

AS THE EAGLES FLY



Taos Day School  
Literacy Magazine: 2025  
**5th Edition**



# OUR ELDERS OUR HEROES







## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

Taos Day School  
200 Rotten Tree Rd  
P.O. Box 1850  
Taos, New Mexico 87571-1850

May, 2025

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Taos Day School Literacy Magazine. This year's theme is, "Our Elders, Our Heroes Students have selected a writing theme where they will develop essays, poems, and stories, embracing this year's literary theme, and share their stories through different writing genres and original artwork, as well as family photos

The art of writing is not a simple task. It includes both technical and structured writing skills. It includes the tapping into the creative, (divergent), talents of each and every student. Taos Day School students in grades Kindergarten thru Eighth grade have shared their work with you in hopes that the works will bring a sense of pride and joy as you read and reflect on the many sentiments that our students have shared.. Student artwork in each issue compliments student writings and are encouraged.

We would like to thank Ms. Paula Martinez-Mascarenes for her dedication to our Taos Day School Literacy Project. She has worked diligently to assure that the current layout and publication matches the quality of written and visual work that is presented in the magazine. We would like to thank the Bureau of Indian Education Title IV Student Support Funding for believing and financially supporting our project through their grant process.

We would like to praise the continuous work, editing, and redesign of creative work that the students utilize to bring you their writings and artwork, that you and your family can cherish.

Most of all without the teachers of Taos Day School guiding the students and discussing this year's theme, this magazine would not be possible. Teachers and Staff, encourage students at all levels to persevere with their writings and artwork, and empower students to publish their work for dissemination throughout the Taos Pueblo Community and beyond!

And to the Community of Taos Pueblo, this issue of the Taos Day School Literacy Magazine is dedicated to all Community Elders of Taos Pueblo.

We hope that you enjoy the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Taos Day School Literacy Magazine.

Respectfully,

Andrew Haimowitz  
Principal  
Taos Day School



# Table of Contents

04

## **Kindergarten**

Mrs Valerie Suazo

08

## **First Grade**

Mrs Nola Miller

12

## **Second Grade**

Mr Leroy Martinez

16

## **Third and Fourth Grade**

Mr Roman Cisneros

21

## **Fifth and Sixth Grade**

Ms. Jacqueline Graham

24

## **Seventh and Eighth Grade**

Mrs Clareen Espinoza

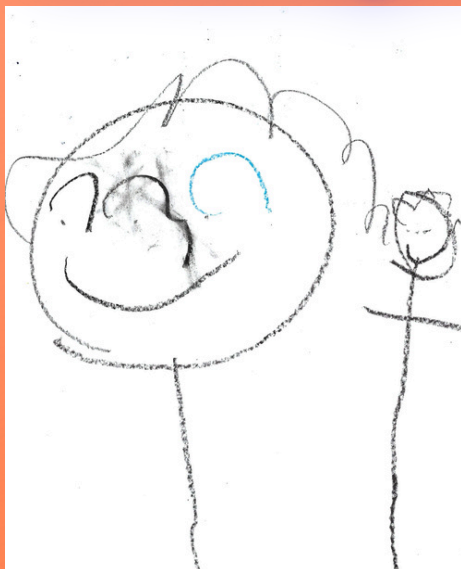


# Welcome to Kindergarten My Hero

My hero is my  
Grandpa and  
Sisters. "They keep me  
safe. They buy  
me toys and  
healthy food."



## Grandpa



# SISTERS

LOVE

&

HUGS

My hero is

my mom. "She makes  
me happy."

Family



## Mom

My hero is My  
mom. "She plays  
with me and  
gives me  
hugs."



My hero is  
my Grandpa  
and Sisters

# K



My hero is my  
mom. "She gives me  
medicine when I'm  
sick."  
Lehdad



My hero is my  
dad. "He gonna be a  
firefighter, I love  
him."  
Zavran



## KINDERGARTEN RULES!

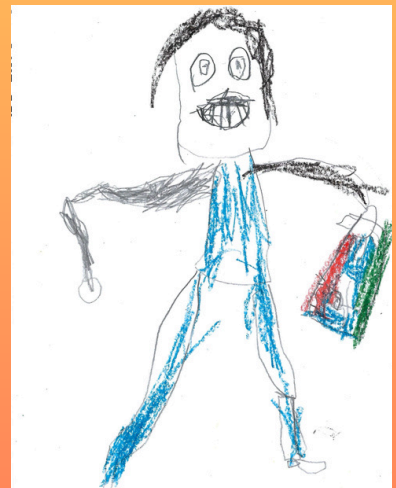
My hero is my  
dad. "He takes care of me."  
Melika



Mom

Dad

My hero is  
dad. "When I want something  
he gets it for me."  
Jerrk





# KINDERGARTEN



hugs



My hero is my  
Grandpa.  
Valentino

"He takes me to the horses,  
I help him feed them."



My hero is my  
mom and sisters.

Zaya "They help me and  
give me hugs."

My hero is my  
dad and mom.  
Sophia

"My dad cooks for me, he makes me  
pancakes with hearts. Mom takes  
me to McDonalds."



HERO

My hero is my  
brother.  
Lia

"My brother  
protects me."







My hero is  
my dad: "My daddy  
gives me  
kisses and  
gives me  
monkey back  
rides everyday."

hugs & kisses

My hero is my  
mom. zephahie

"When I get hurt, she gives  
me kisses."



# KINDERGARTEN

My hero is my

mom.

K o l e b

"Her play with me  
outside and her  
make me noodles."



# WELCOME 1ST GRADE



First Grade writings are based on the book Sweetest Kulu. The book highlights Inuktitut traditional beliefs. When a baby is born all the animals bring a gift to celebrate Kulu's life. I asked first grade students to think about what family member has given them a gift. We wrote about the special gift and why that person is like their hero. I wanted to help my student's see that heroes can be people who are in our lives and that we need to be thankful for the gifts they give to us every day.

