

# Wa:k Newsletter



**VOLUME 36 ISSUE 03**

**SAN XAVIER DISTRICT**  
March 2026  
Ce:dagi Masad/ Green Month

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*Drug and Alcohol free event*

*Under the **SUN***

# Swap Meet

SAN XAVIER MISSION | 1950 W. SAN XAVIER ROAD

## Saturday, March 21, 2026

### 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**FREE ADMISSION**

*Starting March 2nd*

**LIMITED SPACE,  
REGISTER HERE**



<https://forms.office.com/r/XMC2qnb36B>

**Vendor Fees:**  
Community - \$15  
Non-Community - \$30

*Live Waila Music*

*Find Unique Treasures:*  
HOME GOODS/DECOR  
ARTISAN/HANDMADE PRODUCTS  
JEWELRY/ACCESSORIES  
FOOD/CONFECTIONS




**Organized by: SXD Health and Wellness Committee**

Persons attending and participating in the Under the Stars Swap Meet assume all risks, including but not limited to illness, injury, death, or property loss, and agree not to hold the San Xavier District, the San Xavier District Health & Wellness Committee, San Xavier Mission, its agents, event sponsors, and volunteers liable.



# Report & Highlights

**FEBRUARY 2026**

<p><b>2/2/26</b> – Chairman/Vice Chairwoman met with TOLC Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees to request their support on the SXD Council’s oshad (jaguar) protections resolution. The Assistant AG will review the draft TOLC resolution before the committee proceeds to the next available TOLC session to present the request for support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We held a meeting with a business that is proposing a health center for Native Americans and non-natives.</li> <li>- Attended the SXDC Cultural and Natural Resources Committee meeting, wherein the A’atha and UNITY Run were reported on by Mikey Enis, Cultural Events Coordinator.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2/3/26</b> – Vice Chair attended the Land Assignment Committee meeting regarding ownership and boundary verification, TOKA LIHTC VIII Subdivision, and updates on land assignment progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Chairman chaired this evening’s SXD council meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>2/4/26</b> – TOUA planned a water outage; staff adjusted schedules to return to work at 3 pm or telework for the rest of the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chairman attended a virtual meeting with the Planning Department regarding TEP’s ROW request along Mission Road for the Valencia Road Widening project. Tribal and allotted lands will be involved, so we will assist TEP in notifying the affected allottees and in calling a meeting with them and the SX Allottee office.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2/5/26</b> – Vice Chair attended an Environmental Planning Advisory Committee meeting regarding the Sahuarita Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility. Pima County presented options for effluent use.</p>	<p><b>2/7/26</b> – Chairman provided a blessing at the City of Tucson’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heat Summit held at the UoA and he stayed for the morning presentations.</p>
<p><b>2/9/26</b> – Chairwoman attended the Young Women’s Gathering (YWG) Planning Committee meeting. The Pima County Library staff presented the Many Nations Program and collaborated on activities/sessions; Mikey Enis, Culture Coordinator, provided an update.</p>	<p><b>2/10/26</b> – We, and Natural Resources staff, toured a vacant land site on South Sandario Road owned by a person who wants to bequeath the property to the district. The property owner will need to determine if she can legally transfer the land to the district, and if the district accepts, we will agree to keep it as a natural preserve.</p>
<p><b>2/11/26</b> – Received information from Nellie Miguel regarding Naomi Miguel’s announcement about running for the Arizona State Legislature, District 23. Naomi will present to the District Chairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reviewed PowerPoint Dance Questionnaire results completed by Mikey Enis for this evening’s meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Chaired this evening’s Community meeting regarding dance issues.</p>	<p><b>2/12/26</b> – Admin confirmed presenters, prepared the District Chair’s meeting agenda, and forwarded it to all the districts.</p> <p><b>2/16/26</b> – We worked on revising the dance sponsor’s checklist and the dance permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reviewed YWG Committee’s draft flyer for a volunteer’s meeting on 3/23 and future committee meeting dates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2/17/26</b> – Vice Chair attended the Managers’ meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Chairman and Housing Manager held a meeting with the Tumacácori National Historical Park superintendent and his staff to advise them on how to maintain and repair a wato and an adobe structure resembling a type of home our people were using when the Spaniards first made contact with us.</li> <li>– We attended the Cemetery Wash Project Coordination meeting.</li> <li>- Chaired this evening’s regular council meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2/18/26</b> – We hosted the monthly District Leadership meeting in the SXD community building.</p> <p><b>2/19/26</b> – Chaired the Community Meeting; People’s Wellness House presented an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Chairman attended the Men’s Meeting in the Rock Building.</li> </ul> <p><b>2/21/26</b> – The Health and Education Committee hosted our annual Health Fair, and the Health and Wellness Committee hosted the monthly Swap Meet.</p>
<p><b>2/24/26</b> – We met with JE Fuller consultants to discuss Alternative 3 for the Cemetery Wash Project.</p> <p><b>2/25/26</b> – Chairman and Legislative Representative Preston hosted the National Defense University students, providing education on tribal matters.</p>	<p><b>2/26/26</b> – We attended the SAWRSA Projects Update meeting.</p> <p><b>2/27/26</b> – Held our monthly ARPA Teams update meeting on SXD projects.</p>



