

BNAS Board Report October 1, 2024

Language Initiatives

The BNAS team has been actively creating and sharing Blackfoot language resources. Weekly language videos are regularly uploaded to the BNAS YouTube page, titled "BNAS Browning Schools." These videos have garnered enthusiastic feedback from both the community and students, encouraging continued development in this area.

Our office is diligently producing additional language materials, including classroom labels, lists of shapes in Blackfoot, weather terms, affixes, and sentence structures. We are also working on an expansive dictionary, as well as a comprehensive list of affixes and sentences. However, these resources are still in development, and it may take some time to refine them into a more user-friendly format.

Cultural Programs

Berry Project:

The BNAS office proudly participated in the berry project, which involved planting indigenous berry species on Browning Public Schools (BPS) campuses. This initiative contributes to our mission of integrating cultural education with environmental stewardship.

Naming Ceremony:

Stamiksiitsikin Elementary held a special naming ceremony for the Kindergarten immersion class, now officially named ****linniistămiksi**** (Buffalo Bulls). This cultural milestone was led by teacher Britney Shooter, with support from the Bullshoe campus, reinforcing our commitment to traditional Blackfoot practices.

BNAS Starlodge (Aikoōkoō•si):

On September 25th and 26th, the BNAS Starlodge was set up at Napi Elementary. During this event, every class attended a presentation about the story of the Seven Brothers, or ʼkitsiikăamiiks (the Big Dipper), and how this constellation can be used to locate moōto'yiss (the North Star). Additional lessons varied from class to class, providing a rich educational experience for all involved. A total of 124 fourth graders, 119 fifth graders, and 17 adults participated, creating a wonderful atmosphere filled with curiosity and excitement. The overwhelming positive response from the students motivates us to continue investing time and resources into expanding our lessons in the Starlodge.

BHA Starlodge Event: On October 1, 2024, the Starlodge was also set up at BHA, where around 15 students and 3 adults explored educational content, including Einstein's theory of relativity and the discovery of gravitational waves. We also discussed the involvement of a Siksika

researcher in this groundbreaking work, further connecting our students with contemporary scientific advancements and Indigenous contributions to these fields.

October 9, preview for the School Board. Roughly 10 minutes.

October 21- 24, Starlodge set up for kids at Bullshoe Elementary

Star Lab Link with Kindergarten students

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=K3pThuPutQvtuE4C&v=eT0UBFVKR8s&feature=youtu.be>