

# Important dates

## 2004- 2005 Student Calendar

### August

- 24 First day of class for students
- 24-27 All schools will dismiss one hour early

### September

- 6 Schools not in session

### October

- 4 Students in elementary schools NOT in attendance
- 25-29 Schools not in session

### November

- 25-26 Schools not in session
- 29 Students in elementary schools NOT in attendance

### December

- 23 First day of LPS Winter Break

### January

- 3 Classes resume
- 17-19 Schools not in session

### February

- 21 Students in elementary schools NOT in attendance

### March

- 25 Schools not in session
- 28-April 1 Schools not in session

### April

- 1 Schools not in session
- 18 Students in elementary schools NOT in attendance

### May

- 30 Schools not in session

### June

- 2 Last day of class for students

## GDE test dates

All students are required to pass graduation demonstrations in reading, math, and writing in order to graduate. What are graduation demonstrations? They are evidence that a student has reached an expected high school level of achievement prior to graduation. Options for students in each subject area include passing a graduation demonstration examination, reaching predetermined scores on other tests, or completing coursework.

Students begin to have opportunities to pass the demonstrations in ninth grade. All ninth graders must take the Reading, Math, and Writing Graduation Demonstration Exams. Students in the special education program should participate according to their IEPs. Students who take the exams will receive a letter for each exam stating whether they have passed it. Passage of the demonstrations is also reflected on semester grade reports. Students who do not pass the exams can retake them in spring and fall each year until they pass the exams or meet the demonstrations through other means.

### 2004-2005 GDE schedule

Reading  
October 6  
March 8

Math  
October 5  
March 15

Writing  
October 6 & 7  
March 8 & 9

## ACT test dates

Many Midwestern colleges require the ACT. Scores for each section are averaged to create a composite score. A perfect score on the ACT Assessment is 36. It's best to take the ACT test in the spring of your junior year, with a follow-up in the summer or in the fall of your senior year. The cost of the test is currently \$26.00. Students from low-income families can request a fee waiver from the Counseling Center. Registration material are available in room 216 of the Counseling Center.

### Test Date      Registration Deadline      Late Registration\*

#### Fall 2004

October 23	September 17	October 1
December 11	November 5	November 18

#### Spring 2005

February 12	January 7	January 2
April 9	March 4	March 18
June 11	May 6	May 20

\* \$16.00 Late Registration Fee

## IPAC Members 2004- 2005

### Parent Represent atives

Zach Gillander, Phillis Stone, Autumn, Bluestone-Weaver, Richard Marshall, Bobie Jean McClatchey, Lori Gottula, Thissa Nowland, Renee Lakota, Amy Bearskin

### Student Representative

Tyrah Byron

### Educators

Rita McClure, Joe Rousseau, Pam Cox, Jeanne Lord, Nissa Sturgeon, Larry Wright

### Ex-Officio

Deila Steiner

### Program Advocates

Kris Ross, Kate Marx, Cynthia Surrounded

## Contacts

For more information on the events or announcements in this month's newsletter, please contact Kris at [kross@lps.org](mailto:kross@lps.org) or Kate at [kmarx@lps.org](mailto:kmarx@lps.org). Or call us at 436-1963.

This is your newsletter. We look forward to your ideas, suggestions, announcements, events, and student achievements.

### LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kathy Danek	James Garver	Keith Prettyman
Doug Evans	Lillie Larsen	Ed Zimmer
	Don Mayhew	
Philip H. Schoo, Superintendent		

5901 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68510 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 82889 • Lincoln, NE 68501-2889



*I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough  
for a man to depend simply upon himself.*  
— Lone Man (Isna-la-wica), Teton Sioux

September 2004

## Welcome back, students!

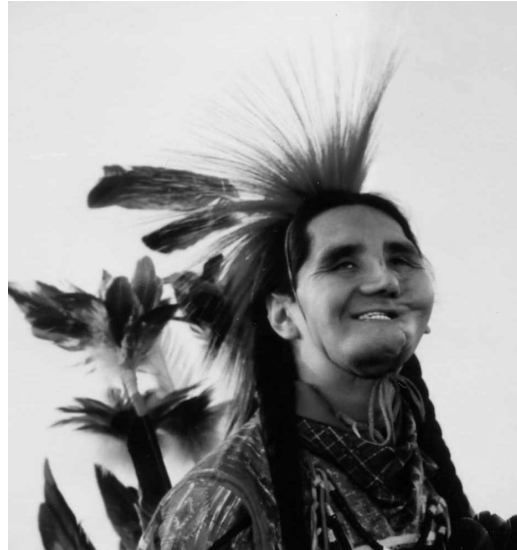
### First Annual Student Leadership Conference