# March District Events

**SATURDAY**

**21**

**Annual Allottees Meeting**  
9am  
Desert Diamond

**SATURDAY**

**21**

**San Xavier District**  
Swap Meet  
12 pm - 6 pm

**SATURDAY**

**28**

**Young Women's Gathering**  
1-Day Retreat

# SXDC COMMITTEES

March 2026

## Finance

- 3/4
- 3/18

## Elections

- 3/4
- 3/18

## Culture & Natural Resources

- 3/2
- 3/16

## Health & Education

- 3/10
- 3/24

## Planning & Housing

- 3/2
- 3/16

## SXD Council

- 3/3
  - 3/17
- Community - 3/19



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Effective Immediately

The San Xavier District Council has changed the deadline for submitting documents for placement on the San Xavier District Council Agenda. Instead of a one-week window for requesting and submitting documents, it will be two weeks.

**Example: Meeting date- March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**  
**Deadline date - February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

If you have any questions, please contact the SXD Council Department; Rina Encinas- (520)573-4028 or Ariayna Yellowbank (520)573-4026

Thank you,  
THE SAN XAVIER DISTRICT COUNCIL DEPARTMENT

## OPEN MONDAY-THURSDAY, CLOSED FRIDAYS

### 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, funerals, and anniversaries, when requested.

### Water Filters & Replacements

Our office has Pur Plus Filter system available; it screws right onto the spout!

We have a small amount of replacement filters for the iSpring Countertop System and the Zero Water Pitcher.

**Covid News** According to the CDC Data, an increase in transmission of the Stratus strain of Covid. This has been detected in Arizona and other western states. This is part of the expected uptick in respiratory illness during the winter season.

**Covid News** CDC recommends staying up to date on vaccines, these reduce risk and serious complications. The 2025-2026 Covid Vaccine is available, ask your primary care doctors for any further information.

### DIAPER & MENSTRUAL PRODUCT

### MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION

Monday - Thursday  
March 12-31

### Items Available:

- Diapers
- Pull Ups
- Adult Incontinence Products (Diapers)
- Menstrual Products

For a Diaper Emergency outside of the giveaway dates, please call!

For (children of) SXD members Availability varies! Limit per month!

For any questions, reach out to the Covid Office:

**520-573-4010 or covid@waknet.org**

# Himdag Events Coordinator

## Ce:daḡi Maṣad

When everything turns green

A:ñi ‘añ hab ce:gig Michael David Anthony Enis. Ñ amjed i:ya Wa:k tab, Ɖ o añ Wa:k Himdag Events Coordinator. Here is some information to share. There are many ways O’odham Himdag is shared and understood. Let this be one source for you as you read and listen.

