

Gratitude and Native American Announcements Beginning on Monday, November 16

Elementary School Announcements

Monday, 11/16

While November is a great time to focus on gratitude, it is also a good time to reflect on our Native American brothers and sisters. The KASD Equity Team is going to provide information about Native Americans each day to help us learn more about them and their culture.

Sometimes we think of Native Americans as only living a long time ago. It is true that prior to the arrival of the European settlers, there were about 10 million Native Americans living in this country, according to history.com. Today, the Native American population makes up about 2.9 million people in the United States' population, according to the National Congress of American Indians.

Tuesday 11/17

The Census Bureau 2018 Population Estimates indicated that Alaska, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Montana are the states with the highest proportion of Native Americans living in them.

Wednesday 11/18

While there are no longer any Native American tribes living in Pennsylvania, the Lenape, Munsee, Susquehannok, Iroquois, Shawnee, and Erie tribes used to live in our state, according to the Native American Tribes of Pennsylvania.

Thursday, 11/19

The Federal Register of the United States reports that there are 574 Tribal entities in the United States today.

Friday 11/20

The National Museum of the American Indian describes what is typically called the "first Thanksgiving" as a gathering that was more about politics than a feast between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans.

Monday 11/23

Thanksgiving hasn't always been an official holiday. The holiday that non-Native Americans celebrate on the last Thursday of November became official in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln issued a Proclamation of Thanksgiving, according to the National Archives.

Tuesday 11/24

According to Dennis Zotigh of the *Smithsonian Magazine*, on Thanksgiving some Native Americans do not celebrate the holiday because for them it marks the beginning of the conquest

of their people by the Europeans. According to personal accounts, Native Americans gather with their families for pow wows or a fall feast and mourn their lost ancestors.

Wednesday 11/25

In writing about the History of Berks County, J. Wallace Luckenbill shares that there is numerous evidence of Native American encampments around Fleetwood. Luckenbill writes “Besides coming here to hunt and fish, they frequently followed a trail along the top of the mountain from Reading to Flint Hill near Bowers to obtain flint for their arrow heads.”