



PISD UPDATE

OCTOBER 18, 2021



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Guitarist Cipriano Vigil

**Appreciation for Fall Coaches
and Cafeteria Staff**

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Teacher of the Year Finalist**

PISD Receives \$40,000 Grant

Get Your Yearbooks

PISD Halloween Carnival

School Updates

Art Students Win Awards

HS Journalism Articles

CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 19, 6:00

School Board Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 5:00

Volleyball: Home vs Questa

Saturday, October 23, 5:00.

Volleyball: Home vs Mora

Saturday, October 23

Volleyball: Home vs Mora

Thursday, October 28, 5:00

Cross Country: District Meet

Thursday, October 28, 5:30

PISD Halloween Carnival

Friday, October 29

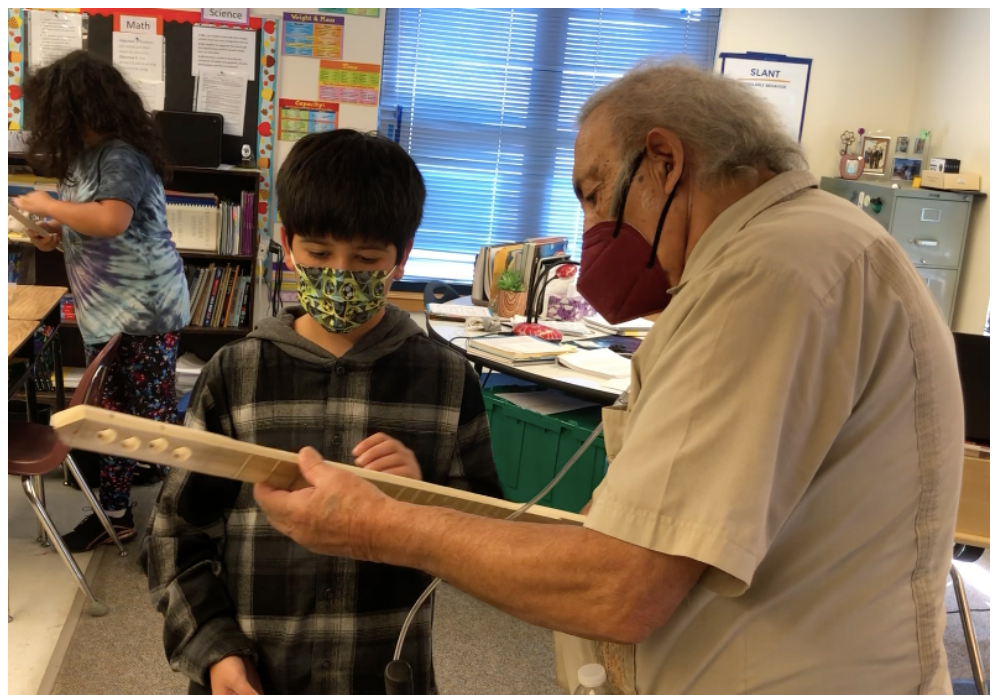
Parent-Teacher Conferences

GUITARIST CIPRIANO VIGIL VISITS

ELEMENTARY

Legendary musician, guitar maker, and Chamisal native Cipriano Vigil and his wife Susana are working with students in grades 4-6, teaching them to make cigar-box guitars. The guitars will be finished in December, and the students will perform with Mr. Vigil.

Here, 5th grader Carlos Lopez shows Mr. Vigil his sanded guitar neck.





Thank you to our Fall Coaches:

Volleyball: Monique Visarraga,
Anelisia Peña and Maxine Abeyta

Cross Country: Ben Sanchez and
Victoria Vasquez

Thank you for supporting our teams:

Athletic Coordinator: Mandy Montoya

Athletic Director - Nicaea Chavez



Thank you to our
cafeteria staff:

Cafeteria Manager
Sheila Rodriguez.
Cooks Julia Romero,
Joleen Romero,
Jolene Lopez, and
Dolores Gallegos

CONGRATULATIONS! NEW MEXICO TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST, STEPHANIE NOLL!

Peñasco High School English and Journalism Teacher Stephanie Noll has been named one of three finalists for New Mexico Teacher of the Year.





PISD RECEIVES \$40,000 EDUCATION OUTREACH GRANT FROM LANL FOUNDATION

PISD has received a two year grant worth \$40,000 from the LANL Foundation. The grant will support the purchase of equipment and materials for electrical, plumbing, culinary, and CIS programs.

