

Honoring Our Graduates

The following lists of graduates were provided by the various schools and education offices. No doubt there are some names missing. If you have a graduate that is not listed, please feel free to send in a congratulatory note and photo (if available), and it will be printed in next month's paper. Congratulations to all!

MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL SCHOOL

High School

Merle Anderson
Jason Cross
Liberto Martinez Jr.
Sadie Moses

Rosario "Sod" Dominick
Addie Iyall
Felix McKay
Tashina Moses
Veronica Navarro-Moses
Dena Pedro
Robert Simmons, Jr.
Eddie WhiteEagle
Celilo Andy
Leonard Moses

Eighth Grade

Catalina "Kat" Aldana
Kevin Anderson
Kristina Anderson
Rachael Andy
Sylena Oliver-Cabanas

Kindergarten

Alexis Starr
Carla Thompson
Reydyn Davis -Sanchez
Roberto Garcia
Ruben Brown
Shayna Brown
Sergio Moses
Dominic Jansen
Ethan Moses
Justin Clemmons
Katelyn Panganiban
Kesiah Nichols
Kiana Aho

Kobe Courville
Lauralee Redthunder
Destiny McCloud-Jansen
Juan Romero

Muckleshoot Head Start

Julianne Alexander-Cate
Fernando Amador
Jack Baker
Sage Bakke
Carlos Bennett
Kayli Bennett
Freedom Bill
Katie Clemmons

Javier Contreras
Amos Courville
Eduardo Cuevas
Terry Daniels
Kristopher Ekanger
Miguel Estrada
Kaelub Graevell
Chayton Hannigan
Liam Hasbrook
Samantha Jo Hoptowit-Duncan
Jada Jackson
Julian Jackson
Annie Kitsap-Moses
Miranda Kitsap-Moses

Kalea Lezard
Elijah Lobehan
Sebastian Lortie
Katalina Lozier
Marcus Marquard
Adam Miller
Darius Nichols
Lamont Nichols
Marshall Nogueira
Chante Oliver
Siose Pedro
Richard Penn
Carlos Pulido
Jakub Ricigliano
Diego Salinas
Resa Starr
Daria Thunder
Rebekah Tipton
Angellyn Wayne
Robert Weed
Keevin Williams

Scholarship Graduates 2006-2007 DEGREES

Last Name	First Name	College	Degree
Foreman	Sherri	Antioch University	Masters Education w/Teacher certification
Moore	Katreace	University of Pheonix	BS, Human Service/Mang't & NWIC Chem'I Depend. Studies Cert.
Pedro	Anita	Evergreen State College	B.A. - Liberal Arts
Oliver	Warren	ITT Technical Institute	A A.S Computer Networking Systems
Williams	Gerri	Institute of American Indian Arts	Assoc. Fine Arts - Creative Writing
Calvert	Michael	Bellevue Community College	Assoc. Arts Science
Cross	Marlene	Northwest Indian College	Assoc. Arts Scie. Native American Studies
Martin	Jennie	Northwest Indian College	Assoc. Arts Scie. Native American Studies
Ross	Amelia	Northwest Indian College	Assoc. Arts Scie. Native American Studies
Segrest	Valerie	Northwest Indian College	Assoc. Arts Scie. Native American Studies
Summers	Jennifer	Northwest Indian College	Assoc. Arts Scie. Native American Studies
Sportsman, Jr.	James	Wenatchee Valley College	Assoc. Arts Science

Certificates

Last Name	First Name	College	Certificates
James	Fawn	Green River Community College	Accounting Clerk
James Jr.	Joseph	Clover Park Technical College	Cosmotology
Dias	Amy	GRCC, MIT College	NxLevel, MOST-Beg., Inter.
Arreguin	Miguel	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter., A+
Brown	Cindy	MIT College	MOST - Brg., Inter.
Butler	Lance	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Charles	Daniel	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter.
Charles	Elma	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter.
Cross	Jason	MIT College	MOST - A+
Daniels	Coralie	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Elkins	Jaiison	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Emery	Janet	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter.
James	Starla	MIT College	MOST Beg.
KingGeorge	Henrietta	MIT College	MOST Beg., Inter.
KingGeorge	Kelly	MIT College	MOST - Beg.,
LaClair	Leo	MIT College	MOST - Beg.,
Maltsberger	Mykle	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Martin	Jennie	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Martin	Rita	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Moses	Carleen	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Munoz	Maritza	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Price	Frances	MIT College	MOST - Beg.,
Ross	Dwayne	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Schultz	Carlene	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter.
Simmons	Monica	MIT College	MOST - Inter.
Soto	Adrian	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter., A+
Sneatlum	Edward	MIT College	MOST - A+
Starr	Linda	MIT College	MOST - Inter.
Stewart	Benjamin	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter.
WhiteEagle	Deanna	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Williams	Betina	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter.
Williams	Gerri	MIT College	MOST - Beg.
Williams	Leeland	MIT College	MOST- Net+
Williams	Loretta	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter.
Williams	Michelle	MIT College	MOST - Beg., Inter.
Williams Jr.	Norman	MIT College	MOST - A+
Zelepuzza	Christine	MIT College	MOST - Brg. Inter.

