



From The Editor

This digital newsletter was created to keep parents of students enrolled in Biology informed about this course as well as current news at Sherman Indian High School. Each year our school uses the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) test to assess the proficiency of Sherman Students in mathematics, science, language, and reading (Fig. 3). Students take the NWEA test three times a year. In addition, our school uses the STAR test (Renaissance Learning Inc.) for mathematics and reading. Student testing profiles are used to document student improvements in these areas over the academic year and to place students in mathematic courses and in a reading intervention class. Low reading proficient students participate in the California Baptist College reading enhancement program after school twice a week. In my biology class low reading proficient students are supplemented with additional reading and writing activities to improve their reading skills. Research has shown that improving the reading ability of students can in turn improve their overall classroom performances. It should be noted that in our Mathematics and Science Departments our course curriculums follow the Common Core Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards, respectively.



Figure 1. Sherman members with Billy Mills at the Generation Indigenous event in Washington, DC.

Washington, DC Trip

In late September, Sherman Indian High School was honored by being invited to attend the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, DC. This conference is held each year to build trust among the Government and Native American Nations, to improve the lives of Native Americans, and to reinforce tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination. Representing Sherman at this year's conference were Principal Mary Yarger and Tom Lewis of Recreation, along with students, Kylee Coulston, Marian Curtis, Mikelle Ivins, Indika Dreamer, Josiah

Frye, Tynario Trujillo, and Marisa Sosas (Figs. 1,2). Prior to the Tribal Nations Conference, Sherman students attended the White House Gathering of Generation Indigenous and listened to several motivational speakers including Billy Mills, Oglala-Lakota Sioux and 1964 Olympic Gold Medalist in the 10,000 meters (Fig. 1). While in Washington, DC, the Sherman group also visited the office and spoke to the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell. All Sherman members indicated that their Washington, DC experience was both inspiring and memorable.

Biology Experiments

Over the past two weeks our biology students have studied cellular energy and the process and importance of photosynthesis (Fig. 5). One of the activities of this unit was to creatively express photosynthesis in a poem or a rap. Below is the winning entry.

Photosynthesis

Ever wonder why a plant don't eat

*Makes food from the sun that you
can't beat*

*Uses water during this process to
create sugar and light and CO two*

*Now its got energy to grow called
photosynthesis---you didn't know*

Does the opposite of what we do

*Plants take in carbon dioxide and
release O two*

*What makes a plant green I'm glad
you asked*

*Photosynthesis takes place in the
green chloroplast*

*Plant cells can contain 100 or only
one*

*Filled with chlorophyll where this
process runs*

Start with 5CO_2 and $6\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Ends with sugar food or glucose

*Plants eat it for breakfast like we eat
toast*

Also make 6O_2 that we need most

*Six molecules of oxygen so we can
live*

*Respect the chloroplast---it is there
to give*

---Cason Deschine



Figure 2. Down time for Sherman students in front of the White House in Washington, DC.



Figure 3. NEWA test week for Sherman students.

Focus on Faculty

In this issue we focus on Matt Townsend, our current Sherman Academic Head (Fig. 4). Matt has been at Sherman for 23 years as a physical education teacher. In 1999 and 2003-2004 Matt was redeployed to Bosnia and Iraq, respectively, with the United States Army. Last year Matt coached the Sherman Indian Braves baseball team to a successful season. Today you will find Matt scurrying down the hallway to attend another meeting, subbing a class, at his desk doing paperwork, or on the phone to a parent discussing important student issues. When asked what he most enjoys about Sherman, he replied the history and tradition of our school and our very resilient students.



Figure 4. Matt Townsend multitasking at his desk.



Figure 5. Honor Biology students using paper chromatography to separate photosynthetic pigments.

Summer School

Sherman will conduct a short summer school session in 2017 for the first time in 15 years. Summer school will be offered to students to recover/make up units and not to advance in school units.

The next **Sherman Parent Conference will be on October 28, 2016.**