

Nyiikuu'éeyənya Ka'avk!

October 2025



Classes take place every day at the Language Center Bldg. #5.
Office is open 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. **Mentors (Speakers) are here rain or shine!!! Sign up for a class to your liking. IMMERSION !**
“one on one” is offered daily.



Immersion 9:00 AM Monday-Friday

Immersion 10:00 AM Monday-Friday

Teen 4:00 PM Monday

Head Start 10:00 Tues, Thursday

Seniors 1:00 Wednesday

Adults 1:00 Friday

Teens: **Basket Weaving October 31, 2025**, at the C. Center

By J. Osborne, D Villicana and Marquita Polk

LANGUAGE GROUP CLASSES:

9:00 AM

10:00 AM.

(Sign up at 928-977-2683)

C. Hills, Director

J. Rodriguez, Coordinator



Beading TBA November Sign up now. Space limited.

Staff Training: A three-day training by Dr. Amy Miller addressed Kwatsaan grammar and the syntax of the language. She presented basic linguistic terminology, including prefixes in Kwatsáan (indicating subject, subject and object, and prefixes for complex verbs). Kwatsaan sentences illustrated possessive prefixes, alienable, and inalienable possession, using nouns and independent pronouns to name the possessor. **The English sentences were translated into Kwatsáan by the speakers.** The sentences were then broken down into parts to provide meaning. Word order was reviewed, and case markers were explained. This class for instructors and aides deepened their understanding and meaning when they say 'awésh (I did it), Máanyts mawépava (You did it). The learners will hear the words, use the words in context, and understand the meaning. They will not necessarily have to know how to break down the sentences. The next training is scheduled for **November 17, 2025**

Kwatsáan Piipáa Kuu'éeyənyts

Staff Training. Successful hands-on teaching workshops were attended by the emerging speakers throughout August and September, in basic teaching strategies and tips on lesson planning. Two two-hour training sessions were provided by R. Montague on lesson planning and preparing instructional materials in Kwatsaan. Doctoral Candidate Richard Montague is a natural in Kwatsaan Cultural History and Art. We have gained much from his knowledge of Kwatsaan art, his sharing of making pottery from local clay, using paints from local plants and minerals. He has also shared how to make cradle boards, the aa'áp, shapúur. We are fortunate to have him come and teach us. He also knows and lives medicine!!! We might ask him to share his knowledge of local medicinal plants next. **November 23, 2025**, session will be a teaching workshop.



What's happening at Kwatsaan Language?? We are busy meeting a grant objective to train a solid/strong staff. This is possible with the help of two mentors, the director and the coordinator. Although the Tribe has not yet hired an immersion instructor, we are making progress with the help of volunteers and the existing staff. The emerging learners, potential instructors, and aides have met the first goal of learning 30% of the objective in the first year. Our goal for the end of 2025 year is 50% knowledge and use a **Common Use Word List: Ask us for a booklet!!**

A June happening: Three Language staff attended the 2025 CIBA Annual Gathering and were showcased as weavers themselves. An attendee, Marquita Polk writes, *“Attending the California Indian Basket weavers Gathering was a valuable experience that connected me to traditional knowledge and techniques. I was able to practice hands-on skills in twining, rope making, and juncus preparation, while also building connections with other weavers and cultural leaders. The event highlighted the importance of preserving and sharing traditional skills, much like our ongoing efforts with the Quechan Language Program. These teachings strengthen both cultural identity and community, and I look forward to applying what I learned and exploring opportunities for future collaboration.”*



CA BASKET WEAVERS



WIOA/DOL Introduction lesson

A happy Day thanks to the “Goon Squad” and many Tribal Departments.

On August 9th, the Language Department participated in the “Back to School Event with donations of snacks and literature. Two hundred students were expected to participate in this event at the Community Building. Great turnout all!!

In A Tribally Sponsored Pilot Project, Community High School students were introduced to the Kwatsaan culture and language. Expectations for learning were high, as we wanted them to be rooted in concepts of our Piipaa (people); to know where they came from and where tradition says they will go. Our Mentors were with us at every class. The students were introduced to conversation and basic vocabulary while also being given experience in clerical and office maintenance duties. They were taught to introduce themselves in Kwatsaan, answer phones, produce language materials, and some were required to input data into the Miromaa database. **Thank you, Quechan Indian Tribe and Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Department of Labor.**

June 4, 2025, **Weaving workshop** was offered to the staff and community by **Australian Cherie**. She shared techniques of Aboriginal basketmaking while Daryn McKenny provided an update on languages across the world in another session.

The Miromaa database is used worldwide, and our version, when ready, will be shared locally. We have been creating a database of Kwatsáan words and sentences for almost five years now. If you want to see and hear Kwatsáan, come to the Language Department to see for yourself what has been stored in the database thus far.

Daryn McKenny Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre

Zoom Classes. Weekly Immersion through Zoom for long-distance learners. Emerging learners and Mentors present the sounds of the Kwatsaan Language. This class had gained interest in long distance learners who come to the Language Center weekly to learn.

RECORDING PROJECT

Speakers work daily to record Kwatsaan the way they heard I words spoken. These recordings will eventually be available to every learner. Visit the Language Office today to hear the words for yourself. We look for to seeing you.

Nyayúuxa.

Summer Workshop V Basketmaking *Kwanxó uukwév.*

- Group 1 Seniors, Every Wednesday at the Senior Center
- Group 2 Winter and Spring Camp Middle School at the Community Center
- Group 3 Winter and Spring Camp High School at the Community

Workshops. Two summer Youth groups completed a learning cycle in topics such as basketry, and cradle shapuur making. Through these topics, they were exposed to basic verbs, animals, numbers, and colors. They were beginning to speak sentences through the jeopardy game when their employment ended.

- **Community Activities for Students.** III Traditional Dress Making in collaboration with the Recreation staff (J Osborne) *Aavxáy atséw-k*
- Kwaskó Weaving with Summer Youth workers. (Instructor J. Osborne, D. Villicana) *Xantap'óopatséw-k*