

January
2026

Wingate Elementary School Newsletter



A message from our Principal Dr. T. Yonnie



Ya'ah'teeh, shi ei Dr. Tammy Yonnie yinishye. Happy New Year and Welcome Back! I am the new principal of Fort Wingate Elementary School. I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Nicole Begay will return to her role serving as the school's Head Teacher assisting with the Academic Department. I want to thank Mrs. Begay for all her hard work and dedication to our students.

I have dedicated my career to students for the last 30 years – I have served as an educator and leader, most recently as Curriculum Director. My philosophy is simple: Every child deserves a safe, supportive, and challenging environment. My goal for this year is to listen and learn. I want to understand what makes Wingate Elementary School special and how I can best support your children in their journey to become lifelong learners.

I believe that a strong partnership between home and school is the path to student success. My door is always open, and I look forward to meeting you at the monthly “Donut with the Principal.”

Now that the holidays are behind us, we have arrived at the heart of our school year. I am thrilled to share our vision for “re-energizing” the students experience at Fort Wingate Elementary, we believe that a school should be a place of both high academic achievement and vibrant community life. To that end, we are officially rejuvenating our enrichment activities, the school Spelling Bee, Native American Indian Pageant, PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) meetings and the list go on.

Why these activities matter: These programs provide the perfect opportunity to reinstall the habits we want our children to see. By reviving these traditions, we are modeling: Academic Discipline & Courage, Curiosity & Exploration, Community & Collaboration

Our teachers are working conscientiously to ensure students master the core content of their grade levels. Attendance is crucial during this time. Please discuss with your child the importance of being at school on time every day.

Because winter months bring various illnesses, we must take extra precautions. Please encourage:

Healthy Habits: Good eating, plenty of sleep, and frequent hand washing.

Health Safety: If your child shows symptoms of illness, please keep them home until symptoms subside.

Contact the teacher for any missing assignments.

With the potential for substantial winter weather, we want to be prepared. To ensure learning continues even during inclement weather:

Instruction: even on Snow Days, we will continue to instruct students for the Residential program. Please reach out to your teacher for any missing assignment thru DOJO and/or email.

Announcements: The school aims to announce transportation adjustments, late starts, or closures by 5:30 a.m. We will communicate these updates to you as quickly as possible via DOJO, Facebook and Radio.

I am honored to be on this journey with you. Thank you for your unwavering passion and making this school a true family. Let's make the rest of the school year incredible!

With deep appreciation,

Dr. Tammy Yonnie

Principal, Wingate Elementary School

Amazing things are happening at W.E.S.

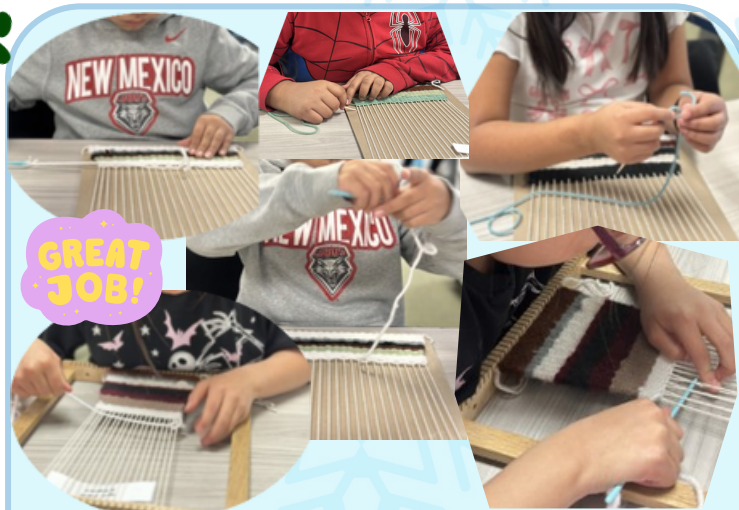
5TH GRADE NEWS:

The D.A.R.E. program has been implemented. 5th grade students meet twice a month on Mondays.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Xavier Yazzie
Perfect Attendance
1st semester
That is outstanding!
Great job Xavier!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS
Every Student. Every Day.