GED Graduates

Last Name	First Name	College	Degree	
Andy	Kristina	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Barr	Pearl	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Barr	Harriet	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Becerra	Elizabeth	XL	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Cross	Corey	XL	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Daniels	Coralie	XL	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Elkins III	John	XL	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Goodluck	Jonell	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Hamilton	Jon	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Hamilton	Levi	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Jansen	Katrina	XL	Arizona	GED Certificate
Kasper	Theresa	XL	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Kindness	Cameron	L	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Louie	Suzette	L	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Markantonatos	Adrian	XL	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Martin	Lucille	2X	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Monrroy-Ponce	Kate	3X	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Morrison	Regina	2X	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Morrison	Della	3X	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Moses	Tandra	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Munoz	Martiza	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Nelson	Thea	L	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Nguyen	Banson	XL	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Penn	Rayna	M	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Price	Edith	XL	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Ross Jr.	Mary	L	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Starr	Ginger	2X	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Starr-Lloyd	Wendy	2X	Muckleshoot Tribal College	GED Certificate
Wilbur	Anthony	XL	NWIC	GED Certificate

Students who have transferred this year:

Calvin Goudy
Leona Hungary
Joshua Molina
Tashawn Thompson
Monique Underwood-Elkins

ENUMCLAW HIGH SCHOOL

Elaina Brassard
Jessica Neumann
Brock Akers
Hannah Marshall
William Sugihara
Jeff Waits
Taylor Horner

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Other Schools

Andrew Burdette
Katrina Kahama
Delilah Lazzar
Jolene Lozier
Xavier McMillan
Carrie Patterson
Julie Patterson
Meagan Udlehoven
Michelle Hamilton
Alfred Penn

AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Auburn Riverside H.S.

Kevin Carothers
Tiffany Escalon
Mark Greiner
Danielle LaClair
Brittany Rader
Melissa Reaves
Nicholas Smith
Eric Vargas

Auburn H.S.

Shawn Albert
Nicholas Guardipee
Brandon Hawk
Clifford Huling
Julie James
Phillip Jones Jr.
Richard Lobehan
Israel Joseph
Rosilea Louie
Mariya Mathias
Paul Rodarte Jr.
Ariell Schoenbacher
Barbara Thiemeyer
Sarah Wilson

Auburn Mountainview H.S.

Angel Alvarez
Angelena Armendariz
Amy Byars
Tyler Gordon
Kate Herren
Evalani Huff
Katelyn Hughes
Maxie Kate Jansen
Ashley Shoop
Rebecca Stratis

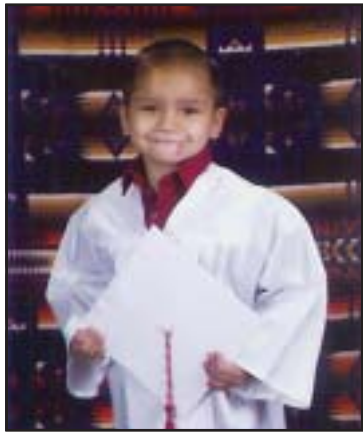
Chinook Elementary 5th Graders

Thomas Arms
Rosie Arzate
Isaiah Asphy
Makayla Byers
Sherrera Edwards
Raymond Eyle-Owens
Victorya Foulkes
Anthony Greene
Justin Hamilton
Chanteya Hicks
Olivia Ho
Savannah John
David Lozier
Trisdin Lozier
Hailey Mathias
Courtney Morrison
Jordan Morrison
Amanda Oliver
Alice Purcell
Alfonso Ramires
Harvey Starr
Telleasha Starr
Taijon Voorhees
Maezie Webb
Larkin Williams

