

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 31st Child Care Halloween Party

November 15th Ootsstoyiwa Winter Coat GiveAway

**CHILDCARE HAS
OPENINGS FOR 2-5
YEAR OLDS!**

PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

132 1st Ave SW

https://www.bps.k12.mt.us/programs_departments/parent_community_outreach

T: (406) 338-5025

November 3rd~ Nikki presents in D.C.!

CHILD CARE

We are nearly completed with our child care license renewal requirements. We have passed the fire inspection and health inspection. We still have one staff member needing to complete required trainings but we are definitely making progress. Once approved, we will continue to be licensed to serve 8 infants (ages 0-2) and up to 14 toddlers (ages 2-5 years).

We have several infants who will be turning 2 soon and able to move up to the toddler room. We have established a transition plan for these children and look forward to being able to welcome more infants to the center once our transitions are complete. We anticipate having four openings and will fill those slots from the waitlist.

We hosted our first “Lunch and Learn” with parents on 10/16/19. Parents had the opportunity to share three treats (things they feel are going well at childcare) and one trick (something they would like to see improved). We had an excellent turnout and even better conversation. A few “treats” the parents enjoy are that children are comfortable during the “drop off” transition; the children’s activities and circle time, including learning Blackfeet numbers, and that the room is in place for the infants moving up to the toddler room. A few “tricks” for the future include: to post pictures of their children throughout the day as updates, to adopt the E-COS system, and to encourage the children to say “please” and “thank you.” We will have a parent lunch and learn once a month to keep these conversations going.



TEEN PARENT PROGRAM

Teen parents with children enrolled at the BPS Child Care participated in our Lunch & Learn as explained above. It was extremely valuable to hear from their perspective what support they need with their children at our childcare. It was amazing to see them visiting with professional staff members about parenting. We hope that the Lunch & Learn continues to evolve into a space for the teens and working parents to support one another.

We received our fall selection of books from StoryMakers of Hopa Mountain. Teen parents and other staff members with children ages 0-5 are welcome to choose a book to support early literacy. Books are available at the PCOP, BES library, WBHA, KW Parent Center & Blackfeet Teen Parent Coalition.

HI-SET

The Hi-Set program had 4 students attend on a regular basis and 4 new referrals during October. Jerelyn has been networking within the community to increase the referrals. She has met with the Crystal Creek Treatment Lodge to set up a specific time for their clients to receive tutoring services at our center. Jerelyn has also reached out to Blackfeet Community College to stay informed regarding the potential grant that will allow Tribal colleges in Montana to provide HiSet services. On October 21, Jerelyn attended the Disability Awareness Day hosted by Blackfeet VocRehab in Browning where she was able to network and find additional resources that will support our HiSet students.

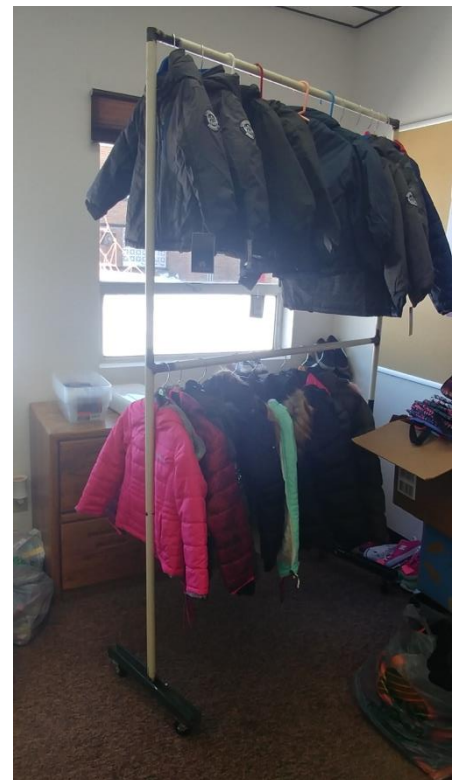
ĀISSPOŌMMOŌTSIIYŌ•P

The FIT program has shifted focus from backpacks to shoes & snow boots (depending on the weather). We have set a goal to collect #500 winter coats for our 2nd annual Oo ts stoyii wa “When the Cold Comes” Winter Clothes Giveaway. We received a huge donation of new & used coats from Coats for Kids in Kalispell. We also received \$100 gift card from Scheels in Great Falls and were able to purchase ten children’s hats for the drive.

Clothing Closets

Our new shipment of donations was delivered; once they are all sorted they will be brought to each school’s Clothing Closet. We have received quite a few requests for clothes so we are trying to sort as fast as we can. Several Academy students have been joining us to help for community service hours, which is always welcomed!

Food Pantries~ The pantries were recently stocked with the pallets we ordered at the beginning of the year. We are still waiting to hear whether or not we received the Town Pump grant again. For the past two years, this grant has solely funded our pantries.



Addressing Homelessness

As the homeless liaison for the district, Nikki is representing BPS on two separate planning teams regarding homelessness. The first team is through Blackfeet Planning and Blackfeet Housing. This team is working to gather data regarding the housing needs on the Blackfeet Reservation. Our first step is to gather qualitative data through community meetings in November. The second step is to gather quantitative data through surveys collected at “front door” sites such as Manpower and WIC. Once the data is collected and analyzed we will be able to use the information to pursue funding for the type of housing most in need.

The second team is a state-wide group organized through Homebase and funded by a \$3.43 million grant from HUD. The team is looking at a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) with the purpose of demonstrating how a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth, age 24 and younger, can dramatically reduce homelessness. The team has only had one virtual meeting and we plan to get together soon for strategic planning. Stay tuned!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The attendance committee has used the last couple of meetings to try to align our attendance processes across the district. So far, we’ve been able to discuss the court referral process and start to look at what each building does for tardies/early check outs and how that is reflected in our overall attendance rates. We still need to dig in to the Hot List and how that will be supported by the committee through incentives and common practices.