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PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ SUPPORT IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OF TWIN LAKES ELEMENTARY

TWIN LAKES, NM-The Twin Lakes Elementary has improved two letter grades over the past two years in accordance with state performance standards and yesterday both President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez toured the school after speaking at the school’s Health Fair.

“The Begaye-Nez Administration will continue to support the education of all Navajo children in making sure they perform, and even exceed, at state performance standards,” President Begaye said. “Twin Lakes Elementary School has faced low performance levels in the past but the school has made great strides in addressing this issue while getting their students back on track and successful in their education.”

Twin Lakes Elementary School Principal, Sandra Freeland said it was important to involve the parents in moving the school’s culture forward by keeping them informed about change initiatives regarding academic alignment.

“We had to design lesson maps and look at data analysis,” she said. “We had a technical overhaul on the instructional process. Then we piloted how it would all unfold.”

In addition to having parents involved in the process, Principal Freeland said she had to prioritize the teachers by including them in every step of the planning process.

“Once the students know the expectations, by default their parents know the expectations. So with common expectations and plans, and by including and prioritizing the teachers, we were able to move forward,” she said. “There is really no magic here. It’s prioritizing the people.”

President Begaye and Vice President Nez toured every classroom and grade level at the school and were able to visit and interact with the students who had many questions for the leaders.

In visiting Mr. Dennison’s fourth grade classroom, a student asked Vice President Nez if being Vice President was a difficult job.



President Begaye, the Twin Lakes Elementary Princess and Vice President Nez stand together for a photo.



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“It’s really demanding but when I see that I’m able to affect both the government and our Navajo communities, it’s worth it,” he answered.

President Begaye told the students to keep studying and putting their best effort into their education.

“You not only our future leaders but you are our current leaders,” he told the students.

Both the President and Vice President acknowledged the progress the school has made and thanked Principal Freeland.

“The keywords are transparency, collective planning and collaboration,” she said. “The leadership has to be strong, so I say what I mean and I do what I say.”