Head Start Graduates of 2007



Adam Miller



Amos Courville



Angellyn Wayne



Annie Kitsap-Moses



Carlos Bennett



Carlos Pulido



Chante Oliver



Chayton Hannigan



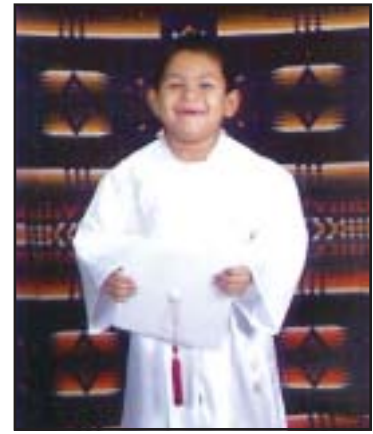
Daria Thunder



Darius Nichols



Diego Salinas



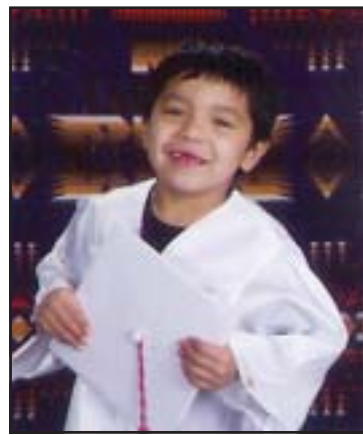
Eduardo Cuevas



Fernando Amador



Freedom Bill



Jack Baker



Jada Jackson



Jakub Ricigliano



Kaelub Graevell



Kalea Lezard



Katalina Lozier



Katie Clemmons



Kayli Bennett



Lamont Nichols



Liam Hasbrook



Marcus Marquard



Marshall Noguera



Miranda Kitsap-Moses



Rebekah Tipton



Resa Starr



Richard Penn



Robert Weed



Sage Bakke



Samantha Jo Hoptowit-Duncan



Sebastian Lortie



Siose Pedro



Terry Daniels

HEAD START GRADUATION CEREMONY

White River Amphitheatre

June 8, 2007



Chinook Elementary - 2006-2007 5th Grade Native American Graduates



Thomas Arms



Rosie Arzate



Isaiah Asphy



Makayla Byers



Sherrena Edwards



Raymond Eyle-Owens



Victorya Foulkes



Anthony Greene



Justin Hamilton



Chanteya Hicks



Olivia Ho



Savannah John



David Lozier



Trisdin Lozier



Hailey Mathias



Courtney Morrison



Jordan Morrison



Amanda Oliver



Alice Purcell



Alfonso Ramires



Harvey Starr



Telleasha Starr



Taijon Voorhees



Maezie Webb



Larkin Williams

Students who have transferred this year: Calvin Goudy, Leona Hungary, Joshua Molina, Tashawn Thompson, Monique Underwood-Elkins

