



# As The Eagles Fly



TAOS DAY SCHOOL STUDENT LITERACY MAGAZINE  
ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2022

## Heroes of Taos Pueblo



COVER PHOTO 1st PLACE WINNER; FEATURING ARTIST: EVAN WINTERS, 8th grade  
( Mrs Carmella Gonzales; Teacher )



## 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

June 2022,

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Taos Day School Literacy Magazine. This year's theme is "Heroes of Taos Pueblo" Students have written essays, poems and stories, embracing this theme and have shared their stories through different writing genres and artwork.

Teaching the art of writing includes embracing not only technical and structured writing practice, but that of tapping into the creative talents of each student. Each student in Grades K-8, have shared their work with you in hopes that these works will bring a sense of pride and joy as you read through the many sentiments of our Taos Day School Students.

We would like to thank Ms. Paula Martinez- Mascarenes for her dedication to the Literacy Magazine Project. She has worked diligently to assure the layout and publication matches the quality of written and visual work that is presented in the magazine.

We would like to thank the Taos Lion's Club, and Ms. Joanne Crass for reading the student writings, and deciding on First Place to Third Place Winners in each grade level family.

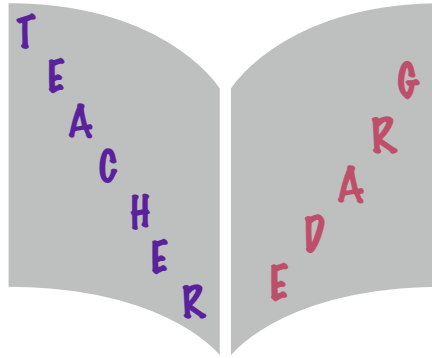
We would like to thank Pam Randall and Unicorn School Supply for her support of the Literacy Magazine.

Most of all, without the teachers guiding the students and discussing this year's writing theme and encouraging students at all grade levels to persevere with their writings and artwork, this magazine would not be possible.

And to the Community of Taos Pueblo, we dedicate this issue to you, the Student's Heroes of Taos Pueblo!!

Enjoy!!!

Andrew Haimowitz  
Principal  
Taos Day School



<b>MRS VALERIE SUAZO</b>	<b>KINDERGARTEN</b>
<b>MRS NOLA MILLER</b>	<b>1ST GRADE</b>
<b>MR LEROY MARTINEZ</b>	<b>2ND &amp; 3RD GRADE</b>
<b>MR RAMON CISNEROS</b>	<b>4TH GRADE</b>
<b>MRS DARLENE ARCHULETA</b>	<b>5TH GRADE</b>
<b>MRS BRIDGETTE RIVERA</b>	<b>6TH GRADE</b>
<b>MRS CLAIREEN ESPINOZA</b>	<b>7TH GRADE</b>
<b>MRS CARMELLA GONZALES</b>	<b>8TH GRADE</b>

# Welcome to Kindergarten!



When I grow up,  
I want to be a  
painter, to make  
Art.  
Holly Sanchez



When I grow  
up. I want to be  
a Police Officer,  
to protect  
people.  
Juliet Concha



When I grow up  
I want to be a  
police officer to  
protet peple.  
juliet concha



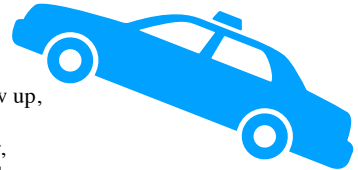
When I grow up,  
I want to be  
a Firefighter,  
like My Dad.  
David Winters



When I grow up  
I want to be a  
fire fighter like my dad.

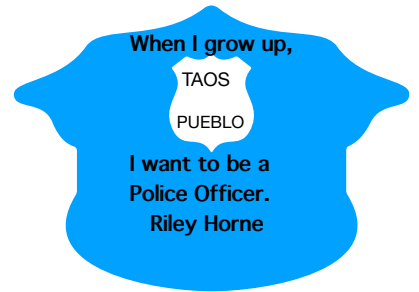
DAVID

DAVID WINTERS



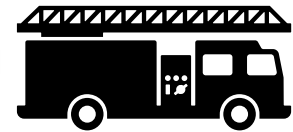


When I grow up  
I want to be a  
Police officer.  
Riley Horne



## WHEN I GROW UP

When I grow up  
I want to be a  
fire fighter.



Amelia Skipper

Amelia

When I grow up,  
I want to be an  
Author, to write  
books.  
Michael Cortez



When I grow  
up I want to be a  
Author to writ  
books.  
Michael Cortez

1st Grade

# My Heros



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## Taos Pueblo, Spirits and My Family

Taos Pueblo is my hero because we have Blue Lake. It gives us life. Spirits are my hero because they watch over us. They make us strong. They fought for us, and if they did not do this we would not be here. My family is my hero because they take care of me, and they love me. My dad is also my hero because he is a farmer. He grows food for us.

Acacia Johnston  
7 years old  
First Grade



## My Dad is My Hero

My dad is my hero. He loves us all. He does the best he can for us. Even if it not the most expensive thing that is not what matters, I love him. He cares about us. My hero is my dad.

Chaske 6 years old  
First Grade



D  
A  
D

**My Daddy is My Hero**

My daddy is a hero. My daddy is smart and strong. He is healthy and kind. He is a legend. He saved a dog. He saved a car. Daddy wears gloves and a super-hero costume. My daddy is my hero.

Aiyana Gonzales 6 years old  
First Grade



My hero is my dad!



**My Mom is My Hero**

My hero is my mom! zaki



kind

loving beautiful!

My hero is my mom. She is beautiful like a sunflower. She is thankful when I help her. She loves me all the time. She is kind when she lets me play a game. My hero is my mom.

Zaki 6 years old  
First Grade

**My Hero's are my Family**

My mom is my hero because when I get hurt, she helps me. My grandma is my hero because she cooks for me. My dad is my hero because he is SUPER COOL! Dillon is my hero because he lets me help him. My family are my hero's!

Rowan Williams  
7 years old  
First Grade

**My hero's are**



### My Family

My family is my hero because they love me and take care of me. They feed me and they get me the things that I need. I like to swim with my family. My family is my hero.

Moonlight Suazo

7 years old

First Grade

My hero's are my family!



## 1st Grade

My hero is my dad!



Levi

### My Dad is My Hero

My dad takes care of my and he loves me. We always go to the park. I play and he watches me. My dad is really caring about me and my brother.

Levi Concha 6 years old

First Grade

# My Hero

My hero is my dad!



Aria

### My Dad Loves Me

My hero is my dad because he loves me with all of his heart. He feeds me and my brother. I feel happy when we all together, my mom, my dad and my brother. He takes care of my family. He does fun things with us. My dad is my hero.

Aria Gala 7 years old

First Grade





My Whole Family

My whole family is my hero because they take care of me. They take care of me when I am hurt. My family loves me. My auntie takes me to school. My family is my hero.

Mia Gomez 7 years old

First Grade

My hero's are my family!



My hero is my Uncle Tone!

Nia

A

B

C



Welcome to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Aileana



Matthew

# Welcome to Second Grade!

My Hero's



My Heros  
By Caleb

My parent's will always be there for me. If I get hurt or get bit by a fox or I'm in danger, my parents will get weapons to rescue me from the foxes. We were safe from the foxes so we went to the camp. When it was night a bear came to the camp. To protect the horse, I shot the bear. My parents help also with my toys. They always help me build my Legos. They keep me warm and they helped me build the trampoline. My Ca feeds me and gives me hugs, My Dad helps me stack wood. They always help me feed my animals. My Hero's are Antonia and Andrew.



My Hero's  
By Cassia Tedesco



My Mom and Dad are my hero's! They live with me at a house. They are Hero's because they help me and take me to school. They also take me on vacation and buy me stuff. One year they bought me a Switch. They buy me my favorite food sometimes, when I do my chores. But sometimes they pay me money. They make me play outside at dawn, when I go inside, I play on my I-Phone. My Mom's name is Tome and My Dad's name is J.T, but his real name is Jamie. I like to hang out with my Mom and Dad. We have 4 dogs, a bunch of chickens, and 3 cats. One time they took me to a place called Cliff's, a Theme Park. There is a water ride, I was in the middle and the funny thing is, the water was coming up and my dad put his arm in the water by me and he got all wet.

I LOVE  MY PARENTS !!!



MY



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MY HERO  
By Ava Concha

My Hero is my Grandma. She takes care of me, and she feeds me. She gets me clothes and she always loves me. She always takes care of me when I'm sick and she gives me medicine. She takes me places, to get me things I need. And she gives me hugs. She takes me to the Park to eat. My Grandma's name is Alma.

My Hero  
By Atreyu Pino

My hero is my dad. He buys me and my brother ice cream and he also bought me a tablet. He also bought me and my brother clothes. He also buys me and my brother games. My brother plays Fortnite and I play racing games. We also go to the store to buy dinner and he bought spaghetti and meatballs. He is the Greatest Dad Ever, and I wish my mom was here too. The next day we had tacos. My Dad bought me gummy bears and my brother got gummy worms. He takes us to our Grandma's house. He lets me play outside, and he takes me to the park. My dad's name is Brian Pino.



