



PISD UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2, 2023



@penascoisd

575-587-2502

penascoisd.com

WHAT'S INSIDE

Baile Community Event

STOPit App: Report Bullying

Join the Equity Council

Homecoming Photos

Snow Lessons

Sky Dome Portable Planetarium

Elementary History Photo Project

Peñasco Post:

Homecoming Highlights

Environthon Update

Elementary Sipapu Trip

Mr. Sanchez Memorial

PISD Shout Outs

Job Openings

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 2, 3:30

B-Ball at Questa

Saturday, February 4, 1:00

B-Ball at Mora

Thursday, February 9, 4:00

B-ball at McCurdy

Saturday, February 11, 1:00

B-ball vs Escalante

Tuesday, February 14

Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 4:00

B-Ball vs Questa

Thursday, February 16, 3:00

B-ball at Mesa Vista

Friday, February 17

Extended Learning Day

MS/HS Sipapu Ski Trip

PEÑASCO COMMUNITY BAILE

Thursday, March 23

4-5:30: Dance Lessons

6:15-7:45: Community Dance

In partnership with the NM Humanities Council, PISD will host Lone Piñon, a band that plays and preserves traditional Northern NM music, plus dancers who will teach the traditional dances of our region. Food will be served. Open to all!

PRAISE FOR LONE PIÑON

*"Truly exceptional!"
—National Association of
Latino Arts and Cultures*

*Check out the film about Lone
Piñon:
<http://codyedisonmedia.com/and-those-who-dance-it>*



HELP PROTECT OUR KIDS FROM BULLYING

All Peñasco schools are using the STOPit app for anonymous and safe reporting of bullying and other safety issues. To use the app, click here: <https://appweb.stopitsolutions.com/login>. Search for "Peñasco" and then select the appropriate school. The reporting form looks like this:

Peñasco High School



New incident

What is this incident about? (Required)

-- Select One --

Tell us what is going on. The more you provide, the better we can help.

Who is in need of help? (one or more people; first name, last name, nickname, gender, race/ethnicity, grade level, address) (Required)

When did or will the incident take place? (approximate date and time) (Required)

Where did or will the incident take place? (physical location, social media platform, school event) (Required)

 Add photos/videos

SUBMIT

HOMEcoming



Winners of the Royal Court

Sylvia Brown - Queen
Louis McIntosh -King

Cheyenne Martinez -princess
Anthony Naranjo -prince

Shia Romero -duke
Alicia Abeyta -duchess



HOMECOMING



Thank you to the Taos County Sheriff's Department, all chaperones, and to the Middle School Student Council for helping decorate for the Homecoming Dance!



ELEMENTARY SNOW LESSONS

Ms. Vigil's first grade class used the snow Extended Learning Day on January 20 as an opportunity to do some science lessons focused on snow!



SKY DOME VISITS PISD

Elementary and middle school students experienced the inside of a portable planetarium from StarLab.





ELEMENTARY HISTORY/PHOTO/DICHO PROJECT

Elementary school students are learning about our community's history and stories through photographs taken by FSA photographers in the 1940s and housed in the Library of Congress. If you're in the elementary, check out the bulletin board below, located outside the cafeteria, by the Tiwa room. Some students will be bringing home equipment in order to take photographs, in order to document their own lives and compare them to the people, places, and activities pictured in the 1940s photos.

Students will also be learning some of the dichos from our community.

What you can do:

- Talk to your students about the project!
- Tell them stories from the past and your childhood.
- Ask family for dichos they remember and still use.
- Check out photographs from our villages at <https://www.loc.gov>.

Did you know...

Your community is famous.

Its history is preserved in the biggest library in the world.

Library of Congress

The Library serves as the research arm of Congress and is recognized as the national library of the United States. Its collections comprise the world's most comprehensive record of human creativity and knowledge. It is the world's largest library and a great resource for scholars and researchers.

April 24, 1800 President John Adams approves an act of Congress that moves the government from Philadelphia to the new capital city of Washington. Five thousand dollars is appropriated for the purchase of books to be housed in the Capitol.

1812 The first classified Library catalog is published. It lists 3,076 volumes, and 53 maps, charts, and plans.

1814-15 In retaliation for the capture of York and the burning of its parliamentary building by American forces, the British capture Washington and burn the Capitol, destroying the Library of Congress. The House of Representatives approves the purchase of Jefferson's 6,487-volume personal library for \$23,950 to replace the collection lost in the fire.

1903 President Theodore Roosevelt issues an executive order directing the transfer of the records of the Continental Congress and the personal papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, James Monroe, and Benjamin Franklin from the State Department to the Library.