During this month O’odham gather in different ways to keep many traditions. Some traditions have been kept for generations, and some are new.

During this time, we begin to see the leaves on the trees to begin to come out. The Sun starts to come up earlier and set later. Spring is a good time to gather and harvest plants used for medicines and healing. But you must be aware of what to harvest and how to preserve those items. Over the next two months I hope to have QR codes to YouTube videos that will highlight that information.

This Month the Unity Run will take place. More information will be sent out soon. Please be on the lookout for the District’s social media pages. The dates for the Unity Run are March 15-21, 2026. Below are QR codes for short stories and songs that are either connected to the Unity Run or about running. Feel free to listen and learn.

In closing, please take the time to see the Sunrise and or sunset. Spring is near, and we should use the changing of seasons to make changes in our own lives. Keep moving forward.

Here are some O’odham Songs for the month of March.

There are memories that are attached to these songs. Feel free to ask. In the coming months, there will be opportunities to gather and sing together.

### **S-wegi Du’ag (Red Mountain) Salt River, AZ**

Telling of the Unity Run journey in the early 2000’s.



Red Mountain to the North it stands.  
At the base I see the people running.  
The river flows

### **Ce:daḡi Wawhia Song (Green Well) Son, Mex.**



At the South end of the Baboquivari Mountains, there is an O’odham village known as Ce:daḡi Wawhia. This is where, in the beginning years of the Unity Run, the run would end or it would begin.

## *Himdag Events Coordinator Contd.*



### **Tohono O'odham Running Song**

Overall this song has been used for runner's encouragement, but also a song of moving forward.



### **Morning Runner Song**

This song can be heard on KOHN or KWAK when the traditional songs are played. This song tells of a runner waiting for the Sun to come up. How the runner runs on the desert paths and power and strength follow.



I look forward to creating and collaborating with you all in the near future in regard to cultural and community events and potential ideas. If you have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to reach out and send me an email to [menis@waknet.org](mailto:menis@waknet.org) or phone call at (520) 573-4005. Pegi 'Oig.

# NATURAL RESOURCES

-David Tenario  
Natural Resources Director

Greetings Wa:k Community! At this time, I want to recognize Miranda Flores (Administrative Assistant) and both Monica Valenzuela & Michael Lopez (Hikdan/Complex Groundskeeping Crew) for their hard work and dedication to the department and community. Miranda recently reached her 1-year anniversary with the department in January, and both Monica & Michael have been with the department for 2 years and started on the same day in February 2024. All three have made a positive impact on the District with their creativity and love for the outdoors, and we are grateful for that.

Some of the activities or meetings our department has been involved in or attended include: We continue to meet with the Land Assignment Committee to discuss current land assignment matters and concerns. Staff met with JE Fuller to discuss the Cemetery Wash 30% Design Plans. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provided a virtual update presentation on a portion of the SunZia Transmission Line, and the Natural Resources Specialists assisted with a site assessment requested by the SXD Chairman.

Monitor Program (Geena Johnson): I would like to introduce Ms. Callie H. Anderson, Field Representative at the Denver Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau. Ms. Anderson has visited some community members or will visit to gather more details about your living situation and unmet needs. The information you provide is important to our community and the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON). Please cooperate with Ms. Anderson and contact her at (520) 730-0716 or by email at [callie.h.anderson@census.gov](mailto:callie.h.anderson@census.gov) to arrange her visit.

Save the Date: We are pleased to announce that the 2026 Staff Renewal Ceremony will take place on Saturday, April 18th, at the Wa:k Hikdan. Next month, we will post our flyer in the newsletter with more details and the times. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us:

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 & we hope you enjoy spring!