# 3rd Grade

## MY HERO



My Hero  
By Ruth

My hero is my Dad. He's my hero because he has always taken me where I needed to go. He picked me up when I was in a dangerous situation. He has always welcomed me to a loving environment and has always been there for me. Sometimes we fight and argue but we get over it. My Grandma passed 2 years ago, along with my Auntie Armeada. It's hard but my Dad takes it hard for my Grandma, and so do I. We cry and we stay strong but not all the time. He's also my Hero because he's been here for me since day one, and I am forever grateful. My Mom is also one of my Heroes because she is my best friend and is also there for me. The Grandma that passed away was Momma Charlotte, she was my Mom's Mom. My Dad is my Hero because he has taken the place of my dad who was never there for me. My Dad's name is Robert Espinosa.

## FAMILY



My Hero  
By Liam Lujan

My Dad is my Hero. My dad bought a rifle for me, and we went to go shoot it. He showed me how to shoot it. My Grandma told me that he was going to give me his gun when he couldn't shoot it anymore. My Dad is going to teach me to hunt. He lets me play in the snow when he makes deer meat jerky. My Dad lets me play on my phone whenever I want. We go to the movies and get popcorn and watch a new movie. He lets me shoot my gun whenever we go camping together. My Dad lets me get things at the mall, like a virtual reality headset. He keeps me safe everywhere. He makes sure that I am safe with the rifle. He makes sure I am happy and not hungry. My Dads name is Ray.

# MY HERO



My Hero  
By Deven

My Dad always keeps me safe. He keeps me safe from wild dogs and strangers. He keeps me safe so I don't get sick from covid by going to other people's houses. He makes sure I have a mask. He also works to buy supplies we need, like food. He works to pay our bills and also works so we won't become homeless. He buys me games, Legos and gift cards. He helps my mom to stay safe for the new baby.

My Dad's name is Joe and  
My Mom's Name is Randy



My Hero  
By Jonathan

My Hero is my Mom. She feeds me and helps me find clothes. She also wakes me up when it's time for school. My Mom lives with my Dad my brothers and I, on Spider Rock Road. My Mom is special, cause she helps me with giving my dog a shower. My Mom takes me places and she also tells me when to go to sleep. My Mom's name is Leslie. She goes to work every day to get paid and buys groceries for our family. Sometimes she picks me up after school and takes me to eat food.

I Love ❤️ My Mom!



## Who is your Hero?

My Hero  
By Otis

My Mom lives with me. My Mom takes care of me when I'm sick. She takes me to the store and she takes me to get ice cream. My Mom gets me McDonalds and she gets me candy. She takes me to the park, and she lets me download games on my Switch. She got me V-Bucks for Fort Nite. She is the best Mom Ever! She takes care of me, she takes me to hotels, and I get to go to the pool downstairs. She gets me games and new shoes. My Mom is the best and she is very Special.

My Moms name is Jessica.



My Hero  
My Mom

By Manuel



My Hero  
My Dad

By Jasmin

Some Superheroes don't have capes....They are called DAD!!!!



#### My Hero

A Hero is stopping bad people from doing bad things. They take care of people that are sick. They help people by taking care of them. A hero is someone who cares, someone who helps people and is willing to risk his own life for you.

My StepDad is my Hero, because he stops people from doing bad things, he helps anyone in need, like being in trouble. He makes sure people are ok. He helps people in need of recovering from alcohol and / or drugs. I want to thank him for coming into my life and caring for me. I want to thank him for watching me and loving me. He is a very Special person to me.

By Aleah Vigil



#### My Hero

By Marcus Montez

Some things that describe my hero are kindness and respect. My hero is also caring and helpful. My hero is also very thoughtful too. Those words describe my hero.

My SuperHero is my Dad, because he is caring. My Dad is respectful. My Dad is helpful. My Dad is kind.

I thank my Dad for being there for me. I want to thank him for believing in me. I want to thank him for loving me. I want to thank him for being My Dad.





### My Hero

Something that makes a hero.

A hero is someone that helps you if you are sick. A hero is someone who helps if you are having a bad day or a hard time. A hero is someone who helps you if you are having trouble with something. I thank my hero because he helps me if I'm sick. He helps me if I'm having a bad day. Why I think my Dad is a Hero.



I think my Dad is a Hero because he helps me if I'm sad. He helps me if I'm having a bad day or if I'm having a hard time. He helps me if I'm having trouble with something. My Dad is a Hero because he helps me if I'm not feeling well.

By Elijah Pino



### My Special Hero

A hero is someone who I described as a kind person. A hero is a person who helps other people. Heroes also take care of people. A hero can help to heal someone who is hurt.

My hero is my Saya, because she helps me fold my laundry and helps put it away. My Saya assists people by helping them pay their bills. She shows me that she cares by helping me with my homework. My Saya helps me out and she always helps me clean my room. I want to thank my hero for cooking for me and helping me with my room. I am thankful that my Saya is in my life. I am thankful she believes in me. She knows I will succeed in anything I do.

By Geronima Martinez



### My Hero

A hero is a person who does good things. Heroes sometimes risk their lives to help other people in need. Heroes try to make the world a good place to live so people are safe. Heroes are just as important as people. My Mom is my Hero, because she helps me if I am sick or hurt. She takes good care of me and my family, she knows how to do good things instead of bad things. She is My Hero

By Trevor Dawavendewa



#### My Hero

A hero helps people that need help. Heroes do the right thing even if they are afraid. A hero stops people from doing bad things. A hero helps someone that is in danger. A hero cares about people.

My Hero is my Brother Lance. He helps me with my homework. Lance is cool because he is teaching me to skateboard. I know he cares about me because he spends a lot of time with me.



I want to thank my Brother for all the times he has taken care of me. Lance has also taught me many things. I believe Lance will always be there for me. He is an Awesome Big Brother.

By Aubree Archuleta

#### Heroes

Heroes help people and they save us from danger and save animals. My hero gives me toys and candy.

My Hero is my Sister, Amber. She is nice, caring and fun. She saved my pet from a dog chasing it. She helps me clean my room and the house. She helps me wash dishes and she cooks for me. She keeps me safe and happy.

By Ruby Sprague



#### My Hero

A Hero is someone who helps people.

A Hero is someone who finds people that are lost in the woods. They help to take care of people. They can be a Police, Firefighters, Teachers, or Family members.

My Hero is My Dad. He helps me with my homework, taking groceries into the house, and putting them away. He helps me feed my puppies and helps me a lot. I love that he spends time with me. He is very Special to me.

By Winterfox Yepa-Lujan

#### My Hero

A hero is helpful. They always protect us because they are kind and caring, they have courage. They love us so much.

My hero is kind because when I am sick she takes care of me. She helps me with my schoolwork. She supports me, My Hero is my Grandma Linda. She does so much for me.

Some ways you can thank your hero by doing things that can help them. You can wash the dishes or help her do stuff.

By Kenna Lujan

#### My Hero

A cop can be a hero. A hero can be brave. Some people help other people. My Uncle helps me with my homework. My Grandpa helps me with math. I thank My Dad, Grandma, and Grandpa. I thank my brother for helping me, he helps me with stuff. I thank my grandma for cooking and helping me with a lot of stuff.

I thank my grandpa for helping me with my chores. My Grandma Susan and Grandpa Gabe are my Heroes.

By Fabian Valley



**MY HERO MY HERO**  
**She's so nice and sweet.**  
**I really look up to her and she's very neat.**  
**Every time I look at her,**  
**she gets prettier and prettier.**  
**Oh my Hero Oh my Hero is Sweet.**

P.O.Box 3095  
 Taos, NM 87571  
 March 4, 2022

Dear Kiara,  
 I know we fight sometimes  
 but you are my Hero. I Love  
 you and I'm always excited  
 to see you at school.  
 You were like my first best  
 friend , my sister best friend.  
 You are my Hero, and you  
 will always be my Hero.  
 Sincerely,  
 Anastasia Quintanilla

**My Hero**  
**By Katie Concha**



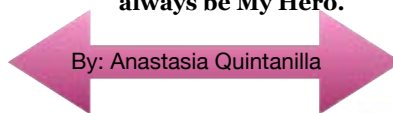
**My Hero is Mrs. Darlene Archeluta, because she helps me when I need help. She also is very nice to me and all the other classmates. She also is related to me and she is my Teacher. I think that she is one of the sweetest Teachers ever.**



**My Sister is nice my Sister is smart, My Sister is Brave, My Sister , My Sister, My Sister. I love my Sister and she is My Hero, and she will always be My Hero.**

**MY  
H  
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By: Anastasia Quintanilla



**MY HERO**

Dear Samara,  
 Thank you for always being there for me. You are my favorite Sister ever. You are my hero because, you are always looking out for me. And you are my older sister. I also love you because, when I come to see you in Albuquerque, you take me to my favorite place, CLIFFS. It's so fun there. I can't wait till this weekend at the Trampoline Park.

