



BLACKFEET NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER



BNAS Department

Our mission and purpose is to work diligently to provide Blackfeet language and BNAS cultural resources for our BPS students and staff, while we assess our collective knowledge of Blackfeet ways and customs. Our department consists of one Administrator, one instructional coach and 20 BNAS teachers. Some of the teachers are Blackfeet Language immersion teachers, others teach specialty courses; history, culture, song and dance. Each month we will spotlight 2-3 teachers so you get to know who they are. Each brings to our district a wealth of knowledge and we appreciate all they do.

Important Dates/Upcoming Events

- 11/10/2020 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11/11/2020 Veterans Day
soōwāapītsiiksiisstsiiikoō
- 11/11/2020 BNAS presentation to BMS staff
- 11/12/2020 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11/25/2020 NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Holiday begins
- 11/26/2020 Happy
THANKSGIVING!
ii•tāamiipii•ksiiksiisstsiiikoō

Blackfoot Phrases/Words:

issksskātūkit'
(pay attention, be mindful)

nittiyāa~so'yii ō'm'ksii•ksii
(I like to eat turkey)

nittsisstsōkinni
(I am hungry)

piin'kwīitsit'
(Don't feel ashamed)

nāāto'wāapsiiks ainnimyāa
(the holy beings see all)

**pāattūpiisin is'tō'kūnnō•sssī
mā āakii**
(All life comes from the Woman)

**moōksii imiitaiks
āwāato'iyāapiksiiyāa**
(the dogs are waving their tails)

BNAS STAFF

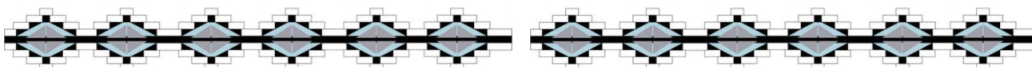


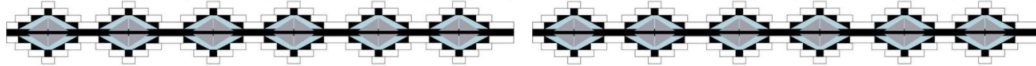
Director: **ō'nōkīykūtsis**
(Elk Shirt) Robert Hall
Email:

roberth@bps.k12.mt.us



IC: **Maistwāakii (Crow Woman)** Lea Whitford
Email: leaw@bps.k12.mt.us





News

September

The BNAS department recognized Joan Bullshoe Kennerly since this year marks the 45th anniversary of Native American Heritage Day. celebrated the 4th Friday in September. Mrs. Kennerly was the one who helped get this legislation recognized by the State of Montana.

October

BNAS department wants (and continues) to reach BPS students through the KBWG Thunder Radio 107.5. Segments include Blackfoot Language and reading excerpts from books that focus around the Blackfeet culture.

November

To support Teachers with suggested activities for *Native American Month* links to resources are available below.

Culture Matters

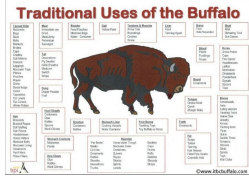
In the summer of 2020 a group of BPS teachers worked to create lesson plans to support the BNAS curriculum and provide resources for **ALL** BPS teachers. The links to the lessons are below, each month there are four categories to choose from. Teachers, if you decide to use the resources they are in a format so you can adjust them for your classes. Please don't make changes to the original documents, Make a Copy and change the file name.

We would like to encourage teachers to use these lesson plans for use in your classes as a way to support the Culture Matters pillar in the BPS strategic plan.

The BNAS Lessons for November:

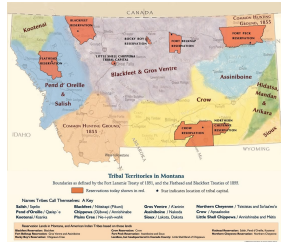
Culture

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Lh6bo1vwk8fvSlkmBsH3H7dT8W7rDtIsIXRjOzmuWbg/edit?usp=sharing>



Design

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TtdhisHPjezHCbx0zT-3RKDH9lxRp_jigAGwtotCPIU/edit?usp=sharing



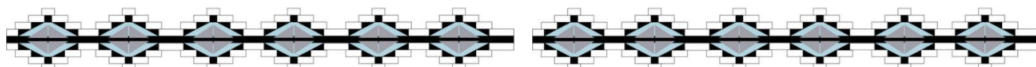
History

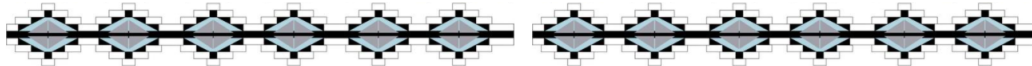
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LkWBfMsOOhpka0khBBOhm-9dhDroRb4jbV4UvYIH-kk/edit?usp=sharing>

Language

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sX8c8bg1mqF5JR1sakbn308izvtM-L3-jbmKPKVBQKE/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rdTuvjbwZzdGam-ieranlBKEpMlja3XridAyk2iaKhg/edit?usp=sharing>





TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Jocelyn Big Throat

(Pookittaana Little Daughter) teaches BNAS Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten at KW Bergan.