2016 The Library's collection of more than 162 million items includes more than 58 million cataloged books and other print materials in more than 470 languages; more than 70 million manuscripts; the largest rare book collection in North America; and the world's largest collections of legal materials, films, maps, sheet music, and sound recordings.

80 years ago...

The United States sent two FSA photographers to the Peñasco Valley.

The FSA helped rural people and documented their lives.

The photos they took... are some of the most well-known photographs in American history.

Like these.

And these, taken in your community.

We are part of that history...

The people and places in these photographs are deeply connected to the students and adults in this school.

Find out how you are connected to the Library of Congress.

Ask the people at school about them.

Ask your families.

Farm Security Administration (FSA)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Farm Security Administration in 1937. The FSA resettled poor farmers on more productive land, promoted soil conservation, provided emergency relief and loaned money to help farmers buy and improve farms.

FSA photographers recorded the hardships of the Dust Bowl drought, economic depression, and low crop prices. Farm families were often forced to abandon the land (like this Kansas farm surrounded by fields of blown soil) and join the ranks of migrant workers toiling for low wages on distant commercial farms.

This photo of a migrant mother and her children, taken by Dorothea Lange, is one of the most famous photographs in American history.

John Collier, Jr. (1913-1992)

The son of John Collier, chief of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (1933-40), Collier Jr. grew up in Taos and San Francisco. A car accident at age eight resulted in brain injuries, learning disabilities, and hearing loss that prevented him from completing school beyond 3rd grade. He worked as a photographer for multiple American Federal agencies.

Known for his photographs in Ecuador and the American Southwest, Collier believed in giving the people he photographed a voice in how they were posed and portrayed. His groundbreaking textbook, *Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method*, is still used today.

Blacksmith Fidel Vasquez, who lived across from the current Peñasco post office. Vasquez's descendants both teach and attend school in Peñasco today!



Spirit Week at Penasco High/Middle School Was a Success

By Alicia Abeyta, Alexuis Romero, Rochelle Lopez, and Alexuis Romero

Everyone loves a good homecoming story, and this story starts in a little town called Penasco, where we have the mightiest Panther spirit. Penasco students all come together to show their pride and support for one important week out of the school year. Spirit week was announced to take place from January 17- 20 with homecoming to follow on the 21st. Students' and teachers' input from past years helped decide the themes for this year's spirit week. Student Council Coordinator Maryam Bordbari states, "So initially we did the whole homecoming all together. We planned the pep rally, we planned the dance, we planned the bonfire; basically everything was put together all at once at the same time. We started planning on October 26th."

Tuesday was white lie shirt/ anything but a backpack day. Students showed up with shopping carts, suitcases, and wagons. Some white lie shirts consisted of lies such as, "I like people my age," "I can be trusted with sharp objects," and more funny lies about people's lives. On Wednesday, it was pajama day, so students came to school in their pajamas. On Thursday, it was favorite team/ twin day, so there were a lot of students showing up in their favorite sports teams but not many showed up as twins. This day had the most participation compared to the rest. Finally on Friday, students were to dress up as their class colors, 6th grade- Purple, 7th grade- Red, 8th grade- Blue, 9th grade- Yellow, 10th grade- Green, 11th grade- White, and 12th grade- Black. The Homecoming prep rally took place the same day.

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Left: Teachers share a laugh on their favorite team day.

Right: Couples at school match pajamas on pajama day.



Spirit Week continued...

Students were presented with an afternoon full of laughter and games that the student council kindly put together for the middle and high school along with some elementary kids. The pep rally was supposed to take place at La Jicarita Gym, but due to other activities going on at the time, it took place at the middle school gym. Some students said that it was better in the smaller gym because we don't have many students, while others suggested that they enjoy the bigger gym better because we do more activities. There was still a full day of school until 2:00 pm. The pep rally started at 2:00 pm, ending at 3:45 pm, lasting longer than expected.

It started off with Sierra Atencio and Rochelle Lopez singing the school song along with the high and middle school students. The crowd was getting hyped thanks to Ms. Mercella Cordova for getting them to stand up and get that school spirit. Many classes paraded around with their class floats and chanted their class cheers at the top of their lungs. Many games were played to test your coordination, strength, speed, and even shooting form such as: musical chairs, tug of war which the sophomores so won, and lastly an intense game of knock out where sophomore Alyssa Atencio barely clutched up and knocked out senior Elias Archibeque for the win.

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Left: Princess Cheyenne Martinez and Queen Sylvia Brown pose after being crowned.

