



Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



Pinedale Chapter celebrated the dedication of their new Head Start building with a school dedication on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008. Pictured with two Head Start students is Anselm Morgan, Pinedale Chapter Vice President; Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan; Raphael Martin, Pinedale Chapter President; Young Jeff Tom; Charles Long, Legislative Staff Assistant; Bobby Sandoval; and Olsen Arviso, Jr., owner of Arviso Construction. (Photos by Joshua Lavar Butler)

Speaker Morgan attends school dedication for new Pinedale Head Start building

PINEDALE, N.M. – The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) and Council Delegate Young Jeff Tom (Mariano Lake/Smith Lake) attended a dedication ceremony for the new Pinedale Head Start building on January 16, 2008 at the Pinedale Chapter House.

The community of Pinedale definitely had reason to celebrate after years of working on plans to build this much needed facility.

Clara Daye, Pinedale Chapter Coordinator, thanked Speaker Morgan for his help in securing funding for this new building. "Speaker Morgan was very involved in the process, he was extremely helpful in securing money from the state as well – he was a major player in making this dream a reality for our Head Start children," she said.

Raphael Martin, Pinedale Chapter President, also thanked Speaker Morgan and the Navajo Nation Council for their continued advocacy for the Pinedale community and for the Navajo Nation.

Bernice Yazzie, Program Director with Navajo Head Start, thanked the Chapter, the Navajo Nation Council, and Speaker Morgan. She reminded everyone that "we work for the kids so that they can move forward in education. Our jobs are to teach our children and parents need to know that they are a vital part of our

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program – let us continue to help each other and let's be part of our children's education together.”

Speaker Morgan said that “this is a good day for the Pinedale community. This new building is for our kids and for our grandchildren to learn. This building will be here for many years to come. We must invest more dollars into the education of our children – it's an investment for the future of our Navajo people.”

Charles Long, Legislative Staff Assistant with the Office of the Speaker, explained that funds for the new building came from various funding sources. The Navajo Nation Council appropriated \$720,000 from the Navajo Nation General Fund, \$50,000 came from the Chapter's supplemental funds and the state of New Mexico chipped in \$10,000 to make this building a reality for Head Start children in Pinedale.

It was also explained that the Navajo Nation Head Start programs are a comprehensive, unique, and quality program that is designed for eligible 3-5 year old children and their families.

Head Start specializes in several family-oriented services, culturally diverse activities, community involvement, and advocacy involvement.

The Navajo Nation Head Start program is an excellent early childhood development program that is dedicated to assisting families prepare for the future of their children. The program's main goal is to prepare and empower children and their families for their future success by developing building blocks of stability and self-reliance.

The community of Pinedale would like to thank Speaker Morgan, the Navajo Nation Council, the Pinedale Chapter, Clara Daye, Arviso Construction Company, the Land Use Committee, Navajo Nation Head Start Program, WW Capital Improvement Program, Mariano Plumbing, the Office of Environmental Health, and the New Mexico State Legislature for the contributions and assistance in the construction of the new Head Start building.

For more information, contact Joshua Lavar Butler with the Office of the Speaker at 928-871-6384.