

October 30, 2013

Lillian Sparks, Commissioner  
Administration for Native Americans  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW  
Aerospace Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West  
Washington, DC 20447-0002

cc: Ruth Morris, Grants Management Specialist

Dear Commissioner Sparks,

Greetings from Red Cloud Indian School! On October 18, 2013, we celebrated 125 years of providing an education of both the heart and mind to the future Lakota leaders on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Because of your generous support of *Maḥpiya Lúta Lakhól Waiḥspe Wičhákíyapi* – Teaching Lakota to Red Cloud Students, I wanted to share with you some of the highlights from the student-led Lakota language workshops at our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. I am proud to share that, thanks to our partnership with the Administration for Native Americans, our comprehensive K-12<sup>th</sup> grade Lakota Language Project has become so integrated into the fabric of our school system that several advanced students were asked to lead these workshops instead of our language teachers.

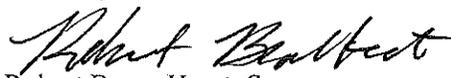
Enclosed you will find some of the materials that four high school students used in their Lakota language workshops and some snapshots of those sessions. We had close to 100 workshop participants from all over the country, ranging in age from infant to 76 years old! We were especially pleased to see that the student-led workshops were standing room only. Also, many community members asked when these classes and materials would be made available to the broader community. We were happy to answer that we are planning community workshops and the Lakota language materials will be available in 2014!

We are so proud of our students' enthusiasm and their innovative efforts to preserve their language. Across our kindergarten through twelfth grades, their commitment grows! In fact, our most recent evaluation data showed that nearly two-thirds (63%) of students report using the Lakota language more with family members at home, and more than half (55%) report using the language more with other students. Because their teachers encourage them to use the language outside the classroom, they are using it more every day, in the hallways, at home, and now, even when they text each other on their cell phones. In addition, a Red Cloud senior, Kristian Big Crow, is developing a Lakota language App for the iPhone!

Perhaps it is one of the students who taught Lakota at the celebration who captures the students' excitement best. Savannah Jensen '14, who has her sights set on attending Yale University, shares "*We all want to learn; we are all interested in the culture and language.*" On a daily basis, we hear students share such incredibly proud statements about their heritage knowing that the language is at the core of their identity.

The Administration for Native Americans' support represents the kind of thoughtful, high-impact public investment that empowers students today—and will strengthen our community for generations to come. It is my deepest hope that we can continue to work side by side to sustain that legacy through the next 125 years. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. *Lila wopila tanka – many, many thanks!*

Sincerely,



Robert Brave Heart, Sr.  
Executive Vice President

# Lakota Language Project

## Maḥpíya Lúta Owáyawa

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
RCHS: 146, 148

From 3:00pm-5:00pm, visitors can:

- ❖ Experience any of the six, student-led Lakota learning sessions!
- ❖ Explore LLP curricular resources!

### Teaching Rotations (Room 146)

3:00-3:15 TPR  
3:20-3:35 Introductions I  
3:40-3:55 Introductions II  
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4:00-4:15 TPR  
4:20-4:35 Introductions I  
4:40-4:55 Introductions II

### Exploration Stations (Room 148)

Textbooks, the Moodle Interface, Kinect Games, Alphabet Book, Songbooks, Lakota App for iPhone, Planting, Halloween, and much, much more!



For more information, contact Melissa Strickland: [melissastrickland@redcloudschool.org](mailto:melissastrickland@redcloudschool.org).



## Kinect Games

The Lakota Kinect Games are interactive games that work based on your bodily movements and words. So, make sure to stand in front of the sensor, and follow the directions below!