This grant comes in addition to the \$5,000 grant PISD received last year from the LANL Foundation to support the purchase of welding equipment.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences will be held Friday, October 29. Please plan to attend to meet with your students' teachers.



Pick up your yearbook at the parent-teacher conference!

PISD HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL: OCTOBER 28

The Sophomore and Junior classes at Peñasco High School invite you to attend the Halloween Carnival on October 28. A morning session during school will allow students to celebrate the spooky holiday with games and activities.

That evening, 5:30-7:30, families are invited to attend the event, including:

- Games
- Candy
- Food

Wear your costume!
(School-appropriate outfits, please!)

Entry fee to the evening event: \$3
Tickets can be purchased for games and food.
Candy is free!



Want to donate candy to the event? Please leave your donations in the box at the PISD guard shack. Or, email math teacher Mr. Sandoval at msandoval1@penascoisd.com



A NEW WAY TO REPORT ABUSE & NEGLECT

The New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department has launched a new service, REACH NM, providing text-based reporting and engagement.

REACH NM allows young people to connect directly with CYFD workers for resources, help, and reporting potential abuse or neglect. The service is free and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can text with an expert for help finding resources in your community, reach out for assistance with basic needs for yourself or others, report concerns of abuse and neglect in your home, or report suspected abuse or neglect that may be occurring in someone else's home or in the community. Help is a text away.

HOTLINE TO REPORT RACIALLY CHARGED INCIDENTS OR RACIALIZED AGGRESSION

Peñasco Independent School District wants to support all students in a safe and equitable learning community. If you feel you have been a target or witnessed racially charged incidents or racialized aggression you can report it to the New Mexico Public Education Department using the following link:

- Link coming soon.

We define racialized aggression as any aggressive act which can be characterized, categorized, or which appears as such to be racial in nature.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 19

6:00 p.m.

District Administration Building and Online

Meeting will be held in person but can be accessed online

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8929346135?pwd=c25wYjIwQnlQOG1mdE1Ubms3dDhwUT09>

Passcode is PISD

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: ART CLASS



After the lowrider presentation last month, students in Ms. Alessandra's art classes drew their own lowriders and entered their creations in a contest. Three PISD students won!



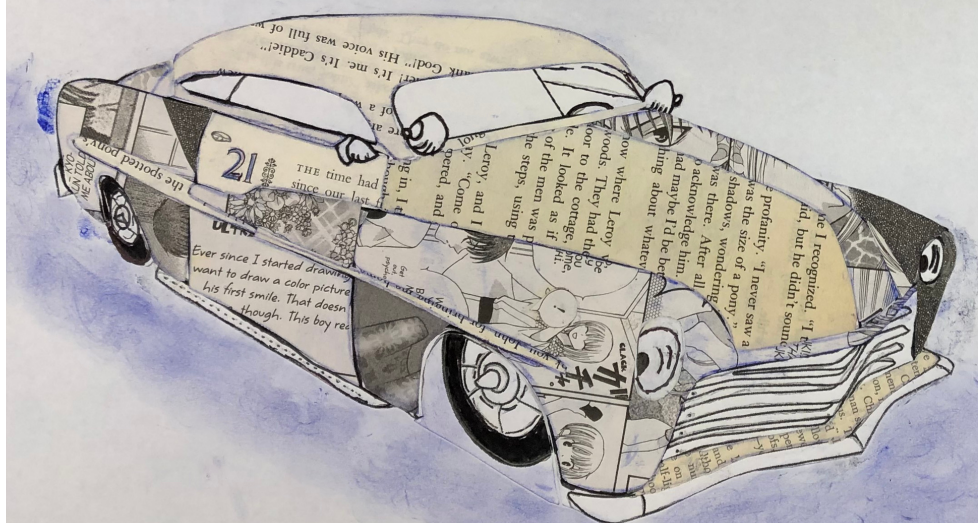
Evangelynn Sandoval (6th grade) won the New Mexico True Award.



Feliciano
Gonzales
Mitchell (8th
grade) won the
design most
likely to save the
world,



Ridebrary



Elaine Gonzales Mitchell (10th grade) won the Seco live award.



Students in 5th grade made paper mache hot air balloons.



HARVEST OF HEALTH

PICURIS - PEÑASCO COMMUNITY COALITION ANNUAL HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

Due to Covid-19 this will be a DRIVE-THROUGH Health Fair Event

WHERE?

