

October 15, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – October 15, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

C. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 22 to Recognize November 2024 as National Native American Heritage Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board take action and approve Board Resolution No. 22 and hereby encourages public officials, educator, librarians and school communities to observe this month with appropriate program, ceremonies and activities; hereby support local education agencies in their efforts to commemorate Native American heritage by providing instructional and community resources, relevant research and promising practices during National Native American Heritage Month and throughout the year.

Board Resolution No. 22 follows on the next page.

**Next Steps:**

- LACOE will offer the following professional development opportunities regarding the inclusion of Native American Studies in Ethnic Studies and American history courses:
  - a. Native American Studies Ethnic Studies Symposium, April 23, 2024 at Kuruvungna Village Springs in Los Angeles.
- LACOE will make Land Acknowledgement resources available for LEAs that wish to incorporate Land Acknowledgements as a step towards truth and reconciliation, and as a way to show solidarity with our Native American community.
- LACOE will curate and make available on LACOE website a list of books, music albums, podcasts, and other media that highlight Native American heritage.
- **Books:**
  - a. In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall, III and Jim Yellowhawk: Jimmy McLean is self-conscious about his blue eyes, fair skin, and light hair. He even worries about his last name-McLean-which doesn't sound Lakota, and is sometimes teased at middle school about being too white. Over summer, Jimmy's Grandpa takes him to visit places significant in the life of the Lakota warrior and leader Crazy Horse, who was known as Light Hair as a boy. The history of Westward expansion and the Indian Wars, including the Battle of Little Bighorn, unfolds from a Lakota perspective, rooted in the drive for survival, while Jimmy gains insight into courage and identity. Lakota author

Joseph Marshall echoes the oral tradition he grew up with in Grandpa's stories about Crazy Horse. Set in italics, these are gripping accounts full of urgency that reveal the warrior's intelligence and effort to keep his people free. Light Hair, later Crazy Horse, is witness time and again to brutality, persistence, and lies of Long Knives and others. But Grandpa is not unsympathetic to the fear and discomfort of U.S. soldiers fighting the Lakota and others so far from home-war is a human story for everyone. The present-day narrative featuring Jimmy and Grandpa is less fluid, but at times unexpectedly moving. (Ages 9-12)

- b. Wild Berries by Julie Flett: Clarence has gone blueberry-picking with his grandma since he was so little she had to carry him on her back. Now he carries his own bucket. As he picks the berries, his lips turning purple from eating them as he goes (he likes the sour ones that pop in his mouth), he takes time to notice creatures small and large: an ant, a spider, a fox sneaking by. He ends his outing with an offering of berries for the birds. The young Native boy's tradition of berry-picking is described in a spare, lyrical narrative that incorporates a word or phrase in Cree along with its English counterpart on each page. Author/illustrator Julie Flett (Métis/Cree) pairs her poetic text with beautifully composed illustrations that are stylized and full of warmth. (Ages 3-6)
  - c. Native American History for Kids by Gibson, Karen Bush: Chronicling American indigenous life, this title captures the history of the complex societies that lived in North America when European explorers appeared on the continent.
  - d. We are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom (Anishinaabe, Turtle Mountain Band): A powerful picture book inspired by the Standing Rock Water Protectors, celebrating Indigenous-led movements to protect the Earth's water. (Ages 3-6)
  - e. Rain is Not My Indian Name by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Muscogee Creek Nation): This novel follows a young Native American girl grappling with loss and reconnecting with her community, providing insight into contemporary Native American life. (Ages 10+)
- **Music Albums:**
    - a. Songs of California: Native American Music from Coastal Tribes by Various Artists: A collection of traditional songs from California's coastal tribes, including the Chumash, Tongva, and Miwok. These songs reflect the deep connection between California's Indigenous peoples and their land, incorporating natural sounds like ocean waves and bird calls. It's perfect for

younger students learning about local cultures.

