



# Seattle Clear Sky

## Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

### APRIL 2023 ISSUE

UNEA | P.O. Box 25142 Seattle, WA 98165    UNEAchair@gmail.com    206-941-0338

## MMIP PROCLAMATION

**BY: LANDON BREWER (SALISH-KOOTENAI-SHAWNEE-OKANAGAN-SPOKANE)**

After months of planning, research, draft after draft we finalized our UNEA Intern Leadership MMIP proclamation. Next steps were to present our MMIP Proclamation at the Seattle Public School Board Meeting on March 1st, 2023. It was my first time ever speaking to SPS Board of Directors, and it was definitely a time to remember.

Me, my fellow interns, clear Sky volunteers, community members, elders, allies, and our family members all showed up for public testimony, alongside Roxanne White, A very prominent figure in MMIWP movement. It is a very important issue and we really made the district understand the severity of this cause, because for many years SPS as an educational institution has been turning a blind eye to not only just this issue but many other indigenous issues.

We all gathered outside and practiced the 'Elements' song before the start of the testimony, many of us showed up with signs and images of missing people in the area, many of which were our relatives. We filed into the Board meeting room and took our seats.

Izzy's speech was first, than I gave my carefully crafted public testimony statement. Much of my speech had to do with a relative of mine who went missing in 2018, Jermaine Charlo-Morigeau. The night of Jermaine's disappearance she was seen at 3 different bars in Missoula, Montana with her ex-boyfriend and father of her two sons, Michael DeFrance.

Michael DeFrance claims he dropped her off in an alley around midnight. The cellphone towers reported that Jermaine's phone was on or near Michael's Parents property in Ravalli, MT 2 hours after he claims to have dropped her off in Missoula. Michael has a long history of domestic violence against Jermaine. My families story of our missing relative is sadly one of many. In some way we are all affected by the MMIWP epidemic.

Many students, and elders and parents shared about members of their families missing and with no closure and no justice. Our communities have been failed by the system, hearing everyone's personal stories was really eye opening. Even if this proclamation doesn't make any changes in our school district, we got our voices heard, and it felt very powerful.



## DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT DAY!

BY: KAYLA HARSTAD (TURTLE MOUNTAIN CHIPPEWA)

On March 25th, UNEA interns attended the Diversity Leadership Summit hosted by Bishop Blanchet Multicultural Club at Bishop Blanchet High School. This event was offered to Clear Sky Youth council in collaboration and in allyship with Blanchet's Legacy Club. We were asked by Blanchet's Diversity Equity and Inclusion team to start the day off with a blessing, Land Acknowledgement, and opening song. When we registered and started off the day, they handed us cute tote bags and lanyards with our names on them. My name tag showed "Ms. Harstad," and I was feeling chaperone status.

So, Savanna, Landon B, Landyn Z, and I chose to open the day with the Element song. After we sang, we had a keynote speaker named Christian Paige who is an Emmy nominated poet, motivational speaker, and educator in the school system. I've never heard of him before, but he has been coming to Blanchet for the past 5 years for this event. One thing that he said that resonated with me is his philosophy on consistency in your advocacy and activism work. He told us how activism isn't only for one moment and one event, but an action that continues when the moment is over. How we must stay consistent in our leadership regardless of the pushback or the outcomes we receive. He told us we must do this work to not see the change we want for ourselves, but the change for new generations to come. I thought about this a lot. I am not doing the work to benefit myself, but I must do the work for younger generations to get the type of education and support they need that I was denied.

We went through the workshops and sessions with different leaders and activities to help strengthen our leadership skills and understand new perspectives. We had the opportunity to listen to Rosalie Fish (Cowlitz) give a lesson on 'Microaggressions'. We had Hillary Lee share a hands-on workshop about self-portraits. Where our portraits are made up with different identities, things we like doing, and how we make up community spaces. After a session, affinity groups, and speakers we headed to lunch where they offered us Banh Mi sandwiches and bubble Tea.