PEÑASCO SCHOOLS PARKING LOT

13 SCHOOL RD, PEÑASCO NM 87553

WHEN?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021

9:00am - 12:00pm



**SEASONAL FLU SHOTS FOR ADULTS &
CHILDREN 8 YEARS AND OLDER**

Bring INSURANCE, MEDICAID, MEDICARE card. If you are planning on receiving a flu shot please wear short sleeve attire.



**HOLIDAY FOOD DISTRIBUTION
FROM WESTERN SKY**

Including turkeys and hams.

Brought to you By:



western sky
community care



Walgreens





La Segunda Secondhand Store Serves the Local Community in Many Ways

Annette Maes and Rachel Exposito

9/29/21

La Segunda Secondhand Store is a thrift store in Dixon, NM that sells items that have been donated by community members to help to support the programs and general operations of the Embudo Valley Library and Community Center (EVLCC). La Segunda accepts good quality donations that are clean and in working condition. Whatever cannot be sold in the store is managed responsibly. La Segunda highly values repurposing, recycling, and being good stewards of our land/earth/planet. Staff and volunteers work hard to serve the community by finding a place and purpose for all reusable materials and does so in several ways:

- Keeps reusable materials out of landfills and helps to curb dumping in arroyos by providing community members with a better alternative to dumping. Rarely does the store throw anything away. This is the ultimate form of recycling!
- Redistributes donations through proper channels through partnerships with other community organizations such as
 - The SPOT in Penasco
 - ReStore in Penasco
 - Dixon Animal Protection Society (DAPS)
 - Habitat for Humanity in Espanola
 - Citizens Against Violence (CAV) in Taos
 - Mountain Home Health Care in Taos
 - Various homeless shelters
- Maintains a strong partnership with The SPOT in Penasco to help get career clothes, maternity clothes, and shoes to community members who need them
- Contributes coats to the Penasco Independent School District's "Coats for Kids" program
- Clothing that cannot be sold or distributed to other organizations is cut up and given to local artists to use as rags
- Provides access to local shopping in an area where retail space is minimal
- Contributes to the local economy by providing one paid part-time job

La Segunda opened one year ago as a pop-up thrift store that was open just two days per week. The store has been a smashing success and is now open Wednesdays - Saturdays 10-4. It is staffed by the store manager, local resident Annette Maes and an incredible team of over 15 volunteers who do lots of laundry, sales, sorting of donations, and they deliver truck loads of donations to other organizations. EVLCC and La Segunda staff are proud of this work and immensely grateful for the outpouring of support we have received. You can help our community thrive and the thrift store to succeed by volunteering, donating items, or shopping at La Segunda.



Here's a Bag!

By Ms. Noll's 6th and 7th period journalism class
Special thanks to Dylan Lopez for interviewing Mr. Noll

The St. James Episcopal Church in Taos decided to provide us with over 150 bags of food to be delivered to every family who has a child that attends Peñasco schools. Ms. Enselman Vasquez of the Nurturing Center and Mr. Michael Noll, Community Schools Director, have organized the distribution of the bags. Mr. Noll said that the inspiration for the food distribution program was that some families didn't have enough food, and it was an uncomfortable situation for them to ask. As Mr. Noll shared, "Some people have been giving out food for years, and we expanded on it." One parent had a great idea that food should be handed out to everyone, and that's how the program began in its current form.

The students will be receiving a bag of food every other Thursday. Every time students receive a bag, and they look in it, they will be surprised because it's different every week. For example, the first food bags that were distributed included bread, carrots, butter, flour, oatmeal, and green beans. Last week, students received bags with oatmeal, canned carrots, cream of chicken soup, hand sanitizer, milk, cereal, tuna, lentils, and TV dinners. Students can help the food distribution program by helping pack the bags and gathering them together so they can be distributed to students so they can share with their families. This program is helping the families that need extra help without them making them feel singled out. This way, everyone is included and can enjoy being fed.

High school students meet in the Nurturing Center to prepare the bags of food.





The Most Devious Lick

By: Ms. Noll's 7th period journalism class

Once upon a time, there was a TikTok trend that caused an uproar in schools nationwide. The trend was started by a high school student who took a video of himself with a stolen hand sanitizer dispenser that he pulled from his backpack, probably taken from school. This TikTok received 7.2 million views in two days. When the video went viral, students across the world started stealing things from school. In the beginning, the objects were small, like soap dispensers and classroom equipment, random items that were taken because people thought it would be funny, not because they were valuable. So how did this trend make it to Penasco and ultimately affect our bathroom policy?

