

PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

132 1st Ave SW

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

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February was full of love & snowflakes!

CHILD CARE



projects, sang songs and learned Blackfeet numbers during circle time, and enjoyed many books during “I love to read” month. The infant room also hosted a Valentine’s party with pizza and pop to complete the Valentine’s sugar rush! HiSet and FIT co-workers joined the festivities as well.

Unfortunately, despite our outreach efforts, we had three teen parents drop their children from our toddler room so we are now enrolled at #5 children. We are able to offer limited wrap-around services for staff with children ages 4-5 years. We have several parents considering this option.

The toddler room currently has a wide age-range between 2 years and 5 years. This age difference has made it quite challenging to accommodate all levels of learning but the children are socializing very well.

The toddlers have enjoyed a day here and there to sneak outside and get some sunshine. Between the wind and sub-zero temps, it’s been difficult to enjoy any fresh air. We are definitely looking forward to warmer weather!

Upcoming Events

March 2nd~ Dr. Seuss’ Birthday!

Our Child Care Love Bugs!



During the month of February, the new children settled into their new routines and have bonded with their care providers. The transition was smoother for some children than others; but our caring staff made all the difference!

Currently, we have #6 infants enrolled with the final two slots reserved for teen parents (pending the completion of their applications).

Children in the infant room enjoyed numerous Valentine’s-themed art

TEEN PARENT PROGRAM

During February, PCOP staff attempted outreach to our teen parents with children in child care who have not been sending their children. One of the parents did not respond to our efforts; one parent informed us that her baby's dad was caring for him during the day now; the third parent said she wanted to enroll her child in headstart. We have encouraged the teen parents to continue to reach out to us should they need any additional support to complete their education, even if childcare isn't a resource they need.

We currently have two teen parents (one junior and one senior) who continue to bring their children to childcare.

Through the Blackfeet Teen Parent Coalition, we continue to work on childcare for two additional teen parents. We have also been made aware of another prenatal teen parent so we are working on several resources for her to stay in school.



HI-SET

The Hi-Set program continues to struggle with retaining students. In February, we had four new students enroll and take their TABE with only three of the previous students returning consistently. We know that the weather has hampered attendance to some extent; however, with the amount of new students we have seen this academic year, we anticipated higher attendance.

The Blackfeet Community College has recently initiated a tutoring program separate from their testing site. Our tutor, Jerelyn, has reached out to them and is working in collaboration with their tutor. Our understanding is that their attendance is much higher, and more consistent, than our own. My only assumption is that the appeal of a higher education setting draws them in over our center.

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Now that the winter apparel “rush” has passed, the FIT program has sorted through our remaining coats, hats, gloves, snow pants and snow boots and distributed them throughout the schools. We keep a small inventory for emergency walk-ins but have already started to transition our Winter Apparel “pop-up” store to a Prom Boutique. We had a small inventory of dresses returned from last year to begin with and are accepting donations and sponsors in preparation of Prom 2020.

Last year, we assisted nearly #40 students with prom-related needs and anticipate doing the same this year. We are in need of dresses, tux sponsors, women's sandals (or converse/ vans!) in sizes 7-11, sponsors for tickets and pictures, and volunteers for the day of to assist with hair and makeup. Please contact Jerelyn Gobert or JoRae Rattler at 338-5025 if you'd like to help out in some way.

Clothing Closets

The Clothing Closets in each building have gotten a short break between delivery of donations to get organized. Our volunteer from West Glacier, Sue, helped out in Napi, KW and BHS to get things sorted out. She truly works some magic to make the closets feel welcoming to our students!

We still have a small inventory of shoes to share with students experiencing homelessness, being raised by grandparents or in foster care, thanks to the previously received AASA grant. To date, we have provided #50 pairs of shoes to students in need.

Food Pantries

The food pantries continue to provide much-needed food to individual students and families. We recently provided more hygiene products and other specialty items to the pantries. We are excited to have BreeAnna Polk at BHS assisting with the promotion of the BHS Food Pantry and raising awareness of childhood hunger!

Other Exciting News

We are currently recruiting youth with lived experience with homelessness to serve in a leadership position on the local Blackfeet Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The YAB will serve a crucial role in providing guidance and feedback to the Montana Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. Our hope is that this project will allow us to bring resources to our community to support our youth experiencing homelessness with housing options and other resources.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The attendance committee's primary focus is to identify and support students on the Hot List to improve their attendance. While we do this, we are also looking at the drop list to locate those students who have "slipped between the cracks" of our Infinite Campus enrollment records.