

BNAS/MBI/Olweus Board Report

Oki! The first few weeks have been busy thus far. The BNAS department were able to start the process of curricularly aligning the program. We were able to work on vertically aligning the course organizers and a few of the unit organizers. I am also putting together a committee to develop Indian Education for All (Blackfeet) in depth units for each grade level. At this point I have been able to make classroom visits to the various NAS classrooms.

As for the new language immersion program There still remains work to be done in providing an effective and efficient curriculum but we are much further than we were last year. We will also be looking to visit Paxson Elementary school in Missoula as well as the Salish Language School in Arlee. Paxson is the only other Dual Language Immersion (DLI) school in the state and the school in Arlee has made progress with language revitalization. Education Northwest will continue to help us with any resources and support that they can.

Native American Week was celebrated in the various buildings through different activities. Some of the activities included presentations, bringing in consultants and doing projects. The JOM program sponsored a door decorating contest based on the theme "Remembering the teachings of our Elders to keep our Blackfeet Traditions strong". The winners for the doors were:

KW/Vina Chattin: Misty Tatsey
Browning Elementary: Willie Tail Feathers, Heidi Hannon
Napi: Tracy Momberg
Browning Middle School: JoAnn Powell
BHS: Leo Bird, Kat Bell
Alternative Ed: Nick Rink
Babb: Jennifer Fenner, Sandi Jo Wilcox

Everyone did a great job! The culminating event for Native American Week was a Traditional Pow Wow. I want to thank Pat Armstrong and Arlan Edwards for MC'ing the event. To the committee: Melinda Juneau, Art Westwolf, Amanda Whiteman, Stan Whiteman, Everett Armstrong, Matthew Johnson, Dixie Guardipee, Richard Sanchez, Malcom Hagberg and Jason Andreas in helping to plan and execute the event. Thanks to JOM (Harold Dusty Bull) for providing the funding for the feed. All 250 meals were served to the community. Thanks to Lynn Keenan and her staff for cooking for the feed. We had drum groups from Cuts Wood, Heart Butte, BHS and the Community. It was a great community event.

In regards to the MBI/Olweus program. Each school continues to work in establishing their behavior matrix and other foundational documents. Building teams have developed action plans for the year. They are also working hard to provide professional development at staff meetings. Building teams also work at putting systems in place within each of their buildings.

Many of the buildings have met with Peggy Perry and Marilynn Granell our MBI consultants. The feedback from them is that our programs are on the right track thus far.

I have been working with Jade Ackerman for the Olweus program. We have been working on each of our organizations roles and responsibilities. We hosted the Bully prevention kick-off at the first home game of the season. Students who signed pledges received t-shirts that had the definition of bullying as well as the four anti-bully rules. It was a great event. I was able to attend to Olweus Bully Prevention Certification workshop. I plan on giving the new staff members PD in the program on October 21st. I realize that in the past there was a lack of resources, and direction in the implementation of the program within the district we are feeling the fall out as we hear of bullying in the schools. I am working to put material on the school district website as well as information in the paper. I have been talking with administrators about their roles in ensuring the definition of bullying and the four anti-bully rules are taught to parents, students and staff. I realize that staff need PD in the program and that program processes need to be systemic. I will be working on these with each of the building in the coming month.