How have you been doing? How is your new apartment? Is it hot all the time over there where you live at?

Sincerely Your Little Sister,  
**KATIE CONCHA**

# 5th Grade



**My Hero is my Mom,**  
because she takes care of me and looks out for me. She feeds me good food, and she makes me laugh. When I'm sad she asks me what is wrong, and I tell her. Also when I do my Native stuff she supports me, even when I'm done with my Native stuff. I love my Mom, because she is always there for me.

By Hunter Chavez

**My Hero is my Brother,**  
because he takes care of me and my grandma, and he is funny. Also he protects me from danger and the best thing of all he helps me with games and whats wrong with my console. Without him probably my console will explode and die.

By Hunter Chavez



M M M

I ♥ DAD



**My Hero**  
By Amberlyn Montoya

**My Hero is my Dad.**  
He feeds me and plays with me on the PS4.  
He takes me to go fishing and camping.  
He takes me to go places.

**Who is Your Hero**

**My Hero is my Dad.** He protects me and my sisters, and takes care of us. He picks us up from school, my sisters and I. He takes us to Lots Burger and get us ICEE's.

By Amber



# 6TH GRADE



My Native American Community Hero  
"Alma Gomez"

*Love  
you  
Grandma*

My Native American Community Hero is My Great Grandma, Alma Gomez.

She was born in 1942 and her birthday is March 2nd. She has taken care of me and my siblings for six years. She was the only one who said yes to taking care of myself and my siblings. I am grateful for her decision and I thank her daily. We didn't have to be separated and we are happy to be united as a family.

My Grandmother is a great cook. She has a great soup recipe and she makes it with a variety of vegetables including potatoes. I also really like the Chili she makes as well as her fry bread. She makes these specialties on specific occasions for feast days as well as other times when we request it. I accompany her to the store to pick up groceries to help with cooking when she allow me to. My brother's help in the house by bring in wood for the fire and throwing out the trash. I wash the dishes, and sweeping mop the floors. She allows the older kids to cook sometimes.

She worked at the Taos Mountain Casino for about 22 years and retired from there a few years ago. She was the announcer and worked with new patrons to tell them about the casino and its features. She really enjoyed her job and also worked at a hospital in Albuquerque at one time.

My Grandma has a big heart! It really is amazing that she took in an entire family to raise as her own. She reminds us of the importance of being trustworthy, respectful and responsible. We all range in age from 8 to 16, so she deals with some of us attending Taos Day School, while my older brother goes to Taos High School. I don't know how she keeps it all together but I know she's a very strong lady and I commend her on her efforts, diligence and commitment. I will always remember all that she's done for us all and she will forever be My Hero.

By Monique Concha

Ben Mondragon  
6th grade/ 3-25-22

## My Native American Community Hero

### *Jason Mondragon*

My father's name is Jason Mondragon and he is my hero because he is my dad and he is a firefighter. He has a family of four kids and has his own business. He makes pottery called Huggy Bears and sells them at Taos Pueblo. He gets the clay to make the Huggy Bears from the mountains. He goes to a spot that has micaceous clay and digs to get it and he puts them in big buckets and mixes it with water. They come out looking like the illustration below after they are fired.



For 25 years, he was in a Hotshot crew called the Snowballs. He is shown 3rd from the left on the bottom row.



*He is my hero because he is my dad and helps me make good decisions. He has taught me how to hunt, cook, fish, swim, read, and be responsible. I am grateful for all the many things he has taught me.*



**My Native American Hero  
Mildred Young**



**Mildred Veronica (Lujan) Young is my Native American Hero, because she is a big part of our community and a huge inspiration to our school.**

**Mrs Young is our Native American Language (Tiwa) teacher, and has been at our school for a very long time and has been teaching our Tiwa language since she was a child. Mrs Young lives on Little Deer Horn Road and also lives in her village house on Taos Pueblo.**

**Some things that she likes to do in her free time is traditional beadwork, sewing, gardening, and baking. Her favorite colors are maroon and dark turquoise. Some jobs she had done before she became a language teacher were, Land Title Researcher, Phone Operator, Police Dispatch Researcher, UNM Advisor, Math Tutor, and she was part of the Snowballs Fire Fighter Crew. Mrs Young's favorite food is Red Chili Enchiladas. She also has a favorite Native American food which is called (baquah), which is a mix of dried greens, chopped elk meat, native salt and water that comes from our local river that flows through our Pueblo.**



**She also likes to watch Korean action films. This is my Native American Hero, because she is a very big Inspiration to me and my school because she teaches us our Native American heritage and language. I hope I get to learn as much as I can from her now and in the future.**



**By: Taya Concha  
6th grade**

## Native American Community Hero Kenneth Antonio

1. **What do your Tiwa names mean?** Water Rock Standing
2. **What did you do as a kid?** I played many games with my friends and family.
3. **What was your favorite moment?** When I got my first bike.
4. **What makes you laugh?** I enjoy listening to jokes and telling jokes.
5. **Did you go to the Military or College?** I went to Haskell Indian Jr. College for 2 semesters.
6. **What did you do in High School?** I played sports in high school.
7. **Did you do sports?** Football, basketball, track field.
8. **What is your favorite food?** Pepperoni thin crust pizza.
9. **Did you use to have a job, if so what was it?** I was a firefighter for 12 years.
10. **Where do you live?** I live in Taos Pueblo.
11. **What did you do in middle school?** I played sports.
12. **How did you meet mom?** We were neighbors.
13. **Are you married?** No, I am not married.
14. **What was your dream job?** My dream job is firefighting.
15. **How many years were you a firefighter, and what locations did you visit?** I was a firefighter for 12 years and visited the following areas; California, Tennessee, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana.
16. **Did you ever live anywhere else?** I lived in Denver, Colorado.
17. **What has it been like raising children?** It's been an adventure.

**By Hayden Antonio  
6th grade**



## **My Native American Community Hero**

### **Rose Lujan**

**What did this person do?** Rose taught Tiwa at Taos Day School before she retired.

**Why did you choose this person?** She cares about her community and wants the Tiwa language to continue for generations to come. She takes care of me and helps me with my homework and Tiwa language.

**Where does this person live?** She lives in Taos Pueblo.

**What is your favorite color?** Purple and turquoise.

**When did you get married?** In November 1974, 47 years ago.

**When is your Birthday?** November 4, 1952.

**What did you play when you were smaller?** Hopscotch, mud figures by the river house, pole touch, walk on the corral fences, tra-ko hockey on the river ice.

**What was your favorite food?** Coronado wieners, deer jerky.

**What was your favorite subject in school?** Reading and Math.

**What dances did you do?** Feather dance and Hoop dance.

**Who makes you laugh?** My grandkids; Hawk, Fox Amari, Myles, Amethyst, Sadie, My sister Maxine and brother John.

**Why did you teach Tiwa at Taos Day School?** I want our our kids to learn Tiwa so they continue our tradition can culture of our people.

**How did you learn Tiwa?** Growing up in the Village, we stayed with grandparents and everyone spoke Tiwa in the home. We heard it all the time.

**How did you meet Grandpa?** We were riding with friends in June 1972, where we were introduced at the Gorge Bridge.

**When did you have Dad?** Our son Jeremy was born on July 13, 1977. One year earlier in 1976 we had our first son who passed away.

**Did you go to College?** Yes I went to Fort Lewis College and DNM. I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

**By: Lightinghawk Yepe-Lujan**  
**6th grade**





## MY NATIVE COMMUNITY HERO

VERNON BROWN

**What did this person do?** He taught our native culture to other people, and was a former Lieutenant War Chief.

**Why did you choose this person?** Because he is my Grandfather and he means a lot to me.

**Where does this person live?** Taos Pueblo, New Mexico.

**Did this person play any sports?** Yes, he did track and ran cross country, and he played football.

**What year was this person born?** 1954

**Where was this person born?** He was born in Durango, Colorado.

**Which schools did this person go to?** He went to Saint Joseph Christian School, then to Taos Day School, and for high school, he went to Taos High School, and then went to 930 Indian School.

**How many siblings does this person have?** He has 1 sister.

**Is this person known for anything?** Yes, he is known for being a great hunter, a bull rider, and a great lover.



**Does this person have any pets?** Yes, he has 23 cows a Pug and a Chihuahua.

**Does this person participate in Native doings?** Yes he participates a lot.

**What is this person's favorite color?** Black

**What is this person's favorite food?** He loves steak.

**How many children does this person have?** He has 6 wonderful children

**What jobs has this person had?** He was in NYC neighborhood core, and he was a construction worker, he ran programs for CMS, and he took part building the Casino in Taos.

**Who was this person's parents?** His Father was Dallas Basil Bernal, and his Mother was Emily Bernal.

**How old was this person when they got married?** He got married with his first wife at the age of 21, then when he was 36, he married his new wife.