- b. Voices of California: Songs of the Cahuilla by Cahuilla Bird Singers: The Cahuilla Bird Songs are a rich tradition among the Cahuilla people of Southern California. This album features traditional Cahuilla bird singing, which tells stories of migration and the relationship between humans and nature. These songs are rhythmic and repetitive, making them accessible to children.
  - c. Singing the Songs of the Northern Sierra Miwok by Alan Wallace (Miwok): This album includes traditional Miwok songs from Northern California, focusing on cultural stories passed down through generations. The songs are simple and engaging, perfect for teaching younger students about the Miwok people's traditions.
  - d. Songs of the Earth: Native American Music of Northern California by Julian Lang (Karuk): A collection of traditional Karuk songs that are gentle and melodic, celebrating the heritage of Northern California's Karuk tribe. The album includes both ceremonial songs and those for daily life, helping kids connect with the importance of music in Indigenous culture.
  - e. We Are the Protectors by Chumash Children's Singers: Created specifically for kids, this album features Chumash children performing songs about environmental protection and cultural heritage. It emphasizes the role of the Chumash in protecting their land and offers a simple, engaging way for children to learn about stewardship.
  - f. Gather Round Songs" by Piuma Singers (Chumash and Tongva): A playful and engaging album that mixes traditional Chumash and Tongva music with storytelling. The songs are interactive and encourage participation, making it a great resource for introducing children to Native California cultures.
- **Podcasts:**
    - a. The Imagine Neighborhood-Indigenous Heroes Episodes: This podcast is focused on social-emotional learning, and some episodes feature stories of Native American heroes. (Ages 4-10)
    - b. Young and Indigenous: This podcast features young Indigenous leaders sharing their experiences and stories of activism and cultural preservation. It is geared towards older children and teens who want to learn about modern Native youth. (Ages 10+)
    - c. Little Stories for Tiny People-Native American Stories: This podcast includes calming stories, with several episodes inspired by Native American folktales. (Ages 3-8)

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

NO. 22: 2024-25

### **National Native American Heritage Month**

- WHEREAS** “National Native American Heritage Month” celebrates and recognizes the Indigenous peoples who were the original inhabitants of what is now the United States (U.S.); and
- WHEREAS** in 1976, U.S. President Gerald Ford proclaimed November 10-16 as “Native American Awareness Week,” and in 1986 the U.S. Congress authorized and requested the U.S. President to proclaim the week of November 23-30, 1986, as “American Indian Week”; and
- WHEREAS** beginning in 1990, the month of November was designated as “National American Indian Heritage Month,” and the proclamation of U.S. President George H. W. Bush in 1990 acknowledged that Indigenous peoples “developed rich, thriving cultures, as well as their own systems of social order” before contact with European settlers and endorsed self-determination for Indigenous peoples by reaffirming “support for increased Indian control over tribal government affairs”; and
- WHEREAS** U.S. President Barack Obama designated each November as “National Native American Heritage Month”; and
- WHEREAS** the Governor of the State of California signed bills on “Native American Day” September 25, 2020 to strengthen and clarify the process to repatriate Native American remains and artifacts (AB 275), increase Native American voting rights (AB 2314) and reduce the rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (AB 3099); and
- WHEREAS** the State of California is home to nearly 200 Native American tribes and Indigenous peoples remain actively engaged in cultural revitalization, resource protection and self-determination within every region of California; and
- WHEREAS** the County of Los Angeles is located on lands sacred to Native Californians including the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh peoples; and
- WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Office of Education seeks to honor the Indigenous peoples who have inhabited this place for generations and endeavors to be a good steward of the land and waterways for future generations; and
- WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Office of Education recognizes that systematic denial of Native American knowledge, cultural authority and historical experiences perpetuates the colonial structure of oppression; and

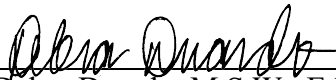
**WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Office of Education recognizes indigenous lands and peoples through a land acknowledgement at celebrations and public meetings of the Los Angeles County Board of Education.

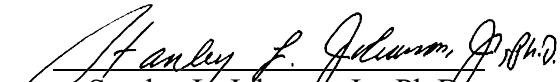
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize “National Native American Heritage Month” and support opportunities for all students, staff and members of the public to recognize indigenous histories and cultures; and celebrate contributions to American society.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby encourage public officials, educators, librarians and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby support local education agencies in their effort to commemorate Native American heritage by providing instructional and community resources, relevant research and promising practices during “National Native American Heritage Month” and throughout the year.

**ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

  
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Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

  
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Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.  
Board President