Muckleshoot Tribal School Kindergarten Graduates of 2007



Alexis Starr



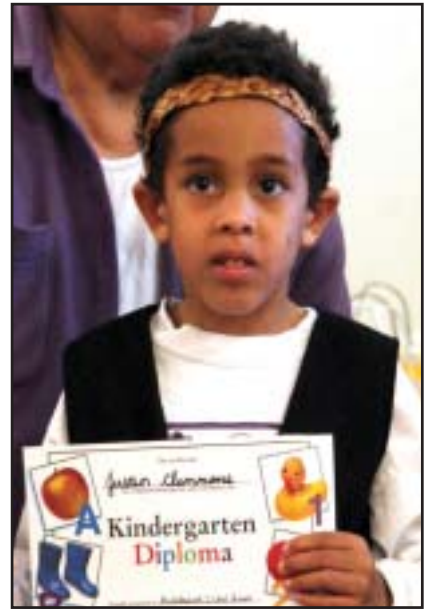
Carla Thompson



Dominic Jansen



Ethan Moses



Justin Clemmons



Katelyn Panganiban



Kesiah Nichols



Kiana Aho



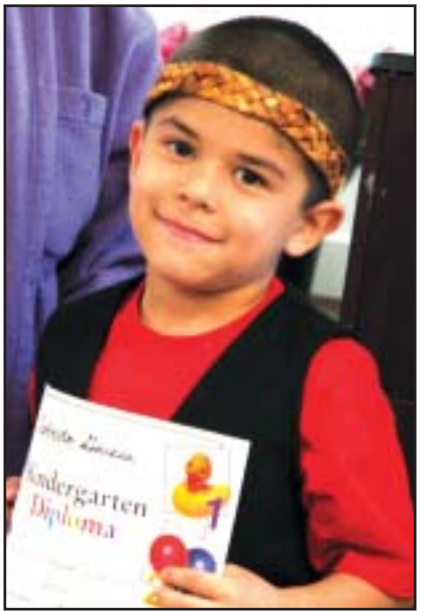
Kobe Courville



Lauralee Redthunder



Reydyn Davis -Sanchez



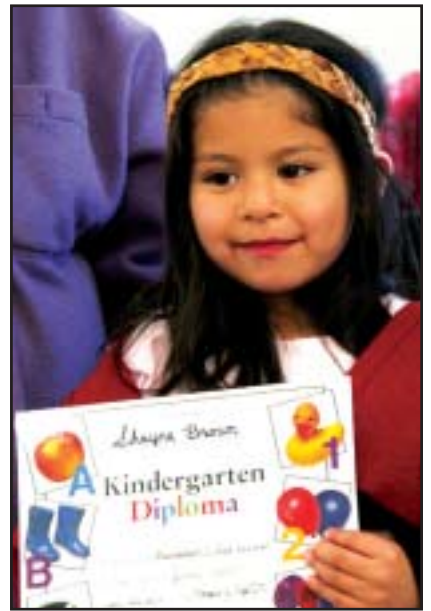
Roberto Garcia



Ruben Brown



Sergio Moses



Shayna Brown

(Not pictured: Destiny McCloud-Jansen, Juan Romero)



All-High School Graduate Honoring Dinner

Muckleshoot Tribal School Gym ~ June 20, 2007



2007 High School Grads. *Back row, left to right:* Shawn Albert, Phillip Jones Jr., Israel Joseph, Richard Lobehan, Rosilea Louie, Paul Rodarte, Amy Byars, Tiffany Escalon, Merle Anderson.
Front row: Julie James, Michelle Hamilton, Xavier McMillan, Andrew Burdette, Clarence Williams, Alfred Penn, Sadie Moses, Liberto Martinez.



MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL SCHOOL High School Graduation



Jason Cross



Liberto Martinez Jr.



Merle Anderson



Sadie Moses



MTS Graduation Address by Harry Finks



Harry Finks

Tonight we gather to honor 4 more graduates from our Muckleshoot Tribal School. We are here because we are proud of and love: Myrle, Jason, Sadie and Liberto.

Tonight they join a list of former Tribal School graduates and bring our total to 25 since 2001: Matt Allen, Ginger Allen, Chris Richardson, Leo Daniels, Keevin Williams, Tony Rutherford, Lawrence Tecumseh, Emily Brown, Gilbert Daniels, Jayson James, Victor Jackson, Barry Anderson Jr., Ryan Eyle, Rachele Tecumseh, Melanie Moses, Jose Rodriguez, Roger Jackson, Margaret Paul, Joe Allen, Theresa Allen and Augustine Allen.

We are here because these students have made choices that have allowed them to successfully meet the requirements for graduation. We are here because they have honored the school by their decision to be educated in our Tribal School ... knowing the value of their own culture has to be a part of all they learn academically. And we are here because of these students having these characteristics:

- resilience
- determination
- intelligence
- cultural wisdom
- leadership
- heart

A lot of us here have been involved with these four students as they have reached this exciting moment of high school graduation. Thank you to the families. Thank you to the community. And thank you to the school staff. Myrle, Jason, Sadie & Liberto are honored in this familiar space. There is something homey and extra comfortable in their so doing.

But it won't be long before our Muckleshoot graduates will be learning in a beautiful, state of the art, K-12 School. Future graduates will have enjoyed science labs, art studios, performing arts spaces, football & baseball & soccer & track & softball fields, two connected gyms, auto shop, home economics, family life, school library, vocational education, college preparation, new spaces for culture and language, etc.

A beautiful campus reflecting the beauty and culture of the Muckleshoot community. Future 12th grade students will have classes looking out the top floor of the high school building with the best daily view of the Mountain. In ways, I wish this new school had been Myrle's, Jason's, Sadie's and Liberto's as students. I'm glad it will belong to many others.

But in many ways I am happy their experience has been here. I have always felt the school here was like family, much like being at home. That warmth, that comfort, that caring atmosphere must be transferred to the new school. We cannot lose that magic. So in many ways these four students have been among the lucky ones.

With that new school in mind... dream with me about the part of the school planning that has not started yet. When that new school becomes the community's school ... it will be people that give the school its magic, its success.

DREAM... 10 years from now... we walk into the school I've described above:

We pass the counselor's office: We see the school counselor greeting some high school students, closing his door for privacy. The name plate on the door reads: Jason Cross, School Counselor.