Indian Education will host the first annual Native American Student Leadership Conference at SCC's east campus on Wednesday September 29th from 8:30-2:30. This conference has been created by student input and involvement, as well as strong support from staff in the LPS community. The purpose of the conference is to provide students and participants the opportunity to hear and observe Native American professionals and scholars, as well as to participate in student forums focusing on student issues and in cultural exchanges in an enjoyable community experience.

Speakers include: Arnold William Thomas, motivational speaker traveling from Salt Lake City, Utah; Dr. Mark Awakuni-Swetland, UNL Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies (Native American Studies); Greg Keller, LHS English teacher and advocate for Native American students; Phyllis Stone, storyteller, a grandmother and a granddaughter of a Rosebud Sioux Chief; and Matthew "Sitting Bear" Jones, a Native American lecturer from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

There are speakers yet to be announced. You will receive a brochure in the mail with full details about each speaker and the day's events in the next few weeks. All High School students will be excused for this event and transportation will be provided. If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions about this conference please call Kris or Kate at 436-1963.

### Arnold Thomas to speak at Student Leadership Conference



Arnold William Thomas

My name is Arnold William Thomas. I am a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation of Idaho and Nevada. For the last 10 years, I have been speaking to communities in the United States and Canada. Topics discussed are important social issues that directly effect people on a daily basis. I combine both personal experience and research data to convey my message.

In High School, I was recognized as one of Nevada's elite football and basketball players. My goal was to play collegiate sports and as schools in the Western United States began recruiting me, I was well on my way to achieving that goal. I dreamed of becoming a professional athlete and that too seemed within reach. This would not come to be. In the spring

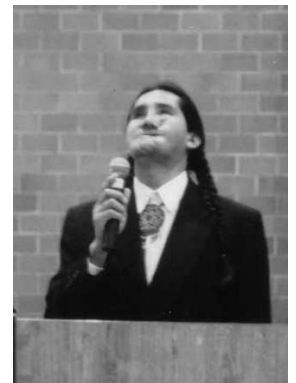
of my sophomore year, my father committed suicide. His death had a great impact on myself and my family. I lost all harmony and balance. My life was thrown into a tail spin. I was out of control. I tried to drown my grief and sorrow in alcohol and drugs.

One warm summer night soon after I turned 18, I stuck a hunting rifle under my chin and pulled the trigger. The gun shot wound severely damaged my face and left me completely blind. I was unable to speak for several years. With the steadfast support of my hometown community, my family and my friends along with my own renewed will to live, I survived this challenging period of my life and slowly began to put the shattered pieces back together.

My life has been greatly effected by generational patterns of poverty, alcoholism, stereotypes, myths, and the passing of loved ones. The death of my father along with the consumption of mind altering drugs contributed to my suicide attempt. This path destroyed my original dreams and goals.

Since 1988, my journey has necessitated learning new life skills which have gone beyond the daily demands for living. On May 7, 1999 I graduated from the University of Utah with a Masters degree in Social Work . Since losing my sight I have held various leadership roles.

These have included coaching youth basketball and football and serving as president of the Intertribal Student Association at the University of Utah. For the last 4 years, I have been a Traditional dancer. Most importantly I have relied on ancient ceremonies to help me maintain balance in my life. Tribal history, dances, songs and craft work have helped me gain new insight and strength to achieve new dreams and goals.



Arnold William Thomas

# Lewis and Clark Bicentennial events

## Matthew 'Sitting Bear' Jones: A Native American Perspective

As the As Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebration draws to a close this year, Matthew "Sitting Bear" Jones, a member of the Otoe-Missouria nation, examined the first and second meetings that Lewis and Clark held with the Otoe-Missouria nation in 1804, from the Otoe-Missouria point of view. They were the first Native peoples to be contacted by Lewis and Clark west of the Mississippi River. Jones brought to light the historical repercussions that the Otoe-Missouria experienced after this first contact which took place in July 1804, and what the tribe thinks about this historical meeting today.

