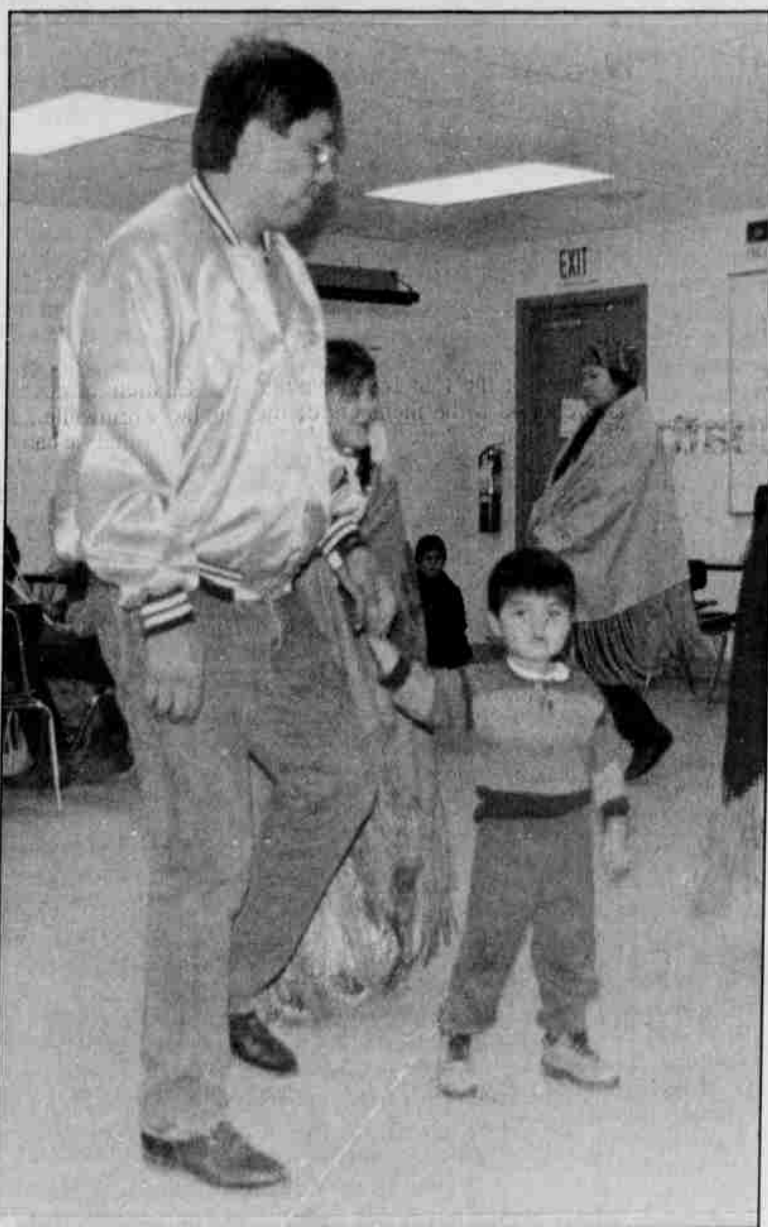


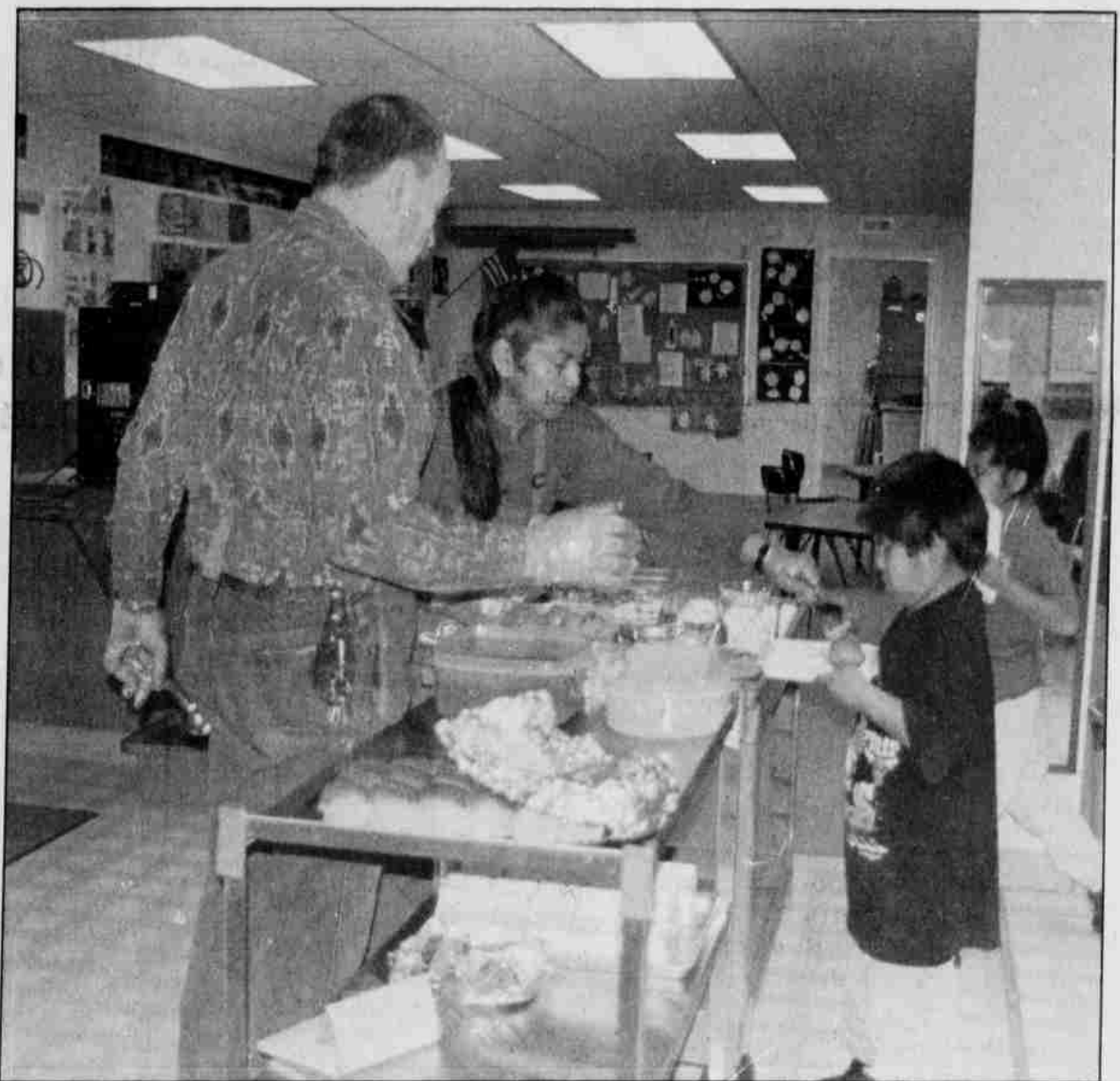
# Simnasho School students, staff celebrate one year since grand opening