**What year was it when this person got married?** He got married in 1985 with his second wife.

By: Peyton Winters  
6th grade

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERO

Selena Rodriguez/6th grade

**Who did you choose?** Sheryl Romero

**What did this person do?** A water protector.

**When did they do that?** Standing rock, 2018

**Why did you choose this person?** I chose her because she is very brave and loving.

**What school did you go to?** I attended and graduated from Taos High School  
Then San Diego University.

**What's your favorite color?** Maroon

**What's your Indian name?** Picking chokecherries after dark.

**What's your middle name?** Renee

**What's your favorite food?** Sea food

**Where did you make your first friend?** Family and my cousins were my first friends.

**When did you start your first sport?** 5th - soccer

**When were you born?** December 3, 1976 in Chicago

**What age were you when you graduated high school?** 17 yr

**What was the farthest you traveled?** Mexico

**What place do you want to travel to?** New Zealand.

**Why do you want to travel there?** Beautiful landscapes.

**What makes you laugh the most?** Funny jokes and funny people.



Photo courtesy:<https://www.honortheearthmerchandise.com/blog/tag/water+protectors>

# 7th **nello** seventh GRADE



## My Hero LAUGHTER



As She echoes and lingers through thoughts and minds, little do we know but She bonds us together. Some may not consider Her a hero, but I would. She can be as graceful as a melody, Her tunes floating into the air, but she can also be as sharp as a blade, slicing through the air, injuring anyone or anything in Her path.

If used correctly, laughter can be a dangerous thing, which people don't mention enough. No one realizes that laughter can be a very powerful hero, almost too powerful. Yet She can be a soul crushing villain. If you think about it, laughter is like the cords on a piano. Though similar, not one of them is the same. Though all laughter is different they are all beautiful, their sounds splitting into a million pieces, flying around. Laughter is almost everywhere, and where She isn't I would say is sad and dull.

I believe that the power that laughter has is strong enough to brighten conversations and scenarios that are awkward and as fragile as glass. The way I see it Laughter is taken for granted by us, so next time you hear Laughter, think how many times it saved you, how many times it brightened your day, made it that much better, or if it ruined your day, did it? Just think to yourself, is laughter your Hero? Or is it your Villain? What do you think?

BY TABITHA TEDESCO





**My Hero**

*Heronima Jerrie Track*

*My Hero is my Great Grandmother Heronima Jerrie Track. Though you have passed on, I've held onto your memories. "Don't get old" you would always say, maybe as a complaint, maybe as a warning. We may never get an answer to that, but perhaps that was meant to be.*

*Though you were as old as time, you were as graceful as a willow tree. Yet as fragile as a porcelain doll. Your hands were as rough as dry, cracked clay. Despite your sight being faltered it seemed as though you could sense everything and everyone in the room.*

*Your friends miss you so, but understand the circumstances in which that you had to leave. Your family is heartbroken but happy that you are in pain no longer. And I may not be exactly the same after you left, but can know that you will watch over us in a way that you could not before.*



By: Reesa Concha



**My Hero**

**SANTANA SAM ARCHULETA**

Although I never got to meet you,  
Thinking of you today and tomorrow  
Your Love and Appreciation  
Your compassion for life

Thinking of you today and tomorrow  
Ill never forget you  
Your Compassion for life  
Your Purple Heart

I'll never forget you  
Loved Father and Husband  
Your Purple Heart  
Honored by dozens

Loved Father and Husband  
Your love and appreciation  
Honored by dozens  
Your Purple Heart

By: Kiara Quintanilla





**My Hero**

**Fawn Wood is the Hero of my story, the reason why I chose this person is because she is a Native American singer and she comes from the tribe called Cree and Salish lineage.**

**She's been to so many different places and also tribes, States and countries to perform her hand drum dances for her Pow-Wows.**

**Fawn grew as a talented artist when her parents would teach her how to sing along with them during Pow-Wows, later on when she got older she was the first female to ever win in a hand drum contest at the Gathering Of Nations Pow-wows.**

**In 2009 she opened the show at the 11th Annual Native American Music Awards ( NAMMYS). During 2010 she also sang with her partner, Dellas Washahat for her opening at the Aboriginal people's Choice Music Awards, Winnipeg Manitoba.**

**To me she's a hero because Fawn Wood talks a lot about life in her songs and my mom was always listening to her when she would cook or whenever we would go the store. Fawn Wood is really calm when her music starts to play, for me it brings back nostalgic memories, of my mom.**

**Fawn's music is available on all platforms including Amazon music , Spotify, Youtube and more.**

By: Isaiah Tenorio

**My Hero  
CULTURE**

**I choose Culture for my Hero, because it has taught me a lot. It has been with our People from generation to generation. It teaches you how to speak our language, it makes you stronger in a Physical and Spiritual way.**



**Our Culture can be called a Hero, because without it our People wouldn't be doing our Traditional doings, we wouldn't have our Pueblo, we wouldn't have our own Language. We wouldn't have our boys going into the Kiva, and girls doing their religious responsibilities. We wouldn't have any dances, our people would have never been here if our culture was never here. We wouldn't have our Blue Lake, if it wasn't for our Culture that has survived years of people trying to take it away.**

**Our Culture makes us stronger in a physical way and spiritual way. Our Culture helps us learn to be helpful, generous and caring.**

BY: Matthew



## **My Hero** **MY BROTHER DUSTIN**

**My hero would be my older brother, Dustin. He fought fires in California, he started fighting fires in 2019 and is still going in 2022. I love him because he helps put out fires.**



**Dustin used to live in Taos, but right now I don't know where he's staying, but I keep in contact with him over the phone. He's very kind too, he also told me that he rescued a kitten from a tree while it was burning. It takes a lot to be a fire fighter and that's why I think he's brave, and I think he has a lot of courage because he had the willpower to leave Taos and maybe risking his life.**

**BY: Starlin**

## **My Hero**

Deb Haaland is a Hero to me because , she is the first Native American Woman of Secretary of the Interior. She is a hero because she supports the Green new deal and Medicare for all. Deb Haaland is the Secretary of the Interior, she works in Washington, D.C. for the State of New Mexico and everyone in the U.S.

Deb Haaland was born on December 2, 1960 in Winslow, AZ. She is from Laguna Pueblo. Deb Haaland has 1 daughter and she is married to Skip Sayre. She went to college at the University of New Mexico. She earned her Bachelors of Arts in English in 1994. Deb Haaland served as the Tribal Administrator for the San Felipe Pueblo from January 2013 to November 2015.

I consider Deb Haaland a Hero, because she has done a lot for the United States and she served in the Navy. She has shown smart women and all Native people that, Believing in Yourself can help you reach your goals.

**By Ethan**



Photo courtesy:  
[https://ballotpedia.org/Debra\\_Haaland](https://ballotpedia.org/Debra_Haaland)



Photo by Shane Balkowitsch  
Sierraclub.org



## My Hero Environment

**I choose the Environment as my Hero, because it's a big part of our lives and Native American life. Before all these things in the world were made and until this day, we have our planet like the river that comes from Blue Lake way up in the mountains. It is a very special place which very few people see. It's not just that, but there are places where you can find clay which is a big part of our Native American culture and natural resources. The environment provides us with animals and what animals are for us is food, which people still hunt or use the fur or skin of the animal for clothing and moccasins for traditional events, but there are many other resources we do use.**

**The environment is a Hero to me because it also is a get away, it's a very special living thing to us all. Without it, we're literally nothing as in non-existing. It's a get away or stress relief place where you can have a seat along the Riverside hearing the calm splashing sounds and seeing the beautiful trees dance side to side.**

**BY: LEIA**

## My Hero is Tradition

I think Tradition comes in many different shapes and forms, but for me it is language and culture. I consider Tradition my Hero, because it has a lot of heroic traits like a lot of people look up to it in a way, and it is there for when people need it the most. I think it has inspired me and many other people to learn my language and culture, to lead future generations into a way of life that we had long ago.

Tradition lives in everyone and everything around us. Tradition has helped everyone in one way or another, like learning how to speak to your elders in your own language and helping us grow and harvest crops. The tradition of going to our dances and feasts all year round is wonderful and calming to be around all my family and friends because we all get to learn the traditions of our ancestors. I think tradition is important because we won't lose it, nor start forgetting how we do our traditions. Everyone should keep their traditions so the future generations can continue our legacy.

Tradition benefits everyone by bringing them together to learn new things about themselves and grow into better people. Tradition is very strong because it changes a lot of peoples perspective of the way they do cultural and traditional things. It gives people hope that they can change the way they think about tradition. That is why I chose Tradition as my Hero.

By: Morgan

### My Hero is Culture

I choose Culture as a Hero because Culture has a lot to do with my community and has been around for a really long time. Community is very helpful towards others, especially our elders.

Dancing is a part of the culture, mostly every feast day, tribal members dance. Some families make food for feast days, like my family. There are many different foods on the table like Fry bread, Chilies, pies and cookies. Sometimes when I go watch the dances with my family, you can hear tribal members talking in Tiwa. Tiwa has been around forever, it is a big part of our culture.

