

Peach Notes

Back to School

SUPERINTENDENT WILLIAM SANTIAGO

Dear Parents/Guardians,
As we begin the new school year, I wanted to pause and thank you for your incredible resilience and commitment to making our school district the very best we can be. We have many challenges to overcome and without a doubt we will have new ones to face. However, no challenge is mightier than our collective strength! Recently I spoke with our students and emphasized our focus on respect. Respect for each other, for the school, for learning, etc. Perhaps most important is for each of us to remember to respect the hard work required from each of us to build a great school district. The best is yet to come!

William Santiago

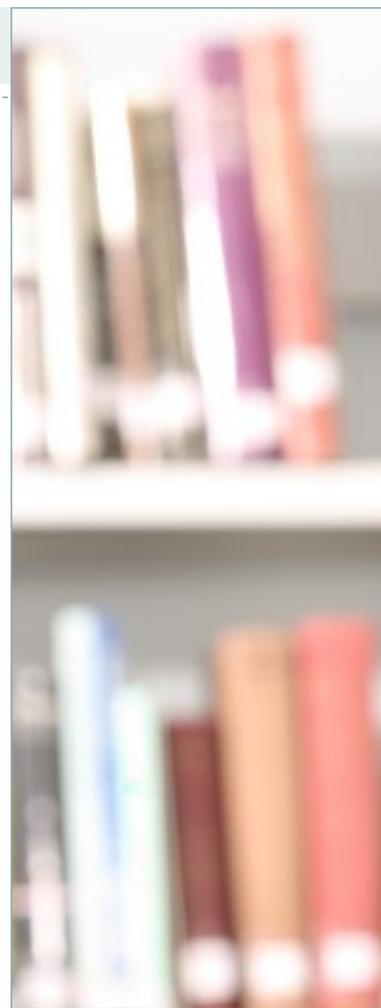


Kindergarten teacher touches the future

By Sararesa Hopkins

PEACH SPRINGS, Ariz. – Almost everyday teacher, Grace Redillas, gets a hug from her kindergarten students.

“My students always say, ‘I love you to me,’” Redillas said. “They are like my own children.” Redillas who was born and reared in the Philippines has been teaching at Peach Springs Unified School District for the last three years. Before coming to the United See **Page 3.**



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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- Kindergarten Teacher Touches the Future Through Teaching.
- Reading Benefits for Our Children.
- Preserving the Hualapai Language and Lifeways.

IN FRONT



*John Riddle
K-12 Principal*

HOW DO YOU START?

- Establish a regular time for reading. This can be reading the newspaper comics after dinner or reading a book before bedtime.
- Take your time, and parents do not have to rush when reading to their children. Relax and enjoy spending this quality time with your children, Marcin said.
- Enjoy yourself, and use reading to entertain your children when reading books. Use different voices for the story characters. Tell the story in an animated way.
- Make connections from the story to your children's lives.

Sources:
Cleveland Clinic. (2020, October 27). The Benefits of Reading to Babies. Health Essentials. Retrieved at <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/the-benefits-of-reading-to-babies/>

Marcin, A. (2020, October 14). Reading to Children: Why It's So Important and How to Start. Healthline. Retrieved at <https://www.healthline.com/health/childrens-health/reading-to-children>

My name is John Riddle and I am your new K-12 principal. I could take this time to tell you a more about myself, but I'd rather save that for another time. I want to write about my first impression of your kids. They are beautiful, funny, tough, fragile, confused, kind, afraid, and brave. They are resilient. They love dogs and their dogs have very cool names. Your kids are intelligent but many believe they are not because of difficulties they have with Reading and Math. Reading and Math have little to do with intelligence. These difficulties are a reflection of problems with the school and the degree to which Covid-19 has inter-

rupted their learning. We will provide your student with learning opportunities which will allow them to experience success as they grow their abilities as critical thinkers, readers, and citizens who become more comfortable working with numbers. As educators, it is imperative that we bring learning opportunities to your students that are embedded in their experiences, that are relevant to them, culturally relevant. This is our commitment to you and to your student. I don't think your students have any idea how cool they are. I'm honored to be here and I look forward to the future. As our Superintendent says, "The best is yet to come."

