor the installation of fiber optics on I-19, San Xavier Road, and off ramps. Work will begin on this significant Broadband project in the months and weeks to come.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Greetings, Wa:k Community! We hope that you were able to get outdoors or go to some place cool to enjoy this Labor Day Holiday with your family and/or friends. If not, don't feel bad, sometimes just having a 3-day weekend is good enough to spend time at home to rest & relax. The NRD is looking forward to the upcoming Autumn season as we wrap up our fiscal year 2025 budget and prepare for the upcoming CAP supply valve maintenance work that is scheduled to take place 9/15/25-9/18/25, which will have no operational impact on water deliveries. This supply valve maintenance work is different from the annual CAP outage maintenance scheduled for October (we will provide those dates in the following newsletter).

Staff have also been involved with the following meetings or activities: Provided an update to the SX Culture/Natural Resources Committee on ancestral matters and on the Romero Site signage project. Discussions were held regarding future land conservation management with South32, the Four Southern Tribes Working Group, & WestLand Resources representatives. We accompanied the TON Water Resources Dept. to collect a water sample from the Chico Well. The FY 2026 Budget presentation was provided at the community meeting on August 16th. One staff member attended the Mastering Leadership Fundamentals workshop, and office staff attended Confidentiality Training provided by SX HR. Finally, arrangements were made for the SX Culture/Natural Resources Committee to attend the quarterly Copper World Project update meeting.

Groundskeepers/Hikdan: The Groundskeepers continue with their weekly vegetation maintenance duties at the Hikdan; their primary focus is to collect wood materials to mulch for use at a few project home sites within the community. Their assistance was also utilized for cleaning around the District complex, as well as assisting the Natural Resources Specialist in removing Red Algae at the Ha:san Charco. We also had one family utilize the Hikdan for a family function, and the EcoTruths for Indigenous Youth group continued to work on a vegetation research assignment requested by the SX District Council.

Also, it is worth mentioning that those who are acquainted with Mr. Peter Steere (TON THPO), he has officially retired from the TON Cultural Affairs Office. It truly was an honor to have Peter share his knowledge and experience with many of our certified Monitors. It was always interesting to hear some of the archaeological & historical facts about San Xavier. He once said, "That San Xavier is one big archaeological site." He would always highly recommend a Monitor from San Xavier be on site at any of the construction projects that took place in the Tucson area. Peter didn't come around often, but when he did, you made the most out of your time with him because of his busy schedule. We wish him & his wife well and Happy Retirement, Peter!

If you have any questions, thoughts, or comments on any of our projects, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at: David Tenario (520) 573-4056, Geena Johnson (520) 573-4055, Morgan Parsons (520) 573-4057, Ulrick Francisco (520) 573-4054, or Miranda Flores (520) 573-4053.

Thank you.

David Tenario, NRD Director

Covid Office Provides...

- **Covid Tests**
- **Covid Box (if you test positive)**
includes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies for your household.
- **PPE for community events;**
such as funerals and anniversaries, when requested.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped make the August Cleaning Supply Distribution a success. I would like to give a personal thank you to Emily McCovey. Who served as the temporary Covid Assistant to help prep for the distribution. Please stay safe and healthy!
Ben Davis, SXD Covid Coordinator

COVID NEWS

According to the CDC Data, an increase in transmission of the new Stratus strain of Covid. This has been detected in Arizona and other western states. This is part of the anticipated summer uptick in Covid cases across the country. Hospitalizations due to Covid are on the rise for all age groups.

CDC recommends staying up to date on vaccines, these reduce risk and serious complications. The 2025-2026 Covid Vaccine is expected to be released this fall.

DIAPER & MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

September 8-26, 2025
Monday-Friday

Availability varies!
For (children of) SXD members
For diaper emergencies outside of
the giveaway dates, please call!

We have adult incontinence products (diapers). Please pick up for yourself or a loved one that needs these products!

