

EDUCATION NEWS FOR MAY

By Barbara Ramos, Education Director Sac and Fox Nation

The Oklahoma teacher walkout ended after nine days on April 12th; however, teachers across the state pledged to continuing fighting for more school funding and higher pay. The union decided to end the walkout after it became clear that Senate Republicans in the Legislature “won’t budge an inch on any more revenue for public education” according to Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest.

The walkout ended with roughly the same amount of extra education spending secured before the nine-day walkout began: about \$479 million for teacher and support staff and school needs for the upcoming fiscal year. Much more needs to be done to improve Oklahoma’s dete-

riorating school facilities and outdated supplies. Efforts to obtain more funding will continue and teachers are pledging to run for political offices.

One teacher said that he told his students that “Oklahoma legislators have shown that education isn’t a priority. However, the nation now has proof of their failure to support education.” He went on to say that despite this “the kids are the priority” and that he was glad to go back to doing his job.

I hope all the students enjoyed their extended break but, I also feel that many of them were happy to be back into their school routine. As I drove through Shawnee the other day I saw many student athletes involved in activities, run-

ning, tennis, and etc.

On April 9-11, I had the opportunity to attend the National Johnson-O’Malley Conference which was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. There were several workshops to attend and I was able to learn some new ideas and concepts from the one’s I attended. The National Johnson-O’Malley Association had two Resolutions that they shared with all of us who were in attendance. Although both of them are important I do believe that the JOM Supplemental Indian Education Modernization Act was the one that most participants were interested in.

This Act will modernize and position the JOM Supplemental Education Program as a solid, sustainable program with funding levels that will be adequate to assist all eligible future students and promote positive academic, social and economic changes in Indian communities.

JOM programs have not had an increase in funding since 1995. The numbers of children enrolled in the JOM far exceeds the amount of funding we have; therefore, legislation has been presented to get additional funding for the Program. President Trump had sought to have the JOM Program budget completely done away with; however, the NJOMA was very active and committed to education for Indian students. The above referenced Resolutions are in support of the JOM Program and requesting increased funding to support education and make the overall JOM Program more sustainable.

As of last April 11, we were advised that the Senate had passed the JOM Modernization Act and was at the House of Representatives for consideration. Although it was thought that it would be signed off on last Thursday, April 12th it did not occur. The Education Office

received an e-mail today, April 18, 2018 asking that we contact Representative Todd Rokita (R-IN) who is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

The message to Representative Todd Rokita, was to “Please pass the Johnson-O’Malley Modernization Act before April 30th! Jean Lynam and I each contacted SFN tribal staff and our Indian Education Committee, and others to contact Rep. Rokita with the aforementioned message. If a large number of people do this the Act may get passed. We are all anxious to hear the results of whether or not the JOM Modernization Act was passed.

Jean and I have begun planning for the JOM Education Awareness Day (Fun Day) which will be on Friday, July 13th. If any of you parents would like to volunteer to help the Education Department with the planned activities please contact Jean Lynam at 918-968-3526. We will keep you updated as to what type of activities, speakers, etc. we will have for the annual event.

Parents of college students or college bound students need to submit the Department of Interior (DOI) and/or RAP college applications in by June 30th for the fall 2018 semester.

The guidelines and applications can be found on the SAC and FOX website. Go to Departments > Education > Ed. Incentives > RAP or DOI. It would be advisable to read the guidelines to ensure that you submit all the requested information.

If you should have any questions or require assistance completing the applications please contact the Education Department at (918) 968-3526 and ask to speak with Barbara Ramos, Director or Jean Lynam, Education Specialist.

Attention Tribal Members

If you received funding for your child’s school clothing this school year, **be sure** you turn in the clothing receipts **so that you will be eligible** for the **2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR’S TRIBAL CLOTHING GRANT**

Please turn in your receipts to the
Sac and Fox Nation Education Department
920883 S. HWY 99 Stroud OK 74079

With Oklahoma’s Promise, the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students whose family income is \$50,000 or less **can earn FREE COLLEGE TUITION**

Apply online at www.okpromise.org or

Contact the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education by e-mail at okpromise@osrhe.edu or by phone at 1-8-858-1840 (225-9152 in OKC)

Get an application from your counselor

OSU Botanic Garden Has Much to Offer: Concerts, Educational Classes, Festivals

by Trisha Gedon
OSU Cooperative Extension

Now that spring has sprung, activities are quickly picking up speed at The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University. “Some highlights of what will happen throughout the rest of the year include concerts, yoga, open houses, educational classes, children’s activities and much more,” said Laura Payne, volunteer coordinator at the garden.