# HOUSING DEPARTMENT

## Update

When applying for the Home Improvement Assistance Program (HIAP), please complete an application at the Housing Department. To qualify for HIAP, you must be the homeowner and provide SXD with a copy of the Land Assignment Resolution, Quit Claim, or Deed. Please note that TOUA electric bills will no longer be accepted as proof of home ownership.

If you require a Land Transfer, you can obtain a Land Transfer Application at the SXD Housing Department. Our staff is available to assist community members throughout the process.

Additionally, one of the qualifications for HIAP and Work Orders is income verification, which must be completed before any work begins. However, elders and individuals with special needs are exempt from this requirement.

For a complete list of qualifications for HIAP and Work Orders, please contact the Housing Department at 520-573-4043.

### Contact Us

520.573.4043 or 520.573.4044

✉ [housing@wak.net.org](mailto:housing@wak.net.org)



# **SAN XAVIER DISTRICT**



# **2026 TRIBAL LAND ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM**

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE-FEBRUARY 2ND  
APPLICATIONS DUE - MARCH 31ST  
BY 5PM NO EXCEPTIONS**

APPLICATIONS FOR TRIBAL LAND ASSIGNMENTS ARE  
AVAILABLE IN THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

## **EMERGENCY HOME**

THERE WILL BE NO SELECTION FOR 2026

## **TRIBAL LAND ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS**

- MUST BE A SAN XAVIER DISTRICT MEMBER OR TRADITIONAL MEMBER
- MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD
- CANNOT ALREADY HAVE A TRIBAL LAND ASSIGNMENT
- APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AT TIME OF SUBMISSION

*APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN APRIL IF SELECTED TO PROCEED WITH LAND  
ASSIGNMENT PROCESS*

**SXD LAND ASSIGNMENT POLICY, SECTION 3.0, SUBSECTION- GENERAL  
PROVISION, SECTION 3.3 STATES: "EXISTING SXD LAND ASSIGNMENT SITE.  
3.3.2 - ANY EXISTING, NON-UTILIZED SXD LAND ASSIGNMENT SITE THAT HAS  
BEEN FOR ONE YEAR ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE IF THIS POLICY  
SHALL BE REVOKED AND RETURNED TO THE STATUS OF AVAILABLE TRIBAL  
LAND. TO AVOID REVOCATION, THE ASSIGNEE SHALL, WITHIN NINETY DAYS  
OF WRITTEN NOTIFICATION BY THE DISTRICT, UTILIZE THE SXD LAND  
ASSIGNMENT SITE BY STARTING CONSTRUCTION OF ANY DWELLING. IF THIS IS  
NOT POSSIBLE, THEY MAY REQUEST AN EXTENSION OF THEIR ASSIGNMENT  
THROUGH THE HOUSING MANAGER."**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE  
HOUSING DEPARTMENT  
520.573.4043 OR 520.573.4044  
✉ HOUSING@WAKNET.ORG**



# San Xavier District

## We Are Hiring

### Home Health Tech - Senior Services

### Hydrologist

#### Benefits:

- 90% Employer Paid Benefits
- Medical
- Dental
- Vision
- 4% Employee Match on 401K
- Annual Leave
- Sick Leave
- Wellness Leave (Annual, Sick and Wellness Leave available after probationary period)

#### How to Apply:

- Completed San Xavier District Application with original signature
- 3 Reference Letters, dated within one year of the current date
- Copy of High School Diploma/GED and/or Degrees/Certificates
- Copy of Tribal Enrollment Card or Certificate, if claiming Native American preference
- Copy of Driver's License
- 39 mo Motor Vehicle Record (MVR)

Applicants can find a link to the SXD employment application above. Physical copies of the employment application, job descriptions, and additional employment information are available at the San Xavier District office. Please provide advance notification to the Human Resources office if any applicant requires accommodations to participate in the application and interview process.



# S.A.W.R.S.A

## SOUTHERN ARIZONA WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT

In this article, information will be provided on how the Central Arizona Project (CAP) water delivery system arrived to the San Xavier Cooperative farm (Farm) and San Xavier District (District).