Right: The junior class talks strategy before the tug of war competition.



Spirit Week continued...

Saturday was an intense day as the boys JV and varsity basketball team played the McCurdy Bobcats. The JV Penasco boys came in with an interesting win after holding the lead all game up until fourth quarter, losing the lead and making the last couple of minutes nerve wrecking. Penasco varsity boys outscored the McCurdy Bobcats for the first half with them scoring 31 and the Bobcats scoring 27. Half time for the varsity game was one for the books for many students that attend Penasco: the homecoming court winners were announced for Duke and Dutchess, Prince and Princess, and King and Queen. The duke and dutchess winners were Alicia Abeyta and Shia Romero. The prince and princess winners were Cheyenne Martinez and Anthony Naranjo, and the king and queen of 2023's homecoming was Sylvia Brown and Louis McIntosh. After the halftime coronation, the Panthers ended up falling short in the second half scoring only 21 points while the Bobcats scored 34, making the final score 61-52 and giving the Bobcats one more win.

The Homecoming dance took place once the game ended. Couples started to slowly show up around 8:30. Here students were able to take photos, eat pizza, and dance the night away. At the entrance they were given masquerade masks to go with the theme.

Student Council sponsor Maryam Bordbari, shared that homecoming went well. "With the time that we had, I think it went great," Bordbari claims. Although it got really overwhelming, Ms. Bordbari said she was very fortunate to have a lot of support and many people who helped contribute to this event. It was nice to see everyone so excited about homecoming and spirit week; Bordbari wants to build up on it every year.



Environthon Update

By Enrique Gonzales

In Envirothon, there is not a lot happening at the moment. Members have not been able to practice as of late because of the weather conditions. Practice days are Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:30, and we will be starting Sunday practices next Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00. Districts should be coming up soon; however there is not a date as of yet. The fish for Ms. Cordova's classroom, which Envirothon members will release in the spring, should be here next week.

Envirothon has been a good after school activity that has been at the school for quite a while. Some parts of Envirothon are the different subjects that you can choose and study. There are 5 subjects that you can choose from: Forestry, Aquatics, Soils, Wildlife, and Special Topic. A big part of Envirothon is public speaking; there are 3 teams in total that we can have in these competitions (A team, B team, C team), but as of now there's only one and a half teams. Cordova and the team would like more people to join this competition because it is a fun extracurricular activity for everyone.

When asked about what we should focus on the most at the moment in practice Ms. Cordova said, "The teams need to focus on public speaking at the moment." The goal for the teams this year, according to Cordova, is "to beat the team's scores from last year" and she is confident that this will happen thanks to the A team having more experience. While team member Jayleni Medina hopes the team will at least get 3rd place at state, Alicia Abeyta agrees with Cordova and says the team "knows what to expect and how each other works."

When asked about how competitions will go Alicia Abeyta said, "I feel

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A banner showcasing last year's Envirothon accomplishments hangs proudly outside of Ms. Cordova's classroom.



Environthon continued...

somewhat confident because there are 3 people who competed in the past, but at the same time we have had people missing, and we need to catch them up with everything." In practice, there is never a dull moment. When asked about her favorite thing about Envirothon, Alicia said "My favorite thing is finally having a team and having fun at practice." Overall, the Envirothon team has confidence for state and other competitions this year.

Sipapu Ski/Snowboard Trip

By Rochelle Lopez and Daylieen Abeyta

On January 20, 2023, the Peñasco Elementary students had an opportunity to attend a trip to the Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort. The trip was completely free for the students, and a discount was provided for any parent/guardian that wanted to chaperone. A permission slip was issued in order to go; there was a paper and an online option. They had a choice to either choose to ski or snowboard for the entirety of the day. Lessons were included throughout the day, and everyone had lots of fun.

Students with their own gear/passes were encouraged to bring them. The students had to be at school the previous day and they had to have zero F's and D's. There were also behavioral checks for each student to ensure that they were eligible to go on the trip. If the students didn't meet these requirements, they unfortunately weren't able to attend.

On February 17th, 2023 (Friday), MS/HS students will be going on a ski/snowboard trip to the Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort. The same requirements that the elementary school had will apply to the MS/HS. It turned out to be a success for the elementary school and the plan is to do the same for the MS/HS. These trips happened all the time many years ago, and hopefully they come back to our school district!





Mr. Sanchez Memorial

By Madsion Rael, Savannah Browne, and Sylvia Brown

At this moment everyone knows about the sad passing of Thomas Sanchez. He passed away suddenly on December 16th, 2022. His rosary was held on December 27th, 2022, and his funeral mass was on December 28th, 2022.