READING TO OUR CHILDREN ENRICHES LIVES

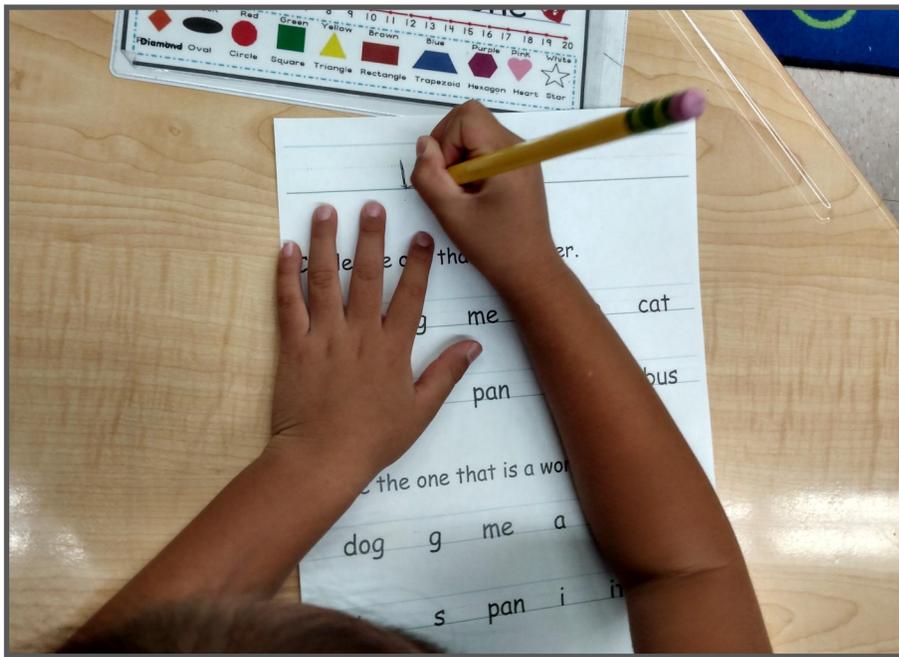
By Sararesa Hopkins

PEACH SPRINGS, Ariz. – Bonita Imus, Hualapai Cultural Teacher and a parent, read to her daughter when she was carrying her in her stomach.

"I read to her all the time," Imus said. "(Today), my daughter is a reader, she would trade books with her grandmother." Imus remembers some of the books such as the Amelia Bedelia book series by Peggy Parish she read to her daughter, Billie, when she was a school-age student. Tinisha Pickayviatt, teacher paraprofessional and a parent, reads to her children when they ask her to read to them. Pickayviatt who has five children enrolled at Peach Springs Unified School District said she reads books from her childhood. Pickayviatt said she remembers reading "Freckle Juice," "Danger Mouse," and "Purple Crayon," to her children.

Retired master reading teacher Bernice Austin-Begay, 76, said reading to our children at home greatly enriches our children's brain development and parent-child bond. Austin-Begay who has a master's degree in reading read to her four children when they were in elementary school at Page Unified School District.

"Reading to your children increases a child's reading comprehension, vocabulary, interest in reading," she said, adding that a child's attention span and test scores also improve and grow. According to *Healthline* writer Ashley Marcin, "babies and young children are sponges that soak in practically everything in their environments." Marcin said that during story time, children's minds are engaged and absorbing language they hear and the story lessons that the characters display.

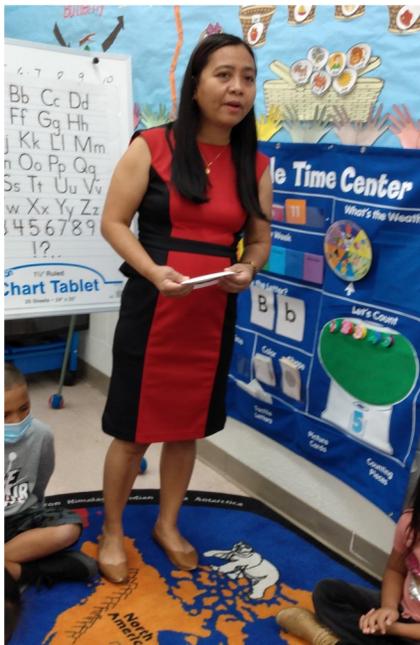


Kindergarten students learn the basic skills that will prepare them for elementary school grades, said Grace Redillas, Peach Springs Unified School District teacher.

CONTINUED TEACHER TOUCHES THE FUTURE

United States, Redillas was a sixth-grade teacher for 15 years in her home country.

She said this year she instructs “students by enthusiastic and hands-on teaching methods and tools, including games, music, arts, books, and computers. As a kindergarten teacher, I am responsible for teaching children’s basic skills that will prepare



Mrs. Grace Redillas

them for elementary school grades.” Redillas added that the main skills taught are reading and math, managing classroom behavior and working with parents to ensure that students are succeeding.