Mrs Nola Miller



My dad is a Polar Bear. He is strong, and grateful for me. He gives me the gift of joy and happiness in my life. He gives me laughter and my mom does too. He is my hero.

Austin Cohran

6 years old

First Grade



My Grandma Esther is like a beautiful deer. She gives me the gift of being strong. She makes me food. She loves me. She shows me how to be outside. She is my hero.

Royce Winters

6 years old

First Grad

## 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE



My grandma is like a bunny. She gives me the gift of love and kindness. She makes me food and shows me how to be helpful. She is my hero.

Lillian Concha

7 years old

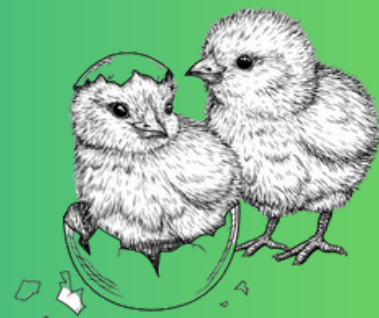
First Grade

My sister is like a baby chick. She gives me the gift of love. She hugs me. Whenever I am scared, she stays with me until I am feeling better. She is my kind heart. She is my hero.

Kinoah Smith

7 years old.

First Grade



My dad is like an eagle. We are from the eagle clan. He gives me the gift of strength. He tells me to be strong. He gives me the gift of love and so does my mom. He is my hero.



Ella Halleck  
6 years old First Grade

**I  
S  
T**

**F  
I  
R  
S  
T**



My brother is like a bear. He gives the gift of the outside. He shows me how to cut wood, he takes me hiking, and we like going fishing. He also gives me love. He is my hero.

Kian Kopepassah  
6 years old  
First Grade

My grandpa is like bear. He gives me the gift of kindness. He gave me a necklace with a turtle and two arrow heads. He is kind and loves me. He is my hero.

Prince Hise  
6 years old  
First Grade

**G  
R  
A  
D  
E**



My mom is like an eagle. She gives me the gift of love and projection. She loves me because she tells me she loves me even when she is gone somewhere. She projects me by making sure I am safe. Sometimes, I get scared, and she takes care of me. She is my hero.

Axen Hopper  
6 years ago  
First grade





My grandpa Mike is a deer. He is like the deer he hunts. He is smart and strong like the deer. He gives me the gift of love. He gives me lots of hugs. He is my hero.

Aaliyah Martinez

6 years old First Grade

My mom and dad are like bears. They give me the gift of love and care. They play with me, and they have fun with me. They watch out for me. They are my heroes.

Caelia

7 years old

First Grade



1st grade



My mom is like a fox. She gives me the gift of caring for me. She always helps me by taking care of me. She helps me get ready for school and loves me. I love her. She is my hero.

Rosslyn Snyder

7 years old

My dad is like an eagle. He is strong and serious. He gives me the gift of not giving up. He tells me to be strong. He gives me love too. He is like the world to me.

River Concha

7 years old First Grade



# WELCOME TO 2ND GRADE



## My Hero

By Henry Sanchez

My sister is my hero. Her name is Holly Sanchez. She helps me do homework and cares for me a lot. She plays with me, and we like to go on the trampoline. It is fun if my dad jumps on the trampoline. She gets me stuff for school. We play Gorilla Tag and we see each other at school. I love my sister a lot.

## My hero

By Tonnar Holgate

My hero is my dad because my dad helps my mom with her leg. He used to check on my mom's leg every day. He ski's and makes hamburgers at the park after summer baseball. He is fun. He takes me to Rio Rancho. He is the boss at the Ski Valley. He's going to the army and he's going to come back when I'm 18. I want to be just like him. I love my dad.



# MY

# HERO

By Zayan Trujillo

## My Hero

My dad is my hero because he takes good care of us. He is going to buy us an Xbox. He likes to watch tv with us. Our favorite show is Sponge Bob. I like to cut wood with him his name is Brandon, and I love him. He calls us every night.







## My Hero

By Sammie A Gomez

My Hero is my Dad. His name is Wyatt. He is a hard worker, and he works in Angelfire. He comes home at 5 and whenever he comes, he gives me a big hug every single time. He is handsome and he is so special. He puts me to sleep by tucking me in and reading a book to me. I enjoy when he sits with me and watches tv. He is always helping others when they need help. I love my dad.



## My Hero

By Mariah Lujan

My brother Skyler is my hero. He helps me build my forts. He also helps me with my homework, and he cooks for me and helps me with my chores. He is mean to me, but he loves my cat named Coconut. He likes video games, but he hates books. He plays cool math games. Sometimes he lets me play. I try to teach him to read but he runs away. I love him.



## My Hero

By Maika Beartrack

My brother Travis is my hero. He takes care of me. We fight a lot, but I know he loves me. He helps me when I fall. He plays with me when we play RoBox, and indoor army. He went into the kiva, and he will do well in learning. His favorite food is from Subway.



## My Hero

By Amber Rose Hise

My dad is my hero because he is very fun. He takes care of me. His name is Terrance. He is interesting because he likes different types of food. He takes care of me and the little ones too. He takes me to the mall, and we work in the pueblo. He takes care of the little ones for me. On the weekends we clean our house. We also go hiking in the mountains and we also go ice skating on the river. He cooks for me and he built a house so we can live in. I love my dad very much.



## My HERO BY HUGO TEDESCO

My mom is my hero because she help me in a lot of different ways. She cooks for me and she pays the bills for the house we live in. She helps me when I'm sick and sometimes she has to go to the store buy me medicine. She takes care of us, she cleans the house, she drives us to school, and she brings us to fun places on vacation. I love my mom. Her name Toma.



## My Hero BY Cecilia Lujan

My Hero is my dad. My dad's name is Tim Lujan he does nice things all the time. He takes me to the mall. My cousin invites my dad and me to go swimming. Sometimes we go hiking up the mountains. He helps me when I am injured. Sometimes he takes me to the candy store. My dad takes me to waterparks. My dad is special to me. I Love you dad.



