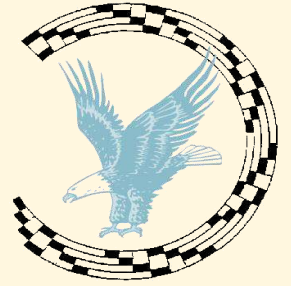


Blackwater Community School

(oo's-kuhk-kee'heem'dahm-Mash'chah'mah'koot)



BIG NEWS

(Ge'e -Haichaagith)

Quality Education Begins Here!

February 1– 12, 2021

Aupa Hiosik Mashath

Upcoming Events

- Monday - 2.1:** Virtual Learning
(Lunas)
- Tuesday - 2.2:** Virtual Learning
(Go:k-Thash)
- Wednesday - 2.3:** Virtual Learning
(Vaik-Thash)
- Thursday - 2.4:** Virtual Learning
(Gi:ik-Thash)
- Friday - 2.5:** Virtual Learning
(Vialas)

Have you checked out the website lately?

1. Download the QR Code reader app in your Apple or Google Play store (Free to download!)
2. Scan the code! →
3. Check out the BWCS website and stay in the loop!



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY HOTLINE
FOR COVID-19
(520)550-6079

Bulletin Board

Inspection of New Classrooms

The BIE will be doing the final inspection of the new classroom buildings on February 23rd and 24th.

K-5 NWEA Testing

February 8th- 12th Kindergarten through Fifth Grade students will be NWEA testing... Please let the office know if you are experiencing technical issues as soon as possible to avoid issues with testing and make sure students are online on time!

. "Don't just fly, soar." -- Dumbo (Dumbo)



Principal's Letter

BWCS Staff Vaccination Status:

Majority of our School Staff are getting the Covid-19 vaccinations thru Gila River Indian Community. Our staff and administration were scheduled for their first shot on January 27th, 2021. Instructional staff working from home via distance learning will be getting their shots in the afternoon.

School administration has given each employee up to four hours of paid administrative leave to those employees who are getting vaccinated on January 27th. On behalf of our staff and the school community, I want to express my sincere gratitude to GRHC and the Community Council for making this life-saving vaccination available to our school employees. This is truly a reflection of our great partnership with the Community that we proudly serve. As Governor Lewis rightly said during the Community's Coalition Board meeting, "This is the beginning of an end to this Covid19 pandemic". Let's make sure everybody who can, gets the vaccination and close this dark chapter in our lives once and for all.



Blackwater Community School Staff and School Principal Mr. Sharma getting vaccination

New School Construction Updates:

We have started the 3rd phase of our Construction project which includes the multi-purpose room (gym), school library, and the administration offices. As you may have observed, the construction process is going in full-swing

and by some estimates, this phase should be ready by mid-July of 2021.

We are expecting BIA Safety team to visit our school for an on-site inspection on February 23rd thru 24th, 2021. Once we get the green tags after the inspection, we should be ready to invite our staff to come set up classrooms.

I want to express our heart-felt gratitude to our Community Council and the continuing strong support from our parents for helping us thru these various construction phases. We really appreciate it.

Mandatory School-wide assessments:

You may have already heard that Arizona State department of Education, US Dept. of Education, and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) have been trying not only to push the assessments for all students but also demand that these assessments be conducted 'in-person' meaning that students will take these assessments in person at their respective school sites. Our School Board of Trustees and Tribal Education Department (GRIC TED) office have been working together thru the Council to request a waiver for these tests. I want to assure all parents and guardians, that the School Board and the Community Council by working together will keep the best interests of our children and school employees in mind while working with all officials from BIE, State and Education department in D.C.

Our On-Line Classes:

DIBELS assessment was given last week. The **Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills®** (DIBELS) are a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of early literacy skills. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. Every student was tested virtually for one minute to assess their reading skills. This information is given to the teachers. The teachers use the data to develop targeted small group instruction.

Virtual field trips: learning online doesn't mean you are always at home..... Virtual field trips are an wonderful way to make learning fun. Virtual events let educators take students to amazing places and give them remarkable experiences, without ever leaving their home! Most

virtual trips are free and you can participate as a family. Check out all the free adventures on <https://www.discoveryeducation.com/community/virtual-field-trips/>

Frequently asked questions:

Who do I call if my child cannot attend class? [Call the school office to officially report 520.215.5859 and the classroom teacher.](#)

What if my child's computer is not working? [Call the school office 520.215.5859 for assistance](#)

What if I need to bring my device to school for repairs? [Bring device AND charger to front office](#)

What if my child loses their log on ID?" [Call the office 520.215.5859](#)

What if I need help assisting my child with their assignments? [Call the student's teacher](#)

What if my hot spot is lost or stolen? [Make an official report with GRIC PD or the appropriate police department. Notify school of case report number](#)

Can myself or my child access Facebook, Tiktok, and/or online gaming? [No, the school issued devices are for educational purposes only. Visiting these other sites may cause viruses.](#)