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| • Women's | L, XL |
| • Men's | L/XL |
| • Unisex | XXL |

For any questions, reach out to the Covid Office:
520-573-4010 or covid@waknet.org

Wa:k Ceksan **ROYALTY**



S-ke:g Tas Wa:k community, my name is Maylina Lawson. I'm nine years old. I am your Lil Miss Wa:k 24-25.

Since my last report, we traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to attend the 2025-26 Miss Indian World pageant. I loved watching each contestant's talents and couldn't wait to hear who the winner was going to be, since they were all good!!! Gathering of the Nations was the biggest pow wow I've ever seen, and watching all the dancers and us royalty joining was fun!!! So many beautiful colors!! Seeing many tribes all in one made me happy and excited!!! The last place we went before coming home was the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. We walked around the museum, had lunch with the rest of our royalty family, and had Miss Indian World being seated next to us. We asked kindly if we could take a picture, introduced ourselves to her, and congratulated her!!! It was fun.

The next event we attended was the 27th Annual Tohono O'odham Nation Elder's Day Conference at the Desert Diamond Casino. I enjoyed standing at the entrance, greeting all the elders as they entered and taking pictures with them.

The next event we enjoyed attending was the San Xavier District Memorial Day blessing, which included handing out flags to the VA families and hanging the VA wreath. I look forward to many more upcoming events!!!

Stay safe, stay blessed. Thank you all for the continued support and love you have shown... Sapo





S-ke:g Tas, my name is Jaylina Lawson, I'm 7 years old. I'm your little Miss Wa:k 2024-25 1st Attendant.

Since our last report, we have done many things. We attended the 100th annual Tucson parade, and we were #427. This was my first time on a carriage; our horse's name was Angel, and we had a little dog who joined us named Tucker. We waved at a lot of people, and we were on Tucson News. It was fun!!!

We enjoyed going to the San Xavier District Memorial Day blessing, handing out flags to the families. Our second visit was to the Veterans Memorial Park. I enjoyed introducing ourselves and shaking everybody's hands. I can't wait for more pageants. Thank you, Wa:k community.

Wa:k Ceksan Royalty Contestants



APPLICATION DEADLINE
OCTOBER 3, 2025 5:00 PM
San Xavier District Center



If you like to doing any of the following this may be for you!!

1. Making new Royalty sisters friendships
2. Traveling to the Nations & other Tribal pageants, and out of state Tribal events
3. Sharing your Talents & learning more about your Himdag & District
4. Learn how to fundraise & learn about yourself.

Applications will be available @ the District Center with Tanya on August 1, 2025

Required Ages

Lil Miss 5-9

Jr. Miss 10 - 14

Miss 15 - 21

PAGEANT AGENDA PREPARATION

PRACTICES – OCT 6-10, 2025

PERSONAL INTERVIEW (Jr. Miss & Miss) – OCT 17, 2025

PAGEANT – OCTOBER 17, 2025 @ 5pm

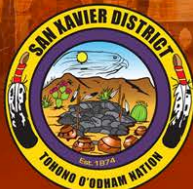
WA:K CEKSAN TAS

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF OUR STRONG O'ODHAM WOMEN
OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2025

FRIDAY – OCTOBER 17, 2025

Pageant 5:00pm

San Xavier Community Building



Saturday – October 18, 2025

- Parade 9:00am
- Entertainment 10:30am – 5:00pm
- Swap Meet • Sweet Booths • Arts & Crafts
- Information Booths
- Piast 5:00pm 9:00pm

Persons attending and participating in the Wa:k Ceksan Tas assume all risks including, but not limited to illness, injury, death or property loss and agree not to hold the San Xavier District & Community Volunteer Committee, its agents, event sponsors and volunteers liable.

Farewell CELEBRATION



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

• PROGRAM 2:00-4:00 PM

DINNER 4:00-6:00 PM

PIAST 5:00-9:00 PM

MUSIC PROVIDED BY GROUP PASSION

AT SAN XAVIER RECREATION CENTER

We want to thank our Community most of all for your continued support, from our sales, words of advice, and most of all your prayers & guidance in our travels wherever we represented the Wa:k Community.