A free event was held in Omaha's Elmwood Park on August 3 to round out the commemoration by recreating the first tribal council attended by Lewis and Clark.

The evening opened with the grand entry and presentation of the Otoe-Missouria tribe's elders and members, accompanied by the leaders of the Tribal Council, who traveled from Oklahoma to participate in the bicentennial. The tribe worked closely with the Bicentennial Commission to ensure

historical accuracy of the first tribal council dramatization.

Jones has developed many programs as a lecturer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and has been a television script consultant. He also served as a consultant for the movie, *Dances with Wolves*. His teaching concentration is in multicultural education. In 2002, Jones was awarded the Indian Faculty Person of the Year by the Big XII Native American Student Conference. He is a special advisor to the Nebraska Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. Matthew "Sitting Bear" Jones other lectures include:

Matthew "Sitting Bear" Jones may be familiar to many of our students. He has been a storyteller for Indian Education summer camps, grades 1-6 and was recently invited to speak at our first Student Leadership Conference created by our Native high school students and Indian Education. The Student Leadership Conference is scheduled for September 29th at Southeast Community College. All high school students will be given a formal invitation to attend a full day of Native American speakers and events.



Matthew "Sitting Bear" Jones

## Omaha Tribe Bicentennial Pow Wow and web event

Omaha Tribe Bicentennial Pow-Wow will be held in Macy, Nebraska on August 26-29. The Omaha Tribe at Macy is planning a pow-wow to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the first pow-wow recorded in the Lewis & Clark journals at the end of August. "The oldest Celebration in North America. Home of the Original He 'thushka Dance ad Umo n ho n (Grass Dance)" The pow wow will start about 1 p.m. and go to 4:30 p.m. and then start again about 6:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. each day.

On Thursday, August 19 the National Park Service web site hosted a special live NPS web cast to allow 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Omaha Nation Public School students to speak to other students around the country. The one and half hour web cast was created to facilitate discussions between students from across the country and to draw a deeper understanding of the Omaha culture. To round out discussions, local Native American Indian leaders discussed topics and issues faced by the Omaha Tribe and culture.

## The 2nd Annual Omanisa Wacipi/ North Platte Traveler Pow- Wow

The 2nd Annual Omanisa Wacipi/ North Platte Traveler Pow-Wow will be held in North Platte, Nebraska on October 22-24. Some of the things you should plan to attend: "Honoring our Elders" Contest Pow-Wow, Singing Contest, "Princess" contest, located at Mid-Plains Community College, McDonald-Belton campus, in North Platte, NE. Vendor space is available, call or email for an application today! Everyone is invited to attend! Contact: Char- (308) 532-4040 or char@nptraveler.com.

## IPAC member, Phyllis Stone shares culture in community

The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial sparked many celebrations around the state this summer. On July 8 - July 13, a partnership between Homestead National Monument and Southeast Community College encouraged participation from the entire community to make Beatrice's Lewis and Clark celebration a special week. It was sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Great Plains Chautauqua Society. Historical figures were featured from the Lewis and Clark era telling their stories under the Chautauqua big tent. Characters included William Clark, Tecumseh, John Jacob Astor,

Sacagawea, York, and Dolley Madison.

Phyllis Stone, a grandmother and a granddaughter of a Rosebud Sioux Chief, as well as a dedicated member of the Indian Education IPAC committee, shared some Native American history and symbolism at Beatrice's Great Plains Chautauqua Community Events. Her involvement was scheduled between keynote speakers encouraging hands on activities in the topics of: "Native American Medicine People", "Life in a Tipi", "Hungry? The Original Snack Food (Native American Foods)".

## Ponca State Park part of Historical Trail

Situated astride the picturesque Missouri River bluffs in northeastern Nebraska, Ponca State Park is a glimpse of how the untamed river looked before modern man changed it forever. The Park was created in 1934 out of 200 acres of donated land, the park is named after Chief Standing Bear of the Native American Ponca Tribe. An early defender of human rights, Chief Standing Bear successfully argued before the American Supreme Court that Native Americans should be declared a, "person," under United States law and have the full rights and protection that ordinary citizens Lewis and Clark passed through here during their epic journey up the Missouri. The National Park Service has designated Ponca State Park as part of the Lewis and Clark Historical Trail.



