



THE PEÑASCO POST

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14



@penascoisd

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penascoisd.com

WHAT'S INSIDE

Back to School Event

Picuris Feast Day

Meet Our Staff: Donna Vasquez-Rudolph

Staff and Student Shout Outs!

ACP Renewal

Nurturing Center

CALENDAR

**Thursday, September 14: volleyball game
6PM vs. Coronado @home (varsity)**

**Friday, September 15 and Saturday,
September 16: volleyball tournament
@McCurdy (JV)**

**Friday, September 15, Cross country meet
@ Edgewood MS**

**Sat/Sun, September 16th and 17th and
23rd and 24th:
High Road Artisan Youth Art Show**

**Wednesday, September 20th:
Vitalant Blood Drive, 10-2**

**Tuesday, September 19:
Regular School Board Meeting**

**Monday, September 25:
After school program begins!**

The newsletter, now called The Peñasco Post, is a publication of the Peñasco High School journalism class. Please share any story ideas, calendar events or staff/student shout outs to snoll@penascoisd.com.



UPCOMING GAMES/MEETS/EVENTS

Cross Country:

Saturday, September 23rd @ Rio Rancho

Volleyball:

Thursday, September 21 5:30PM vs. Jemez @home (varsity)



vitalant
Blood Donation

Penasco High School

DATE: Wednesday, September 20, 2023
TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location:
13 School Rd.
Penasco, NM 87553

Please bring your photo ID.



ACP Renewal

All families of students enrolled at PISD are eligible to receive money toward their monthly Internet bill from the Affordable Connectivity Program. Many families have already taken advantage of this program! However, all families--whether or not they are enrolled--will need to re-enroll to maintain their benefits: \$30/month and \$75/month for families living within the boundaries of Picuris Pueblo (which includes all of Peñasco, Rio Lucio, and Chamisal, and parts of Vadito and Rodarte). To enroll or re-enroll, visit this website: <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov>. For help, visit the SPOT in Peñasco, where staff can assist you in filling out the forms.

Back To School Event Brings Supplies and Experiences to Students

By: Xavier Noll

There was a back to school event on Friday, August 11th at the Jicarita gym on the Peñasco campus. It was put on by MAS Comunidad, Mrs. Doris Sandoval and the SPOT, community schools coordinators Mr. Michael Noll and Ms. Donna Vasquez Rudolph, Twirl, and the Taos County Sheriff's Office. Mrs. Sandoval shared that the event was a huge success. "Our community's families were excited to come out and connect and just have a good time celebrating Peñasco's children jumping back into the school year," Sandoval said. A lot went into the planning of this event from the whole community, including Hogs and Heifers, Paso a Paso, and the Peñasco schools.

"They all pitched in their time and resources to create an event that was beneficial for everyone," said Mrs. Sandoval. Mrs. Sandoval also said that the event was a great chance for kids to get school supplies and start the year positively.

There was a backpack give away done by the SPOT, a wildlife exhibit with birds of the rainforest held by Exotics of the Rainforest. Children's presentations were done by Twirl in Taos and by Santa Fe Children's Museum. Hog and Heifers members served food at the event, Paso a Paso paid for all food, and the Peñasco and Ojo Sarco volunteer fire departments as well as R&G Materials of Dixon donated their trucks and time for a touch-a-truck presentation. Overall, this was a great way to kickoff the school year.



Touch a Truck=Success!

Peñasco...parrots?



Feast Day Dance/ Celebration

By Alyssa Lopez and Jazmyne Romero

On Thursday, August 17th our school was invited to the Picuris Pueblo to celebrate Feast Day with them and all their participants. The Elementary as well as the Middle/High School was invited to enjoy the culture and the well cooked food that was made. Students left around lunch time at 1:30, and we got back to school around 3:40. During the time we were at the Pueblo the students were able to try their food, and buy and look at jewelry. The students were able to watch the beginning of the dance but eventually had to head back to school.

According to Mr. Richardson, because of Covid, Feast Day was limited because of the pandemic. For a few years, they didn't include most of the things they would do on Feast Day. Last year Mr. Richardson said they had only done the Corn Dance with none of the foot races. Now that everything has started to settle down again's, it's getting to be like the Feast Days when Mr. Richardson was younger. The only difference now is that most of the members that would climb the pole back in the '90s don't do it anymore because they have gotten older, and the age of people who are participating now are a lot younger. What the importance of Feast Day is to Mr. Richardson "is getting your family all together," so it's one of his favorite things about Feast Day. Mr. Richardson also says, " I hope the students are able to come to more of the dances. There will be more in January, February, and March."