Shapes, Color, & Commands	Tic-Tac-Toe
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Directions:</b></p> <p>With a partner, stand in front of the computer screen and Kinect sensor. Two stick figures (“Avatars”) will appear. In a loud, clear voice, take turns saying any of the Lakota words below. To get points, hit, kick, or head-butt the falling shapes!</p> <p>❖ <b>Shapes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wi háłpi:</b> Star [wee-CHAHx-pee]</li> <li>• <b>Miméla:</b> Circle [mee-MEH-lah]</li> <li>• <b>Oblóthū :</b> Square [oh-BLO-thxun]</li> <li>• <b>Oise yámni:</b> Triangle [oh-EE-seh YAHMnee]</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>Colors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ša:</b> Red [shah]</li> <li>• <b>Thózi:</b> Green [THxOH-zee]</li> <li>• <b>Thó:</b> Blue [thxoh]</li> <li>• <b>Zi:</b> Yellow [zee]</li> <li>• <b>Ziša:</b> Orange [ZEE-shah]</li> <li>• <b>SápA:</b> Black [SAH-pah]</li> <li>• <b>Ská:</b> White [skah]</li> <li>• <b>Hóta:</b> Gray [HxOH-tah]</li> </ul> <p>❖ <b>Commands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Oǎ́á kǎo/:</b> Fast [ohx AHN-khxoh]</li> <li>• <b>Ináñni:</b> [ee-NAHx-nee]</li> <li>• <b>Yuh’á hi:</b> Slow [yoox AHN-hee]</li> <li>• <b>Sá m:</b> More Shapes [sahm]</li> <li>• <b>ónala:</b> Fewer Shapes [CHOH-nah-lah]</li> <li>• <b>Thá ka:</b> Big Shapes [THxAN-kah]</li> <li>• <b>ik’ala:</b> Small Shapes [CHEEK ah-la]</li> <li>• <b>Iyúha:</b> All Shapes [ee-YOO-hah]</li> <li>• <b>Pa ú u:</b> Clear/Erase screen [pah-ZYOOzyoo]</li> <li>• <b>Iná i</b> – Pause shapes [ee-NAH-zyin]</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Directions:</b></p> <p>With a partner, sit in front of the computer screen and Kinect sensor. To begin the game, say “Wa ná ye” [wah-NAH yeh]. The first person to speak is “X,” and the second is “O.” Boxes are labeled with numbers 1-9. Say a Lakota number below to fill-in a box.</p> <p>❖ <b>Numbers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Wa í</b> [wahn-ZYEE]</li> <li>2. <b>Nú pa</b> [NUN-pah]</li> <li>3. <b>Yámni</b> [YAHM-nee]</li> <li>4. <b>Tópa</b> [TOH-pah]</li> <li>5. <b>Zápta</b> [ZAHP-tahn]</li> <li>6. <b>Šákpe</b> [SHAHK-peh]</li> <li>7. <b>Šakówi</b> [shah-KOH-ween]</li> <li>8. <b>Šaglóga</b> [shah-GLOH-gxahn]</li> <li>9. <b>Nap í yu ka</b> [nahp-CHEEN-yoon-kah]</li> </ol>



Mahpíya Lúta Owáyawa



## Lakota Language Project (LLP) Workshop

RCIS 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



# Moodle

**Lakota Language classes are the very first classes to use the Moodle interface at RCIS! Read below and explore Moodle on the laptop to learn more!**

### ❖ What is Moodle?

Moodle is a web application designed for use in online courses; it provides a space for teachers and students to store and access learning tools and activities, as well as assessments and links to other applications. In other words, Moodle is a learning management system where both students and teachers can track progress through graded and ungraded assignments.

### ❖ When did Moodle plans for the LLP begin?

The LLP began planning for Moodle use in November 2012. Because the application was not widely used by RCIS at that time, our team essentially built the courses needed from the ground up. Work on Moodle continued through August 2013, when the LLP first trained its Lakota Language Teachers to use this application with students. Resources, tools, and activities are updated weekly on the Moodle site.

### ❖ Who uses Moodle?

At this time, only RCIS students enrolled in Lakota Language classes and Lakota Language teachers have access to Moodle and the resources stored on it. In the future, however, all RCIS faculty and parents will have access to these tools, though they will be housed in a separate location.

### ❖ Where do students access Moodle?

As long as students have a secure internet connection, they can access Moodle and its resources from school, home, or even a coffee shop.

### ❖ How does Moodle work?

Lakota Language teachers use a comprehensive curriculum that is strongly tied to learning goals and benchmarks. This structure can be replicated within Moodle, and a teacher can customize activities and resources on the site to complement the day-to-day classroom learning environment. Moreover, Moodle allows teachers to track grades and attendance, as well as to measure student progress and mastery of learning goals.

