



The AICRC CIRCLE

The American Indian Child Resource Center Newsletter

Preserving and promoting the integrity and culture of American Indian youth and their families since 1974.

Back to School at IEC

This Fall is packed with an array of amazing programs and projects. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to our after school program on September 8th. This year the students' afternoons will incorporate our Sports and Nutrition Program daily. In addition to offering health, nutrition, and recreation activities such as Football, Dance, Sailing, and walking around Lake Merritt, we will host cooking classes, guest speakers, and nutrition experts.

After daily intensive tutoring and homework help, students will be able to participate in the cultural arts component of the day. We are happy to welcome a new cultural arts teacher, Celeste DeCoy, who will be working with the youth on as loom-work, basket

weaving, painting, t-shirt design, creative writing, and jewelry making two days a week.

Some of the exciting new youth leadership programs include the Youth Entrepreneurial Project and Oral History Project. In the first, high school students will learn transferable skills in project design and management, graphic arts and print making, weaving, beading and feather work, and marketing and sales. Students will be working together in to create digital designs to print onto T-shirts and other media to sell at community cultural events.

In the spring we will support the documentation and legacy of American Indian politi-

cal and social justice activism in the Bay Area through engaging youth in a video oral history project. The project will engage American Indian youth, as well as other interested students from diverse backgrounds, in interviewing key leaders. This will help preserve the rich history of the Bay Area American Indian community while creating valuable relationships between youth and elders.

If you would like to volunteer with any component of our after school program please contact us. We always appreciate extra help. Call (510) 208-1870.

Inside:

- Summer Photos Spread
- Mashpee Report Back
- Grass dance Regalia Making
- Street Academy Collaboration.

Upcoming Events

September 8 – First Day of After School Programming

-Board Meeting

September 13- Medicine Warriors Powwow

September 16 – Parent Meeting

October 7 – Parent Meeting

October 12 – Alcatraz Overnight

October 31 – IEC Halloween Party

AICRC's Summer



AICRC's Field trip Camp hits Yosemite National Park.

AICRC's hard work and planning paid off in our fun and rewarding summer youth programs. Some highlights include the *Mentor Artist Playwriting Project (MAPP)*; a week-long intensive workshop in which ten youth, each with an adult mentor artist, wrote a two-character, one-act play. The workshop built self-confidence, creative problem-solving skills and a sense of personal mastery, while strengthening the young writers' language skill sets. The first reading of the plays by professional actors was in late August and more readings are being planned so keep watch.

Continued on next page.

AICRC Board of Directors

Sandra La Framboise,

Board Chair

Turtle Mountain Chippewa

Heather Zenone,

Secretary/ Treasurer

Cherokee

Christina Rodriguez de La Mar

Chiricahua Apache

Elnora Tena Webb Mitchell

Choctaw and Blackfeet

Kathy Running Horse Wells

Dakota and Yurok

Rachelle Goldneberg

Native Hawaiian & Tlingit

Kelly Middlebrook

Citizen Potawatomi Nation



The ladies of AICRC's field trip camp in front of a Yosemite National Park Waterfall.



Marirosa Gonzales skillfully guesses the whereabouts of the concealed bones during a hand game.

Report Back from Mashpee, Massachusetts

Over the summer four IEC students traveled to the east coast to live and work with members of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe. The following excerpts describe their experience in their own voices.

“One of the best things was when I learned how to weave. I’m still planning on learning how to weave a lot more things like baskets and I’m hoping I will learn how to do a lot of patterns. I even learned how to skin a chipmunk and make it into a pouch, which was cool but at the same time cruel because they were so cute and cunning. I even used my weaving skills at Plimoth Plantation which is where I learned it. It was good to learn new things and I hope to continue weaving and maybe get some kind of money out of it even if it’s not so much.” ~ Savannah Mitchell

“One thing that was nice about my trip to the east coast was that I felt much safer just walking down the street. It was very different from a city atmosphere. There were lots of trees.

Another fun thing was that we had a lot of late night fires in my host family’s back yard. It was cool because a lot of people came to them and we all just hung out.” ~Bobby Toney

The thing that I enjoyed most with my stay on the east coast was the chance to meet a whole different type of youth. What had surprised me was that I was able to adapt to the youth within a



short period of time. By the third day I had meet a couple of life time friends. All in all I had an

extremely fun stay on the east coast and I wouldn’t mind going again.” ~Arnold Torres
“My family that I stayed with was the best. They all were very funny and loving. We told each other joke and had laughs. They treated me good and were very nice to me. They took me to New York. It was the best time and we had fun. We took Savannah along for the ride and on top of that she had never been there before. She had a good time even though she might deny it. She was really excited when we crossed the state boarder. Her eyes lit up and her ears turned red. You could tell she was as excited as I was. I’m grateful for the family I got.” ~Shea Norris

The trip was paid for by grassroots fundraising by the students, their families and IEC staff Nitana Hicks. They still need to raise a little more funds to cover the costs of the trip. If you would like to buy a raffle ticket to support them Please contact Nitana at (510) 208-1870 x 312.