## My Hero By Emiliana R Martinez

My mom Yvette is my hero. She is my hero because she helps me with my homework and takes good care of me. She always does the dishes and I help her. She takes me to waterparks. She works at Speedway. She is beautiful, and polite. She takes me shopping a lot. She likes to take me to Angelfire.



## My Hero By Isaiah Lucero

My Hero is My Brother. His name is Zaki. He is my hero because he always plays with me, and he is nice to me. His job is working on cars. He also works on his car too. It is fun. He takes good care of me. Sometimes he picks me up and he drops me on my bed. It is fun and I love him. He helps me with my homework. His favorite color is black and white. We watch movies and it is fun he plays basketball with him. We also play catch with a ball. That too, is fun.





### My Hero

By Mila Breceda

My mom is my hero. Her name is Sarah Dent. My mom is my hero because she pays the bills for my house and takes care of me. She drives me to school every day and goes to the store for food for me. I want to be like her. She is the best mother in the world. She cooks for me. She takes me to waterpark. I love my mom!!!



### My Hero

By Asher Winters

My big cousin is my hero. His name is Logan Winters. Sometimes we fight, but we are still friends. We use the game station to play on fortnight. It's fun and we win sometimes and sometimes we lose. We play basketball and we also play soccer in my back yard. One time I almost got hit by a baseball bat, but he blocked it and saved me. On another day I was scraping snow off my roof, but I slip on ice and I almost fell off the roof, he grab me and I did not fall off. He is the best big cousin ever.

### My Hero

By Avery Montoya

My Hero is my mom, and her name is Clarissa Romero. She helps do the dishes. She goes to the store. She likes to go outside. We like to go swimming and walking. We like to go to my grandpa's house. She works at Speedway. She is nice. She is very funny. She likes to sleep. Her birthday is coming up in March. I love her.



### My Hero

By Cruzito Escobar

**My Mom is my hero. Her name is Jade Gomez. My Mom can do a lot. My mom works at Monte Sagrado and she cooks for us every day. She buys us clothes and when we need them. She gets us toys sometimes when we have extra money. I love my mom!**



# WELCOME TO 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MY ELDERS

## My Elders

My name is Nicolaus Munoz. My family is from Taos. I come from a big family that helps each other all the time. My dad helps me clean the truck in the evening. When I get sick my grandma gives me medicine all the time.

There are a lot of wonderful people in my family, but I really admire my mom the most. My mom always thinks of me, and she sometimes buys me toys. My mom is the best at helping me get better after I have gotten sick.

My mom is a helpful person. She helps others and the whole family. My mom is nice to everyone in my family and other people to. My mom is strong and helps my dad move big boxes. I want to be nice to other people like my mom. I want to be helpful like my mom. I want to be strong like my mom. She is the best.

By, Nico Munoz



## My Mom Cristal

My name is Lyla Sarten. My family is from Taos. My family is very helpful. My grandma sent us food when we need it. My bother helps my mom and I keep things clean in our house.

I love a lot of my family, but I really admire my mom because she can make good soup. When I'm sad she gives me nice hugs. The reason I love her the most is because when I need her for anything she is always there.

And when I grow up, I want to be just like my mom. She is good helper and smart. She's also kind. She babysits her friends' kids. I hope that I can be like her when I get older.

By, Lyla Sarten



## My Elders

My name is Moonlight Suazo. My family is from Taos Pueblo and Jemez Pueblo. I come from a medium size family. My family is strict but also nice. My family likes to give people food when they don't have any. My family is also kind because they help clean the house when my grandma and I are at the pueblo.

When my great grandma was still alive my grandma Georgia and my great grandma Vivien would go to the pueblo and sell jewelry. After that they would go home and make dinner. Then they would clean the house. After they were done doing that they would take a shower and watch T.V.

The reason why I love my great grandma is because she was loving. She used to pay all the bills so we can have running water and electricity and warmth. That's why I love her.

I want to be like my great grandma Vivien because she was loving she use to make my grandma Georgia breakfast and dinner every day. I also want to be helpful like her to. When she was still alive, she used to help homeless people by giving them food or blankets. My great grandma was strong too. The reason why she was strong is because she worked at the pueblo. On her days off she would go to the store and get groceries. I want to be like her when I'm older.

BY, Moonlight Suazo







## UNCLE

My Elders

My name is Venah Diferdinando. My family is pretty small. They are good at taking care of animals. My dad helps me with my chores. My mom makes sure that I have lots of fun experiences. My family is really nice to everyone.

There are a lot of good people in my family, but I really look up to my sister Namane. She is a great snowboarder. She is the best because when I am sick, she takes care of me. She is also really good at her job.

My sister is strong. She is also very loving. My sister is a very honest person. I want to be like my sister because she is strong, honest, and loving.

By, Venah Diferdinando



Photo courtesy of student / family

## My Great Grandma Junita

My Elders

My name is Percy Lujan. My family is from Taos Pueblo. I'm from a big family. In my family we always help one another. My mom cooks for me. My dad helps clean the living room.

There are a ton of people in my family, but I'd like to honor my great grandpa Mike the most. He keeps our family strong because we meet at his house for the holidays. He is also very kind. He is brave because he fought in World War two.

I want to be strong like my dad. I also want to be brave like my great grandpa was during the war. I want to be kind like my mom as well. My family is pretty great.

By, Percy Okanee Lujan

My Elders

My name is Skyler Lujan. My family is from Taos Pueblo. I come from a big family. My family is very good to each other. My mom cooks for me when I am sick. My dad brings in firewood so we can all stay warm.

My family is full of good people, but my uncle Alden is great. He takes me hiking so I don't get bored. He also takes me to go get good food from good places. Uncle Alden sometimes takes me to the park so I can ride my bike. He is always happy to see me and my sister.

My uncle Alden is nice, and I want to be like him when I grow up. He's always happy and I hope to be like that too. He is strong and I want to be strong like him. My uncle is the best.

By, Skyler Lujan.



My Elders

My name is David Winters. I am from a very big family. My family is a good family. We all go to Sunday church in the morning. My family is good at helping each other. My grandpa helps me when I need help with math homework.

