store, who nominated Bedah for the award and donation after she had the opportunity to observe her class recently. “Ms. Bedah gives students encouragement to deal with daily struggles, and hugs for all their accomplishments. She provides materials out of her own pocket for students who cannot afford to bring their own supplies.”

Eva B. Stokely Elementary School is located just west of Shiprock High School, next to the Phil Thomas Performing Arts Center in Shiprock.

**Award-winning Diné welder comes from metalworking tradition**

TEMPE - Jonathan Dayea comes from a long line of Navajo jewelry makers. Both of his parents created intricate designs on pieces of silver for Indian jewelry traders in Arizona.

Ever since he can remember, he’s been watching the craftsmanship and the precision that goes into jewelry making.

Dayea chose a path of welding rather than jewelry making, which he doesn’t see as veering too far from his family’s tradition.

“I feel the gift is in my blood and we’re like jewelry artists,” said Dayea, a member of Arizona Pipe Trades Local 469 and a foreman at Summa Mechanical Contractors in Phoenix. “You’ve got to make your masterpiece look clean and nice; otherwise, you cannot sell your masterpieces.”

Dayea refers to “selling” the masterpiece as an analogy to making sure the welding inspectors approve of his work.

The inspectors not only approve of it, they’ve also rewarded him. In late March, Dayea received the Palo Verde Craftsmanship Award for high standards and craftsmanship core values - attitude, accountability, workmanship and professionalism.

Dayea received the nomination from John Kelly, Summa Mechanical/Arizona Public Service project manager; David Stone from APS; Scott Lee, Summa Mechanical general foreman; Marlene Betani, a subcontractor welding inspector; Elmer Varela and Martin Gonzalez, subcontractor painters; and Local 469 second-year apprentice Chris Bowen.

The nomination summary describes Jonathan as having a passion for perfection and work that sets a benchmark for others.

“It’s not just me,” he said. “When you put good work and ideas together, it’s usually because we all come up with it together.”

Dayea said he accepted the award knowing he’s representing both Summa Mechanical and Local 469. Dayea is Edgewater Clan born for Blacksheep and hails from Pine Springs, Ariz.

Jonathan knows that to be employable he has to make sure he stays current with his skills. He has more than 12 welding certifications, including wire feed, rebar and shield metal arc.

He’s picked up a lot of tips from the people he’s met. He remembers doing some X-ray welding with a young guy in New Mexico who was very nervous about the work.

“So I got his hood and drew a smiley face on the back. It was to remind him that you can’t be nervous while doing this type of work because that’s when you get into trouble.”

He says he’s guiding the younger guys and trying to give them good direction because they look to him as a mentor.

“I tell them, just like I tell my kids, to listen, ask questions and to hear every word that’s coming out of the instructor’s mouth.”

Jonathan Dayea

In addition to working on perfecting his art form — welding — and spending time with his wife and kids, Jonathan is lead guitarist for the 9010 Dirt Road Band.

“I’m glad I didn’t go full-time as a guitarist,” Jonathan says. “Because nowadays I play at these honkey-tonk bars where I have a lot of weekend fun, but I still have my very rewarding full-time career.”

(Editor’s note: This story was featured in the Arizona Pipe Trades Reporter Fall 2013 issue. It was submitted by Brenda Yanez, a spokeswoman for Torres Consulting and Law Group in Tempe, Ariz.)