

# Nisqually Absch News



Nisqually Tribal News

4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. SE Olympia, WA 98513

Phone Number 360-456-5221

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September 2020

## Education Special Edition



## Parents of Remote Learning Students (PRLS)

By Cynthia Iyall, Tribal Administrator

Back to school this year is filled with questions and concerns due to COVID 19 and how we navigate prevention of this virus. This year schools are focused on social distancing by remote learning. The many changes our parents and students are facing with the new remote learning protocol is overwhelming. At Nisqually, our back to school plan has launched, it is called **PRLS - Parents of Remote Learning Students**. This program has brought many departments and programs across Administration together to join forces to help both parents and students the best we can. Throughout this Special Edition newsletter for Nisqually Community you will be hearing from many of whom are putting extra efforts out to help with remote learning.

Our first order of business is to lay the road as IT director, Chris Olin likes to describe this initiative. IT is laying the road for remote learning by installing fiber optics to our housing areas. They

will work with the families to connect via modem in order to have strong connections for remote learning for the children in their homes.

Once the road is laid, then Education, Head Start, Youth Center, ICW and many more departments will be able to work together to provide technical support as well as provide other resources to help parents keep the kids on track for school. This is so important to keep the kids learning remotely until they can return to their classroom. We are here to support parents any way we can.

Jeff Wall, our Education Director will be leading this initiative and we encourage you to check in with him and let him know who your students are in your household. Jeff and the education staff are keeping track of our students and want to support them the best way possible. So when you get a chance, check in with education. They would like to hear from you.

# 2019-2020 Graduates

The 2019-20 school year was a difficult one, but out of it we saw a record number of graduates in our Nisqually community. We had 52 students complete various levels of their education from graduating high school with their diploma to attaining their master's degree.

Every year we have a big celebration dinner at the end of the school year in order to honor these graduates, and celebrate the younger students who have competed another year and are moving up a grade. This year due to Covid restrictions we were not able to have our normal celebration, but we adapted and tried to celebrate our graduates to the best of our ability.

On Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> the Nisqually Education department threw a drive through graduation and moving up ceremony, along with a very tasty BBQ dinner included to go. We practiced social distancing, washed our hands frequently, and wore our masks when around people from different households than our own. We were excited to see about 60% of our graduates and their families were able to attend out event.

Included is a list of this year's graduates from our event.

## 2020 Nisqually Graduates

### High School

1. David Cebula
2. Justeen Eyle
3. Syllas Franklin
4. Annatehya Garcia
5. Leonard Ikebe III
6. Alexis James
7. Deven James
8. Zamyah John
9. Jr. John
10. Janae Kalama
11. Keiki-Kane McCloud
12. William McCloud
13. Denyse Moreno
14. Mady Obi
15. Bettina Ramidas Russell
16. Jonissa Scott
17. Jaylene Spencer
18. Aulani Thomas
19. Annabelle Youckton

### 21+ Program

20. James Decker
21. Desrai Wells-John
22. Collette Kalama
23. Julian Kalama
24. Desirae McCloud
25. Stephen Paul
26. Tiffany Stepetin

### GED

27. Tommy Stepetin

### AA Degree

28. Chauncy Birdtail
29. Juanita Black
30. Orinda Goddard
31. Fawn Gouley
32. Janice Hicks
33. Kitten Leschi
34. Linda McCloud
35. Catalina Sanchez
36. Andreyia Squally
37. Chayannah Squally

### BA Degree

38. Nicole Bryant
39. Jessica Jack
40. Freda Kalama
41. Aliyah Kautz
42. Sue Martin
43. Jarod Olsen
44. Ariana Stevens
45. Angelica Villegas
46. Jonathan Blandmna

### MA Degree

47. Jamie Bryk
48. Anthony Choke
49. Adam Flores
50. Shannon Iyall
51. Chelsie Sharp
52. Chad Wall

## How to Contact Us

Tribal Center (360) 456-5221  
 Health Clinic (360) 459-5312  
 Law Enforcement (360) 459-9603  
 Youth Center (360) 455-5213  
 Natural Resources (360) 438-8687

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 youckton.leslee@nisqually-nsn.gov  
 ext. 1252

The deadline for the newsletter is the second Monday of every month.

