

# **BLACKFEET NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES**

# Newsletter

# saamitsiikiisoom

(tricky moon)

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 and what each individual brings with their wealth of knowledge. We appreciate what each person does for our district.



BNAS STAFF: Director: ō'nōkīykǔṫtsis "Elk Shirt" Robert Hall Email: roberth@bps.k12.mt.us



IC: maistṫwǎakii "Crow Woman" Lea Whitford Email: leaw@bps.k12.mt.us



Newsletter: ăa"sō'woōtăanăkii "Good Shield Woman" Shaylea Tatsey Email: <u>shayleat@bps.k12.mt.us</u>

Important Dates & Events 2/14 Valentine's Day 2/15 All Chiefs Day 2/24 School Board Meeting

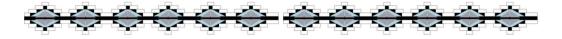
2/26 No School

**BLACKFOOT WORDS AND PHRASES:** 

kiitsäakä 'moötsiissin – Basketball
kiitsiikäakömimmö' - i love you
kiitsiikäakömimmö "po'wäw - l love y'all
nittsiikäakömimmäa niiksisst' - i love my mother
nittsiikäakömimmäa ninn' - l love my father
nittsiikäakömimmäïyäa nŭ•äa "siiks - l love my grandparents
kiittsiikäakömimmöököö - you are loved (s/he loves you)
kiittsiikäakömimmäa kiiksisst' - you love your mom
kiittsiikäakömimmäa kinn' - you love your father
kiittsiikäakömimmää kinn' - you love your father
kiittsiikäakömimmää kinn' - a boy loves a girl
su "koömäapii iikäakömimmii öttoömitäami' - a boy loves his dog
äakiiköwän nittsiikäakömimmöök' - the girl loves me

# News





# IEFA

Upcoming Events

**Classroom Resources** 

**Native Education For All** 

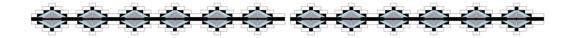
Amplify the Voices of Contemporary Native Leaders in Your Classroom Blackfeet Native American Studies Browning Public Schools YouTube Site: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzPmwZzDBG5gDWSrZ-tyzdQ/featured

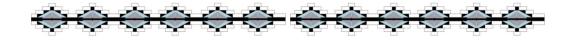
## **BPS HONOR SONG BY KEVIN KICKING WOMAN**



#### **The BNAS Lesson Plans: February**

Click on the BLUE words to go to the hyperlink to the BNAS Committee Lesson Plan Drive. 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.





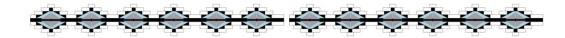
## **PIKUNI CORE VALUES**

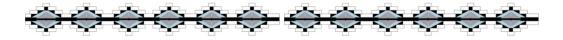
iiyināakootsiiyissin (respect/Treating each other respectfully) ăa "sittupiiyissin (generosity/kindness/The way of being a good person) mokăamo-tsittupiiyissin (Honestly/the way of being a person who tells the truth) măatsstutsiittupii (Humility/a person who is not caddy) kīmmăpiipittssin (Compassion/make practice kindness habitually) iiyikīttupiiyissin (Courage/to be a strong person) ăatsimmittupiiyissin (Spirituality/to be a person in a sacred state) ksimmătsiitsiiyissin (Gratitude/to be appreciative) isspoomm taittupiiyissin (Reciprocity/the way of being a helpful person)



## **STORY TELLING**

We are our stories, the stories we tell are a result of our lived experience and the stories we have heard. We tell stories to share lessons, to share laughter, to share sorrow, and share culture. For all iikǔni, our stories ultimately bring us together in time and land.





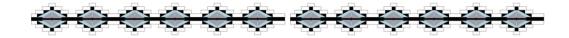
What are some ways you will include storytelling into your classroom? Lessons? With your own children? Share your ideas by emailing examples.