When the Pueblo was open, my Grandpa had a shop and sold jewelry and other things, because that's the money he makes a living on. Culture can also be Art. A lot of people are artists at the Pueblo, they all do things such as drawing, painting, pottery and sculptures.

Hunting is also a part of our culture, most of the boys go hunting and the girls cut the meat. My family usually makes jerky out of Deer or Elk meat. Culture is important to me and a hero because it has been a part of my life since I was born.

BY: SADIE PEPION



Photo Courtesy:  
<https://riniart.com/gallery/54.html>

### My Hero

My Hero is Culture, because it is very important to learn about your Culture. Culture has so many things you can learn about, like language, singing and dancing. You can learn how to make Jewelry and Moccasins from your family members. You can also go fishing and hunting which is always fun to do. Culture is the most important aspect of my life, you learn so much from our community and you can pass it down to the next generation.

Culture is so important because it can be forgotten. It is important to learn where you come from, and we learn so much about life in the stories we hear, because they come from our families and their families. Culture is a hero because we learn things we never knew before, culture is big in our lives. I am glad I have a culture where I can learn things and it brings joy and happiness in my life. It is a way of bringing people together and enjoying the dances and the traditional doings. Learning about culture, the languages is important and learning about your religion.

Culture is the way of life, it is a lifestyle. I think society has brought our culture down a little bit due to technology and how the world is now. We can't do some of our traditions like we use to, due to Covid. We have to value our culture because it can be lost and forgotten.

BY: Maya





**MY HERO** By: Emelina  
**JEWELRY**

I Choose Jewelry as a Hero, because it's beautiful and a lot of different cultures use it, you see it daily. You will see jewelry a lot when people dance and do traditional doings. It's used for many other occasions.

It's made with different kinds of stones, you can use crystals, you can use different colored stones, a lot of jewelry has Turquoise and it is made with silver, gold and other metals too. You can make it yourself and you can make anything out of it, you want. Even diamonds and beads .

I think Jewelry is a Hero, because its traditional value is priceless, it's really special when someone gives it to you or passes it down. The oldest piece of Jewelry was made 100,000 year ago and this first diamond was found in India back in the 4th Century.

Jewelry is a Hero to me because it has allot of meaning.



**STORYTELLING**

Storytellers and Storytelling are Heroes and this is why.

Storytelling has been a part of Native Culture for a very long time. Story telling is often used as something that brings knowledge and wisdom to a new generation of people. A lot of the stories that get passed down have lessons and teach you about how things use to be. It's a good way of finding out more about your culture and relatives.

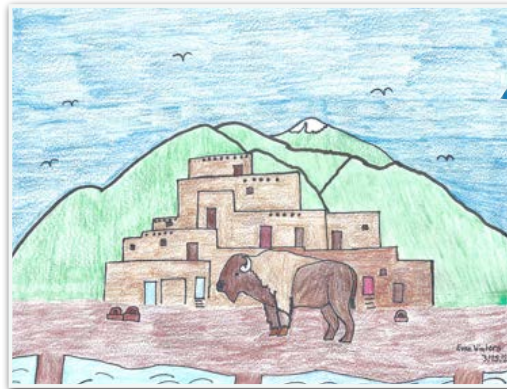
Storytelling and Tellers are important because it gives you the chance to learn from someone else's experiences. It is usually close friends or relatives that share these stories with you. These stories could be one of your relatives or friends' personal stories or someone else's stories getting passed down. The good thing about storytelling is that there's all kinds of stories to tell, there's funny stories, scary stories, or stories about learning lessons. The stories may not seem like much but they mean something.

Most stories have a hero and a lesson you just have to look into the deeper meaning of the story and what it's trying to tell you because there can be a subtle meaning or lesson behind most stories. I think people who tell stories are heroes, they pass on knowledge from the past to help you learn from them and grow. Storytelling tells you more about where you come from and informs you about how things were at that time. Storytellers are Heroes because they teach you about so many different things and the history of your culture and people. That's why I think Storytelling is a Hero.

BY: Caitlin Ortiz

8th Grade

CLASS OF  
2026



**Evan Winters**  
Cover Photo  
Contest Winner / Art



Allen Kopepassah



**Kalani Trujillo**



## Where

### Where I'm From

I am from Piki bread,  
From big stone and high mesas.  
I am from basketball hoops and hot sand.  
I am from dead trees, whose imaginary  
leaves were never in the breeze.  
I am from Kachina dolls and butterfly  
dances.  
From Aguilar and Trujillo  
I am from lightened dark skin tones,  
From paint and pencil art.  
From singing and dancing,  
I am from "Here today, gone tomorrow"  
I am from these hard times, this pain,  
these lessons-  
One day they'll be your Strength, your  
Awareness, your Blessings.  
I am from those moments seeing you  
there when I opened my eyes.  
But I never realized that yours would  
close earlier than I expected.

**Kalani Trujillo**



## I am From

I am from Taos Pueblo  
From BB guns and mud  
I am from quiet and beautiful  
From sometimes cold and sometimes  
warm  
I am from Pine trees  
Whose branches sway in the wind  
I am from treehouses and forts.  
I am from hunting and farming  
And from building  
From running  
I am from being in the Kiva  
I am from rivers and mountains  
From Chili and oven bread from gathering  
wood,  
And from hunting with my Dad  
I am from those moments  
A Taos Pueblo Native  
**Evan Winters**



### WHERE I AM FROM

I am from a blossom tree, from drawing on walls.  
From big tall trees with flowing wind and surrounded by dreamland forests.  
I am from an apple and small like trees whose wind blows softly, and from green apple  
trees and dark beautiful green land grass. I am from daisy's and Almond like eyes from  
sketching and doing all kinds of accents. Whose walls like rooms were decorated with a  
colorful mindset. I am from coloring books and pencils with all kinds of toys from Suazo  
and Marcus. I am from brown dark eyes and longhair and from playing family games  
every Thursday, from going on a trip on summer break every year. I am from making  
pies and baking cookies for September 30th. I am from Grandpa Suazo and Grandma  
Suazo from making crazy soup and potato salad. An object I will always remember is a  
toy police car my Dad gave me. I am from these moments from laughing in summer  
time, getting picked up and being spun around giggling.

**Andrea Suazo**

## MY TAOS PUEBLO HERO



Photo Courtesy: Evan Winters  
personal family photo

My Great Grandpa Paul or Paul J. Bernal is my Taos Pueblo Hero. He is a significant Hero to the Taos Pueblo Community. He was a leader, a Kiva Leader, and I learned a lot about him and his legacy. I learned a lot I hadn't known before, like about his personal life achievements. One of His quotes was, "I never thought the country I fought for, I would be fighting against."

His jobs included a machine gunner and a shopkeeper. He served on the Aircraft carrier Taronga and U.S.S Lexington. He went to battle in South Pacific during WWII in the U.S.S. Lexington He was also a Kiva Leader for most of his life. He played a big part in getting Blue Lake back from the U.S government. He went to Bacone College to become a Lawyer. His Father had traveled to Oklahoma after the Tribal Council asked his Dad if he would help with the Blue lake land fight. He said yes, and came back home where that was the end of his college days. He sacrificed going to college and becoming a lawyer to help his people get Blue Lake back.

He raised my Grandpa when he was a little boy, and taught my Grandpa everything he knows. He never had any kids, but he raised my Grandpa and his brother. They were like his own kids as he raised them and adopted them. He dedicated his life to fighting for the return of Blue Lake and the surrounding wilderness. He partook in our ways here at Taos Pueblo for his whole life. Although I never got to meet him, as he passed in 2004 before I was born. He is one of my role models, and I would like to do what he did and help participate in my culture for my whole life.

He was a great man, he never stopped caring about his people and his home here at Taos Pueblo throughout his whole life. His impact on the Taos Pueblo community was a beneficial impact for the people. He went to Washington DC to help fight for Blue Lake. If it wasn't for him helping, Blue Lake may have never been returned to Taos Pueblo, and if Blue Lake had not been returned, our way of life and culture would have been very different. The Blue Lake is important to us and if we did not have it, our ways and cultures would have stopped by now and we would be without a big part of our culture.

I learned a lot about my GreatGrandpa that I did not know before, Overall, he had a great legacy and a great life. He had a very influential and important life for the people of Taos Pueblo. From researching about him, I learned a lot of things, I learned the he never left his home and sacrificed having a family of his own, a wife, and many other things. He was a great man, and his legacy will still carry on in my family for years to come.