The CAP water delivery system was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and is managed and maintained by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) Board of Directors. The system consists of a series of canals, pipelines, pumping plants, and siphons extending from the Colorado River to Lake Havasu. The CAP water conveyance system enters the District through the Black Mountain pipeline, Reach 6 pipeline, ending just south of the District at Pima Mine Road. Total length of the system is 336 miles. The CAP water delivery system is outlined in **BLUE** in the map.

In order to deliver CAP water to the District and Farm, many things had to happen to construct the CAP Link Pipeline (CAP Link). To name a few, the BOR had to complete the archeological and biological investigations as well as consult with the Tohono O'odham Nation (Nation) Natural Resources Office. As a result of the tasks mentioned above (plus more), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document was created.

The CAP Link conveyance system would deliver water to the south boundary of the Farm. The CAP Link was constructed for 3 miles of 42-inch diameter PVC pipe and 2 ½ miles of 30-inch diameter PVC pipe. The CAP Link pipeline is outlined in **RED** in the map.

In November 1998, the District submitted an application to contract for an appraiser and acquire right of way for the installation of a CAP link pipeline. The project was authorized by the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council (TOLC) Resolution No 98-188.

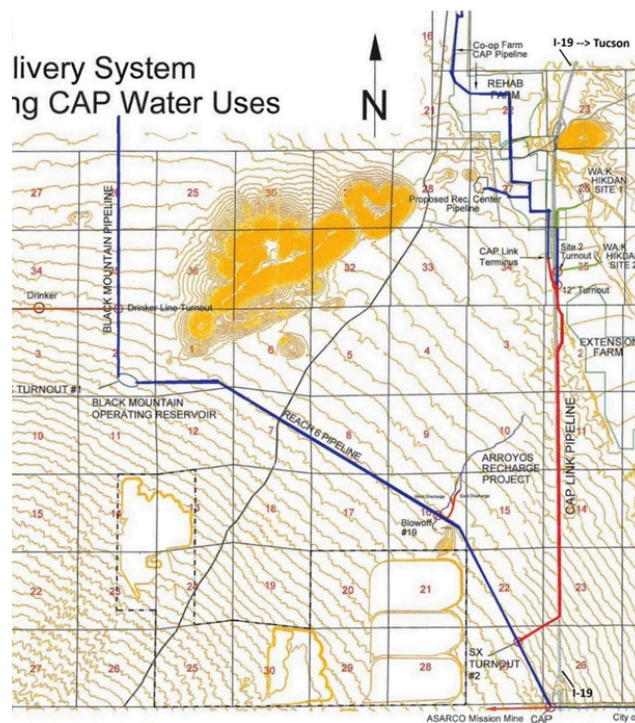


Once the contract was approved, the District advertised for a qualified, responsible, and certified appraiser. The successful appraiser was awarded in February 1999. The Appraiser followed the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition and evaluated 18 allotments (762 allottees). Included in the evaluation was a portion of the Nation's land. The TOLC accepted the appraisal amount (TOLC Res. 92-002) and the grant of easement (TOLC Res. 99-388).

Allottee and public meetings were held to explain the project. Wa:k community members were hired to assist in educating the allottees, gathering and organizing signed documents. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) certified the allottee signatures, NEPA document, along with compliance with the Native American Graves Repatriation Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act. The BIA approved the grant of easement in January 2000 and was recorded at the Land & Title Records in Albuquerque New Mexico.

There were much more discussions and activities going on during this process, including the Santa Cruz Riverbank (SCRB) stabilization which was substantially completed in July 1998. Other projects to consider were the CAP Link pipeline clearing, SCRB reseeding, sinkhole investigation, well repair, farm rehabilitation design, etc.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Maggie Alvarez or Velma Begay at (520)573-4000.