And we think of what an honorable, gentle, smart and caring young man Jason Cross has always been. And we feel confident that he will help future students be safe, make good decisions, avoid conflicts, and lead productive, responsible lives.

We walk past the culture classroom. We see that the culture teachers has re-instated school powwows into the life of the school. I think this may have been the idea of the new culture teacher. The new culture teacher, Sadie Moses, has joined Eileen and Theresa. She is helping a first grade class work on their tiny drums.

And we remember little Sadie, long ago in the old school building having her mom braid her hair and help her with regalia. We recall how respectful of her grandmother and other elders Sadie always was. We feel excited by the enthusiasm, creativity, and good humor she breathes into this important program of the school.

We are glad to see that the new school has its own business office, managing the administrative financial affairs of the school now. The name plate on the Business Manager's door reads Myrle Anderson. We see him behind his computer working on the school's budgets while talking to several of the teachers who are wanting to purchase new busses, science laboratory equipment and new library books.

And we remember young Myrle, always strong in math subjects. Always a gifted learner, trustworthy and sensible, and dependably present ... all the time. What good hands have been given the responsibility for the school's finances.

We walk past Principal's office. The door is open and Sugar says that the Principal, Liberto Martinez will be back soon. He is right now helping a middle school teacher with some behavior issues in a classroom. Sugar smiles (yes, she is still here) and says, "Liberto is really good at insisting that kids behave and learn well."

And we remember that Liberto used to help out with younger students even while he was still a high school kid himself. We think of seeing his leadership development as he finished high school. We remember admiring his determination to be a good dad. And we say ... what a good choice the school has made!

My wish is for this dream to come true. And I ask our graduates to truly think of the possibilities outlined in the dream ... And I ask the community to help keep our young graduates safely on track so that these dreams ... or others they have ... come true.

MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL SCHOOL

8th Grade Graduation

June 13, 2007



MTS EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES OF 2007. Front row, left to right: Catalina "Kat" Aldana, Kevin Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Rachael Andy, Sylena Oliver-Cabanas, Rosario "Sod" Dominick. Back row: Addie Iyall, Felix McKay, Tashina Moses, Veronica Navarro-Moses, Dena Pedro, Robert Simmons, Jr., Eddie WhiteEagle. Not pictured: Celilo Andy, Leonard Moses



Catalina 'Kat' Aldana



Kevin Anderson



Sylena Cabanas-Oliver



Rosario 'Sod' Dominick

Congratulations to the Auburn School District Native American students and their families! If you see them around make sure you tell them how proud you are of each of them. I'm so PROUD of each and every one of them! Each of them have done amazing things during their high school career and will continue to do amazing things as they continue their lives. Also Congratulations to the first graduating class of Auburn Mountainview High School, especially Maxie Jansen and Amy Byars!!!!

Autumn Judge

Indian Ed. Specialist, Auburn School District

Congratulations Amy on your high school graduation! We are all very proud of you and your accomplishments! Just remember to never give up and try as hard as you can. We know you will succeed in everything you set your mind to. We are very proud to call you our daughter, sister, fiancé, and friend! We love you lots!

Mom, Dad, JC, Miguel, Sergio, and Alex

Congratulations!!!!!!
Jon, Levi and Michelle.
You did it.

Love Auntie Joy

Congratulations to all the MTS students who entered as Kindergartners in Fall 2006. You are now first graders!!!!!!

Love Ms. Joy

Greetings!

Irene Anderson, a student with the Muckleshoot Tribal School, has cleared the 10th Grade Math WASL. The Math WASL is an extremely difficult test that only around half of all the students taking the test in the state of Washington clear. Irene is the first student ever of the Tribal School to have cleared the test. Our congratulations to Irene Anderson and her family. Irene worked hard and she was successful. She is an inspiration for all the students.

Geeta Sharma, Teacher
Middle & High School Mathematics
Muckleshoot Tribal School

My son-
I am so glad that you have listened to me for the past 13 years while you have been in school!