We thank you all for sharing our journey with us as we celebrate our farewell for all you do for us.

We thank you again, and continue to support the incoming new royalty, whoever they may be, by helping them at the pageant and their fundraisers.

WA:K CEKSAN ROYALTY

RAFFLE

\$5 Each or 5 for \$20

TABLEWARE BASKET

APPLIANCE BASKET

BAKING SUPPLIES BASKET

STARBUCKS BASKET

BAKED GOODS BASKET

SELF-CARE BASKET & OTHERS

HOUSEHOLD GOODS SUPPLY BASKET

(Baskets are of \$50 Value or more!)

You may purchase tickets from any of the Royalty

Loretta Pablo 245-2400
Denise Rios 528-5942
Solina Marcus 954-2639
Phyllis Campus 396-0361

Genna Pablo 993-9345
Mae 954-0901
Alda Antone 809-3108
Agatha Miguel 444-5629

Drawing: September 20th, 2025

Drawing will be held at the Farewell Celebration

Winner need not to be present

San Xavier Mission

Baptisms: September 13
Next openings in January

Religious Education:
Classes begin after Labor Day

Registrations for all classes in process.

- *Baptisms of Infants & toddlers: Monthly
- *Baptism classes for school age children: Fall and Spring
- *First Communion Classes: K- Grd.10
- *Confirmation Classes: Grd.8-11
- * Adult preparation for all Sacraments: Grd.11 and up

Catechetical Sunday: September 21
8:00 Am Mass: Blessing of Catechists

Office: 520-294-4639
Sister Rachel: 520-409-0195



Dear Wolk Community,

I thank you all for making my Jubilee celebration so special with your attendance at Mass and the reception on August 17th. Your presence meant a lot to me. I assure you of my daily prayers for you. May God bless you!

Sister Carla

September
Wa:ai Dry Grass Moon
Cakidaq Masad

Wa:k Spirit



S-ke:g Tas Wa:k Community,

Welcome back to another exciting year! As we begin this new academic year, I want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all in the San Xavier District. We, at the San Xavier District Education Center, are thrilled to open our doors once again and create a nurturing environment that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and a strong sense of community. We believe that every student has unique talents and potential, and our dedicated team of educators is committed to helping each student shine bright and achieve their educational goals.