**PATRONATO  
SAN XAVIER**

# 2027 Calendar Photo Contest



Submit photos by July 15, 2026

- Open to all amateur and professional photographers ages 18+.
- Photographs must feature Mission San Xavier del Bac, its interior or exterior details, surrounding desert landscape, in-progress historic preservation projects, or cultural events connected to the Mission.
- Up to 4 submissions per person.
- Winning photos featured in the 2027 calendar.
- Each winner receives a complimentary calendar and recognition on our website and social channels. Additional prizes to be announced.

LEARN MORE » Visit: [PatronatoSanXavier.org/photo-contest](https://PatronatoSanXavier.org/photo-contest)

## San Xavier District Culinary Corner





The Planning Department would like to provide an update on the Culinary Corner project. The Culinary Corner aims to platform local community members with a space to sell food items within an arterial corridor of the District. This development will offer locals an opportunity to build capital, socialize, and highlight the vibrant culinary skills gifted within this community. Attendants can expect to enjoy food trucks, pop-up booths, and table seating arrangements. Our department has been actively working toward project funding since 2022. We have also presented design phasing in budget meetings to community and council, which has been approved. Additionally, we will be submitting an RFP (Request for Proposal) in April for an Architectural and Engineering team to draft an official design. The Planning department is committed to providing community members with new and exciting spaces to socialize and exchange culture.



# Egg - stravagant Easter Raffle

 **Drawing Date: Friday, April 3, 2026**

 **Ticket Prices: \$3 EACH OR 2 FOR \$5**

 **Prizes Include:**

- Baking Basket
- Child Easter Basket
- Children's Ribbon Skirt
- Various \$50 Gift Cards
- \$100 Cracker Barrel Gift Card
- Ice Chest with Soda

- Flat Iron

- Flat Komel

- Wood Grill

...And Much More!

 **Tickets Sold By:**

***Fitzpatrick Ignacio***

***St. Francis Feast Committee***

# O'odham Ap'edag Ki: PEOPLE WELLNESS HOUSE



S-keg Tas Wa:k Community,

Wishing you all are well, in good health, and safe in your homes. Although we believe the flu season has passed, pneumonia is now affecting our nation and abroad. Do not hesitate to check in at the Clinic if you are not feeling well. Remember, your health and well-being are important.

The Ap'edag Ki: (People Wellness House) focused on activities centered on feelings and kindness. Students learned the importance of respect and are learning to acknowledge one another as friends in O'odham with a handshake. Students took a trip to Kennedy Park where they enjoyed watching & feeding the ducks, visited the University of Arizona Museum and with great interest listened to the story of "How the Nuwi (buzzard) got to be so ugly", This story gave the students a view of how we should all share and be thankful of what we have and not to be greedy. Students asked many questions, gained a better understanding of what a buzzard looks like & why it eats dead animals (Very Interesting Story). We plan to continue focusing on sessions and topics that support our students' well-being.

Thank You

Margaret Unito- Ap'edag Ki: Case Manager

# 2026

# Wecij U'uwí Hemapai Hemako Tas 'O E-Hemapa

Young Women's Gathering

1-Day Retreat



**Saturday, March 28, 2026**  
**San Xavier District Hikdan Park**  
**8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**



*Empowering Young O'odham Women  
with Vision and Guidance to Stand  
Strong in their Identity, Strength, Self-  
Love, and Self-Respect.*



**Funded by the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation.**

## Registration

- Free gathering for all O'odham Young Women 10—17 years old (age limit enforced).
- Limited to the first 40 participants.
- Open Registration: Monday, Feb. 2, 2026
- Registration Deadline: Wed., March 18, 2026
- Registration forms are available at the SXD Office & SXD Education Center.

Submit paper applications to: [ywg@waknet.org](mailto:ywg@waknet.org).

For more information call:

Stacy Hernandez at 520.573.4000 OR

Carmen Martinez at 520.807.8620



Or use the QR Code to register.