I want to say thank you to Jesse, EDI, DLS team, and legacy club for inviting Clear Sky interns to share this space and experience. We look forward to getting invited back next year and our continuous work we do with Bishop Blanchet High School.



# INGRAHAM MULTICULTURAL ASSEMBLY UNEA YOUTH & LAUREN NABAHE

BY: JAZELL

On March 17th Ingraham High School held its annual Multicultural Assembly. Last year my sister Kayla and I shared at this assembly in June despite it only being the two of us. Kayla and I did our best to represent together, and we showed up for our people and future generations of Ingraham High School's Indigenous students. We understood we needed to speak up about MMIP and the affects injustice has on our community. We experienced pushback from staff and some student leaders but we drew on our collective resilience. Together we overcame the resistance to our truths and called out many, on their acts to continue the erasure of our people through their carelessness.

This year I brought together youth from UNEA, to take part in the same Multicultural assembly as well as my mentor and gifted Warrior woman Lauren Nabahe. Lauren has taught me the power and beauty of dance and showed me countless opportunities to show up for our Native community, like Native American Youth Leadership Academy (NAYLA). For this assembly, I wanted to speak about the lack of Indigenous perspective and understanding in Seattle Public School's SPS curriculum and the effect it has on all of the SPS students. I crafted a speech of the most important points I wanted staff and student leadership to hear. In the earlier planning of the assembly, I was anxious and scared that I'd be in it alone, but UNEA's leadership stepped up with me, Lane Ryan, Landon Brewer, Evita, Izzy, and Elder Jerri Hamley stood with me to share the 'Element' song and support me during my speech.

We shared The Sacred Element song gifted to us by Lisa Monger (Fort Peck tribe), that was given to her by Chenoa Egawa & Alex Turtle. The Elements song meaning is to acknowledge and give thanks to the elements, we have here on mother earth (air, fire, water, and earth). The song was followed by a beautiful fancy dance shared by Lauren. Lauren explains the women's fancy shawl as symbolizing the flight and journey of the butterfly. It begins as a small caterpillar that grows and matures, and over time emerges from its cocoon as a magnificent butterfly. This echo's the journey that we as human beings take on this earth. Just like the butterfly, we begin our lives on earth as small beings, not fully matured or recognizing our own magnificence. As we grow, we learn, we gather knowledge, and we progress, until one day, we too emerge as the magnificent butterflies we always had the potential to be. The Women's fancy shawl represents renewal, growth, and the power of learning to recognize our own brilliance.



These are some of the words I shared at the assembly:

"I find it to be a beautiful unifying act today that we're sharing the beauty of our cultures through dance, music, and storytelling, but we must not ignore the ASSIMILATION and RACISM that continues to be a part of our society and our institutions such as Ingraham if we don't speak up about the change we ALL need to take part in, then the oppression and racism will only continue into the next generations here.

I'm a senior, co-creator, and president of the Urban Native American Club here at Ingraham. I recognize that the curriculum is OUTDATED and no longer upholds our current need for education for students today. Many other students and I experience this feeling of isolation and anxiety from the complete lack of Indigenous staff not having ANY adults to relate to culturally, emotionally, or spiritually. No one to seek guidance from when feeling frustrated or lost in these western institutions battling many inequities faced in an academic space. In addition, the culturally sensitive, learning needs, and priorities, delivered through culturally appropriate teaching strategies and settings are non-existent.

Education is recognized as having a profound impact on quality-of-life here in the US and influencing the viewpoint of future generations. As educators and change makers, you must CHALLENGE yourselves to go beyond trying to counteract the many inequities faced by people and begin looking at how you can support individuals in building upon their strengths, so they are a valued and recognized part of the community. We need to change community attitudes and reduce both personal and systematic racism. As mentors and accomplices, it is up to you...to ensure culturally safe and supportive learning environments.