The first devious lick at our school happened when someone took a soap dispenser from the high school boys' bathroom. It was replaced, and then taken again. Next, the plastic planner holder in the same boys' bathroom was torn off. After that, the most devious lick of them all happened when a stall divider was removed from the same bathroom. At this point, Principal Chavez realized that this was becoming a real problem and decided to put some new rules in place.

Before this trend started, students were permitted to use the bathroom between classes and with a teacher's permission during class time. The policy had already changed from years past because in order to leave class to use the bathroom, students needed their planners signed. However, since the issues with the bathroom, Ms. Chavez has now decided that students can only go to the restroom during class time when escorted by an adult. When interviewed, Ms. Chavez explained her reasons for the new policy: "In order to keep our school running during a pandemic and keep students safe, they need to be able to sanitize their hands after visiting the restroom." She also explained that at the time, there weren't enough custodians to fix the soap dispensers. According to Ms. Chavez, this is vandalism, and she thinks that the older students may be influencing the younger students.

"The kids at our school are amazing, but when they damage their own school, it shows how they are representing our school--and it's not in a good way," Ms. Chavez said. She also shared that the students think it's her fault and that she's being a bully; however, she says she is just working to keep our school up and running. "I am doing this for the students because I truly care about them." When hearing that students were upset about the policy, Ms. Chavez told the journalism students that she is open to new ideas.



The Most Devious Lick (continued)

When the journalism class surveyed middle and high school students about this policy, most students disagreed with a question asking if having a staff member escort students to the bathroom was the best way to prevent bathroom vandalization. If the staff escorts aren't actually going into the bathrooms with students, it's still possible for those spaces to be vandalized. The overwhelming majority of students do not believe that TikTok influences their behavior; instead, they think bathrooms have always been vandalized, and the viral trend made it very public. Students did seem to agree with Ms. Chavez on one point: when asked if upperclassmen have a responsibility to be role models for younger students, the overwhelming majority agreed. Where does this leave us? Some solutions that students offered were to return to the old policy, keep the girls' restrooms open, or give every student a limited number of passes for each quarter. Since the trend is dead, most students would really like to see things go back to the way they were. Anthony Naranjo, a sophomore, shared that he would like to be able to use the bathroom without asking for permission every single time.

Ultimately, students would like to see the issue resolved and bathroom privileges reinstated. Ms. Chavez wants to see the vandalism end and keep students safe. Jeremiah Noah Martinez, a journalism student who covered this issue, believes that in order for students to have the previous policy reinstated, they will need to show responsibility and respect for the school to get this privilege back. The journalism students are committed to covering this story as it continues to unfold.

CALL FOR HELP



HELP PISD HIRES FINDING HOUSING

If anyone has housing for rent, please let Amy Garcia know (agarcia@penascoisd.com). PISD has people that are applying, but they are looking for housing. We don't have housing to provide but would like to have some information for them on rentals in the area.

Thank you!



HELP US BUILD A COMMUNITY MEMORY PROJECT

PISD has received a grant from the Library of Congress to create primary historical sources from our communities. The first project is a short film about wood gathering: getting, splitting, and burning wood, plus features on thinning projects, leñero programs, ecology, and the history of getting wood in this area.

To help our students with this project, please take photos of your wood piles, stoves, chainsaws, wood trucks, and anything else wood related. You can send the photos to Michael Noll, mnoll@penascoisd.com, 575-779-1466.

For each photo, please include this info:

- Family and/or students involved (whose wood is it?)
- Location (village or approximate area)

Your photos may be used in the film (which may end up being broadcast on PBS!) and will be archived in the Library of Congress.

Important: By sending photos to Mr. Noll, you are giving permission for them to be used for these purposes.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

PISD Superintendent

Melissa Sandoval
(575) 587-2502
msandoval@penascoisd.com

MS/HS Principal

Nicaea Chavez
(575) 587-2502 ext. 2010
nchavez@penascoisd.com

Elementary Principal

Michelle Gonzales
(575) 587-2502 ext. 2101
mgonzales2@penascoisd.com

Community Schools Coordinator

Michael Noll
575-779-1466
mnoll@penascoisd.com

Indian Education Coordinator

Julia Geffroy
575-613-3822
jgeffroy@penascoisd.com

Student & Family Engagement Coordinator

Dr. Bonavita Quinto MacCallum
575-587-2502 Ext. 2305
bmaccallum@penascoisd.com