There are a lot of people in my family, but I really admire my great grandma Junita the most. My grandma Junita helps everyone by cooking food for my family and by celebrating holidays with us. She also shares her snacks when I'm hungry. My great grandma is a good dancer at pow-wows and was born at Taos Pueblo. She is 90 years old.

My grandma is a great person. I want to be kind like my grandma Junita. I want to be polite like her. I want to be helpful like her. She is also a very strong person. If I am kind, polite, helpful, and strong when I grow up, I know I will be a good person.

By, David Winters



## My Elders

## 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

## MOM

## DAD

## SISTER

## FAMILY

## Best Grandma EVER

## BEST GREAT GRANDPA EVER



# 3<sup>RD</sup>



## My Elders

My name is Aliyana Gonzales. I love my whole family. The people of my family are good, and we help each other. My mom makes good food for all of us. My grandma Carla makes the best pizza and I love her a lot.

All of my family members are good people, but I really admire my dad. My dad cooks breakfast for me. He also goes hunting to bring our family healthy food to eat. My dad also works hard to make sure we have enough money. I love him for all of the things he does for us.

I hope that I can be like my dad in a few different ways when I grow up. I want to be kind to others just like he is. I want to be honest because he is honest. I hope that I am strong just like my dad. My family shows me how to be a good person everyday and I hope I can make them as proud as they make me.

By, Aliyana Gonzales

## My Elders

My name is Kayo Hise and I have a big family my dad's side my family is big helps each other all the time. When I go to school my mom fixes my bed, so I don't have to. My dad gets me and my siblings dinner every night.

My grandpa Philip is kind. My grandpa is very strong in his faith. He goes to church every Sunday. My grandpa is strong he wants to go hunting but he can't because he might get hurt.

My grandpa fought in World War 2. I love my grandpa because he is kind to me every day. I want to be kind like my grandpa. I want to be strong like my grandpa. I want to be strong in faith like my grandpa. He is a wonderful man.

By, Kayo Hise



**KIND  
HONEST  
STRONG**



*faith*

## My Elders

My name is Zaki Chacon. I am from a big family. My family is very nice to me and my little sister. My mom Jade helps me do my homework before a test. My dad Frank plays soccer with me when I need practice.

One of the people I admire the most in my family is my grandpa. My grandpa Albino fought in a war. My grandpa Albino was a very nice to me, my mom, my dad, and my big sister. He always helped me when I needed help. One reason why I love him is because he was brave to go to World War 2.

My grandpa Albino fought in World War 2. My grandpa Albino was always nice to me when I go to his house on weekends. He always danced with me when I was little. He was nice to me when I came over. My grandpa Albino uses to do pushups and they made him strong. I still want to be as strong, kind, and as brave as he was. He was a great man.

By, Zaki Chacon



## My Elders

My name is Travis Beartrack. I come from a big family. My family is great. I will tell you about my family. My mom helps me to learn about my family and our culture. My dad helps me with my homework.

I want to tell you about my grandma Crucita because a really admire her. My grandma feeds me when I am hungry. My grandma helps me go to sleep when I'm having trouble. Grandma Crucita helps my mom too, whenever we need her. I love my grandma because she makes the best food.

I want to be like my grandma because she is kind. She feeds my family. I like my grandma because she always helps my family. My grandma is strong because her knee hurts her every day, but she doesn't let that stop her. I love my grandma Crucita and I want to be kind, loving, and strong like her one day.

By, Travis Beartrack

# 4<sup>TH</sup>





### My Elders

My name is Riley Horne. My family is from Alaska. My dad and mom come from Alaska. I love my family because they always help me. My mom always helps me finish my chores. My dad used to help me cook.

I admire my grandma Toby because she is the best cook in the family. My grandma makes good food for us like tamales and tortillas. My grandma always shares whatever she has with me.

I want to be like my grandma Toby because she is a great cook. I also want to be like my grandma because she is very loving. I hope that I can be just as kind as my grandma is when I grow up.

By, Riley Phillip Horne

### My Elders

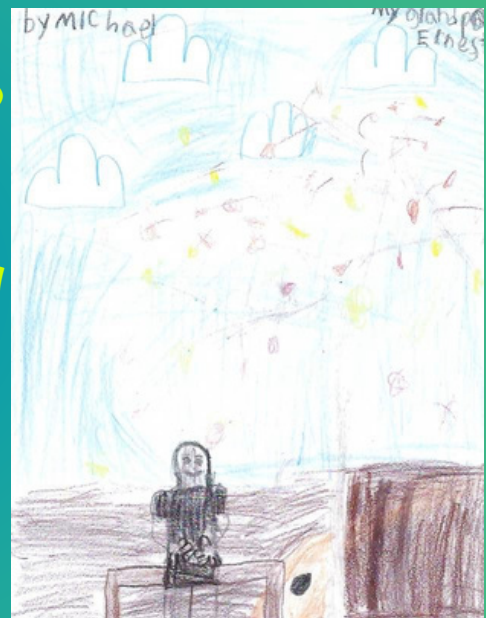
My name is Michael Cortez. My family is from Taos Pueblo. I come from a big family who is nice and kind to me. My mom cooks for us so we don't starve. My dad helps me when I get hurt.

There are a lot of good people in my family, but I really admire my grandpa Ernest. My grandpa help's my family stay together. He help's my family stay warm in the winter. My grandpa help's people who are poor because he gives them money.

When I grow up, I want to be nice like my grandpa. I want to be strong like him too. My grandpa is always helpful because he is a great man. I hope that I can be like him when I'm older.

By, Micheal Cortez

3RD  
&  
4TH  
GRADE



### My Elders

My name is Holly Sanchez my family is frum Taos Pueblo. I have a wonderful family with three young brothers. I also have wonderful mom dad and grandma. My mom tries to take me to the doctor when I am sick. My dad tries to help me when I am sick. My dad tries to get me to school on time in the morning.