I am from the Blood Tribe - Kainai. I am Married to Francis Vielle, we have three children who are 12, 11, & 5. I grew up with the language, and I was raised on the Blood Reserve In Southern Alberta. My parents are Cletus and Justine(Scout) Big Throat and my maternal grandparents Victoria (Scout) & Ronnie Blackplume, Gus & Myrna Chief Moon and paternal Grandparents Max and Annabelle(Young Pine) Big Throat. Great Grandparents - Harry and Clara(Day Rider) Big Throat, Jim and Margerat(Wolf Child- Born With A Tooth) Young Pine and Dan and Philomena (Morning Owl) Chief Moon. I am a direct descendant of Young Pine, Blue Wings, Red Crow, Bobtail Chief, and Eagle Ribs. I was also told I have relatives on this of the Border, Carlson, Reevis, Powells, and Spearson Families.

Favorites: I love to bead and enjoy traveling when I could. I like watching Hockey and my favorite NHL team is the Calgary Flames. My favorite topic to teach is Storytelling. I believe that the children enjoy the old man Napi stories. Napi stories teach lessons to us about life. It teaches what's right and wrong. They are our old traditional stories and I truly enjoy sharing stories with my students.

Who has inspired you the most as a teacher? My parents who are always there when I need their language expertise. They always push me to do my best to teach our language and culture. Also Carolyn Zuback is an awesome teacher who always inspired me to teach the language.

Remote Learning: I have learned to use technology in my lessons.

Tips or advice: We are all learning together in this day and age.

Culture Matters: I teach the little kids so they like to learn the basics right now this includes; numbers, colors, animals, shapes, how to introduce themselves, seasons, our classroom commands etc. I usually use powwow sweat youtube videos to get the students up and moving. They use powwow dances in the videos and are easy to learn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhfglbhKCo0&list=PL6bNa81aVS4S3dl7Ii2OSK0BShDRUS8P>



Samantha Grant

teaches 2nd grade immersion at Browning Elementary.

I was born in Browning, MT and my parents are Gabe and Carol Grant. I have a son, Jacob, he is currently in 7th grade. I like to travel and can't wait until Covid is over to see my family.

Favorites:

I love Christmas and Halloween. I love to sew and do crafts in general. My son and I like anything that has to do with Star Wars. My favorite part about working at BPS is working with my coworkers and the smiling faces of my students. I love teaching the Blackfeet language and I am learning so much. I learned how certain words are shortened within names.

Who has inspired you the most as a teacher? Oh wow, so many people come to mind! I can't just name one but I had a lot of great teachers throughout the Browning School System.

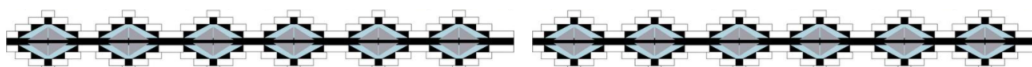
Remote Learning:

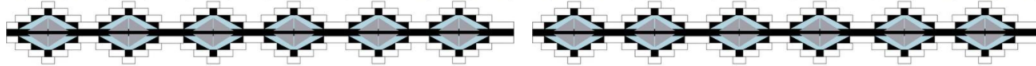
I learned so much new technology to teach. A challenge for us right now is to balance the language and academics.

Tips or advice: Give grace! Find a balance between work and your personal life.

Culture Matters:

I learned how to make a Bitmoji classroom and how to incorporate the language in it





BNAS RESOURCES

BNAS BROWNING SCHOOLS

youtube site

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzPmwZzDBG5gDWSrZ-tyzdQ/featured>

James Red Fox

<http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Indian%20Education/Social%20Studies/9-12/RedFoxJames.pdf?ver=2020-11-04-135546-323>

American Indians in the Military – A Warrior Spirit

<http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Indian%20Education/Social%20Studies/9-12/WarriorSpirit.pdf?ver=2020-05-22-150858-777>

1621: A new look at Thanksgiving

<http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Indian%20Education/Social%20Studies/6-8/1621%20A%20New%20Look%20at%20Thanksgiving.pdf>