**All participants are expected to behave in a respectful and responsible manner.**

Prohibited: Absolutely NO Drugs, Alcohol, Gang Attire & Weapons allowed!

Electronic FREE (Please Leave Your Devices @ Home): Cell Phones, Ipads, laptops, tablets, ear-buds, any type of stereo systems, and more! An emergency phone will be provided as needed.

**All young O'odham Women are invited to participate in a 1-day outdoor retreat filled with activities presented by O'odham women leaders and elders.**

The retreat will allow participants to experience what it is like at the Annual Young Women's Gatherings. It will also give participants a chance to make new friends and catch up with old friends while learning about our himdag.

Meals and snacks will be provided and may be prepared by participants.

# Wa:k Spirit Ce:daagi Masad/Green Month February



S-ke:g Tas Wa:k Community,

I continue to be amazed at how quickly the school year flies by! Given that we have now entered March and there are only three months of school left, this is unbelievable! With March approaching, our thoughts drift away to spring and saying goodbye to winter.

**FOR YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS & ADULTS! Thinking about College? Don't know where to start?** Visit the SXD Education Center or give us a call; we will be happy to assist you or guide you in the right direction. There are many scholarships out there to help pay for school. There are many wonderful opportunities for parents/guardians of teen students who will be graduating this year and for community members who are interested in going back to school. One scholarship to take advantage of is the Freeport-McMoRan Native American College Scholarship Program 2026, which is now open and closes on April 1, 2026. This scholarship is funded by the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation and administered by Education Forward Arizona. The value of this scholarship is:

- \$3,000/per semester for students enrolled in a four-year program at a university or tribal college.
- \$1,500/per semester for students enrolled in a two-year program at a community college or tribal college.
- \$5,000/per semester for students enrolled in a graduate program.
- For students enrolled at a trade or technical school, the value of this scholarship will be determined by program length, not to exceed \$15,000.

education FORWARD arizona | FREEPORT-McMoRAN

## NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Native American Scholarship Program application opens **Feb. 1, 2026**.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be an enrolled member of the Tohono O'odham Nation
- Be attending an accredited trade school, community college, tribal college or four-year university
- Be a full-time student
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA and be in good current academic standing
- Students enrolled in a masters program, eligible to apply.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

RueShunda Jim  
Scholarship Recipient

For more information, go to this link or scan QR code on the flyer:

<https://educationforwardarizona.org/innovate/attainment/scholarships/native-american-scholarship-program/>

As we move through March and push on towards the warmer and sunnier days of spring, I thank you for your continued support of your child's education. Looking forward to serving you and everyone else as you continue your education.

Carmen H. Martinez, Program Administrator

# Greetings from the Library

## March 2026



Well! It is **MARCH** already! The library remains on the upswing.

The library is happy to announce our partnership with the Pima County Office of Digital Inclusion! We has our first group of 8 participants complete their classes and were rewarded a tablet upon completion. If you missed the first session, no worries! We will be having additional classes. You can call Gertie or Elissa at 520-807-8621 for more information on this wonderful opportunity.

Our infant/toddler classes continue to be held on Tuesdays from 10:30–11:15. We had “Love of Reading” the week of February 9–11. Thank you to all the San Xavier District Staff for coming out to read to the children.

The bookmobile continues to visit the Education Center on the first Wednesday of each month. The next visit will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.



**Gertrude Lopez—[glopez@waknet.org](mailto:glopez@waknet.org)**  
**Learning Resource Coordinator**

**Elissa Encinas—[eencinas@waknet.org](mailto:eencinas@waknet.org)**  
**Learning Center Aide**

# Education Outreach

COORDINATORS

S-keg Tas Wa:k Community,

We are excited to welcome the month of March and all the new energy that comes with the beginning of spring! As the days grow longer, our afterschool program continues to be a safe, supportive, and engaging space where students can learn, play, and grow together.