The need for explicit teaching of subjects containing Indigenous history and embedding culturally specific perspectives throughout the curriculum to ensure there is an Indigenous understanding. We paint a new picture for future generations when Indigenous culture is respected and celebrated with the pride it deserves within our communities.

Just this week at Roosevelt High School a student from their boxing club stuck a sticker intentionally over the face of Billy Frank Jr. defacing an influential Native leader on a poster my supiaxq sister put up. This just goes to show how blatantly normalized and accepted it is CURRENTLY to be racist towards Native peoples, and how uninformed and uneducated our students here in SPS are about Indigenous peoples.

I want to recognize all the students here that identify as Indigenous, I see you, I see your pain and frustration, I value you, and want to hear your story. Feel free to talk to me anytime.

Today I have my brothers and sisters with me from Urban Native Education Alliance, we're here to show you the beauty of our heritage that the SPS's curriculum fails to teach to students, let alone recognize. And I'll go ahead and pass it to them so they can introduce themselves."

I thank all those who helped in making this happen, joining me, and are important youth leaders to make effective changes for the future. I hope this our staff and student body truly heard us. We are tired of being ignored.



# INGRAHAM MULTICULTURAL ASSEMBLY

BY: BY: EVITA FUENTES

Singing in front of a crowd can be a nerve-wracking experience for many people, especially if it's in front of their entire school. We had our multicultural assembly on March 17th and it was an experience that pushed me out of my comfort zone, and its one that I will never forget.

As soon as I was asked to perform in front of the whole school, I was filled with anxiety. The thought of being on stage in front of hundreds of students and teachers made me feel incredibly nervous. I've participated in assemblies before, but this was different.

We sang for two multicultural assemblies. On the day of the performance, we had to introduce ourselves to the audience. I also introduced the song we were going to sing and Lauren, our guest dancer. The mere act of doing that made my heart race, and my palms started to sweat. I couldn't help but feel anxious about the whole thing.

But then it was time to sing, and I felt a rush of excitement. We sang the "sacred elements song" by Chenoa Egawa and Alex Turtle. I was thrilled to be a part of the performance. I sang with Jazell, Landon, Jerri, Lane, Lauren and Izzy. As we sang, I started to forget about the nerves that had been overwhelming me before. We sang loud and proud, and it turned out to be a success.

After the performances was over, I felt relieve and exhilarated at the same time. I couldn't believe that I had just performed in front of the entire school. That was a win for me, and it's something I still look back on with pride.

Overall, singing in front of everyone was a challenging experience, but it was also one that pushed me to grow as a person. It helped me to conquer my fears and step out of my comfort zone. I learned that sometimes, the most significant accomplishments come from taking risks and trying new things. I'm grateful for that experience, and I will always cherish the memories of singing with my friends.



## UNEA ADVOCATING FOR BILLY FRANK JR DAY

BY: SAVANNA BRIGGS-VEILLE (BLACKFEET TRIBE)

For Mr. Billy Frank Jr. was 83 when he passed away on May 5th at his family's longtime home on the Nisqually River. Billy Frank Jr. had an amazing life and story of victory in his fight for treaty rights. His sacrifices include; being arrested at 14 for exercising his fishing rights. He took a leading role in what would become known as the "fish wars" in the Pacific Northwest in the 1960's and 70's. Billy Frank Jr. was a Native American Environmental leader and treaty rights activist. A Nisqually tribal member, Frank led a grassroots campaign for Native fishing rights for all tribes in Washington state.

The UNEA interns, parents, allies and Elders presented public testimony to the Seattle School Board, advocating for SPS to renew the BFJ Day resolution adopted in 2020 to honor Billy Frank Jr. on March 9th, his birthday. In recognition of a state observed day celebrating the legacy and life of the great leader Billy Frank Jr. We all deserve the opportunity to celebrate and honor his life. Billy Frank Jr. was a successful advocate for Native fishing rights. We should have more days honoring Native people so that everyone recognizes the contributions of Native Americans. We exist, we aren't invisible, we are human. If we don't honor and remember people like Billy Frank, Jr., our stories and our hard work will go extinct. We must keep fighting and be strong just like our ancestors and elders that were born before us. We must change history, so we fought for March 9th to be recognized as Billy Frank Jr. Day.

