

BUENA VISTA NEWSLETTER

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY 2009



L-R: Julian, Trinity, Owen, Isabela, Love, Sisario, No'suun and Nicolas.

happy
NEW
Year!



Rhonda Morningstar Pope,
Tribal Chairwoman



Our staff and committees ensure an exciting new year

I want to wish everyone a very happy New Year! It seems like 2008 flew by. I can remember when we opened the doors of our school and the children were so shy and small. Now you look at them and they have grown so quickly and have developed in so many ways. The goal of our school has become a reality! The wonderful things I had imagined have come true with our children. They have had 2 performances this year, one at our Fall Festival Elders Dinner and the Christmas Party. We have been blessed with visitors to our school to share in stories, beading, singing and so many other beautiful things. The children know how to drum, use clapper sticks and flutes. We have a number of other instruments in the school that the children have learned about.

The children's performance at our Christmas Party was wonderful. They had so much confidence and sang their little hearts out! Keep

your eyes open to see what performances our children will have this year.

We have a very informative newsletter every month for our parents and community members. I would like to thank Pati for her great and creative ideas for our newsletter! It is so exciting to see the monthly activities and watch each issue how the children develop!

Our Cultural Advisory Committee has flourished into strong cultural foundation for teaching our children. A special thank you to our committee members for their time and dedication to our school!

Last but definitely not least, a huge thank you to our beautiful teachers Ms. Amber and Director Ms. Gloria. Our school is blessed not only with precious children, but with these two lovely, dedicated individuals who are entrusted with our children's education. The new upcoming year will only surpass 2008 with exciting new adventures.

Director's Corner



Gloria Torres
Child Development Director

"We are going to develop and implement a cultural calendar... to honor a tribe of one of the children."



Happy New Year!

Amber and I would like to thank you all for the beautiful gifts that the children received for Christmas. We would also like to thank the administration office for the generous individual gifts that each child received. We would like to thank the parents for bringing the children for the performance on December 18th. Our children truly enjoyed performing for our community.

Education Update: We have continued working on the alphabet, numbers, days of the week, and teaching the colors to the children. We are very happy to say that we have completed the assessments and that the parents were very pleased to receive them. The second assessments will come in the next four to five months and parents will be updated as they are completed. The children have learned the following letters of the alphabet for December: B, C, D, and E and we will continue the alphabet. We would like to share our priority for 2009 and seek any technical assistance that you might offer to share.

Our priority for 2009 will be the following. We are going to develop and implement a cultural calendar for Buena Vista CDC so that every other month is dedicated to honor a tribe of one of the children. Our regular curriculum will continue, but for that entire month all the cultural curriculum is dedicated to honoring that specific tribe. The school would be decorated with baskets, regalia, pictures, models of ancestral homes, and also the animals and birds specific to that tribe. The cultural activities will include:

- Tribal song sung at circle time

- Poem taught to children in native language
- Guests to BVCDC to sing a song, give a blessing, tell a story, dance, art activity, or to just visit

· Tribal Stories, Drama, and Puppet Shows

- Tribal Foods
- Hand Games
- Art Activities
- Count to 10 in native language
- Learning everyday words in native language (boy, girl, thank you, welcome, hello, goodbye, etc.)
- Gardening/Plants specific to that tribe
- Field Trips

We will be seeking additional activities from our cultural advisory committee that meets each month as well as seeking volunteers from the parents, family, and local community.

Be sure to get your child's Library Card

Don't forget about the BVCDC Library System. You can check out books for your children or for yourself. We have many beautiful cultural books for preschoolers, resource books for parents, and so many books that you would really enjoy reading with your little ones. We also have a list of the books so you can find books pertaining to a specific age group, region, or tribe. Just ask Gloria or Amber to get your BVCDC Library Card and look through our wonderful books today!