My grandma Merlinda is amazing. She goes to every one of my basketball games. My Grandma always supports me, and she always bring snacks. My grandma helps other people too. All of my family members love my grandma. I love my grandma so much because she spoils me, and she is so kind to me.

I want to be kind like my grandma. I want to be strong like my grandma. I want to be helpful like my grandma. I know that if I am kind, strong, and helpful I will make my family proud like my grandma Merlinda makes us proud.

By, Holly Sanchez





# 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## My Elders

My name is Davina Garcia. My family is from Taos. I come from a big family they are very polite. When my family gets something from someone, they always say thank you. Even when I don't like what I get, I'm still thankful.

I have always admired my grandma. She always helps people when they get hurt. My grandma used to cook on feast days. She used to help me with homework. I miss her every day.

There are a lot of great people in my family, but I admire my grandma Grams the most because she was kind. I hope when I grow up, I am as calm as she always seemed. Grandma Grams showed me how I want to be when I grow up.

By, Davina Garcia



## My Elders

Hi, my name is Taliah Martinez. My family is from Taos Pueblo. My family is always ready to help. My grandma helps bake food for events. My aunties bake too.

My mom is the one I admire the most in my family. When we're hungry she cooks amazing food for us. When someone gets sick, she makes them feel better. When I'm sick, she gives me medicine to feel better. She also cleans up for feast days and for every feast she cooks too.

My mom is loving to our whole family. She is also very kind to everyone she knows. My mom is also helpful and hard working because she learned that from my grandma. I want to be helpful, kind, and loving just like my mom. I love her so much, she the best mom ever.

By, Taliah Martinez



## My Elders

My name is Chaske Lujan. My family comes from Taos Pueblo. I come from a family that has lived in Taos Pueblo for many generations, we always try to help each other when we can. Whenever my bike gets flat my dad always pumps it back up. Whenever I am hungry my mom always makes me noodles.

I admire my grandma Crucita the most because she never leaves anybody out. My grandma always took care of grandpa. She has a hurt knee, and she doesn't complain that it hurts. She makes the best fry bread in our family, and she takes care of my baby nephew. I think she is a great woman.

I wrote about my grandma Crucita because she is very brave. I also think that she is the best cook anywhere. I want to be like her because she is a great person.

By, Chaske Lujan



## My Elders

My name is Aria Gala. My family is from Taos Pueblo. I come from a small family. My family helps me a lot. When I get sick my mom helps me feel better. When I break something my dad he fixes it.

One of the best people in my family is my auntie, Sativa. She sometimes takes me to Santa Fe. When we are there, she take me to fun places to play. She also takes me to eat at cool restaurants. I love to spend time with her.

My aunt Sativa is kind, fun, and strong. I love her as much as I love my mom and dad. She is the best in the world. I want to be like her. I want to be strong, fun, kind, cool and brave just like she is.

By, Aria Gala



# My Elders



# Welcome to 5th & 6th Grade

## Yuno Miles

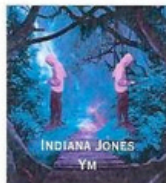
By Alessandro Billie

I like rap music because of the story line behind the music. Rap is my favorite genre of music that I like to listen to. My favorite rapper is Yuno Miles. He has inspired me to hopefully become a rapper like him. Yuno Miles is one of the most influential rappers of our time and is even featured in a Kanye West song. Some people call him the G.O.A.T, the Alpha, the Myth, the Legend, or the Sigma.

During his childhood and into his early adult years, Yuno Miles wanted to be an actor. He wanted a career at Nickelodeon. He thought he got offered roles in some shows through Nickelodeon, but he soon found out that they were fake offers. It was not Nickelodeon. It was all just a scam. He realized at that point that he needed to become more popular. That is when he decided to become a rapper.

His career started off rough. His mom kicked him out of the house when he made his first song. Some of Yuno Miles' songs were shut down by many companies because of the way his voice sounded, but that did not stop him. Honey Bun, Hong Kong, and Martin Luther King were some of his first songs in his career. Since then, he has written and produced many more songs. He revolutionized the rapping industry and will be forever known as one of the greatest rappers of all time.

I look up to Yuno Miles. He will do whatever it takes to be successful. His career started off rough, but he kept on trying. That is why he is where he is today and that is why I want to become a rapper just like him. He never gave up and that's why he inspires me.



## My Inspiring Brother

By Atreyu Pino

I am writing about my brother Rick. He is almost 30 and he is a firefighter in Questa, New Mexico. He lives in Questa. My grandma also lives in Questa. My brother lives pretty close to my grandma. Sometimes I go to Questa and hang out with my brother and my grandma.

My brother started being a firefighter 10 years ago. I look up to him and what he does. He is one of the firefighters who puts out the fire by using the hose on the firetruck.

The reason he inspires me is because I think firefighters help nature by putting out fires. I want to be a firefighter because I want to help put out fires and extinguish burning houses to save peoples homes. I also want to drive the fire trucks and use the hose. I also want to put forest fires out. I know that I will have to try their training and see if I can be a firefighter too. I want to save people so they don't die of getting burned or not being able to breathe.

He also likes to hunt during his free time. He is a pretty good hunter. I think hunting is cool. Maybe I could go hunting with him some time. One time he killed a deer and put it on the back of his truck then he drove to our house. He gutted the deer at our house. I hope to become a firefighter and be as great a hunter as my brother.



## Julia Gisella

By Ava Concha

The person that I admire is Julia Gisella. Julia is an artist who draws people. When she is done drawing, they always look great. Her artwork is amazing. I want to learn how to draw like that.

(look up how long she has been doing this, and what inspired her to do this type of art and what other type of art she does)

Julia draws people to look like characters from movies and animals. I want to draw as good as her. I draw flowers and trees. I want to learn how to draw body figures like manikins and people wearing dresses. I want to learn how to create cool charms.

Eventually I want to start a shop to sell my paintings, charms and jewelry in Las Vegas Nevada. Julia has a youtube channel, but I don't want to have a youtube channel. I just want to draw, make pottery, make jewelry and charms. I hope to be as great an artist and be as successful as Julia Gisella.