Billy Frank Jr. won in court, regaining treaty fishing rights for Natives across Washington State. We are excited that Seattle Schools has adopted March 9th as Billy Frank Jr. Day, honoring his life and legacy.

As we band together as the first people of this nation, we fight for the rights of our ancestors and current and future Natives. We fight for our Indigenous sovereignty to not only to exist but to live harmoniously with all people.



# WICHONI WASTE (GOOD LIFE) WELLNESS RETREAT

We are beyond thrilled to present to our urban Native community the first ever Seattle area Wellness Retreat on April 14th and 15th, 2023 at North Seattle College. Our Wellness retreat theme is reflected in our title Wichoni Waste or 'Good Life', as a powerful statement to commit ourselves to a healthy lifestyle, not only a slogan or a motto, but a part of our being. We are promoting living a good life and life of balance, health and wholeness. The Good Life theme guided our choices in speakers, presenters and workshop activities. A sample of the workshop activities includes; mindfulness meditation, yoga, fitness, reiki, and message therapy. Each workshop will specifically focus on various ages or stages of life or generational considerations (children, youth, adults and Elders).

Each keynote speakers comes from lived experience in wellness lifestyle through various professional fitness and health practices. Instructors will provide tools, skills and practical strategies for calming our minds, increasing energy, finding peace, and developing exercise or physical movement activities for improving balance, agility, strength and cardio. In addition to all these fun invigorating activities we will also provide snacks, food, photo booth, games, and giveaway items and door prizes. We are excited to host this very special, unique fun two day event in collaboration with Urban Indian Health Institute, Unkitawa, North Seattle College and Nahalee Fund. Contact us to register or register on Eventbrite.


## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:



Thosh Collins & Chelsea Luger



Dietreich Rios-Nicolaisen



Kali "KO" Reis

# Free Wichoni Waste Wellness Retreat

April 14th-15th, 2023  
10am sign-in

Indigenous Youth, Adults,  
Parents, and Elders

T-Shirts, Door prizes, Giveaways, Snacks and meals, photo booth, and much more

Scan QR code to Register



### WELLNESS WORKSHOPS



- ROUND DANCE 101
- YOGA/MINDFUL MEDITATION
- TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
- SELF DEFENSE/BOXING
- FITNESS/STRENGTH TRAINING
- SACRED SPACE
- SWIL KANIM
- MC MONIE
- SCREENING 'POWERLANDS
- REIKI
- 45 MINUTE WORKSHOPS

### LOCATION

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE  
9600 COLLEGE WAY  
SEATTLE WA

### MORE CONTACT INFO:

uneachair@gmail.com. Or 206-941-0338  
Or 206-734-9996



## LITTLES END OF LEAGUE PARTY

This past Saturday marked the conclusion of a whirlwind basketball season for our 9 under NWA basketball players. We were fortunate to have two co-ed teams competing in the same division at Northgate community center. Both coaches stepped up to help coach the two teams and had little to no experience coaching prior to signing on with NWA. Despite both coach and player inexperience, great progress was achieved in a relatively short span of the league season. We want to give a big thanks to Myleaka Webster and Stacy Williams for their dedication, support and effort in building up our program through their guidance on and off the court.

All players improved tremendously and their hard work was reflected in the wins, buckets made and overall court awareness and learning the rules of the game, including etiquette, sportsmanship, and how to be work together. Both teams had wins, losses, frustrating games, and many opportunities for growth as athletes. We look forward to developing their skills and experience on the court for the next several months of NWA basketball open gym. Congratulations NWA you all rock!

