

BNAS ended its year with a great summer professional development. Our session included teaching and reviewing Blackfoot Language and other various cultural histories/stories. We had most of our BNAS staff attend along with guests: two representatives from the East Glacier Public School, 1 teacher from De La Salle Blackfeet School (who is also a BPS School Board member), along with another school board member, two faculty from Babb school, the president for the Blackfeet Community College attended a morning session, and a BPS alumni who is currently seeking their Masters at the University of Montana, Mikalen Running Fisher, and also a Anna East from the Montana Digital Academy.

The morning sessions focused primarily on the Blackfoot Language where we reviewed words and did a workshop on methods in teaching it. Methods included ASLA (accelerated second language acquisition) and TPR (total physical response) and Blackfoot Literacy. We got through 5 sets of the ASLA method and explained where TPR can help aspects of ASLA. We went through many sentences and, through instruction, showed how to introduce new terms and new syntactical paradigms. Haley Running Crane gave a talk and lecture on teaching ASLA and Blackfoot Literacy at the UM, utilizing the BPS curriculum (from which she got from the BNAS director).

The evening sessions all had specific focus on various topics, Mariah Gladstone presented on traditional foods and made pemican, Terry Tatsey brought in horses and lecture about the Blackfoot relationship is with the horse, Latrice Tatsey came in and taught about the traditional calendar stick. All presenters gave brilliant cultural knowledge and lit some flames for inspiration and ideas that will undoubtedly enrich the BNAS curriculum and department and, most importantly, the students.