Currently, there are nine kindergarten students enrolled in Redillas’ kindergarten class.

Redillas said, adding that what she is doing differently compared to last year is hands-on learning for the kindergarten students. “This time I am able to bring in innovative ideas that will keep the children engaged as to understand classroom instruction.”

She said she also utilizes creative ideas to make sure that my students are learning even with limited resources.

USING LITERACY TO BOOST YOUR CHILD’S HEALTH

By Karen Baicker
(Reprinted with Permission)

Parenting in the pandemic is next level. Your old daily battles—take a bath; put your toys away; wear a hat; do your homework—have been compounded with gripping concerns about microbes. You’re doing your best to keep up with your own work while suddenly being asked to homeschool. And those “kitchen table” issues people talk about—bills, groceries, medical care—should really be called sleepless night issues.

Top among your worries is the pressing question: How will this crisis impact my child physically, academically, emotionally? While so many of our go-to resources are closed for business, one of the greatest protective buffers we can offer our children is likely close at hand: a great book.

Literacy can help children adapt in positive ways to stressful circumstances. At the [Collaborative for Child & Family Resilience](#), we’ve identified five ways that literacy can help build resilience, through the current crisis and in years to come:

1. Relieving Stress Research shows that reading lowers your heart rate more effectively than meditating, sipping a cup of tea, listening to music, or taking a walk! If you read together with your child, you’ll multiply that advantage, and feel your own pulse calming as well. Choose books that are engaging and high-quality, and settle in for a relaxing read.

2. Building Empathy Reading—particularly reading fiction—builds empathy in ways that last and extend well beyond the book. Good fiction exposes us to multiple points of view and helps us get into the minds of characters.

That’s great practice for putting yourself in someone else’s shoes in real life—a particularly important social-emotional skill in today’s world. You can help promote empathy by asking about what the characters in your child’s book are thinking or feeling.

3. Creating Connections Why do some people, young and old, thrive despite adversity, while others struggle under similar circumstances?

Source—<https://medicine.yale.edu/news->

KEEPING THE HUALAPAI LANGUAGE ALIVE

By Sararesa Hopkins

PEACH SPRINGS, Ariz. – Derrick Jones, a 6th grade student in Ms. Roxanne Blair’s class at Peach Springs Middle School, raised his right hand, and waited for his Hualapai cultural teacher Bonita Imus to call on him.

“What’s rabbit in Hualapai?” Jones asked eagerly as he stood in line to return to his classroom.

“Hlo” Imus answered.

Imus said there are two words for rabbit. The cottontail rabbit is “Hlo’,” and the non-cottontail rabbit is “gula.” Earlier in the day, Imus gave the students basic commands such as, “Wayi mi yok. Yak mi ji wo.”

“Get a chair. Set it here.”

Then after the students are finished with their learning in Imus’s class, she tells them.

“Wayi mi yok. Mi ji wo.”

“Get the chair and put it back.”

“Mi e:vja Mi spo: ja Mi U: ja.”

Translated into English means, “Listen, learn and watch.”

Next Imus read in the Hualapai language the August calendar posted on her classroom wall to her students.

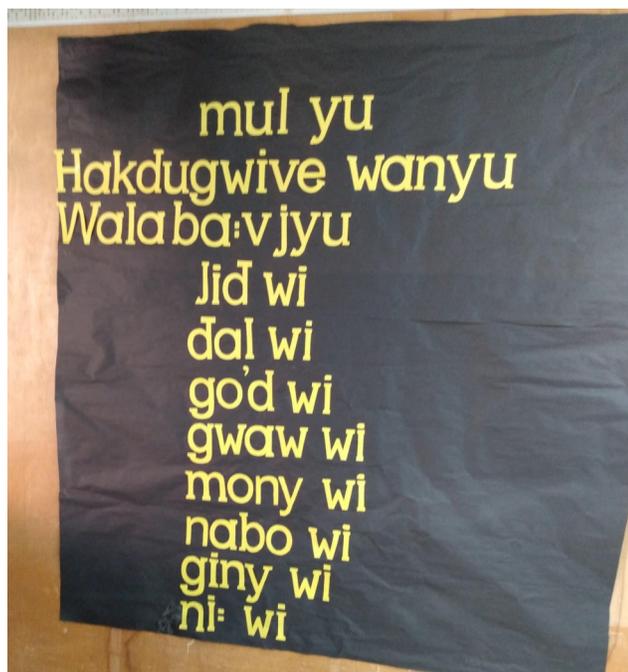
“Vah la:vm bay di:gavk

Gid’uk jimiyukyu

Ba:ch

Baqui

Misi:



Hma:d

Bada:yich ba nyi didyu:ja

Gweba biljo muwijkwi

Hwa:lbay swadk

Yimaj miyujkyu

Nyiva hla:vch nyi va:m

Yasay qechm wi:jim yu:sk

Han mijki

“Yasay ga a:maja hla:ch: nyi

ibing picture or graphic

“A diyay miyujyu”

Yasay Ga A:Mja

Hla:

The English language translation is:

“Shady Month.”