**Evan Winters**

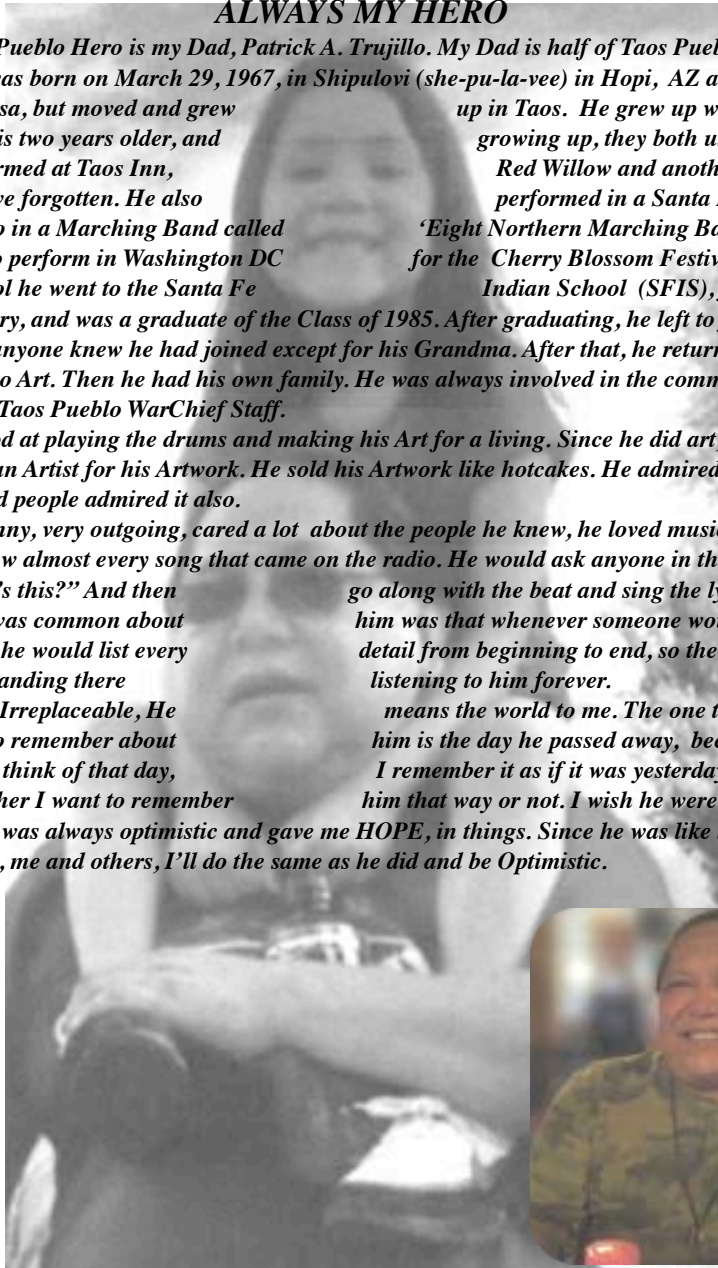
## ALWAYS MY HERO

*My Taos Pueblo Hero is my Dad, Patrick A. Trujillo. My Dad is half of Taos Pueblo and Hopi and was born on March 29, 1967, in Shipulovi (she-pu-la-vee) in Hopi, AZ and is from the 2nd Mesa, but moved and grew up in Taos. He grew up with his sister, who is two years older, and they both use to dance. They performed at Taos Inn, Red Willow and another place which I have forgotten. He also performed in a Santa Fe Parade. He was also in a Marching Band called 'Eight Northern Marching Band' and had gone to perform in Washington DC for the Cherry Blossom Festival. During High School he went to the Santa Fe Indian School (SFIS), joined cross country, and was a graduate of the Class of 1985. After graduating, he left to join the Navy. Not anyone knew he had joined except for his Grandma. After that, he returned home and got into Art. Then he had his own family. He was always involved in the community and was on the Taos Pueblo WarChief Staff. He was good at playing the drums and making his Art for a living. Since he did art, he got noticed as an Artist for his Artwork. He sold his Artwork like hotcakes. He admired his artwork and people admired it also.*

*He was funny, very outgoing, cared a lot about the people he knew, he loved music and it was as if he knew almost every song that came on the radio. He would ask anyone in the car with him, "Who's this?" And then go along with the beat and sing the lyrics. One thing that was common about him was that whenever someone would ask him a question, he would list every detail from beginning to end, so the person would be standing there listening to him forever.*

*My Dad's Irreplaceable, He means the world to me. The one thing that I don't like to remember about him is the day he passed away, because whenever I think of that day, I remember it as if it was yesterday. But I chose whether I want to remember him that way or not. I wish he were still here because he was always optimistic and gave me HOPE, in things. Since he was like that with my siblings, me and others, I'll do the same as he did and be Optimistic.*

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### Where I'm From

I am from Taos Pueblo  
I am from the little house by the road.  
From riding my bike.  
I am from going swimming at the river.  
From playing basketball .  
I am from eating chili.  
From making dust.  
I am from playing in the snow.  
From Kopepassah and Martinez  
I am from going hunting in the mountains.  
That is where I'm from.

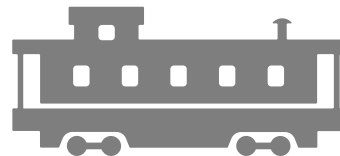
### Allen Kopepassah



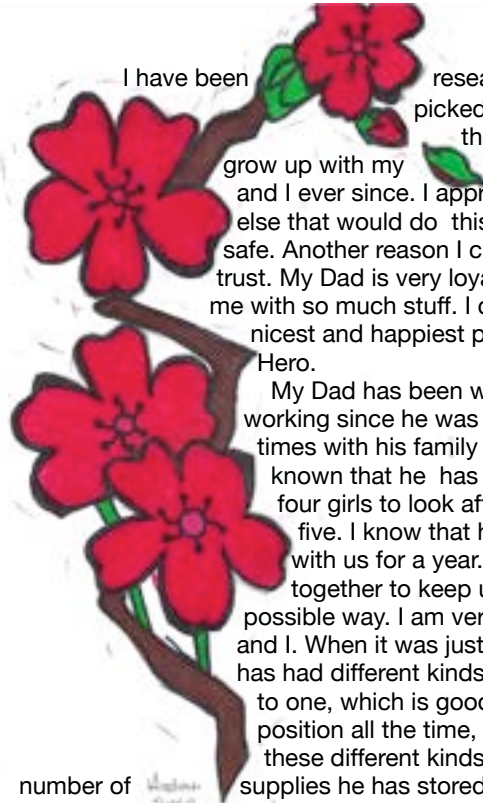
### TAOS PUEBLO HERO

My Taos Pueblo Hero was my Grandfather, the reason why I picked him was because of what kind of person he was. My Grandpa was born in 1945. After becoming a father, he was drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War. While being there, he said he was able to test the new equipment that they received. During his last years of being in the Military, he went to Germany. After he came home , he worked construction for awhile. While in construction, he built the house where I live in now. Back home, he was a firefighter during the summer. The person who I interviewed said, he came back home after fighting in the war with all kinds of little toy trains and toy trucks. My Grandfather enjoyed collecting things, which was one of his favorite hobbies. My Grandpa got to travel a lot, he said he liked it because he had the chance to see the world. While he was traveling he would bring back snow globes, and other items like that. While my Grandpa was home he would tell my Mom and her siblings stories about a Coyote who would fall for all the animal tricks. I've heard most of them before. At Taos Pueblo he was appointed Governor in 2003. That was something he was known for at Taos Pueblo, he was also known for being in the military, as I mentioned. He was a nice person to be around, I have heard this from my family members. Being known for those things is what makes him my Hero. Those are most of the reasons why he was my Hero, even though I was not able to meet him. He was a kind and helpful person. He was also a cool person who was able to see the world and travel. Thats why my Grandfather is My Hero.

### Allen Kopepassah



## My Hero



I have been researching my Hero, My Hero is my Dad. I picked my Dad because he has always been there for me. Even though I didn't get to grow up with my mom. He's been watching over my sisters and I ever since. I appreciate it, because I don't know anyone else that would do this. My dad would do anything to keep us safe. Another reason I chose him was that he is the only one I can trust. My Dad is very loyal and will help people. My Dad has helped me with so much stuff. I can't thank him enough for it. He's the nicest and happiest person, and I am happy to honor him as my Hero.

My Dad has been working for a long time now, he has been working since he was 12 years old. He did have some rough times with his family but has always been independent. I've known that he has been on his own for a long time. He has four girls to look after now, including my cousin, which makes five. I know that he can do it because my cousin has lived with us for a year. He and my Mom have been working together to keep us healthy, taking care of us in every possible way. I am very thankful for what they do for my sisters and I. When it was just the four of us, he did work many jobs. He has had different kinds of jobs his entire life. He hasn't just stuck to one, which is good because, if he were to stay in one position all the time, he wouldn't know how to do all these different kinds of things. My sisters and I joke about the number of supplies he has stored, but his daughters don't have supplies.

My Dad has been a Police Officer for as long as I can remember. I barely saw him when I was little because he would be down South in San Juan working there. I get to see him more often now.

