

Buffalo Hide Academy:

April / May 2019

Family Literacy:

This month, there was collaboration between Katie Boyce, who is completing her Library practicum hours for the Library Media Specialist endorsement program, and Nikki Hannon's program.

Every week Nikki holds parenting classes with the teen parent population of BHA. This month, the collaboration taking place was to implement literacy into these parenting classes. With the help and knowledge of Katie, our students were able to learn about the effects and benefits of reading to their little ones at an early age. They learned strategies and ways of how to begin to incorporate this into their daily routines. They were also given a small gift for participating in these literacy classes provided by Katie. Each student was able to walk away with some new knowledge and a bag of books that they can read with their children at home.



Student-Parent Appreciation:

The BHA has several students whom are also parents. On top of a full academic schedule, these young adults have an extraordinary amount of responsibility outside of school and yet are still showing up and working hard in their classes. We want to take the time to highlight their achievements, so we asked them to share their thoughts and feelings on how they find the strength and resiliency to keep showing up at school. Below are their responses:



Question: What is your child's name?

- **Tristan Heavy Runner + Cameron Madplume:** "Mikenzley Ray-Marie Heavy Runner Madplume."
- **Maureen Devereaux:** "Ezekiel Devereaux."
- **Keona Afterbuffalo:** "Jeremiah James Tallwhiteman."
- **Aaron YoungRunningCrane:** "Brayden T YoungRunningCrane."
- **Zakary Kittson:** "Clint Kittson."
- **Leslie Schildt:** "Sage Schildt."



Question: What is your favorite class at BHA?

- **Tristan:** "Nick's English class."
- **Maureen:** "Math and science."
- **Zak:** "Credit recovery with Jason."
- **Aaron:** "PE!"
- **Keona:** "PE!"
- **Leslie:** "Credit recovery so I can get caught up on classes I've failed in the past."
- **Cameron:** "Astronomy."

Question: What are the challenges of being a parent and going to school?

- **Cameron:** "Making sure my kid is safe."
- **Aaron:** "Attendance is one of the challenges I have. I need to get my baby ready for school and then do the same for myself and it's time consuming."
- **Keona:** "I think my biggest challenge is motivation. I was so stressed out trying to take care of my son I didn't have enough motivation to worry about my schooling... but I'm doing it!"
- **Leslie:** "I don't get to see my son as much as I like..."
- **Tristan:** "... Another challenge I face while being a parent and going to school is when my child needs me to attend to her. I have to drop whatever I'm doing and take care of her. I don't really mind that, but it causes me to fall behind in my school work."
- **Zak:** "The challenges of being a young parent and still attending school is trying to find that happy medium of balancing schooling and the well-being of my son."



Question: How do you feel supported at BHA as a parent?

- **Tristan:** "BHA allows me to have a flexible schedule so I am able to take care of my daughter and still do my schooling."
- **Aaron:** "The teachers are helpful – when they notice the mother needs to get work done they'll come by and distract the baby until I'm finished. It's sooooo helpful!"

- **Keona:** “As a parent, the BHA has provided a lot of help and they allow me to go at my pace. It didn’t seem like such a struggle trying to catch up on work.”
- **Cameron:** “I am supported greatly!”
- **Zak:** “The vibe of the staff at BHA is great and I’m there’s a person-to-person trust instead of just a teacher-to-student. That has made me respect them and the school on another level – like how they understand my problems and life outside of these walls and letting me go to take care of my son.”
- **Leslie:** “My son is welcomed here whenever I can’t find a sitter and that I feel really supported by the staff.”

Question: *Share your hopes and dreams for yourself and your child.*

- **Keona:** “I haven’t thought about exactly what I want to be but I now I want to do something big and I know for sure I’ll get that. I want my baby to grow up healthy... and I want his goal to be big, like maybe in the Army or a doctor.”
- **Aaron:** “I want to graduate, not only for me but for my son who looks up to me. I also want a stable environment for him to grow up in... I want my child to know that he’s the best baby boy I can ask for and that I love him with all my heart and that he can come to me for anything.”
- **Maureen:** I want to be the best auto mechanic! And I want my boy to be happy and go to college. I will support him however he needs.”
- **Leslie:** “I hope that I graduate and that my son graduates and is able to go to college and make a life for himself.”
- **Tristan:** “For myself, I hope that after I graduate I will keep that motivation and go to university and get a degree. For Mikenzley, I hope that she always knows how deeply loved and cared for she is. I hope that she engages in learning and school, and doesn’t make the same mistakes I did.”
- **Cameron:** “I hope to become a cop and eventually a US Marshal. I hope my daughter has a great future and grows up better than I did.”
- **Zak:** “I hope and know my son won’t have to live a life like I have and to have all of his wants and needs met until he can meet them for himself.”