He worked for the Socorro School District, East Las Vegas, West Las Vegas, and Penasco Schools as a teacher, mentor, and administrator. He had a big heart and loved being in the classroom. He was also a football coach for Mateo and the Havoc football team. He loved music and had a lot of talent. He would brighten the classroom by playing guitar and singing during class. When he was 14 he flew to Nashville to record his first country demo.

Through all this he loved his family so much. He would talk about his love for his daughter Izabela. He was so proud of all her achievements. He talked so highly of her. Overall he was such an amazing dad. He would even bring her to class some times.

He was a very loved and bright man. Sylvia Brown, Madison Rael, and Savannah Browne interviewed some people who said some kind words about him. Mr. Trujillo talked about how he will always remember them going for wood and to games. Ms. Cordova said, "He was a funny, funny guy" and said, "He was a really cool guy to talk to." Coach AP said, "He was easy to get along with and a nice guy all around". Sylvia Brown said, "He always believed in me and told me I need to be confident with myself." Madison Rael said, "I didn't believe it happened." This is such a sad loss that affected everyone at our school. He will be missed and is loved.



**Ms. Montoya and the
AVID Team**

*"Thank you for the
support you provide as
implement new
strategies"*

**-Mrs. Gonzales, Elementary
Principal**



Mr. Noll and Peñasco students

*"Thank you for putting together
our Ski Trip and to our students for
representing our Elementary
school with Panther Pride."*

**-Mrs. Gonzales, Elementary
Principal**



Mr. John Denne

*"A big Thank You to Mr. John Denne who puts
a great amount of his own time and effort
into capturing pictures of our students in
Penasco. He contributes his works to
newspaper outlets and MaxPreps. Mr. John
Denne can be seen on the sidelines with his
camera at home and away athletics events
waiting to capture the perfect action shot.
Penasco appreciates you!"*

**-Coach Mandy Montoya, Athletic Coordinator
and Girls Basketball Coach**



Homecoming Week Shout Outs



Picuris Forestry Department and Peñasco Fire Department

*"Thank you for setting up the
bonfire for us and for being
present during the bonfire"*

-Ms. Maryam Bordbari, MS/HS
Community Schools Coordinator



Taos County Sheriff's Department

*"Thank you for helping out at the
Homecoming Dance!"*

-Ms. Maryam Bordbari, MS/HS
Community Schools Coordinator



Student Council

*"Thank you to a group of six
graders for putting in the
extra effort to make
homecoming week happen-
Jerome Romero, Patrick
Martinez, Michael Segura,
Rhannon Trujillo, Esperanza
Martinez, Persaus Aguilar,
Alyssa Rodriguez and
Nevaeh Garcia."*

-Ms. Maryam Bordbari, MS/HS
Community Schools
Coordinator



Share The Warmth

WINTER COATS NEEDED

Please help students in need by donating new or gently used winter coats. We are in need of both middle school (ages 11-13) girls and boys sizes.

**BOOTS, GLOVES , SCARVES
& NEW BLANKETS ALSO
WELCOMED!**



**Drop-Off
Location**

Middle/High
School Office

**For Additional
Information**

**(575) 587-2502
Ext. 3009**

Maryam Bordbari

We appreciate your support!





Peñasco High School Song

Hit 'em high, hit 'em low,
Come on, Panthers, go, go, go!
That's the spirit to meet the foe!
Get that ball. Keep it tight.
That's the way we wanna fight,
For the good 'ol Peñasco High.
So come on great team,
Let's show 'em how we win.
Shout out your colors loud and clear,
Blue and Gold!
For it's high, high ho
And on the court we go,
For the good 'ol Peñasco High!
Go Panthers!



Certified Positions

Find the certified position application here:

<https://www.penascoisd.com/page/certified-employment-application>

- Secondary Math Teacher
- Secondary Spanish Teacher
- Social Worker

Non-Certified Positions

Find the non-certified position application here:

<https://www.penascoisd.com/page/non-certified-application>

- Activity Bus Driver/Substitute Bus Driver
 - CDL/School Bus Endorsement costs will be paid with a 3-year commitment agreement.
- SFA Reading Tutor
- After-School Counselor (MS/HS)
- STEM/Robotics Afterschool Activity Leader
- PT .25 FTE Welding/CTE Teacher
- Drill Team Coach
- Substitute Cooks
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Custodians
- Substitute Bus Drivers

For questions, email Amy Garcia at agarcia@penascoisd.com.