How my Hero has a connection to me is very simple because he is my Dad, as you can tell, haha. I can trust my Dad whenever something terrible or serious happens. There may be times when I will be afraid of my Dad, because of how he tells me things. I know he is always right, he knows how to explain something so I will understand. Sometimes he will be straightforward and he will explain certain subjects calmly. Since my mom left, unfortunately, my Dad has had a hard time with my sisters and I. Taking care of three girls can be hard work, especially if you are doing it alone. He takes his time to see what he has to do for his three girls. It's pretty hard to picture a mom figure. My mom left when I was little so I can hardly remember anything from her. I know my Dad did so much for my sisters and I. My Dad had to learn certain subjects to keep us safe and how to take care of us. There are times when I have to ask my Dad certain things. I ask him because I know he knows everything. There is so much I am grateful for, because of my Dad and that is why he is my Hero.

**Andrea Suazo**



### **My Taos Pueblo Hero**

The person I'm going to be writing about for my Taos Pueblo Hero is my Mom, Linda Yardley. I'm writing about her because she is a big part of my life and she has done many good things for our Pueblo and our People. She teaches my cousin and I our ways and our language.

She was raised inside the Taos Pueblo with her seven other siblings, who she took care of. When she was older she moved to Denver, Colorado and she helped out at a school there for awhile, and lived there for a long time. Next, she moved back home and stayed here in Taos for her grandchildren and she continues to follow our ways. She teaches us, and she helps out with the school I attend. She has been working with the school for about three or four years. I chose my Mom because she is someone I know, and she has taught me many things and has shown me things in our ways and how to clean, and many other things. She also helps out in the Pueblo and our community when we have to do something, and sometimes we will go with her, and that's why my connection to her is Special.

I've learned from her not to give up and keep our traditions and our way of life, so the next generations know who they are. My Mom has taught me a lot, so this is why I chose her as my Taos Pueblo Hero.



### **WHERE I'M FROM**

I am from adobe walls  
From playing with my dolls and other toys  
I am from a flower, Whose Pretty  
I am for eating snow cones with my cousins at the Village, and eating candy  
From Williams and Armstrong  
I am from eating together and having fun and from doing bonfires  
I am from Louis Bernal and Paula Tubosues  
From dry meat and Chili  
From my Grandpa who helped get our Blue Lake back and from my Grandma being a singer  
I am from those moments I will always remember

**Mia Williams**



## **TAOS PUEBLO HERO PROJECT NIKKI CONCHA**

My personal Taos Pueblo Hero's name is, Nikki Ryan Concha, he was born May 22 1985, in Taos Pueblo, NM. His Mom and Dad were named Luanne Concha, Gardell Concha, his Grandma and Grandpa's names were Juanita Concha and Frank Concha. He got his education in 12th grade, and he got his first car when he was 16 years old. He was really tall when he was younger. The job that he loved to do with his dad was construction, like building homes / houses for people.

He is my Taos Pueblo Hero, because he is always there for me and always buys me stuff, takes me for rides, to eat, and buys me things like toys, games and guns. Also I'm proud that he works his hardest on helping our family with money, food and wood to keep us warm through the winter. I'm proud of him for teaching me how to fix cars, use tools, work on homes like build them, and put everything where it needs to go.

He has helped me in so many ways, like teaching me how to hunt, now I can teach my children to hunt and skin an Elk, gut it and everything. He has taught me how to fix cars. That is why when I'm in trouble, I know what to do when I'm stuck anywhere when my car stops running. I'm happy that he helped me understand how to work on homes. That is why I will know what to do when I build my own family, their own house. My hero taught me always about fixing cars, so that's what I'm going to take with me for the rest of my life to teach my children and they teach their children how to fix cars. I would keep this thought about fixing cars because it can always become successful in my future. It can help you in so many ways that you don't even know. As for me I want cars, so its good for me. So that is the reason why I picked fixing vehicles because it helps you a lot.

I picked my Dad because he is always there for me. He always takes me for rides and buys me guns. He takes me for rides that are so fun, and he's so funny. That is another reason why I picked him. I chose him because he taught me most of everything. I know a lot in my life. The last reason I chose him is that he is the most funniest and intelligent guy to ever hang out with, and he would always be my partner for life, and I thank Him.

### **Where I'm From**

**By: Adam Concha**

**I am from Taos Pueblo, from trees and water, I am from the best place you can live, And outdoors .**

**Where cedar pops like popcorn, I am from guns and games, From the Concha's and the Sandoval's**

**I am from black hair , brown eyes, brown hair brown eyes, and from green eyes. I am from going to the Pueblo. From Frank and Juanita, From chili and oven bread. From Christmas and from September 30th. And from cooking good food, I am from those moments when we used to play with toys.**

**I am from Taos Pueblo .**





## My Taos Pueblo Hero

Gardell Concha My Dad

My Dad was Awesome! My Dad was born on December 3, 1964, at Taos Pueblo New Mexico. He was blessed with two daughters and two sons. His two sons are Nikki Concha and me, Hunter Concha. His two daughters are Collen Romero and Emma Concha. And I can't forget his wife, aka my Mom Luanne Concha. At times he was also strict and mean, but he was a great Dad. He built his family a home to live and eat.

My Dads life was pretty much drinking and sometimes smoking. When I was born, he was in jail, when he got out he walked up the road, and when he first saw me, he cried. I wish I could go back in time and save him before everything happened. But we all know if we were to bring back someone that we have lost, things would be very different in the timeline.

My connection with my Dad was great! We would go for rides, drives and even go fishing sometimes. He was a Great Dad, and it's sad to think that he's been gone for over 9 years. I'm trying to stay strong and get over it, but it's not that easy forget that you r Dad is gone. I picked my Dad to be my Hero because he was this only one I felt comfortable around. Yeah, I have my mom, and I really Love her, but I chose my Dad. He wasn't perfect but he was a good Dad, and he was mine. We did everything together, and the is why I chose my Dad to be my Taos Pueblo Hero .

### WHERE I'M FROM

I am from a brown Teddy Bear

From a toy car and magnets

I am from a nice and comfortable home

And sometimes messy

I am from a tall Aspen tree

Who has rough bark and is huge

I am from a 24 pack of Crayons and action figures

From Concha and Romero

I am from brown hair and brown eyes

From short people

To tall people

I am from feeding before I eat

I am from Taos Pueblo

**Hunter Concha**



## WHERE I'M FROM

I am from making fires for the night  
From dirt and dust  
I am from fresh made food,  
And the smell of oven bread  
I am from a giant tree, Whose brings the wind  
I am from art and paintings  
I am from Rodriguez and Romero  
I am from having fun with my siblings, And loud laughing  
From siblings messing around  
I am from Barbra and Inez  
From Red Chili and oven bread, From baking all day  
From bringing water in  
A prayer table  
I am from those moments of running in the Pueblo  
I Am from Taos Pueblo

Santana Rodriguez



Photo courtesy:  
[heritageinspirations.com](http://heritageinspirations.com)  
Taos Pueblo Oven



## WHAT ART MEANS TO ME

Art is a way to express yourself and sometimes tell a story. Art is a way to help reduce anxiety or depression. Art can be in many forms, such as dancing, drawing, making things and making pottery. I like to do Art. Sometimes when I'm bored I'll draw with paint, and I think it calms me and helps me relax and chill. That's what Art means to me.

**MIA WILLIAMS**

## WHAT ART MEANS TO ME

I've always enjoyed Art since I was a kid, so doing art projects always made me happy. I especially enjoyed Art class at the Day School.

We always do fun and enjoyable things in Art class. My favorite thing we made in art class was probably the Mini Rugs or Paper Flowers. Another thing that makes Art class better is the Art Teacher, Mrs Dolly. We always have so much fun in Art class, because it's like taking a break from Math or Language Arts. I could go on and on about Art class and how I love it. One thing that is like therapy for me is Art. It makes me feel happy, I could always depend on it in so many ways. I love drawing and doing different art forms, it soothes me so much, I could always talk about how much I love art.

*Santana Rodriguez*

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## What I Think About Art

I think Art is an excellent subject to have. Because it teaches us how to be creative and how to be smart. It is great because you can have your mind off of school and chill with your friends and have fun drawing, weaving, and painting. It makes you so mindful and creative, and it is just fun to be in art class. I think Art is the best subject to have at Taos Day School.

**Adam Concha**

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## Why I like Art

Art is one of the reasons why I believe I am so creative. I like art because it gives me a sense of creativity. The other reason I like art is that I can draw anything. I've learned a lot from just art. I've learned how to draw better and do new art projects. I have learned that art is effortless, which is why I like Art. When I leave this school, I will miss having a good Art Teacher like Mrs. Dolly.

**ALLEN KOPEPASSAH**



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## WHY I LIKE ART

The reason I like art is that it is helpful and relaxing. It takes away any distractions from around me. Creating art in school is fun and helps students feel calm. I would honestly be pretty sad if we did not have art every week, because I enjoy Art. We have made projects like weaving small rugs, and a lot of cool things. I love Art.