# ADMIRE

# INSPIRING

## My Thama

By: Caleb Sandy

My Thama name is Andrew Sandy. He is the one who inspires me because he is a hotshot firefighter who travels all over the U.S. He tells me what he sees in the other states in America. He shows me videos of what the area looked like before a fire and what the area looks like after they put the fire out. He makes a lot of money so he can provide things that are important like food, drinks and things for our house.

He is currently a Warchief of Taos Pueblo. That is a big honor to be chosen to be Warchief. Some of his duties include helping around Taos Pueblo and helping with the events that happen in Taos Pueblo. Sometimes he and the other Warchiefs patrol the area of the pueblo to make sure everything is safe.

When I get older I would like to become a Hotshot Firefighter like my Thama because I'll be able to help people or animals in a wildfire. I hope that one day I get chosen to be a Warchief like my Thama. I want to make a lot of money like my Thama so I can provide things that are important for my family.

# PEOPLE



## Cristiano Ronaldo By Cassia Tedesco

One person I look up to is Cristiano Ronaldo because he has really good soccer skills and a unique playing style. He is a really kind person. For example, he sold his trophy and donated the money to kids. The trophy Cristiano sold was his replica of his 2013 ballon d'or with cancer. He has won a lot of trophies.

I also look up to him because of his skills in soccer. From what I have read about him, he is kind to everyone. He is really fit and healthy. He just turned 40 and he is still great. Most players retire by this time. He has a good work out ad. I think that's why he is so healthy. That is why I look up to and want be like Cristiano Ronaldo.

### Grandpa Manuel

By Otis Banteah-Sandy

My grandpa Manuel has been inspiring to me and my brothers. He was respected by everyone he met. The reason why I chose him is because he sadly passed away on May 20, 2024.

My dad really liked him. He helped my dad be the man he is today. He inspired me to be the way I am today. He made tomahawks and bows and sold them. He showed my dad how to make them, and in turn, my dad showed me. This has inspired me to try to make stuff out of wood, rocks, and leather.

My grandpa was a respectful man and was well known. He had three children, my auntie Mere, my auntie Cheryl, and my dad Manuel. My grandpa was fun to be around. I liked to watch him work at his workspace at my grandpa's house. I miss him.

Rest In Peace Manuel Sr Sandy

In Loving Memory of Manuel Paul Sandy Sr.  
Husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather.  
January 12 1948 - May 22 2024



## 5TH & 6TH GRADE

### My DAD

By Samuel Smith

*My dad works at CMS. He is the director of CMS. Some of his duties include helping fix the roads for people to drive on building new buildings for the Taos Pueblo. He puts up new signs for new roads. He tells his employees how to do stuff. When it snows at Taos Pueblo, he and his crew clear the snow off the roads.*

*Some of the projects he has worked on are the new police station and the new library. He also worked on the new road between Spider Rock Road and Little Deer Horn Road. He's also working on building a new road by the clinic.*

*The reason why my dad inspires me is because he helps Taos Pueblo with a lot of things. He helps build roads. That's just all I know for now and he is my dad. He also feeds me, looks after me and most of all he raised me and he still is to this day. He does everything and anything he can for me the Pueblo and his people of Taos Pueblo.*

## Favorite Role Model

My favorite role model is Amelia Earhart. She is known for her courage and determination. She is my favorite role model because she gave women courage to fly. She once said "the most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is tenacity. You can do anything you decide to do with passion." This quote has inspired me

Amelia proved that women could do what men could do by becoming a pilot. She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean in 1922. Amelia and her pilot mysteriously disappeared on July 2, 1937. They were never found. Prior to her disappearance, Amelia was also famous for becoming the first vice president of the National Aeronautic Association.

I became interested in becoming a pilot because you get to see the world. I want to eventually become a pilot like Amelia.



## My Role Model

By Ruth Coriz

My role model is my older sister Penny. She is 18 years old and lives in Albuquerque NM. Penny inspired me to play softball because she has played all her life. She has always been a pitcher. She started in coach pitch and moved on to majors in little league for about 2 years. During this time she pitched and worked hard to get better.

Penny tore her knee when she was about 12 or 13 during a game. She had to take a break from softball. When she got better, Covid hit and everything closed down. After some time things started opening up again. She started playing with Taos high school. She played until her senior year.

During her freshman and sophomore year she started on the junior varsity team as a first baseman and a pitcher. She got moved up to varsity for her junior and senior year. All she did was pitch which helped her continue to get better. During her senior year she rolled her ankle at the beginning of the season but she still continued to play softball.

I started to play when she was in little league. I started playing t-ball and started moving up. When I was about 8 or 9 I started in the majors because there were not enough girls to play on a minors team. After that year I got moved down to minors, then next season back to majors where I have been playing for my last year.

Penny has helped me with pitching. She helps me when I need someone to pitch to me so I can catch. She has helped a lot of girls that have been on my team before. Sometimes when she comes home to visit we will go outside and throw to each other or hit off the tee. Penny has been my biggest inspiration since I was just a little kid and when I first started playing softball. I will forever look up to her.

### My Dad Joseph Concha

By Deven Concha

My dad is inspiring to me. He teaches me how not to give up even when things get hard. He also says to try really hard and work hard to get things you want in life. He teaches me these life lessons so I can get a good job and get a lot of money.

My dad has taught me how to fix things like my bike tires and my game systems. He taught me how to jump start a car. He is showing me how to work on the engine of a car. He's also teaching me how to drive at the pow wow grounds so I'll be ready for the drivers license test. He says not to be scared of driving. He has taught me many other things so when he's not here I can fix things. He also says not to be scared of death because it is part of life. He says when somebody in your family passes away, you have to be strong.

My dad plays basketball with me. We play video games like Mario Brothers, Smash Bros Ultimate. We also play NES games, SNS games like Ninja Turtles In Time, Alien and Strike Force. We play some other games too.