“Summer” Continued from page 1

Midsummer, IEC students had the opportunity to get out of the city and enjoy themselves in a variety of new and engaging environments including Shadow Cliffs, the San Francisco Exploratorium, and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. The highlight for most students and staff was the campout road trip to Yosemite National Park.

In our week long Cultural Arts day camp, students learned various Native crafts chosen from

different geographic areas of the country to give students an idea of the arts originating from diverse tribes nationally. These crafts included beadwork, mosaic art, leatherwork, the building of looms, and making and playing American Indian stick games. On Friday, we had a Family Camp at Bort Meadows where we invited the entire community to come for a BBQ and camp-out.

AICRC students also had a chance to attend local powwows, participate in the Gathering of Native Americans, and one even traveled to the acclaimed Indigenous Environmental Network Conference in Nevada.

All in all our summer programs were enriching, diverse, and successful. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did.



Two of the young writers from the MAPP workshop; Melissa and Richard after the opening reading .



Jimmy Williamson works on his reed basket weaving.

From Mary Trimble Norris, Executive Director

We have so much to report from our youth, the exciting summer programs that I have a small amount of space to say much. Thank you to our funders, notably the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth, who enable us to provide these vitally needed services to youth and families in our community. Without this support, our youth have few options for summer recreation that meets their needs as young Native youth. Our programs are growing by leaps and bounds but our funding is not keeping pace. Our after school program participation has nearly doubled since last year. Please consider a financial contribution to AICRC as we encounter escalating fuel, supplies, and food costs. Your investment in us will be returned to you and the community in the form of healthy, educated, and contributing youth.

Foster Care News

Our Foster Care department is proud to welcome Jeannette Beetles and Kenneth Flanagan of San Francisco as our newest certified foster home. Thank you for accepting the challenging role of fostering an American Indian child and welcome to our team working to bring health and stability to American Indian families.

We would also like to thank and honor our retiring Foster Parent, Rose Jefferson, from Sacramento. In the last 10 years she has welcomed into her home 20 American Indian foster children. Rose will be moving to Porterville, CA this September. We wish Rose the very best as she leaves our area.

And Congratulations to Carlos and Bernadette Salazar and their family with the finalization of adoption for Karisha who was placed in their home in March 2006.

Street Academy Collaboration

AICRC is pleased to be able to work in collaboration with Emiliano Zapata Street Academy this year by offering our students several opportunities to earn school credit while learning about important issues and gaining experience.

Keepin' It Native is a Street Academy elective class taught by AICRC staff which incorporates aspects of American Indian wellness ranging from history and social justice to decision making skills and traditional tobacco use. In future sessions the class will cover media

awareness, mural design, social justice activism, and community organizing.

Another class offered as a fourth period in partnership with Hintil Kuu Ca, Child Development Center focuses on Peer Education and Mentoring. Two to four Street Academy students will be transported to Hintil to provide after-school mentoring, reading skills and homework help to ten 4th and 5th grade students. We look forward to working with the dedicated staff and students of Street Academy and Hintil this year.

Grass Dance Regalia Making

AICRC's Grass dance Regalia making project is in full swing. It is a class designed for young men or boys and their mothers or guardians to work together. The boys in the class are learning how to take measurements, do appliqué and everything it takes to make a grass dance outfit from instructor Eulalia Valerio. The class is being taught in conjunction with The Medicine Warriors and All Nations Drum group Thursday night dance and drum class at Intertribal Friendship House. The following quotes are from students explaining why they are in the class.

"I wanted to be part of the class to dance for the community, plus I was growing out of my

outfit. I have learned how to cut out my own design, how to iron fabric using appliqué paper and how to make regalia.

Lukas Aguilar, Age 10
Navajo, Santo Domingo Pueblo, & Pit River



Jesse Holden working on his regalia

"I like to be doing good positive things in the community and to make my mom happy. I've learned that it's good to dance for people in the community who can't dance for themselves and that it's a lot of work and time that goes into making an outfit."

Enrique Louriero, Age 13
Klamath

"I came here to learn how to dance and learn how to make an outfit. I want to dance for the people who can not anymore."

Keshkoli Perez, Age 9
Navajo, Lakota

To support this and future cultural projects at AICRC contact Manny Lieras (510) 208-1870 x 310



American Indian Child Resource Center

522 Grand Avenue

Oakland, CA 94610

We need your help.

Please Consider Becoming a Foster Parent for an American Indian Child.

For more information call 510- 208-1870 x 314 or 315

We offer education, support, and are licenced to certify homes in 10 Bay area counties. Licence # 015200490



Save the Date:

AICRC's

10th Annual Powwow

- *Free Public Event
- Contest Dancing
- *Native American Food & Crafts
 - Gift Giveaway

All Drums and Dancers Welcome

December 6th & 7th 2008
Laney College Gymnasium

Questions? Want to Volunteer? Call (510) 208-1870 X 310

