



NAVAJO HEAD START

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Navajo Head Start celebrates end of year, student promotions

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—Sharon H. Singer

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Sharon H. Singer, assistant superintendent of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education, congratulates all the Navajo Head Start (NHS) students that were promoted last week to Kindergarten in several promotion ceremonies and End of Year Celebrations held across the Navajo Nation.

In total, Navajo Head Start will promote more than 1,450 three to five-year-old children in 86 promotional ceremonies.



Sharon H. Singer, assistant superintendent, provides keynote address at End of Year Celebration and promotion ceremony for St. Michaels Head Start on May 21.

Singer spent the week attending various promotions and events across the Nation and encouraged parents to stay involved in their children’s education. Singer was the keynote speaker at the End of Year Celebration and promotion ceremony for St. Michaels Head Start on May 21 at the St. Michaels Chapter House. She highlighted accomplishments of the children, as well as Navajo Head Start for the past two years.

“Two years ago, we started our journey to school readiness, transforming, and restructuring Head Start. Today, we have 50% of our teachers with bachelor’s degrees and we are very proud of them,” she explained.

She also explained NHS has been in operation for the last 50 years.

“We are celebrating our 50th birthday— Happy Birthday Head Start!” she said.

Singer stressed the importance of NHS’s goal to have children ready for kindergarten.

“Our goal in Head Start is to get your children school-ready for kindergarten, so they are able to write their names, know their alphabets, and know their numbers,” said Singer. “We started integrating math, science, and technology as well. We want them to be prepared and we need your support.”



Singer also expressed gratitude to all who took part in the education and development of the Head Start children, which includes the parents and families, teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers and the community.

Lambert Perry, local parent committee president, served as the master of ceremony at the St. Michaels event and he explained it has been a pleasure to work with the Head Start children.

“I want to thank you all, it has been my pleasure to work with the kids, staff and the entire Head Start program,” said Perry.

Perry also thanked and praised the staff and faculty of NHS who provide services to more than 96 Head Start Centers spread across the Navajo Nation, which is more than 27,000-square-miles sprawled across the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

“Our head start staff are really gifted and dedicated,” he said.

One highlight of the promotion ceremony was the singing of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm” by the children.

Navajo Head Start thanks parents, teachers, faculty and the community for their on-going support and they look forward to the upcoming school year.

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Navajo Head Start is the largest federally-funded grant program in the country. Head Start and Early Head Start services are provided within the geographical area of the Navajo Nation, an area approximately the size of West Virginia that spans more than 27,000-square-miles across the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. The Central Administration offices are located in Window Rock, Ariz., capital of the Navajo Nation.