## Nisqually Tribal Council

Chair, Ken Choke  
 Vice Chair, Antonette Squally  
 Secretary, Jackie Whittington  
 Treasurer, David Iyall  
 5th Council, Brian McCloud  
 6th Council, Hanford McCloud  
 7th Council, Willie Frank

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# 10 Tips for Parents as Students Transition to Online Learning

By Yolanda Machado, M.Ed.

1. Establish a daily routine- as if your kids were still physically going to school. Have them help you create a large daily activity calendar that includes time for study, breaks, lunch, etc. Go to bed at usual times and prepare the night before to maintain good habits.
2. Have a usual space for study- that is free from distractions such as tv, pets, the kitchen, etc. Also should avoid bedrooms as places of study for obvious reasons.
3. Have necessary equipment- such as high speed internet, computer (laptop, chrome books), paper, pencils, calculators, headsets, etc. and have them all together in one place.
4. Do the training- before the school year starts. Do the “How to Use Google Classroom” and become familiar with other resources, such as Khan Academy for example.
5. Monitor progress- of your children’s learning. Check to make sure homework is complete and sent in on time and stay connected with their teachers on a regular basis through email.
6. Include music, art, and physical activity- as part of your daily routine. Unfortunately these activities are the first to get cut in school budgets, but being at home can allow parents to incorporate them back into the learning environment, which can be inspiring, and enriching on many levels.
7. Understand learning style differences- for example, some students do well with having and following a strict daily schedule (left



brain) and others prefer a more flexible schedule (right brain), having more freedom to adjust and have input on how to use their time. Be open minded about these differences.

8. Set a good example- as parents, we are our children’s first teachers, so be a good role model. Actions really do speak louder than words. If you want your children to follow a routine and get the job done, then you need to do the same.
9. Ask your kids about what they learned- on a daily basis, either through talking about it or journaling or both. Doing this builds their public speaking and writing skills. Ask them to teach you what they learned and how what they learned applies to the real world. This gets at critical thinking skills, an important skill that often gets left out of lesson plans, but so necessary for success after the school bell rings.
10. Finally build in a reward system- this is best at the end of the day or at the end of the week on a Friday. Ideally your children should be involved in deciding what these rewards look like, such as a trip to get ice cream, a movie, etc. Evidence suggests that when students determine the incentives for learning, the outcomes are more successful and motivation to learn becomes internalized.

“Whoever controls the education of our children, controls our future.”

*Wilma Mankiller, Former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation*

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# Nisqually Fiber Wave and Tribal Technology Update

By Chris Olin

I hope this update finds you well and staying safe. In early August 2020, a Parents of Remote Learning Students (PRLS) team formed to attempt to help address some of the needs that students as well as care providers of remote learning students will face in the coming school year.

Without doubt, the COVID-19 challenge was and still is being faced at all levels - from the educators to the students and the service providers in between. One of the biggest challenges is getting high-speed Internet connectivity in the home. We were already providing free Wimax (wireless) Internet service to Nisqually Tribal Members but the increased network use in homes also increased the demand on the network infrastructure. The Nisqually IT department decided to prioritize this issue and move forward as fast as possible to help meet the needs of our Tribal Members and community, from the little ones to adult learners.

The fiber to the home project was already underway in the Southern community but halted due to closures surrounding COVID-19 about half a year ago. Due to shutdowns and delays beginning March 2020, we lost valuable time in deploying Fiber to the home. We also lost the opportunity to hold a large gathering/public hearing to go over some of the characteristics, do's, don'ts, and how to's of the network and modems. Many aspects of the deployment did not go as envisioned and adjustments to the network are still underway due to the fast pace at which we moved.

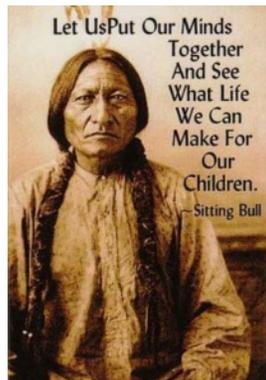
As of this article, 70% of homes and apartments have been installed. The Nisqually Southern community is mostly completed. If you have not been connected, please contact Nisqually Fiber

Support by phone at 360-486-9557, leave a message with your name, address and phone number so we can finish installation. You can also email us at [nisquallyfibersupport@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:nisquallyfibersupport@nisqually-nsn.gov).