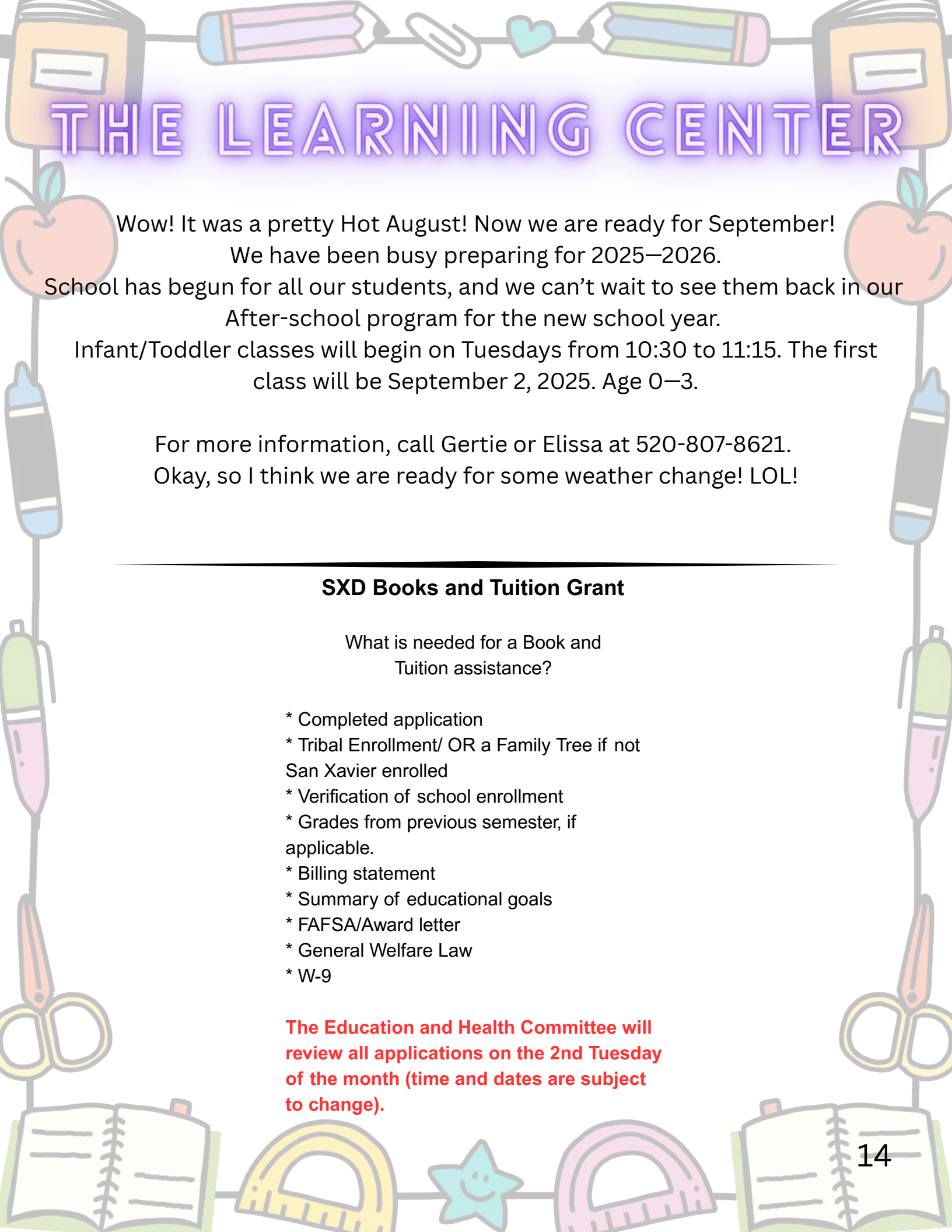
This year, we have exciting plans and initiatives in store to enhance the overall learning experience for our students with our programs. We will continue to focus on developing a well-rounded education, providing ample opportunities for students to excel not only academically but also in extracurricular activities and character-building endeavors.

As always, we encourage active involvement from parents and guardians in their child's education. We firmly believe that a strong partnership between the school and families significantly contributes to a student's success. Open communication and regular engagement with teachers and school staff are vital to fostering a supportive and thriving learning environment.

Throughout the year, we will keep you informed about various events and important updates through our flyers, Wa:k newsletters, and more. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in every way possible.

Carmen H. Martinez
Program Administrator





THE LEARNING CENTER

Wow! It was a pretty Hot August! Now we are ready for September!

We have been busy preparing for 2025—2026.

School has begun for all our students, and we can't wait to see them back in our

After-school program for the new school year.

Infant/Toddler classes will begin on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:15. The first class will be September 2, 2025. Age 0—3.

For more information, call Gertie or Elissa at 520-807-8621.

Okay, so I think we are ready for some weather change! LOL!

SXD Books and Tuition Grant

What is needed for a 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).

COMMUNITY *Liaisons*

Skeg Tas Wa:k Community, Relatives and Friends far and near.

I can't believe that it is September already. Did you know that Halloween is 61 days away, Thanksgiving is 83 days away, and our favorite holiday, Christmas, is 114 days away? Well, take away a day or two, depending on when you get your Wa:k Newsletter and when you read it. It's just something for you to think about.

In July, it was fun to give away backpacks in person once again at the Education Center. Over 300 backpacks filled with school supplies were given out to all students from kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition, we continued to hold a raffle of various prizes, such as speakers, headphones, etc., which the students seemed to enjoy when they were called to come back to retrieve their prize.