This month, students will take part in a variety of hands-on activities that encourage creativity, teamwork, and curiosity. Our March plans include art projects inspired by the changing season, outdoor movement, and games. We will also continue offering dedicated time for homework support, ensuring students receive guidance and encouragement in a calm and caring environment. Our staff is committed to providing a consistent routine, a welcoming atmosphere, and a space where every child feels seen, valued, and supported. After-school is not just a place to pass time, it's a place where children can feel safe, build confidence, and connect with trusted adults and peers.

Please remember to check backpacks for program updates and announcements, and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We value our partnership with families and are grateful for the trust you place in us each day.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's educational journey. We look forward to a positive enriching month ahead.

## Upcoming Highlights

**March 6<sup>th</sup> : No School for TUSD**

**March 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> : VOY NAU College Tour**

**March 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> : Spring Break for SUSD, MASSA & SXMS**

**March 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> : No Afterschool Program**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> : Spring Break for TUSD**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> : Young Women's Gathering 1-Day Retreat**

## Graduating High School Seniors

Need help with FASFA or college applications? Our program is offering support to help seniors complete form, understand next steps, and meet deadlines.

Staff are available to answer questions and provide guidance. Please ask a staff member or contact us for more information.

We're here to support your next step after graduation!

Delissa Romero  
Education Outreach Coordinator  
520-807-8630

## MISSED BUS PROGRAM

Morning transportation will be provided for those students who miss their school bus, including the VanTran and SunTran. The limits area as follows

- 3 times per month for Kinder-5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 2 times per month for Middle & High School students

**Applications are available at the  
San Xavier Education Center**

**520.807.8620**





# HOWARD G. & LIBBY

## *Reading Assistance Therapy Dog*



Last year, I introduced you to Libby, a beautiful Labrador dog. Libby is a “Reading Assistance Therapy” dog who has visiting us, along with her owner, Mr. Howard Guralnick, for a year now for our After School Program. Libby’s purpose and benefit of visiting the Education Center is to improve our children's literacy skills through her assistance. This classic human-animal interaction has been studied and is supported by documentation from ongoing field studies. Our partnership with Howard and Libby enables us to help our children build confidence, improve social skills, and develop a love of reading.

Other benefits to having a “Reading Assistance Therapy” dog, such as Libby, are:

- Our children improve their reading skills in a unique and fun environment, free of performance pressure.
- Promotes another way that animals can make a positive difference in our children's lives.
- Animals are without bias and judgment of a child’s reading skills.
- Our children gain self-esteem as they begin to master the skills of reading.
- Reading to a dog can improve a child’s self-confidence, especially at school.

The SXD Education Center looks forward to having Libby visit and participate with our students in the After School Program. Thank you for your service to our SXD students.



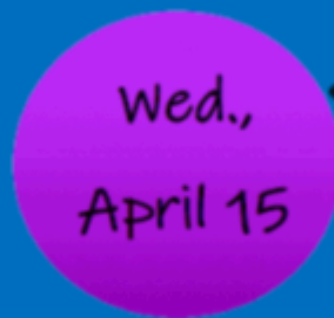
# FAMILY NIGHT



## Focusing on MATH

**SAVE THE DATE**

All families are welcome to come enjoy a night of fun STEM activities focusing on MATH!



**San Xavier Education**  
**“UNEARTH A STORY”**

**Early Risers Program**  
(Incoming Kindergarten)  
8 AM - 1:30 PM

**Summer Reading Program**  
(1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)  
12 PM - 5 PM

Program dates: June 1<sup>st</sup> - June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Monday - Friday

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Applications available:  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Applications due  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 if not filled  
Parent orientation: Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026





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/sanxaviardistrict



**The San Xavier District employees are dedicated and committed to delivering exceptional service to the community. Our team is here to assist you with any inquiries or needs you may have. Please visit our website for information about our programs and events. <https://www.waknet.org/>**