"We have been working on these since November. We are slowly working on this because there is a lot to teach and learn about weaving. Students experiment with color, textiles, and pattern, and strengthen their understanding of techniques like over/under which reinforces motor skills through movement exercises. In the beginning they were mixing up the direction of the weave, going under/over two or more strings instead of one, and unable to tie a knot on their needles. They are growing everyday getting faster, and I say they're becoming "master weavers!" - Ms. Garnenez

GIFTED AND TALENTED (G.A.T.E.) PROGRAM:

Academic Enrichment/STEM	60 minutes/week
3 rd grade Math Enrichment	30 minutes/week
4 th grade Math Enrichment	30 minutes/week
Visual & Performing Arts	60 minutes/week
Leadership Practicum (4 th - 8 th grade)	30 minutes/week
Service-Learning Logs	30 minutes/week
4 th -8 th grade Leadership Mentoring	30 minutes/week

LIBRARY:

Ya'ah'teeh, shi ei Ms. J. Martin yinishye

I am excited to work with our students/child(ren) in the Library. Mid Schoolers and 3rd to 5th grade: The Importance of Daily Laptop use for Reviewing Previous Lessons. Using a laptop daily to review previous lessons is an effective way for students to reinforce their learning and improve their academic performance. Regular review helps solidify understanding, retain information longer, and identify areas that need further clarification. Also will benefits consistent reinforcement, self-paced learning, and access to resources, K - 2nd Grade Reading Aloud and Reflecting with Drawing Reading Aloud is an engaging activity that involves vocalizing text from books, stories, or passages. It helps improve comprehension, pronunciation, and listening skills. Reflecting with Drawing is a creative way for students to express their thoughts and understanding of what they have read. This process encourages visual thinking and helps deepen comprehension by connecting words with images. We will be busy for the time being, Hope all is well and Thank you (ahe'hee) Ms. Martin

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Project Venture every Thursday
6th grade

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Project Venture every Thursday
after school program 6th -8th grade
3:45-4:30 (5:00) p.m.

BOT VIN Life Skills/Prevention Classes
for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade
6th and 7th just completed the 1st semester



K-5th WIDA
Jan. 12-Jan. 23

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Our Principal has decided to bring the spelling bee back to W.E.S.!



This is a wonderful opportunity for our students in grades 4th -8th!

We will be participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee through our Regional Sponsors:

Navajo Times and Navajo Engineering Construction Authority (NECA)

When? January 23, 2026

Contact: Ms. Martin



W.E.S.

PRINCESS & BRAVE PAGEANT



January 22, 2026

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Cafeteria

FROM OUR STUDENT LEADERS:

NJHS

Jan. 12-30

We will be collecting blankets, towels, and bedding for the Gallup McKinley County Animal Protection program (formerly Gallup Humane Society).

Student Council

Will be selling Valentine Grams soon

Uniform buy-out cancelled until further notice.
Wear your uniforms Monday-Friday.

8TH GRADE PARENT MEETINGS:

- Jan. 29 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 26 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Mar. 12 @ 5:00 p.m.

Please inquire about your child's grades and attendance to ensure they are in good standing for promotion.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT:



- Jan. 7 HOME Shiprock NW @ 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 12 AWAY Crownpoint Community School @ 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 14 HOME Tohatchi Middle School @ 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 21 AWAY Gallup Middle School @ 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 26 HOME Thoreau Middle School @ 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 28 AWAY Pinehill Middle School @ 4:30 p.m.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (P.I.C.)

JANUARY 27, 2026

5:00-6:00 P.M.

W.E.S. HOME EC. ROOM



Parents, we encourage you to become a part of the Parent Involvement Committee to be a voice for our students and our school. Your input and participation is valued. At this meeting we will be electing officers.

CONTACT: MS. DENNISON

School contact information:

(505) 488-6300

Facebook: Wingate Elementary School BIE
ClassDojo App: Wingate Elementary School
2 hour delays will be announced on these social media platforms.

EVENTS