For August, it has been a little slow with no programs going on. This month, we start working on all our programs for the school year. The Programs that we will be having are the following:

***Missed Bus Program** for students K-12 begins September 2nd, and you may call in starting at 7-9am. However, you must fill out an application with all the information needed first.

***After School Program** for students K-6 begins Monday, September 15th 3-5pm again applications must be filled out before they can attend.

***Voices of Youth Program** for students in grades 7-12 begins Thursday, September 18th, with an orientation with the students and parents. You must submit the application before the start date.

All the applications are now available here at the Education Center for pickup, or we can email them to you. Just give us a call at 520-807-8620.

We will be waiting for all children to come through education soon. Some will be returners, and some will be new students.

We know that students have been in school for about a month, give or take a few, depending on which school district your student attends. Parents, encourage your child or children to attend school every day, unless they are ill. If you need assistance of any kind, please call the education center, and we will be happy to help you or refer you to someone who can assist you further.

Have a blessed month with your children.

Anna Butler and Delissa Romero
Community Liaisons

Missed Bus Program

AN APPLICATION MUST BE ON FILE PRIOR TO YOUR CHILD BEING PICKED UP!

Morning transportation: will be provided for those students who miss their school bus, including the Van Tran and City Bus, the limits are:

- 3 times per month for K-5th
- 2 times per month for Middle and High School students.

Calls: Calls may be made between 7am & 9am. Transportation calls after 9am will not be accepted

Applications available:

August 4th

Transportation begins:

September 2, 2025

Transportation will not be provided if the scheduled pick up time for student has not passed according to school bus and Van Tran schedules.

Missed bus transportation WILL NOT be provided for students who are suspended from riding the bus.

Transportation for parents without a vehicle who need to attend parent meetings, parent-teacher conferences, parent night, local conferences, school board meetings, town hall meetings, etc.—as it relates to their child/ren and education.

Transportation can be provided to those students who may need to register, follow-up on registration, testing, intake, and/or to do campus tours. Campus tours may be planned to involve more than one student.



Applications available at the San Xavier Education Center 520.807.8620

SAN XAVIER DISTRICT

VOY

★ VOICES OF OUR YOUTH ★

SAN XAVIER STUDENTS 7TH-12TH



BE INVOLVED IN:
COMMUNITY SERVICE~GROUP
FUNDRAISING~WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS~YOUTH
CONFERENCES~EDUCATIONAL GROWTH~FAMILY
NIGHTS~COLLEGE TOURS~GROUP OUTINGS~CULTURE
LEARNING~POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT~ SOCIAL OUTINGS

VOY BEGINS: SEPTEMBER 18th

SIGN UP WITH THE SXD EDUCATION CENTER @ 520.807.8620

San Xavier Education

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM 2025-2026



What is offered

- ◆ Homework help
- ◆ Physical Activities
- ◆ Arts and Crafts
- ◆ O'odham Language/Culture
- ◆ Snacks
- ◆ Field Trips
- ◆ Transportation (SXD Village limits or 4 miles beyond boundary.)

The program Welcomes:

- Wa:k Community students
- Traditional Community students
- Kindergarten thru 6th grade
- Monday-Wednesday
- ASP begins September 15th 2025
- ASP ends May 13th, 2026
- Applications available August 4th



For more information, you may contact the SXD Education Center at 520.807.8620



San Xavier District of the
Tohono O'odham Nation
2018 W. San Xavier Road
Tucson, Arizona 85746
Phone: (520) 573-4000
Fax: (520) 573-4089



Facebook.com/sanxavierdistrict

2025 THANKSGIVING NATIVE AMERICAN ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET

30 + YEARS OF TRADITION IS BACK

November
29TH - 30TH
9am - 5pm

Vendor Registration



This event has been a cherished tradition for over 30 years. It's the perfect place to shop for unique gifts, enjoy lively entertainment, and savor delicious food. Bring along your visiting relatives for the holidays or simply stop by to experience the festivities. Interested vendors must be tribal members, limited space available, while supplies last.



520-573-4006

1959 San Xavier Rd.,
Tucson AZ 85746