My dad is a good provider. He takes care of my baby sisters. He brings in the wood and builds a fire for us to keep us warm at night. He also helps me with my homework if I have some. He cooks for us sometimes. Thank you dad for always being there for me and spending time with me. I hope to be as good a father as my dad is.



## MY FAVORITE ROLE MODEL

By Jade Martinez

I will be writing about a family friend who was also my 5th grade teacher. Her name is Ms Sonya F Romero. She inspired me to become a teacher one day. If I do become a teacher, I want to become the best teacher possible. Ms. Sonya was and still is my favorite teacher.

When I was in her class it was the best school year ever. We had so much fun in her class. She would let us joke around while doing our work. She would randomly get us presents. If we were having a bad day she would take us to the back room and talk with us about what's going on. If we were having a really bad day she would have us take a nap in the back room or sit back there for a while until we were a bit better.

I remember a couple of times when we would joke around. One of the times that I remember the most is when one of my friends was pretending like they didn't know how to count. We all started counting to ten. We were treating him like he was in kindergarten. That was just one of the times that we joked around.

Another fun time was at the end of the year when we had field day. Ms. Sonya was sitting under a tree with Ms. Jen the fourth grade teacher. At one point we all went up to Ms. Sonya and hugged her while we were all wet. I had so much fun that day. She even got us gifts. My gift had a water bottle, some gummy nerd clusters, and a dog vs squirrel plush. That was another one of my favorite days last year.

One of my favorite times was when we were learning about the stars and planets in science. She had us do a project about our zodiac sign. We made a slideshow about our zodiac sign. Then we showed them to the class on the projector. She also had us make a dome about the stars in the night sky. That was one of my favorite lessons that she taught us. Another thing that I liked about her teaching was that she would teach us to be prepared for the grade ahead of us. She taught us ratios and how to write essays. She also taught us how to type an essay like we were in high school.

Now that I am in 6th grade, I don't see her as much. I go visit her from time to time in her class room. She still talks to me and asks me about my day. A lot of her old students visit her from time to time. Even though some of them are already in high school and middle school. That's one thing that I liked about her. I liked how all the kids that she has taught and laughed with still go to see her and ask her things.

That's why I want to be just like my 5th grade teacher, Ms. Sonya F Romero. Ms. Sonya is smart, funny, kind and fun. One day I want to be the best teacher just like her. I was so lucky to have Ms. Sonya as my 5th grade teacher.

My Hero

By: Lucius Munoz

Someone who has been influential and inspiring to me is my father. The reason I chose my father is because he taught me what is right and wrong. He taught me to always do the right thing over the wrong thing, even if it is harder to do.

He is inspiring to me because he told me that when he was a kid he had to teach himself how to cook because he had to take care of his six younger siblings. When he was helping his dad at the barn where they used to live, my grandpa taught my dad how to drive tractors and cars. Though he was a skinny boy he said that he got stronger by carrying various things from place to place while helping his dad.

When he was older he moved to the "hood" in a part of Salinas. He lived in an apartment. When he was in high school, he was a small dude. He said that when he would go to parties he was careful. Apparently some people would try to drug you and do something to you. Back then he said people called him "Hollywood", "Junior", or "Bigwood". I don't know why they called him that, all I know is that they just did.

One day he told me something that happened to him. He said one day when he got out of work, a guy pulled up in front of his house. The reason why was because my dad was wearing a 49ers shirt. The guy probably thought he was in a rival gang. My dad saw a gun on the dude's waist. He said he got pale. He didn't realize it until he went into the house and his dad said his face looked like he just saw a ghost.

In the present, he's a helpful guy and is always helping people in need. That's also a reason why I think he is an influential person. I want to be a person that helps people to the best of my ability. I want to be a great and responsible guy like him and I want to work at a bunch of jobs like he did. Of course not all at the same time. I also want to enroll in the Army like him. He is a hardworking guy and that's why I think of him as my hero.

MY

HERO

BEST  
TEACHER  
EVER

5<sup>th</sup>

&

6<sup>th</sup>

Helpful

My Grandma

By Jazmin Sprague

My grandma's name is Bernadette. She was a head nurse for many years. She retired about 5 years ago. She currently lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She has always encouraged me to be the best that I can. I told her I want to be a flight attendant when I get older. She has always encouraged me to follow my dreams. Even though we don't live close to each other, she says she is only a phone call away.

When my grandma was a nurse she helped people on a daily basis. I really admire that about her. I remember when I was younger, if I was sick, she would lie close to me and she would help me get better. Now that she doesn't live close by and I get sick, she gives me a call on the phone. That always makes me feel better. She tells me what to do to get better. My grandma is always giving me advice on how to stay healthy. She tells me to drink water and eat right.

When I was 7, she moved away to Las Cruces. I still see her once a year and we talk on the phone. She is always there when I need her. The last time I saw her was in Santa Fe. It was about a month ago. We were packing our things to move back to Taos. She had to go to the doctors to check on her heart. She told me and my sisters that when she gets better, she is going to take us to California for vacation.





# WELCOME TO 7<sup>th</sup> And 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE

## My Hero

My Sister

She shines bright through all of this dim light  
She stands tall even though she is the smallest in the fight  
She's smart and funny but can be a dummy  
She is confident and open minded and always has a lot of money

By Aleah Vigil 7th grade

My Hero: My culture Jacob Gomez 7th Grade

M

Y

I love my culture and our unity  
The songs they sing have a beat that's sweet  
Beautiful and amazing is my community  
The drums sound like a heartbeat.

H

E

R

O

My Hero Jimi Hendrix Poem Hunter Concha 7th

Born in 1942, November 27 and Jimi had a difficult childhood.

One might say his young life was like the wildwoods.

At 15 he had first guitar, a Super Ozark.

His talent grew bigger like noah's Ark.

He practiced for 8-12 hours a day.

At 19, the army took him away.





## GRADE

# MY

### My hero is music

Malina Romero 7th

Music is a musical pleasure.

The key reason people listen to music lies in the reward center of the brain; it is a person's best treasure.