“This month people gather and have memorial ceremonies. Everyone, young and old alike, give memorial offerings for their deceased relatives. They sing and dance. This month it is shady and cool. When the ‘Shady Month,’ comes we are happy.”

Imus said she prefers to teach the students verbally rather than writing Hualapai words down on paper, and she wants very much to have her students learn their Hualapai language.

“Because we don’t want it to become extinct,” Imus said.

Everyday, Imus works to preserve and teach the Hualapai language because of her concern that the Hualapai language like other Native American languages across the country are endangered of becoming extinct through forced assimilation by the federal government. Imus’s generation and generations before her attended boarding schools where Native American students were taught that being one’s Native American cultural identity was bad.

HONORING OUR CHILDREN

*Reprinted with Permission.
Daily OM*

Our words and our actions are absorbed by our children, regardless of their age.

Everything we do and say in the presence of our children makes an impression on them. We may think we can get away with swearing or gossiping in front of them when they can't talk, but we have forgotten that just because they can't talk doesn't mean they don't hear. They are sensitive sponges absorbing their environment in ways we will never know. Even if the words don't make sense to them, they make an impression, as does the energy behind the words. We honor our children when we acknowledge that they are fully present from the very beginning and when we offer ourselves to them in ways that model the best of what humans can be.

When we bring a child into the world, a great welling up of love and hope fills our hearts. We unequivocally want the very best for our children, and we want to be the best parents a child could ever want. We begin to see ourselves and our lives in a different light, and things that seemed okay before we had a child suddenly reveal themselves as problematic. This can lead to a somewhat mincing review of our habits of speech, thought and feeling, our relationships, and our physical habits. We may feel that we have put ourselves under a microscope, which can be stressful. However, it can also lead to a great healing of our own unresolved issues, enabling us to be good parents to our children. Talking to other conscious parents about this life transformation can be very helpful.



We honor our children when we acknowledge that they are fully present from the very beginning and when we offer ourselves to them in ways that model the best of what humans can be.

Source— <https://dailyom.com/cgi-bin/display/articledisplay.cgi?aid=78178>

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS

Hi, I'm Kayla Crowe, mom and district Social and Emotional Learning Specialist (SELS). I'm going to get real: parenting scares the (fill in the blank) out of me. I regularly question my ability to raise a “thoughtful, committed citizen” (thank you Margaret Mead) and on the daily think “OMG- I've caused irreversible damage to my baby!” (who is 15 years old and assures me she's fine).

As Dr. Brene Brown puts it, “parenting is a shame minefield.”

Since becoming a parent I've wanted a support group, a place to ask questions, normalize the hardships and learn strategies to do this the best possible way, even though there is no perfect.

See Page 6

CAREGIVERS GROUP CONTINUED

WILLIAM SANTIAGO,
SUPERINTENDENT.

JOHN RIDDLE, PRINCIPAL.

POST OFFICE BOX 360

403 DIAMOND CREEK
ROAD

PEACH SPRINGS, AZ
86434

(928)769-2202

(928)769-1046 (FAX)

With that being said, I'd like to invite you all to the Caregivers Support Group, a place for *all caregivers of all ages raising all ages: grandparents, aunts, uncles, community and employment leaders. Anyone who cares for our youth and could use some bolstering now and again.*

It is true that *it takes which also means Meetings will be held of each month, PSUSD library. We of topics from sub-communication, neurological development and much more. conversation. Let's vant to you as a*



a village to raise a child, you are not alone in this. on the second Tuesday 5:30pm to 6:30pm, at the will be covering a variety stance-use prevention, neurological development However, you lead the talk about what is relevant to you as a caregiver.

With great reverence for this opportunity, I look forward to speaking *with you.*

May you be well,
Kayla Crowe
928-769-2202 ex 101, CroweK@psusd8.org

William Santiago, Superintendent.
John Riddle, Principal.
Post Office Box 360
403 Diamond Creek Road
Peach Springs, AZ 86434
(928)769-2202
(928)769-1046 (Fax)

www.psusd8.org

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