

## BNAS board report June, 2022

BNAS capped off the 2021-22 school year with a two-week session aimed at team building and speaking more Blackfoot. The first week saw all BNAS teachers get together and participate in team building activities and attending the Class 7 workshop in Great Falls. The workshop was focused on the Class 7 license and its value within the state of Montana. The staff members who went to the workshop said they enjoyed the presentations and networking with other tribal programs and native language teachers across the state.

The second week we saw nearly all BNAS team members participate in learning more Blackfoot Language through ASLA (Accelerated Second Language Acquisition), which also trains them in how to use such methods for language instruction, and they also learned how to make ribbon skirts/shirts and moccasins. We also made sure to allow time for mental health due to the difficult year we had due to the ramifications of COVID and our staff was greatly pleased with our approach to this summer program. In addition, with monies within our NAL grant we plan on having our staff gather once again in the first week of August.

The two weeks were extremely valuable for the BNAS department in opening up discussions in team work and how we can offer our strengths to one another throughout the school year. There was more Blackfoot language covered in these two weeks than previous times thanks to the work conducted through the ILIP grant, which helped us pay William Big Bull as a vendor to provide the translations for the stories of Scareface, Naapii and the Mice, Naapii and the Rock, and The Bear Who Stole the Chinook. I have spoken to Matt Bell, the person who helped award us the ILIP grant about the videos we have been putting together and he was thrilled and has requested to share/use the videos to display the fine work the ILIP grant has allowed our school and tribe to succeed.

On Monday June, 20, I was the Keynote speaker at the Blackfoot Symposium in Lethbridge and I showed the worksheets and progress our schools have been making and it was met with enthusiasm and applause; basically, the rest of the confederacy is interested in our work and wants to have a closer insight into our program. This is something that lies in our future as we continue on the good path we see ourselves on.

This was an exceptionally difficult year but we continued on and made the best of it. Hope everyone has a peaceful summer filled with family, friends, and safe gatherings. Love to you all and keep safe. Thank you