I am so glad that you woke up every morning when I asked you "if you were going to school?" and you said "yes"

I am so glad that you began to make the right choices in your life as a young teenager and decided to stay in school even though the times were "real ruff"

I am so glad that you was able to recognize the "right" from the "wrong" and decided to choose the "right"

I am so glad that you begun to gain the strength in your mind and told yourself "I am going to finish "High School" and have done exactly what you have told yourself you were going to do

I am so glad that you have taken care of yourself and have kept out of harms way

I am so glad that you could recognize when I was upset at you for wanting to give up going to school

I am so glad that you took the time out to realize what can be accomplished and what all that life has to offer after 12th grade graduation

I am so glad that I am able to go to your 12th grade graduation

I am so glad that I am you are my son and I am your mother



Phillip William Jones

I could go on forever with the "I am so glad to have you as my son" remarks, but I will just let you know that I LOVE YOU, and I will keep supporting you in all of your endeavors, because your education is not over yet, it has only just begun, and it will only get easier if you keep the same belief system that you have used while in grade school for the past 12 years that has taken you this far.

"HAPPY 2007 GRADUATION"

"I WILL LOVE YOU ALWAYS SON",
YOUR MOTHER, ADA

P.S. THANK YOU MUCKLESHOOT TRIBE FOR SUPPORTING OUR FAMILY THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS FOR PHILLIP.



Congratulations Amy Byars!

I would like to congratulate my daughter Amy Byars on being the first tribal member to become a Master Microsoft Office Specialist. This is a huge accomplishment! I would also like to congratulate her on her graduation from Auburn Mountainview High School with high honors and department student of the year in the business department. Thank you to all the people who helped support and encourage her especially Susan Ramirez and Kari Leal.



Tammy Byars



Auburn High School 2007
Paul Rodarte Jr., Julie James & Shawn Albert
CONGRATS!

CONGRATULATIONS SIOSE MARVIN PEDRO

“2007 MUCKLESHOOT HEAD START GRADUATE”

GOOD LUCK ON THE BEGINNING OF A WONDERFUL JOURNEY OF NEW LEARNING. WE LOVE YOU OSE!

LOVE ALWAYS,

MOM, DAD, BANSON, DENA & LIL’ SEFA



CONGRATULATIONS DENA MAYBELLENA PEDRO

“2007 MUCKLESHOOT TRIBAL SCHOOL 8TH GRADE GRADUATE”

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU DENA! WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST AS YOU CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY!

LOVE ALWAYS,

MOM, DAD, BANSON, LIL’ SEFA & SIOSE



Like a Cedar Canoe

By Gerri Lillian Williams

ONE: Childhood.
As a young girl everyone made fun of my crooked teeth and 2nd hand clothes, called me Ugly as if it were my first name; however, appearances didn’t matter to my family.
Money doesn’t matter to a child; not as much as seeing a family member in the audience when awards were handed out, or in the bleachers during a basketball and softball game.

Torn, withered pants were sealed over with patches; just as a hug and kiss can seal over scraped knees and paper cut fingers.
Just as a hug and kiss can seal over, “Gerri, you’re so ugly and stupid, what were you thinking?”

Sometimes, words developed on Indian tongues before were thoughts.
Sometimes, sockeye swam backwards upstream.
Sometimes, commodities were low, but Mackie always had dinner on the table.

TWO: City of Sealth
I was 12-years-old when I first got to Seattle; Emerald Sky was my rooftop; bus stops and homeless shelters my only home. A coastal girl on 1st and Pike: where NGT’s claimed me as their little sister, where skid row junkies and dealers zigzagged through déjà vu strip joints and Seattle’s Best; placing halos around me; an inner city light that claims me as one of their own.
Sometimes, there were drive-by shootings.
Sometimes, there were gang fights in the City of Sealth.
Sometimes, there was laughter and round dance at the waterfront park, where totem poles and The Jesus Tree knew our secrets; where the totem poles and The Jesus Tree still carry our stories as the forgotten, Native youth, labeled unworthy in society’s eyes.
Odds were always against me.

Odds were always against the native youth of 1st and Pike
Odds were always against those who followed in the footsteps of drugs, gangs and alcohol that were usually a learned behavior; yet, I am proof that things can change.
I am proof that there is so much more to us than what you see.

I am proof that there is still hope.

THREE: La’ba’té’yah
I lived at a youth home in North Seattle for close to five years.
I lived at La’ba’té’yah.
I learned to accept diversity.
I lived in a home with: blacks, whites, Asians, Mexicans, Filipinos, Tongans, Samoans, Arabians.
I lived in a youth home with: gays, bi’s, lesbians, trans-gender People.
I lived in a youth home with: Preppies, Rockers, Gothic, Athletes, Gangsters, trouble makers, and kids who ran away from home. I lived at a youth home where parent’s dropped off their kids and told them to never come back anymore.

FOUR: Family
A foundation of broken eggshells; a foundation of shattered reflections.
A foundation, of childhood laughter.
A foundation, of birthday cards and chocolate chip cookies.
A foundation of prayers and white candles, church songs and bequesul dreams.