To meet the needs and reach the Cyamuc residents, we've also decided to fast track the deployment of the fiber network into the Cyamuc community. Equipment is already in the area where the fiber team is digging, trenching and bringing conduits into yards (followed by cleanup). The goal is to have fiber into every home in Cyamuc by the end of October. This is a rather aggressive schedule yet we believe the needs of our Tribal community must be met as soon as possible. We've identified and learned so much as we continue to do our best to minimize network connectivity disruption moving forward. It has taken a cooperative effort, sacrifices and understanding. We understand health safety is first and foremost - We will see high-speed fiber in Cyamuc soon!

## Acknowledgements

There is a large team working on this project and I want to take the time to thank the folks who initially identified and formed the initial project core back in 2018/2019: Jason Pleva, Mike Mason, Joe Cushman, and Paul Walk of Redline Communications. I thank the Tribal Council, budget committee, finance and Tribal Administrators for listening to the needs and supporting us in our efforts in all too many ways. I would also like to thank those who worked very hard under long schedules in order to help fast track the initial deployment: John Moore, Dave Messer, Larry Hicks and Robert Plews of Nisqually IT. Thanks to Adam Quintana, Ric Silvas, Kari Lombard, Ryan Welch and Michelle Lombard for maintaining administrative IT support while others stay focused on the fiber project. I thank Eric Wehner, Asher Walk and Mike Kover for teaming up and supporting us in this deployment. We greatly appreciate the patience and understanding of everyone dealing with the fiber deployment under COVID times.



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# Nisqually Education Department

By Jeff Wall, Education Director

Navigating COVID-19 has been very challenging, and Nisqually's Education department has been working really hard to try and figure out what education and learning is going to look like during this epidemic and future.

These past several months we have seen many schools both local and across the country transition to exclusively online learning. This has been accomplished through virtual platforms like zoom, google classroom, and canvas. We have seen this transition create a whole new set of problems that we have not yet seen in public schools. Tribes across the county are having trouble securing sufficient internet capabilities throughout their reservations. I have met with dozens of Tribes throughout these past several months and have discovered that we have been very fortunate here in the Pacific Northwest because we have nowhere near the number of sickness counts and technology limitations much of Indian country is currently experiencing. This fall semester we are anticipating as many as 10,000 students in Washington state that won't have sufficient access to their online learning. At Nisqually we have many different departments that are working diligently together to try and ensure our Tribal members, community members, and extended households will have every opportunity to be successful in their education endeavors during this next school year.

Through COVID dollars the Nisqually Tribe is working on acquiring a limited number of Chromebooks for distribution in the upcoming weeks to children who are in school grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Nisqually Tribal members will be prioritized, but we will not limit this distribution opportunity to only enrolled children. Descendants and children of Nisqually households will be considered too. The Nisqually Education department has been tasked to oversee the distribution, so we are working on an abbreviated form of our education services application to ensure we will properly distribute the Chromebooks fairly and efficiently. This

application and a need for services survey will be coming in the mail very soon. I will be the point of contact on this distribution so if you should need to contact me, I can be reached easiest through email at: [wall.jeffrey@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:wall.jeffrey@nisqually-nsn.gov) .

The Nisqually Education department is also working on our annual backpack and school supplies distribution. Unfortunately, the order for backpacks has been delayed and they should be shipping soon. We will keep you posted on when the distribution will be occurring, and should you have any questions you may contact our Youth Education Counselor Ken at: [tuckfield.ken@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:tuckfield.ken@nisqually-nsn.gov) .



If you are in need of tutoring services please email our Youth Education Counselor Ken.

