

Parent Community Outreach/Childcare~ Nikki Hannon
Board Meeting: March 27, 2019

- **Child Care**~ March at Child Care was pretty intense considering the crazy weather that kept the children fairly cooped up. The infant room is at capacity with 8 babies enrolled; four babies of staff members and four babies of teen parents. We currently have seven children enrolled in the toddler room with several inquiries pending new enrollment. In March, the toddlers learned the letters “V” and “W”, the number “14”, and the shape “oval”. In mid-March, our trainer from Family Connections did a follow up site visit with us. It was great to get feedback on our learning environment and learn a few strategies for dealing with challenging behaviors. Pictured at right are two high school volunteers and our assistant teacher getting crafty with the toddlers.



- **Hi-Set**~ We continue to accept new referrals to the Hi-Set program. In March, we had two new referrals and four students continue with their current studies. Our Hi-Set tutor, Jeri, continues to do outreach within the community to increase enrollment. She has most recently contacted the court to begin collaborating on court-ordered students.
- **Teen Parent Program**~ Carol Williamson and I have met with teen parents at the Academy several times this month. We have covered the topics of self-care while attending school and being a teen parent; active parenting as opposed to being distracted by cell phones, etc.; and the importance of early literacy when parenting. We continue to provide other supports as requested (ie. Diapers) and have encouraged the teen parents to reach out to the FIT program if they need assistance with prom. Carol has also offered to assist the teen parents in being given Blackfeet names for themselves and their children if they are interested.

- **āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p (FIT)**

- **Clothing Closets~** We received another huge clothing donation from the Heart Locker in Kalispell which was delivered through a partnership with the Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls.



A huge "thank you!" to Karleen Whitegrass and her Academy students for assisting to unload our most recent donation.

- The school closets have shared with us that they do not need any more clothes so we will not be requesting another donation this academic year. We were also able to share clothing once again with Heart Butte schools and the Medicine Bear Shelter. We still have quite a few bags of adult clothes that we plan to distribute as a community giveaway this spring.
- We are currently working on prom requests for FIT and other eligible students. Our online Facebook request has resulted in numerous sponsors for tickets, jewelry, flowers, dresses and tux rentals. Jeri Gobert (BPS Hi-Set tutor) and JoRae Rattler (FIT liaison) are also organizing a pre-prom event to assist students with getting ready for prom. We will have more details in the next report.
- **Food Pantries~** We are excited to see the new Food Pantry signs throughout BHS advertising their Food Pantry! We hope to expand their pantry to include fresh milk, eggs and bread. The fridge is pretty bare at the moment but the shelves are stocked. We had several requests from the secondary school pantries to provide more on-the go snack foods so the photo below is what was distributed:

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The mission of the Parent Community Outreach Program is to serve as a resource to the school district and our community in a collaborative effort to keep our students in school until graduation.