

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Education Committee! We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and send our best wishes for the best of new years for 2010!

Lisa John, Administrator of the Division of Education, met with the Committee on December 7 and gave a lengthy report. In October, the Child Development Center served 161 children and the Sick Child Care Center served 62. The Childcare Program included 178 Chickasaw children.

The Division of Education has been doing several things in outreach to Chickasaw students. Representatives visited with 72 students in 11 schools. The Division held a college admissions preparatory workshop and a booth at an Indian youth career day at the University of Central Oklahoma. The Division also had a booth at Southeastern Oklahoma State University's College Fair.

Johnson O'Malley (JOM) compliance monitoring is underway. Pontotoc, Murray, Johnston and Bryan Counties have been completed and Love County is ongoing. The Division gave achievement awards for Spanish (1), outstanding citizenship (1), outstanding academics (1), and overall achievement (5).

The Chickasaw Nation FIRST (for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO and Junior FIRST LEGO teams participated in Oklahoma's biggest annual FIRST LEGO tournament at Stillwater High School on December 12. The results of that tournament are not yet available. The Chickasaw Nation has three FIRST LEGO teams for Chickasaw students ages nine to 14. Team names are the Blockheads, Cybernuts and Mechanical Masterminds. The LEGO program challenges students to demonstrate problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship and sense of community.

Junior FIRST LEGO teams is geared toward six to nine year olds. The program introduces

students to the wonders of science and technology through traditional, open-ended LEGO building. The Chickasaw Nation fields three Junior FIRST LEGO teams named Super Storm, Tiny Techs and Mini Mayhem.

We are encouraged by the number and variety of educational programs provided by the Chickasaw Nation. Because of these programs, today's students will certainly be better qualified to be tomorrow's leaders. Thanks to the Division of Education for all that you do!

I would love to hear from you. Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Thank you.