Some participants for the Feast Day events were Jessica Mermejo, Justin Pyne, and Wesley Vigil. They all did a few of the events such as dancing, pole climbing, and the foot races. Even though the school wasn't able to stay long for the events we do know that three of our students were participants in them. To start off with the first event was Wesley; he took part in the foot races which he said were fun but scary at the same time. When it comes to the dancing, Jessica Mermejo participated. She said that it was fun because she was finally able to go back to Feast Day after three years. Since Feast Day was gone for so long she missed the dancing, and because she missed it so much she enjoyed her role in dancing on Feast Day. Justin Pyne did the pole climbing and is known as one of the youngest clowns for the Pueblo to have. When we asked Justin what difficulties he had faced with the pole climbing, he said that it was when he went to climb back down saying, "It was easy climbing up but getting down was hard because i had to use two ropes and it was grippy so I skinned my knee."

Peñasco students hope to visit the Pueblo again thanks to this great experience.



Students are thankful that they got to go to Feast Day and get to have new experiences while having fun with it. Thanks to Mr. Richardson, we were able to learn of more upcoming Dances happening at the Pueblo and how much Feast Day had changed over the years. We thank Justin, Wesley, and Jessica for giving information about all the things they did on Feast Day and how they helped out for all the events.

GET TO KNOW

Donna Vasquez Rudolph

What does she do?

She is our School's Coordinator. Her main goal is to focus on the students, staff, and the community to establish a strong relationship so that we are all united and involved in events and activities provided. She will also be doing grant writing. Another goal she has is to bring in presenters and give educational presentations so the students have a broad awareness of their environment.



Why did she come to Peñasco Schools?

One of the reasons she came to Peñasco Schools is because she grew up here. She graduated from high school here and lived most of her life here. Another reason is she loves being closer to home. She graduated from New Mexico Highlands University so she has always been around the northern area. She states, "we also have the best students in northern New Mexico here in Peñasco". She has taught here for three years. She taught Business and Career exploration and Microsoft Office through the UNM dual credit enrollment program. Rudolph states she is happy to be back and excited to get to know each and one of the kids.



Hobbies/Interests

She loves being outdoors and in nature. One of her favorite places to go is Wheeler Peak. She has hiked there three times. Not only does she like to hike but she also likes to read, research. Her favorite subjects in general are art and history. When she has time she watches documentaries based on facts and history. Lastly, her favorite thing she loves to do is spend time with her family. She states, "That's the most important part in my life."



Plans for the Future

Mrs. Rudolph and the after school program coordinator, Matilda Trujillo, are still in the planning stage for after school activities. Mrs. Rudolph says that the main focus on the school year is to provide educational and enrichment activities for all students' sixth grade and up. Give them an opportunity to experience new activities during the after school program.



Student and Staff Shout-Outs

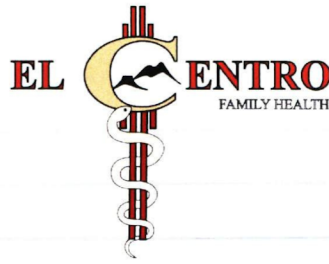
Michael Noll deserves a shout out for always stepping up and taking the lead even when he doesn't have to!

Donna Rudolph Deserves a shout out for hitting the ground running as our new community schools coordinator for the MS/HS and bringing so many new opportunities for students this new school year.

All the Staff at Central Office Deserve a Shout out for always staying on top of everything and always properly communicating with the school District staff.

Shout out to the Cafeteria staff for always being prompt and on time with meals and also packing snacks and lunches for trips.

All staff for just showing up and being there for students daily.



El Centro Family Health
SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC

Providing Medical & Behavioral Health Services
for all Peñasco students and staff!

Call us!
(575) 587-2623

Clinic Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

HEALTH CARE - SPORT PHYSICALS - COUNSELING
HEALTH EDUCATION - CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES
FAMILY PLANNING - MEDICAID APPLICATION

