23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
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St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School celebrates the purchase of three new school buses

THOREAU, N.M. – On May 18, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) participated in the celebration for the purchase of three new school buses for St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School located in Thoreau, N.M., approximately 32-miles east of Gallup, N.M.

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School, a private Catholic school, serves approximately 200 students from preschool through eighth grades.

During the event, Delegate Yazzie congratulated the school for acquiring the school buses that will be used to transport students and commended the school administration for working continuously to obtain safer and reliable transportation for students.

PHOTO: (right to left) Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie, President Russell Begaye, and St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School students during the celebration of three new school buses at St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School in Thoreau, N.M. on May 18, 2018.

"This is a memorable day for St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School. The three new buses will replace the old buses that are always breaking down. Now, our Navajo children have safer and reliable buses to get to school and home," said Delegate Yazzie. "It was an honor to work with the school to get the buses, which took many years of advocacy and dedication."

During a special session in February, the Navajo Nation Council approved legislation sponsored by Delegate Yazzie, to provide supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of approximately $299,000 for the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School. President Russell Begaye approved approximately $209,000 of the total request.

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School principal Tracie Lee stated that the 28-passenger and two 72-passenger buses would greatly benefit the growth, safety, and success of the school and students. She added that the old buses were purchased nearly 10 years ago and each has high mileage.

PHOTO: St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School's new 72-passenger school bus.

During the event, St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School students presented a "thank you" banner to the Council and President Begaye for their support.

Delegate Yazzie added, "The purchases of the new school buses will help motivate and inspire our children to do well in school. I am very honored that I have helped the students."

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School received the school buses during the second week of May and immediately began using them to transport students.

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