



GMCS CONNECT

EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE

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that will build fluency. The department will be incorporating a new innovative experience to build opportunity for student language use in the public arena. This school year, the Cultural Education is working alongside fifth grade, mid, and high school social studies teachers, district-wide, to integrate a Heritage Language Cultural History/ Government/ Social Studies Fair on May 17th & 18th, 2023. All parents, families, and community members are invited and encouraged to attend. The Cultural Education department would like to highlight some recent successes in

possible in the program. It does not matter whether a student speaks perfectly or is at the beginning steps with learning their home language, they are all welcome in the program.

As always, GMCS needs every parent, guardian, and community member to support building a positive school-to-community relationship. In this relationship, Cultural Education asks every stakeholder to seriously consider being a part of their school's Advisory School Council (ASC). Notices from each school about the ASC and voting will take place in September. Therefore, sign up and join your child's educational team and make an impact on learning in GMCS!!

GMCS and the Cultural Education department look forward to building a true family and community connection. For answers to any questions or in need of general information about HLC, please do not hesitate to call us at (505) 721 - 1008. Ahéhee'

the Heritage Language Program. First with the support and help of a Navajo Language Team, we are developing three-week oral language unit assessments for the 2023-2024 school year. Secondly, the department is excited that Gallup-McKinley County Schools, has a Navajo Heritage Language Program and teacher physically hired in every school. GMCS has also hired Spanish and Zuni Heritage Language teachers for area schools that serve those specific language-based populations. Lastly, providing an HLC teacher at each school site would not be possible without the Heritage Language Educational Assistant Internship program. Any adult that has a high school diploma and that can speak the Navajo Language, the Cultural Education department asks that they apply, and join our team!

All students are welcome to join and participate fully in the program to help build language success as each new school year starts. Teachers want as many students as

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9th
Easter

April 10th
Board Meeting

April 22th
Earth Day

April 24th
Navajo Sovereignty Day

April 28th
Arbor Day



A word from Ophelia Sanchez, Director of Cultural Education

Yá'át'ééh, shik'éeí dóó shidine'é. Keshi Hom
A:Kuwaye. Saludos padres, madres y amigos.

Hello everyone! The Culture Education Department is excited for the progress made in another great year of language acquisition and development. We welcome Mr. Daryl Antone as the new Cultural Education Coordinator and Mrs. Lauren Becenti as the new Curriculum Specialist.

The goal of the Heritage Language program is to develop and build each students' oral language skills in speaking, listening, and responding to others in their heritage language through daily classroom instruction. Cultural education is working toward building a stronger connection with words, phrases, and communication skills