# Events and announcements

## The Moonshell Storytelling Festival at Mahoney State Park to feature six outstanding storytellers

Nebraska StoryArts presents the third annual Moonshell Storytelling Festival on Sept. 18, 2004, at Mahoney State Park. Six outstanding national and regional storytellers will take part in a daylong celebration to preserve the art of storytelling. The festival will offer storytelling concerts geared toward families with special events for adults and will conclude with ghost stories in the evening. All storytelling performances and events are free with park admission.

The Moonshell Storytelling Festival will start at 10:30 a.m. and continue until 10:30 p.m. Three performance sites will be used throughout the day: the Activity Center and Ice Rink - main stage, The Kountze Memorial Theater, and the Wild Turkey Shelter. All

events will take place regardless of weather as all performance sites are covered. An event schedule is included with this release. For more information, please go to [www.nebraskastoryarts.org](http://www.nebraskastoryarts.org) or call (402) 551-4532.

The Moonshell Storytelling Festival gets its name from the tiny round shells, called Moonshells, which were once found by Native Americans fishing in and crossing what we now call the Platte River. Because of the shells, the Native American nations called the river "The Moonshell." Nebraska StoryArts chose that as the name for this festival to honor the site and its heritage.

The mission of Nebraska StoryArts is to preserve, perpetuate and celebrate storytelling of all cultures and to nurture, sustain and develop

the storytelling community of tellers and listeners. For more information about the Moonshell Festival or Nebraska StoryArts, please contact Elizabeth Kumru at 551-4532. Featured storytellers: Jerome Kills Small - An Oglala Lakota storyteller for museums, public schools and colleges, Jerome sings, translates and explains Native American ceremonial rituals from his culture. His work will include a historical portrayal of Legendary Shawnee Leader Tecumseh, who defended his sacred homelands of the Ohio valley in the late 1700s.

Dovie Thomason - Back by popular demand, Dovie is a Native American storyteller of Lakota and Kiowa Apache ancestry. She employs diverse and marvelous voices to create the animals in her stories about her ancestry.

## Did you know Lincoln Action Program offers many helpful resources?

Lincoln Action Program offers a wide variety of resources for children and their families. We have listed only a few here so if you have any additional questions or needs please contact Lincoln Action Program at the contacts listed below to learn how they can assist you.

**Education Outreach:** Provides one-on-one tutoring, academic support, mentoring, vocational exploration, recreation and more to youth, grades 6-12, who are at risk of dropping out of school.

**Reduced Cost Bus Fares & Passports Event Tickets**

**Back-to-School Fair:** Provides back packs, clothing, school supplies, free immunizations, linkage to other community resources and other support to children so they can prepare for school.

**Emergency Services:** Low-income families and individuals with immediate crisis needs such as rental deposit, past-due rent or utilities, work-related clothing or tools, prescriptions or other needs may apply for help Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Possible assistance and/or referral to other community resources.

Phone: 402.471.4515

Fax: 402.471.4844

Email: [Lincoln-Action@Lincoln-Action.org](mailto:Lincoln-Action@Lincoln-Action.org)

Web Site: [Lincoln-Action.org](http://Lincoln-Action.org)

Address: 210 O Street Lincoln, NE68508

Business Hours: Monday — Friday  
8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

## IPAC needs your help!

IPAC would like to hear from students and parents interested in participating in a car wash at the Golden Corral on 27th Street to raise money for Indian Education. We need volunteers before we can set a date. Please call 436-1963 and let us know if you can help!

## IPAC meeting

The next IPAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 3 at 12:30 in room E111 at LPSDO.

## Thank you, from Indian Education

Indian Education summer camps were a huge success this summer! Many students attended our day long hike at Pioneers Park and the three morning camp at McPhee in June. Indian Education would like to thank Joe Rousseau, teacher at Mickle Middle School and IPAC member, and Rita McClure, teacher at Holmes Elementary School for volunteering their time to spend with all of us!

## Free dental screening exams

Saturday August 28th at 8:30am-12 noon. Free Dental Screening Exams for all school age children (3yrs and older). No Appointment needed-first come first serve. People's Health Center will have its staff and volunteer dentist and dental hygienist performing dental screening exams for children on two Saturdays in August. Follow-up appointments may be scheduled with Dr. Burbach following screening exams. Please bring Dental Examination Form (if applicable) For appointments call 476-1455.