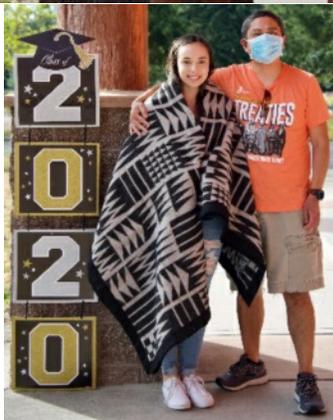
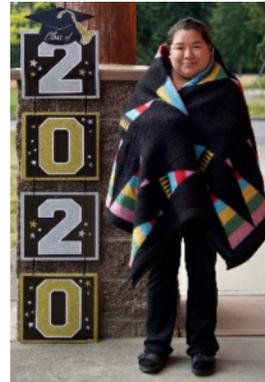
If you are interested in completing your GED or getting your diploma through Nisqually's collaboration with SPSCC's 21+ program please contact Shanon at: [smillman@spscc](mailto:smillman@spscc) .

If you are interested in going to college please contact our Adult Education Counselor Christine. She can be reached at: [robbins.christine@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:robbins.christine@nisqually-nsn.gov) .

Northwest Indian College at Nisqually has decided to go with online classes through Winter quarter, but they are still running classes and the Fall Semester will begin on September 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information about the college or to sign up for classes please contact Jenny. She can be reached at: [jlserpa@nwic.edu](mailto:jlserpa@nwic.edu) .

I wish you all the best, and stay safe,  
*Jeff Wall*, Nisqually Education Director

# 2020 Nisqually Graduation and Moving up Ceremony



# 2020 Nisqually Graduation and Moving up Ceremony



c/o 2020



# Nisqually Tribe Early/Head Start

These are unprecedented times for all of us right now, and as we move forward through our current state of uncertainty and the unfamiliar staff at Head Start has been working hard to figure out how we can best serve our children and families while still maintaining the health and safety requirements and recommendations of the Tribe, Office of Head Start, CDC and the State and County Health Departments. For now, our back to school plan will be to offer 100% virtual services to our students and families for the start of the 2020-2021 program year.

Starting in late September we will return to school offering virtual classroom instruction two days per week 20 minutes per session on a



staggered schedule. For the children who have been enrolled in the program, parents will receive a welcome letter with your child's virtual class schedule and further instructions and information on what services to expect from the Early/Head Start program. In addition to our weekly virtual classroom services, Head Start has hired a professional production company that is currently filming teaching staff on-site to offer working families limitless access to the prerecorded curriculum videos with daily classroom lessons, activities and instructions. All Early/Head Start students will receive weekly packets that include weekly lesson plans, class supplies and equipment that will support the weekly activities based on the curriculum, and pre-recordings. Other resources will be included in the weekly packets as well. The prerecordings will be available to all Early/Head Start parents and

community by October 15, 2020. The prerecorded lessons and activities video platform will be posted on the Nisqually Tribal website which will be accessible to families and the community year round. The program will use an online classroom platform for its live virtual classroom sessions, further information on the platform will be included with your welcome letter. The program has purchased Hatch tablets for our Kindergarten Readiness classroom, and will offer Chromebooks for students in need of equipment so they can access the online virtual classroom platforms, and pre-recorded lessons from home. We are able to loan families in need, the equipment necessary to virtually participate in the program.

Prerecorded lessons will be offered to both the Early Head Start and Head Start age groups serving children ages 0-5. Our prerecorded lessons will be developmentally and age appropriate to help prepare our Head Start children for School Readiness and Kindergarten in the time of COVID. Teachers are using Teaching Strategies, Creative Curriculum and the Head Start Early Learning Frameworks,



along with the inclusion of cultural language and activities as part of the offered curriculum and daily lessons at Nisqually Early/Head Start. The

program is also partnering with our local education agencies (the school districts) to work side by side with our Early/Head Start staff and contractors to offer and incorporate services for children with special needs. This will include one on one virtual services for IEP and IFSP's to

*Continued on page 9-HEAD START*

**Continued from page 8-HEAD START**

meet children’s individual goals and needs. Services will include speech and language therapy, social emotional support, special education instruction, and support to families with their children’s learning and developmental goals.