FIVE: Forgiveness
I learned to forgive and let go of past hardships by pulling canoe.
I learned that strength comes from struggle.
I learned that inner peace comes from forgiving.
I learned that no matter how deep the pain; when you are singing and dancing to your songs God is blessing you with a greater gift.
I learned, that I am a woman of my culture, born like a cedar canoe.
Born and created with beauty, spirit and strength; in the spirit of the traditional ways f our People.



Marlene Cross and daughter Gerri L. Williams



This is a photo of me and one of my best friends at graduation at The Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her name is Sara Marie Ortiz, daughter of poet, Simon Ortiz.



THANK YOU!

I would like to first and foremost say “Thank You” to the Muckleshoot Tribal Council past and present for their strong belief in higher education. I would like to say “Thank You” for their support, because without their leadership I wouldn’t have been able to receive my first college degree. I would also like to acknowledge and raise my hands up to the Muckleshoot Education Committee for standing by all of our tribal members/ higher education students, because without your support, it would have been a lot harder to get through college.

It was a true, true honor to stand with my mother, Marlene R. Cross at the Higher Education Graduation. I am so proud and honored to acknowledge her as my mother. I know first hand the hardships and struggles that were placed before her, and I also know her commitment and strength carried her through to achieving her dreams of becoming a college graduate. I am happy to see her carry on with her studies as well, because I know it will only enrich her life even more.

The poem I read at the Higher Education Graduation, *Like a Cedar Canoe*, was written as a spoken word piece. Usually, I follow a more traditional and free verse style of poetry, but I wrote this particular piece as a spoken word piece, because that was the only way I could express how grateful I am to the tribal council and the education committee for their hard work, commitment and dedication to us. Without their support, I don’t know if I would have been able to get through college. I wrote this poem so I could show everyone where I was coming from and why it was such a wonderful accomplishment for me to receive my Associate of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing.

Thank you
~ Mz. Gerri L. Williams



Northwest Indian College Commencement Exercises

MAIN CAMPUS, LUMMINATION

Friday, June 15, 2007

55 scholars receive Associate Degrees at NWIC

LUMMINATION – More than 55 students took home their Associate of Arts Degrees during the 2007 Northwest Indian College Graduation Ceremony held at the Wex li em Community Building on Friday June 15.

“We’re all so proud of each and every one of you,” said Northwest Indian College President Cheryl Crazy Bull, who also reminded the graduates to come back and receive their four-year degree at NWIC.

Student speaker Travis Brockie, who will be attending WWU-Fairhaven, told the audience of the many adversities and opportunities he’s faced throughout his final year at NWIC. Student speaker Valerie Segrest also gave a powerful valedictory address, reminding those in attendance to follow their dreams and their hearts.

NWIC graduates from the Muckleshoot Tribal College walking in the June 2007 Commencement exercises included Ray Charles, Sr. A.A.S., General Direct Transfer; Marlene Cross A.A.S., Native American Studies; Jennie Martin A.A.S., Native American Studies; Valerie Segrest A.A.S., Native American Studies; and Jennifer Summers A.A.S., General Direct Transfer.

Amy Ross, who was also eligible to graduate, was in Eastern Washington at a pow wow with her son Timmy, who is the Muckleshoot Skopabsh Little Warrior.

The Tom Family and Mountain Spirits Drum Group sang honor songs during the program. A fish dinner was served after the ceremony.



NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE

Valedictory Address by Valerie Segrest



Valerie Segrest

Thank You and Good Evening. I am honored to be here tonight. My name is Valerie Segrest, I am Muckleshoot and Swinomish. I am enrolled with the Muckleshoot Tribe. I come from the George Louke Family on the Muckleshoot side. My Great Grandfather is Ernest Purcell. I am from the Alex Edge Family on the Swinomish side. My Great Grandmother is Mariah Edge

At the age of 13 I began my high school career. The day of freshmen registration I can recall turning to my mom and announcing, “I’m going to be the valedictorian when I graduate”. Well, throughout four years of high school I somehow became distracted and preoccupied with “having too much fun”. So, when I enrolled here at NWIC I took it as an opportunity to get another chance at this business.

I was actually surprised when I received a phone call a few months ago, informing me of the possibility of valedictorian. Ten years later I have finally fulfilled a dream. That is what tonight is really all about. The accomplishment of something we have all promised ourselves from the beginning of this NWIC journey. I want to take a moment to congratulate all of you for your achievement. I also would like to thank all of the supporters that made it possible for us to get here. Every one of us has someone who has offered their services in support and encouragement. Thank You.