Simnasho students create sign to welcome visitors.



Captain Moody and son Antone dance at schools birthday powwow.



Chuck McKay and Nancy Tailfeathers serve lunch to students.



The computer is a favorite with the students, they "fight" over it.

Photos and text  
by  
Selena T. Boise

Simnasho School students and staff celebrated the first birthday of their school January 24, by having a powwow and birthday cake. Simnasho students sang happy birthday to the school and served cake to all guests in attendance. The staff was pleased with the turnout at the powwow, and would like to encourage people to come and visit them again.

The floor was open to all who wanted to speak and many kind thoughts and hopes were spoken to the students and staff at Simnasho School. The subject of Simnasho School was always there and came up in meetings until it became a sure thing. The school was said to be a dream come true for Simnasho residents and there are hopes of someday having a permanent structure. The children are happy with their school and don't have to wake up extra early to make it to school. They are like a little family learning together, in a classroom that has a more relaxed and flexible learning scheme.

There are fifteen students at Simnasho, grades kindergarten through fourth. These students are: Melody Berry, Zeena Kalama, Tamera Moody, Charlene Moody, Elizabeth Simtustus, Emilena Suppah, Myrtle Suppah, Jaylyn Suppah, Wilma Tufti, Sara Vaeth, Sonny Berry, Johnson Bill, Jessie Jones, Edmond Kalama, Jr., and Steven Vaeth. The students compiled a list of new things at their school, list of what they want and list of what they like at their school. They are:

**New things at our school:** Twirly bars, new school, learning how to use computer, some new books, grass to play football, basketball standards/hoops, gravel chips, fun ball (for play in late spring), more storage, study center and book shelves, and Mrs. Tailfeathers here all day.

**What we would like at our school:** Baseball field, drinking fountain, indoor P.E. recess gym, teeter totter, tree (for shade), leisure books, and more computer programs.

**What I like about our school:** Playing at recess, playing games, paint, draw on sidewalk in the spring, doing projects with bears, read books, having special parties, powwows, working and doing addition and subtraction, watching movies (that we've read books to or about bears or space), go on field trips and nature walks. Some students feel they're more responsible and that they get more individualized attention.

Guests shared their hopes of getting what they want at their school. As a symbol of what they wish for, each child let a balloon go with their wish for Simnasho School.

Teacher Margaret Kincaid was signed on permanent in 1995. Kincaid had been the substitute teacher since after the first teacher resigned a week into the school year in 1993. She was a substitute teacher for Warm Springs Elementary for one and one-half years before accepting the position at Simnasho School.

Kincaid is originally from Eastern Oregon, near Pendleton. She did her undergraduate studies at Eastern Oregon State University and got her Masters at Fort Hays, in Kansas. She enjoys working with the children at Simnasho, and has been welcomed to be a part of the community. Charlotte Herkshan presented her with a wall hanging that says "welcome" in appreciation of her interaction with the children and for "surviving one year."

Nancy Tailfeathers is permanent full-time teacher's aide this year at Simnasho. Kincaid feels it is nice for the children to have more help for their individual studies.

Another staff member is Chuck McKay, who is the cook, bus driver, maintenance man, and custodian, all in one. He picks up students for school, and then prepares breakfast. Their school is equipped with a microwave and bun warmer. He

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