### ❖ Why is Moodle important to Lakota Language at RCIS?

First, students learn in a variety of ways, and Moodle simply provides another venue from which to access learning tools. Second, as computers and other forms of technology increasingly become part of our everyday lives, we have to adjust our ways of thinking about information access. Finally, it's important to realize that while Moodle provides a different way of storing and organizing information, it is NOT a replacement for a teacher.



Maḥpíya Lúta Owáyawa



Lakota Language Project (LLP) Workshop

RCIS 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



## Lakota Songbooks

One of the most effective ways to learn (and retain!) language is through music. Our Lakota songbooks provide a variety of songs from which students can learn valuable grammar and vocabulary, such as in the Kindergarten Songbook. Our High School Songbook highlights songs with a greater cultural and ceremonial focus.

### Kindergarten Songbook

This songbook can be used alone or in conjunction with the Kindergarten textbook. The focus here is vocabulary acquisition. Each written song is accompanied by an audio version.

#### ❖ Songs include:

- Introduction Song
- Goodbye Song
- Counting Song
- Rainbow Song
- Classroom Song
- Family Song
- Food Song
- Clothing Song
- Community Song

Written by: Kristin Alten

Designed & Edited by: Cynthia Ramlo  
Nicky Belle

Audio by: Tasha Hauff (Oglala/Cheyenne Rvr)

### High School Songbook

This songbook accompanies the higher levels, not only due to the more difficult words and grammar concepts, but also due to the complexity of the historical, cultural, and ceremonial content.

#### ❖ Songs include:

- Honor Songs
- Flag Songs
- Battle Songs
- Chief Songs
- Ceremonial Songs
- Sundance Songs
- Prayer Songs
- Four Directions Songs
- Pipe Songs

Compiled, Designed, & Edited by: Nicky Belle

Illustrated by: Cecil Apple (Oglala)  
Quinton Maldonado (Oglala)

Audio by: Robert Braveheart, Sr. (Oglala)  
Fred Stands (Oglala)



Maḥpíya Lúta Owáyawa



**Lakota Language Project (LLP) Workshop**

RCIS 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



## **K-12 Comprehensive Textbooks**

**RCIS offers a K-12 comprehensive Lakota Language curriculum to its students—the first of its kind in the United States. Read below and explore some our textbooks to learn more!**

### **❖ What does it mean to have a K-12 Comprehensive Curriculum?**

The LLP curriculum is a comprehensive one, meaning that the learning goals in each grade are dependent upon what was learned the year prior. This “looping” continues throughout the entire curriculum, from elementary to high school. In order for students to be prepared for the next grade, they should demonstrate at least 80% proficiency with each of the established learning goals.

### **❖ When did plans for the textbooks and curriculum begin?**

RCIS and the American Indian Studies Research Institute (AISRI) at Indiana University began planning, designing, and building the language curriculum in Fall 2007. It is currently in its sixth year of development.

### **❖ Who uses the LLP textbooks and curriculum?**

At this time, only RCIS students enrolled in Lakota Language classes and Lakota Language teachers have access to the LLP textbooks and resources. In the future, however, all RCIS faculty and parents will have access to these tools, as well as the wider Pine Ridge community.

### **❖ Where can students access LLP textbooks?**

RCIS students have daily access to LLP textbooks in their Lakota Language classes; in the future, we hope to allow students to access textbooks digitally through Moodle (please refer to the Moodle station).

### **❖ How are the textbooks designed?**

### **❖ Why is a standardized, comprehensive curriculum important?**

# Maḥpíya Lúta Lakḥól Waúnspe Wičhákiyapi: Teaching Lakota to Red Cloud Students



On October 18, the Red Cloud community—including students, teachers, parents, friends and supporters from as far as California, Louisiana and Virginia—gathered on campus to mark our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Hundreds were on hand to celebrate through an afternoon of tours, events, and workshops on Lakota language and arts.

Senior, Carrie Beard '14 teaches a lesson on how to introduce yourself in Lakota to a packed classroom of community members, donors & visitors.

Red Cloud's Lakota Language Project, the nation's first comprehensive K-12 Lakota language curriculum, hosted a variety of workshops during the 125th anniversary celebration, including those showcasing its new multimedia Lakota language tools!