Since March, and throughout the summer Early/Head Start has been mailing out bi-weekly packets that include age appropriate lessons and activities along with supplies and program information to families to extend educational services remotely. Early/Head Start families can expect a virtual open house and parent orientation for this school year. All staff are busy filming for our parent orientation and open

house prerecord ing. We will introduce all program staff, provide important information about program services,

family, health and nutritional services, education, & disabilities services, bus safety training, our online services, and much more.

As part of our overall planning to begin virtual services for our children and families, the program is also continuing to plan for the day our children will return to school onsite. We are busy preparing for that day to ensure when services return onsite, we welcome our children back safely. When children and families return to school, you will see new and innovative sanitizing equipment for our classrooms. The program has invested in the Zono Sanitizing Cabinet which is an eco-friendly mobile sanitizing machine that fights against and kills infectious diseases and viruses. The cabinet uses no harsh chemicals to sanitize hard and soft items. It uses ozone created from ambient air, less than one half ounce of water, and three cents worth of

electricity to sanitize porous, semi-porous and nonporous surfaces. Teachers can sanitize items throughout the school day without taking time away from teaching and caring for our children. The Ozone Cabinet requires no attention from



staff during sanitizing cycles. The integrated cart system ensures optimal works flow and reduces contaminat ion. It can sanitize one

quarter to one half of the items in a classroom in 30 minutes, and requires no wiping or rinsing of items. It leaves no residue and doesn’t damage or discolor items. Items that can be sanitized includes, legos; dolls, blocks, classroom supplies such as crayons, markers, dress up clothes, hats, tricycle helmets, crib mattress, mats, cots, linens, rugs, cell phones, laptops, tablets, and much more. Testimonials from other Head Start programs state they have seen a reduction in illnesses at school with both students and staff.

We hope the information we provided you was helpful. If you have any questions, or would like to enroll your child into the Early/Head Start program please contact either Chenoa or Ashley at the number, or email below. We hope you continue to stay safe, and if you are in need of anything please don’t hesitate to call us at 360-456-5221.

Chenoa Perez-Vargas – EHS Family/Health Services Coordinator: extension 1215

[Perez-vargas.chenoa@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:Perez-vargas.chenoa@nisqually-nsn.gov)

Ashley Rosado – HS Family/Health Services Coordinator: extension 2207

[Rosado.ashley@nisqually-nsn.gov](mailto:Rosado.ashley@nisqually-nsn.gov)



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# COMING SOON

By Sharlaine Revey

We are working together to add services to help students and families!

- **Tutoring/School-work Stations:** the Youth Center, Education Department and I.T. are collaborating to set-up tutoring centers/school-work stations in the community. We realize students may need access to reliable internet, tutoring and quiet space to work and focus. The Youth Center is large enough to set up desks or tables that are socially-distanced and implement COVID-19 Prevention. In addition to the Youth Center gymnasium, we are identifying an additional location to set-up tutoring/school work stations as well so that Upper and Lower Rez both have accessible locations for students.
- **Surplus Office Furniture Giveaway:** we have a few items around in storage that may be useful to families. Operations is taking inventory of used office furniture such as desks and chairs that are still useful. We will arrange a day, time and location to make items available for students. Inventory is limited, and will be first-come, first serve and prioritized for students.



- **Parent/Family Tech Workshops:** School and teaching formats are so different these days! From long-division, to fractions or how to use Zoom or Google Classroom. We want to help with things like navigating virtual classrooms, online tutoring, learning resources and learning the basics for using the internet. We will set up short clinics/workshops on topics parents and families are asking for help with.
- **Online Resource Page:** We will work with I.T. to set-up a section on the Tribe's website for Parents of Remote Learning Students with various resources available including PRLS newsletters, helpful websites, school calendars, school contact information, PRLS services and tribal programs contact information, youth lunch schedule/location, tutoring and school-work stations info., Etc.

Thank you all for your commitment to your students' education! We look forward to helping the best we can to make this school year a success.

Sincerely,  
Sharlaine Revey and Cynthia Iyall  
Tribal Administrators

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## Youth Center

By Kevin Moore

Lunches are currently being distributed with drive through service for community pickups. Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. Due to our current situation we have had to make changes to our operating schedule.