“The Botanic Garden at OSU is so much more than a garden,” Payne said. “It’s a place to come experience, enjoy, participate in activities, have fun and learn something new.” Each Wednesday through May 23 from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., the public is invited to participate in Yoga in the Garden. The sessions are taught by a certified yoga instructor. This free event is sponsored by OSU’s Department of Wellness and OSU Cooperative Extension.

The Botanic Garden at OSU will once again be hosting Open House every other Saturday beginning May 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to come take a stroll through the garden and see the Studio Garden where “Oklahoma Gardening” is filmed.

“Visitors to the garden during each Open House will be greeted by our very knowledgeable Garden Ambassadors who will be on hand to answer any of your gardening and plant questions,” Payne said. “The Ambassadors have a wealth of experience and information and they look forward to sharing it with visitors to the garden. This also is a great time for gardeners to get some new ideas for landscape design and different plants to use in their own landscapes. Open House also will feature a variety of children’s activities, so it truly is something

for the whole family.”

Back by popular demand is the Concerts in the Garden series. The spring concerts will feature ‘Steel Wind’ on May 16 and ‘Moe Towne Alex’ on June 1. The fall concert series begins Sept. 21 with the Tulsa-based band ‘Beacon Drive,’ followed by Stillwater’s own ‘Val Gladden Band’ on Oct. 5. Concerts take place from 5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

“These concerts are a great way to kick off the weekend. We encourage everyone to bring a picnic supper, along with chairs or a blanket, and enjoy not only the beauty of the garden, but some great music, too,” Payne said.

Another fun event on the calendar is the ‘Herb and Succulent Festival’ slated June 23, 9 a.m. to noon. Casey Hentges, host of “Oklahoma Gardening,” will be on hand to talk about building a vertical herb garden. Also on the agenda, will be a demonstration of brewing teas from herbs. Members of the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society be on hand to share information. Vendors featuring soaps, plants, cacti, succulents and herbs will be there, along with the musical group, ‘Misspent Ukes.’

Make plans to attend the 17th annual GardenFest and Mum Sale slated Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will feature a day of learning opportunities, fun children’s activities, live music, vendors and food trucks. More information on this event will be available closer to the time of the event.

“The Botanic Garden at OSU has so much to offer and we encourage visitors to come out any time, especially during these special events we have planned throughout the year,” Payne said. The location is: 3300 W. 6th Street, (south entrance), Stillwater.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Applications for College - Vocational and Adult Education are on the Sac and Fox Nation Web site - Click on Education for downloads.



Coming soon near you

Central Tribes of the Shawnee Area, Inc.



CTSA HEADSTART

We are proud to let you know we are opening a New Head Start in Stroud, OK

Applications will be taken at the Sac & Fox Education Dept.

Directions: Sac & Fox Education Dept. 5 ½ miles south of Stroud on 930 RD. Go past the clinic on top of the hill. It is located south of the gym.

For more information please call Rita Pine at (405) 915-9187 or (405)275-4870

Required Documentation:

1. Proof of income (at least 2 checks stubs/Income letter/TANF letter/Income tax form)
2. Proof of residence (Utility/phone bill, Housing lease—MUST show physical address)
3. CDIB card, SNAP, WIC or any assistance you are receiving
4. Shot records and Birth certificate and Source of Health Care (Tribal/IHS, Private Ins.)
5. If your child has a Documented Disability, we will need a copy of his/her IFSP or IEP.

You’re getting a new Medicare card!

Cards will be mailed between April 2018 – April 2019

You asked, and we listened. You’re getting a new Medicare card! Between April 2018 and April 2019, we’ll be removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards and mailing each person a new card. This will help keep your information more secure and help protect your identity.

You’ll get a new Medicare Number that’s unique to you, and it will only be used for your Medicare coverage. The new card won’t change your coverage or benefits. You’ll get more information from Medicare when your new card is mailed.

Here’s how you can get ready:

- Make sure your mailing address is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at ssa.gov/myaccount or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.
- Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. We’ll never ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.
- Understand that mailing everyone a new card will take some time. Your card might arrive at a different time than your friend’s or neighbor’s.