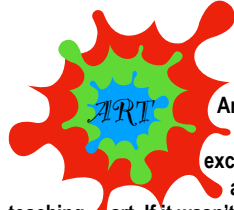
**HUNTER CONCHA**

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## THE ART

Art is very significant to me, because it's been in my life since I was born. My siblings and I inherited our Art skills from Our Dad. To be able to have an art class is very exciting for me. Having Dolly as our Art Teacher makes it all the better. I've known her for a long time and she works hard for us to have fun activities. I'm glad that Dolly is teaching art. If it wasn't for her I don't think I would have a good grade in Art class. Dolly makes me feel comfortable, and it's easy to talk to her. Since I first had her as my Art Teacher, I've had many fun memories. The most fun thing about Art is when, I got to show my artwork to my parents, and how they would be so proud of me. The thing that I will miss the most is not having art every week. I will also miss Dolly teaching us new projects. I'll miss reliving these times as a middle schooler. Next, I will be in High School and although it'll be a significant and new step for me, I'm happy I'll be learning a lot more about art and what I'm capable of creating.

~ Kalani Trujillo

## ART

I like art because it is a fun elective. It's nice to get a break from work to do art. I look forward to art every week. Art is nice and relaxing to do, from weaving to coloring or making other cool things. Dolly is also a great Art Teacher. She helps you when you need it and makes art more fun. I'm thankful for the Art program the school has.

~Evan Winters

## WHAT ART MEANS TO ME

ART IS SOMETHING UNIQUE. ART CAN BE SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS, DIFFERENT CREATIONS MADE IN YOUR HEAD. SO ART IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD STAY WITH ME QUITE FOREVER. ART DOES RUN IN MY FAMILY, SO I DO ART SOMETIMES BUT MOSTLY SKETCHES, BECAUSE THAT IS MY BEST TALENT IN ART. I DO PAINT, BUT I NEED SOME PRACTICE TO GET BETTER AND BETTER AT IT. ANOTHER ART THAT I DO, IS DOING LITTLE DOODLES ON MY PAPER. SEE, LIKE I DON'T KNOW IF DOODLES ARE ART, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT WILL STAY WITH ME FOREVER, BECAUSE WHEN I CAN'T CONCENTRATE, I DOODLE. FOR ME TO FOCUS MORE AND MORE I DOODLE A LOT. IF YOU LOOK AT MY PAPER OR NOTEBOOKS, THERE ARE MANY DOODLES. OR IT'S SOMETHING ELSE TO HELP ME RELEASE ANXIETY, STRESS ETC. BUT ART DOES MEAN A LOT TO ME, ART CAN BE FUN AND CALMING BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO CONCENTRATE, BUT IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT KIND OF ART YOU ARE DOING. THAT'S WHAT ART MEANS TO ME.

\* ANDREA SUAZO



**Taos Day School  
Memories**

I will miss the Taos Day School. I will miss playing with my friends and our class parties when I leave. I will miss when different people from colleges would come to our classroom to help us with our work. I will miss having a Christmas play, the book fair, bake sales and when we sold chocolate to make money to buy new stuff for our school.

I remember we had pen pals in the younger grades, and we would have to write to them. We got to meet our penpals, became friends and kept in touch with them through text messages and writing letters. All of these memories will always be with me when I go to High School.

I will always miss going for walks down to the Pueblo, which was fun.

~Adam Concha



# MEMORIES



**TAOS DAY SCHOOL  
MEMORIES**

Some memories I have from Taos Day School were having bake sales. I would enjoy getting food there, and it was fun. I also liked the book fair because I liked buying invisible ink pens. I'm also going to miss school sports like playing basketball against the schools. Lastly, I'm going to miss the food here. It was exquisite, that's what I am going to miss at Taos Day School.

~Allen Kopepassah



### TAOS DAY SCHOOL MEMORIES

There are many cool things that I will never forget at Taos Day School. Such as field day, guest speakers, friends and the food. But most importantly I'm going to miss the school itself. I went to Taos Day School since I was 2 or 3. And to see that this is my last year to go to Taos Day School is sad and nerve-racking. I also won't forget the bake sales, book fairs, PE, Tiwa Class and many other great awesome things I have experienced. I have done this throughout the ten years I've been on the Taos Day School Campus. I am truly going to miss the Taos Day School Eagles.

~ HUNTER CONCHA



### TAOS DAY SCHOOL - SPECIAL TIMES

I will miss when the Taos Day School had sports, like soccer and when they had basketball tournaments. I will miss the book fair because it had cool things, you could buy invisible ink pens. I will miss the bake sales, it was fun going to buy any snacks I wanted. I will miss the Cowboys from Arkansas who visited the school. They would bring presents for all the kids for Christmas, and one year they came to the school at the end of the school year, but I wasn't there.

Those are some of the times I will miss Taos Day School.

~ Evan Winters

**8**  
GRADE



## MY TAOS DAY SCHOOL MEMORIES

A special time at Taos Day School was on field day, when all the students would go outside and do things like, watermelon eating contests and other fun activities. It was so fun just hanging out when we would have these activities. Some more special times were when we would go on field trips to Albuquerque and Uncle Cliff's Amusement Park. Summer camp at the school was fun! We would have clubs go on field trips and visit different places. I went every year up until three years ago. It was so enjoyable. These are my special memories from Taos Day School.

*Mia Williams*

## TAOS DAY SCHOOL SPECIAL TIMES

*Taos Day School has given me a lot of special memories and I treasure all of them. There are a lot of memories that are my favorite. One of the most memorable was from the 6th grade when the Cowboys from Arkansas visited us for horse camp. We got to ride and take pictures with the horses. There's also the Halloween dance in the 6th grade. We went on a haunted hayride, where we saw multiple scary attractions. We also got to run and mess around outside in the park. Since all of the 7th grade and some 8th graders were online. The only significant memories, the clearest ones were from 6th grade. We went on an all girls trip out of town, and went to a large convention center, with activities like making slime, making lights, and we got to see different science projects. We ate fast food in a big cafe with many other girls from different schools on this trip. I will never forget the parties for every holiday and the dances. I also really loved having Thanksgiving lunch with our parent. I don't have many significant memories, but I do have a lot of fun memories from the Taos Day School.*



*~Santana Rodriguez*





# SPECIAL MOMENTS

## THESE MOMENTS

Most of the feelings that I want to say and what I'll miss from school are things and feelings that are difficult to write in words. So with that, I'll list the things that are possible to explain. The first thing that I'll miss from school is how long I've been here. For example I have been here at Taos Day School since I was only a few years old. From Head Start to 8th grade. I am very Thankful for the people and Teachers who have helped me get this far through thick and thin. I'll also miss the visitors, young and old, who came to visit us. They were able to teach us about ourselves, and we learned about them and what they did. I'll miss the memories that I have made, either with my classmates, schoolmates, Teachers, visitors or anything else. I'll miss those memories very much. But, I'll mostly miss the feelings that I got emotionally and physically from the school, I will miss that the most. Oh yeah, and one more thing that I'll miss is being close to the Pueblo and seeing it at the beginning of the day and the end of the day.

~Kalani Trujillo

## Taos Day School-Special Times

**My special times at Taos Day School were laughing, messing around, and having fun with classmates. My favorite year was in 6th grade, my first year at this school. I was 12 years old, now I'm 14. I was shy for the first week, but Kalani and other girl classmates helped me. Thinking about what I did during 6th grade gets me sad because it reminds me how fast the years are going by for me. I remember we changed classes in the 6th grade. I remember our class making mistakes but we could handle them. When we would walk to our next class, it was always so loud, and we were able to talk and enjoy talking about random things.**

**The Halloween party was the best! We played some scary games and got to see the Haunted House. It was enjoyable! My friends and I laughed and ran away from the people. You know, Memories will get sad if you think about it, and that's how I feel about my Memories at this school.**

~ Andrea Suazo

**8TH GRADE**  
**Rocks!**

8th Grade

Taos Day School Class of 2026

BEHIND YOU ALL YOUR MEMORIES,  
BEFORE YOU ALL YOUR DREAMS  
AROUND YOU, ALL WHO LOVE YOU  
WITHIN YOU, ALL YOU NEED



ALITHOR UNKNOWN



8<sup>th</sup> Grade Taos Day School

Top Row sitting on tree: L-R: Allen Kopepassah, Evan Winters, Adam Concha,  
Carmen Fogarty, Mia Williams  
Bottom Row Standing: L-R: Hunter Concha, Kalani Trujillo, Andrea Suazo, Santana Rodriguez

Dear Readers,

I hope you all enjoyed reading this years 2nd edition, of the Taos Day School's Literacy Magazine. It has been an Honor and a Pleasure working on this Amazing project for the Students and Community . I am proud of the work and effort that was put into each entry by every student that participated. In my eyes Every Student is a Winner. The artwork, writings and poetry entered this year were very Inspiring, moving and emotional. May you recognize the wonderful and creative talents in All Your Students and Children.

Many Blessings and Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Martinez".

Paula Martínez  
Health and Wellness Educator &  
Taos Day School Magazine  
Coordinator/ Editor

Thank you

*Thank you*



# HOME OF THE EAGLES