Children's Activity Program is still available to tribal member students with needs regarding school, recreation, or other interests. Each tribal member student has access to \$500.00 per year to satisfy activity needs. Children's activity forms are available through email or phone calls to the operations manager.

Since summer plans have been moved back due to the pandemic, we are expanding the program through the fall and winter months. Employment opportunities are still in place, we are working on creating a children's welcome figure with a local artist and master carver.

Also, available is a mural project portraying prominent Nisqually leaders. Students will learn how to prepare, plan, execute a large mural.



Natural Resources have offered positions for help at the Clear Creek Hatchery. The garden program has been willing to employ young people to help with harvesting.

A leadership and music course are also being offered for students who are interested in creative writing, song composition, singing, and recording.

All positions are open to students who applied for the Summer work program, or Summer Youth. We are planning small groups of three or less students for each project. Adult community mentors are encouraged to help in whatever their interest is. Call or email for more information on program activity. Stay safe and optimistic, and we will get through this.  
Youth Center Staff

# Nisqually Children and Family Services and Remote Learning



Rebecca Feld  
Admin. Secretary



Rayne Lemaster  
Caseworker Trainee



Jasmine McDonald  
Caseworker



Betty Pacheco  
Caseworker



Lorraine Van Brunt  
Manager

COVID-19 has brought so much uncertainty, challenges, and stress to our families. Our team has worked diligently to ensure that our families' physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs are being met during this difficult time.

Our program has been extremely short staffed during COVID-19, but just recently, we have hired an Administrative Secretary, Rebecca Feld, and a new Caseworker Trainee, Rayne Lemaster. We are excited to have these two join our team. We will also be having an additional caseworker onboard here shortly; her name is Mary Ann Lara.

Our program aligns our transitional phases with DCYF and other Tribes in order to best protect the health and safety of our children, parents, placements, and staff. During the end of the summer (end of June), we were safely able to accommodate in-person visitations with parents and children. With the beginning of the school year now here, flu and cold season around the corner, and COVID-19 cases continuously rising, we decided to resume with remote visitation between parents and children. Ms. Pacheco and Ms. McDonald have worked diligently to purchase cultural items (medicine bags, drum kits, basket kits, sage, abalone shells, etc.) as well as cleaning supplies, clothing/food vouchers among many other necessary supplies to distribute to our families.

Below please find the links to upcoming webinars that may be helpful for parents and/or caregivers during these very stressful times.

<https://btc.talentlms.com/catalog/index/cat:25>

**Webinar 1: Mon. Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m. Pacific**

*Honoring Each Person's Experience to Support Mental Health*

**Webinar 2: Mon. October 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m. Pacific**

*Building Resilience while Social Distancing: Parental Depression and Coping*

**Webinar 3: Mon. November 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10 a.m. Pacific**

*Nurturing the Nurturer: Self-care for Providers & Parents*

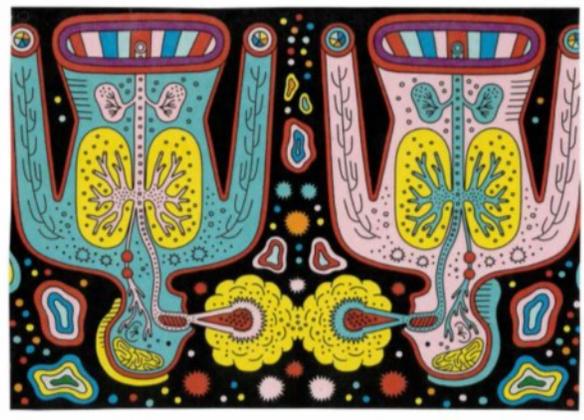
**New HCA campaign: Resources for Coping with Stress and Prioritizing Wellness**

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAHC/bulletins/29bc42a>

**COVID-19 Pandemic & Mental Health**

<https://www.nihcm.org/categories/covid-19-pandemic-mental-health>

**REMEMBER**  
**YOUR MASK**  
**FLU SEASON**  
**IS COMING SOON**



**Nisqually Indian Tribe**  
**4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. SE**  
**Olympia, WA 98513**



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