Music helps people with stress, relief, and relaxation instrumentally. Music has been a big part of people's lives either struggling physically or mentally.

Dancing to music is a great way to feel free moving your body to music you desired.

The aesthetic pleasure of listening to music is explained by being moved or inspired.

It helps me & you and many people too.



### My Hero: Food

IRA HUCKABY 7th

Food

Delectable exquisite

Cut boil fry

Burger pizza spaghetti steak

Peel steem roast

Heavenly tasty

Lunch

# HERO

### My hero: Katie. C

She is my hero because she helped me with some of the stuff going on at home.

We have been best friends since we were born, we are always together no matter where we roam.

She helped me when I was at my lowest, and I helped her when she was feeling the smallest.

We tell each other everything like with family.

When we are not feeling too cool, or out of town.

Something happened between us, most of it was from rumors or things I'm not going to discuss.

The two of us would always make fun of each other for what we said or did, but we always found a way to make each other laugh like kids.

Aubree Archuleta 7th

### My Hero

My mom

She shines bright even  
through the darkest night.

Wherever she goes there will  
be sun shining bright.

She is there for me when I  
need her the most.

She comes for me to scare off  
the ghost.

By Aurelia Manuelito 7th grade



My Hero: Hockey Winterfox Yepa-Lujan 7th

Seeing the rink the smooth ice.

Wonder who will win is a roll of the dice.

Ready for the game getting ammunition.

Excited for the competition,

My team will put you in submission.



## SPORTS

My Hero : Michael Jordan

Good at basketball but also at baseball.

It took a lot of hours of practice, nothing but net and ball.

He would donate over 500 million dollars to charity.

He would gain popularity.

The majority of people think he is not a goat.

I think he is a goat because he's basketball's antidote.

And he is the reason why people watch the NBA today.

By Elijah Pino 7# grade



# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## My Hero: Carlos Santana

Inspirational to many people and guitarists.

Leading melodic and powerful guitar riffs and solos like a true purist.

Making his music soulful and joyful and virtuoso.

Motivating people to inspire and to play guitar maestoso. Gracious and fearless with his music composition.

His divine guitar skills included jazz musician and married to his wife.

Overall he lives a goodlife.

Hunter Chavez  
8th Grade

## My Hero is music

Dez Hudson  
8th

Music  
Jams, Tunes  
Playful, Rock and roll, Rhythmic,  
Listen, Record, Jazz, Rok,  
Soothing, Enjoyable, cool,  
Electric, Soulful,  
Mesmerising

Amber Montoya  
8th



## My Hero

Firemen  
selfless , skilled  
rescue , present , extinguish  
heroes, firefighters , paramedic , team  
drivers , bravery , fearless  
bold , courageous  
fireflies



**NOT ALL**  
**Heroes**  
**WEAR**  
**CAPIES**

## A Friend

By Anastasia Quintanilla  
8th grade

A friend is someone who will always be caring and honest.

A friend is someone who will always keep a promise.

A friend is someone who fills your life with beauty and grace.

A friend makes the life you live in a better and Happer place.

## My Hero

Aubree

She is very smart. I am always sad when we are apart. Since she was born I suddenly knew. She would be by my side all the way through. She will always have a place in my heart.

By Katie Brooke  
8th 1/21/25





# MY

My hero, Smii7y/Smitty

Isaias Munoz 8th

Smug when he's winning  
Maniac when he's losing  
Idiotic when he's spinning  
Inspiring others to be moving  
7 different ways to be fibbing  
Yearning to be improving



*My Hero: The Power Of Friendship*

*Paint me a picture just any old view.*

*Paint me a picture you can make one or even a few.*

*Paint me the future name what you will.*

*Paint me a ride, oh one of a thrill.*

*Paint me a heart for they have some you see.*

*Paint me our group for you and me.*

*By: James Vigil  
8th Grade*

# HERO

## 8TH



Pretty Plume Rainer  
1/21/25  
8th grade

### My Hero, My Dad

My biggest inspiration and role  
model.

He's like a hero, straight from a  
novel.

Teaching me about my heritage  
and culture.

Since I was born, he's been my  
life's sculptor.

I'll always love him and need  
him, my whole life he's vital.



# GRADE

## DAD MY HERO





## Letter from the Editor

MAY 1, 2025

Dear Readers,

I am truly honored to continue collaborating with the students and staff of Taos Day School. This marks our fifth year and the fifth edition of the literacy magazine, \*As the Eagles Fly\*, titled "Our Elders, Our Heroes."

It has been a blessing to witness how your children are evolving into successful, creative, and talented artists, poets, and writers. With the support of dedicated teachers who inspire and encourage them, your students are learning to open their creative minds, embrace their identities, take pride in their backgrounds, and celebrate their culture. Through their poetry, writing, and artwork, they share the stories of those who inspire them—such as their elders, heroes, and role models—individuals who consistently support them throughout their lives.

I want to express my gratitude to the staff of Taos Day School, the Bureau of Indian Education, and Title IV Student Support Funding for the trust you have placed in me to develop and share my creativity in producing the school's magazine. A special thanks to our local business, Copy Queen, for their continued assistance in publishing this year's edition.

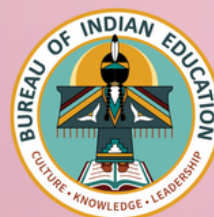
I feel incredibly blessed to work alongside all of you. Over the past five years, I have learned and grown as an artist alongside your students. I am continually inspired by the talent of all the students I have had the pleasure to work with, both past and present. Watching them develop artistically has been a true gift; for me, the real heroes are the \*Students of Taos Day School\*.

Thank you once again, and I hope you all enjoy this year's fifth edition of the Taos Day School Literacy Magazine.

Blessings and Gratitude,  
Paula Martinez  
Taos Day School Magazine Coordinator/ Editor



Serving Taos  
since 1980





**TAOS DAY SCHOOL LITERACY MAGAZINE**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> EDITION 2025**

# **AS THE EAGLES FLY**



Photo Property Courtesy of : Paula Martinez, Magazine Editor /Coordinator