The Buena Vista Rancheria Children's Christmas Party was definitely a hit! Over 800 people enjoyed the event and every child received a Christmas stocking. The Elks Lodge was filled with conversation and laughter as the children took their picture with Santa Clause. Yes, Santa Clause always makes his appearance at Children's Christmas Party and finds out who's been naughty or nice. The children from the Buena Vista Child Develop-

From the desk of Paul Tupaz

ment Center really enjoyed being the center of attention and sang for everyone. Tyenimba the clown entertained children with his performance and making balloon animals for the children. Jasper Begay, representing California Highway Patrol, participated in the bicycle raffle. A special thanks to the

volunteers, staff, and sponsors for such a eventful evening. As a first time participant of the Children's Christmas Party, I was impressed by the detail and care involved with the planning and hosting by the staff and volunteers. Many families expressed their gratitude as they made their way through the sign in line and picked up their raffle tickets. The expressions on the faces of children, parents, grandparents, and community members was priceless.

Our Gift to Others for Christmas



BUENA VISTA RANCHERIA CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 18, 2008

More photos can be viewed at www.buenavistatribe.com

CAC Cultural Advisory Committee

BUENA VISTA CHILD DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Member Profile

Susan Jim, Yurok Tribe

Written by Susan Jim

Susan Jim was born on the Hoopa Reservation and raised down river (DRI), but is a Yurok Tribal Member. There were no phones or electricity while growing up and still none to this day. We used candles and kerosene lanterns for light. Susan can remember when their family received their first inside bedroom facility, and how little things could change a person's life. She can remember going blackberry and huckleberry picking with her grandmother. She would learn to sing traditional songs while out gathering medicine, food, or basket material, and why as a little girl she must stay behind her elder, for protection from rattlesnakes. Susan's family lived off the land by planting huge gardens every year. Our family canned or dried all our food, so we would have food all winter long. The men in the family would all fish and hunt; the traditional ways by setting gill nets for fish, eel baskets for eels, and bow hunting for deer meat. Once they gathered all their deer meat and salmon for the winter & stripped it for the smokehouse. The hoofs, antlers, and outer skins were used for the drums, tools, rattles for ceremonial dancing and medicines.

Everyone had their own out house and smoke house; they used it to make smoked salmon and jerky. Alder wood that had rotten eel would be used in smoke houses for better burning & smoking. When they needed staples that the land did not provide, such as flour and salt, they would take a full day to go out of town to bigger stores to get supplies once a month.

All the birds such as eagles, blue jays and flickers feathers was used as well as animal hides used to make regalia for ceremonies. The main ceremonial dances were brush dances, 4 day child healing, 10 day Jump Dance, and white deer skin (10 dances), renewal of the people and healing for families & communities.

Susan and her husband Rocky Sr. raised six (6) children; (3) girls and (3) boys. They have now given her (11) grandchildren and (3) great grandchildren.

Susan considers herself a Ceremonial woman in all ways of life. She also enjoys creating with her hands. Pottery, quilting, stained glass, and various wood workings, all styles of beading and regalia making. She's completed nine years of sun dancing, has danced in Porcupine, S.D., attends her Yurok ceremonies as often as she can and helps where needed. She is a northern traditional dancer at Pow Wow's, and teaches a beading class at SNAHC. She brought back the NDN Elders Group who meet once a month. Susan belongs to the California Indian Basketweavers Association and sits on the board for CIBA. A woman's sweat lodge leader and a mentor for Daughters of Traditions for the Youth at TANF. She says "I may never be a rich woman, but my wealth is in my family, friends, and precious Elders. That's a wealth beyond measure!"

The Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Buena Vista Child Development Center offers ideas and suggestions to enhance the cultural scope of the Center through hands-on demonstrations and activities for the children. If you are interested in becoming a member of the CAC, call 916-491-0011.



Buena Vista Child Development Center Cultural Advisory Committee



The Buena Vista Child Development Center Newsletter is now available on line at www.buenavistatribe.com



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