So, we’ve completed something. Now, the real question is, “what are you going to do with this diploma?” I wanted to use this platform as an opportunity to create a new beginning during this conclusive ceremony.

Albert Einstein once said, “Never regard your study as a duty, but as the enviable opportunity to learn and to profit the community to which your later work belongs.”

The curriculum we have completed has given us an in depth perspective of this cultures disturbing and sad history. We have learned some very negative truths. Within these lessons also lies a very strong source of inspiration.

Not a day goes by that I am not visited by the thought of my Ancestors. We are the descendents of the strongest survivors this world has ever seen. The lives they were forced to live are not even close to what we will experience in our lifetime. However hard it may have been, their perseverance and forethought-overcame many challenges.

Find strength in these challenges. The issues of their time were tough, and we also have issues to deal with. If we do not step up as they did and address the major problems of the planet, future generations will never experience all the beauty this home has to offer.

I encourage you to reflect on the experience we have all shared here. Remember what our past relatives were fighting for and ask yourself if you are doing them justice. Do not own the negativity. Let us help to create a support system within this community, an environment of trust and self assurance.

There are so many struggles to find meaning and purpose in life. In the end we find it only in each other; through the shared experience of the fantastic and mundane. It is human necessity to find kindred, to connect, and to know that in our hearts we are not alone.

So, congratulations to the class of 2007. I hope that this night be all that you have hoped or imagined it could be.

May you be blessed in all you endeavor.

May you bless all whom you encounter.

May you love with uncanny strength and wisdom.

May you have an insatiable appetite to learn and grow.

May you know the love of your Creator and may you live beyond yourself for the restoration of this world.

You were born great, made to love, and created in the image of the One who made all things.

Nothing is impossible.



Congratulations Annie and Miranda – Head Start Graduates!
We are very Proud of you and can not wait to see your accomplishments in kindergarten.

We Love You!!
Momma & Mommy



Congratulations to our Graduates!!



Hailey Spencer & Helen Jameson



Jamie Halliday



Niya Ahshapanek



Tia Ahshapanek

Hailey & Helen are graduating from 8th grade.
Helen graduated from North Lake Tapps Middle School.
Hailey graduated from Olympic Middle School.
Tia Ahshapanek graduated from Lake Tapps Elementary.
Jamie Halliday graduated from Bigfork High School in Bigfork, Montana.
Niya Ahshapanek graduated from Kindergarten at Dieringer Heights.

From Your Proud Family



Maxie receives her diploma



Maxie, Sonny and Amy Byars



Proud parents Sonny and Vee with daughter Maxie Kate Jansen

Congratulations Sarah Wilson



That's My Girl!!

Julie Ann James
2007 AHS Graduate

1st Native Royalty ever in the history of Auburn Senior High!!



Julie,
We, your family, the people who sometimes drive you insane because we're always worrying, questioning, being possessive of you, and at times have seemed way to over protective ☺ want to express to you how very proud we are of you and your accomplishments. From the time you started school it seems you've been on a mission to accomplish great things and become someone of great wealth and fame.

Well Miss Thing! In our opinion you have accomplished great things, and have done an awesome job in everything that you've been involved with. You gave up one of the things you loved in your senior year to ensure that your grades were the best and you accomplished that goal. We are very proud of you and the young lady you've become.

We wish you all the success in everything that you choose to do with your life.

We love you Julie!

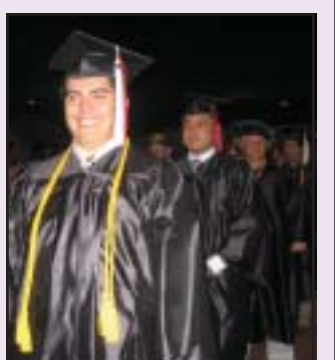
WAY TO GO!

Mom~Dad~Johnny~Joe~Wes~Jorge~Jose

☺ Woo Woo Muckleshoot! ☺



CONGRATULATIONS to Warren "Mr" Oliver and Chante "Kayli" Oliver for your recent accomplishments. Warren graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Computer Networking Systems from ITT with an induction into the National Technical Honor Society and an AAA award for Attendance, Academics and Attitude. Chante graduated from Head Start and will be going to kindergarten next fall. We just want you to know that your family is VERY proud of you and we hope this is just the beginning of



Higher Education Graduate Dinner

Muckleshoot Casino ~ June 21, 2007