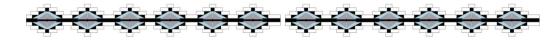
### **COMMON PHRASES**

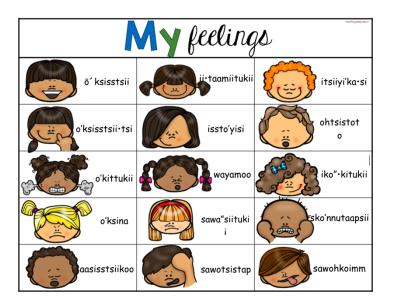
### **COMMON PHRASES AUDIO**

ōkī tsă niiṫăaṗii – Hello, how are things?	ii∙ṫǎamiiksisstsiikoō – it is a good day
tukka kiistoō – who are you?	ii∙ṫǎamiikoō∙koō – it is a happy night
nitṫǎanikk̈oō – they call me (my name is)	kīttāakītāmāttsino´ - I will see you (t/here) again
niṫtsin ′kǎasim – My name is	
ii•ṫǎamiiksisskùnnǎṫo´nnii – good morning (it is a happy morning)	kyāiṫǎmǎṫtsin´ - see you later (fast way to say it)
	ǎaṗiinǎkḋoǒ•s – 'in the morning'
ăa″siksisskùnnăṫo´nnii – good morning (it is a pleasant morning)	ṗoō″sǎpṗoōṫ´ - come here!
ii∙ṫǎamǎaṗiinǎkŏ – good morning	miisṫǎpṗoōṫ´ - go away!
ăa″săaṗiinăkŏ – good morning	iiṫāisskssiniimǎṫtsṫō′kyō´•ṗ´ - school
ii∙ṫǎamǎaṗiinǎko′myō′•ṗ′ - It is joyous to have this morning together	ŭ″săa – what? Or huh?

### Feelings/emotions (calming corner)



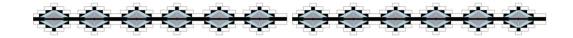


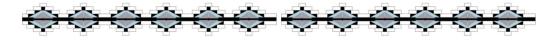


	Strategies	vindaquan, uno a
ýaippilyik	ō'ksskäasik'	iksippoʻyinni poʻkoʻn
õ'ksstükätoot' sinäkyä•tsis	mătăw"kăat'	a*siiksimsstäat
<b>öksstükätoöm</b> nilooksa nisoo		simătoōt´ ō"kii
Yiistapaahkiotsi oohtsi miistääa"kyötsit pinniik"täisstökssin	iitōʻkitōʻpiit' mii ikkinniisoōʻpǎ•tsis	
ssksksim	ăa"siiksimsstäat'	siitamssin



## **TEACHER SPOTLIGHT**





# Kookii "Corner" Kevin Kicking Woman



I have 5 wonderful children. Graduated from the University of Montana with a Masters degree, love fishing, hiking, and watching the Lakers. I like reading about history, other cultures and singing Indian.

Subject(s), Grade & School you teach at: Browning High School 9-12 Culture, Song/dance, and Blackfeet History

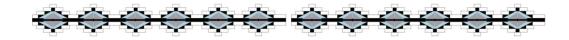
What is your favorite part of working for BPS? Working with a wonderful staff. Who sincerely cares for the students. The sense of purpose that is given to one life, the lightbulb moment of a student, sense of belonging and teaching the Blackfeet way of life. What better way to make an impact in our students" and community.

What topic is your favorite to teach about in the BNAS curriculum? Songs, dance, culture, language, and Blackfeet history. Blackfoot ways of knowing are inseparable from ceremonies expressing relationship and responsibilities. Thus, making a web that knits together the community. Teaching our songs, language and history conveys awareness of, commitment to, these relationships and responsibilities. This is why I love teaching! Who has inspired you the most as a teacher? Mrs. Ann Lunak never gave up on me. Mrs. Lunak's compassion, love, and most of all her devotion allowed me to have the confidence to follow my dreams. Mrs. Lunak is a class act.

What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning? I have learned not to be scared of technology. I had to get out of my comfort zone and learn technology. Patience! Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers: Be honest, follow your instincts, believe in yourself, help other teachers, and if you don't lie, you don't have to remember anything.

**Culture Matters:** Great resource is Montana OPI Indian Education for All. http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-

Learning/Indian-Education





Thomas Heavy Runner Wolf Chief



Okii, nittaanikkoo Thomas Heavy Runner (WolfChief). I reside in Browning, Montana, with my wife and three sons. In 2011 I graduated from Blackfeet Community College, majoring in Blackfeet Language Studies. Upon completion, I obtained a class 7 Blackfeet Language Educators Licences. In 2017 I graduated from Salish Kootenai College with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. I'm a very outgoing person and love the outdoors. Some of my hobbies are hunting, fishing, and playing video games with my sons. I'm very honored & privileged to be one of the selected BNAS teacher spotlights of the month.

Subject(s), Grade & School you teach at:

NAPI Elementary: 4th-grade immersion teacher/BNAS teacher. What is your favorite part of working for BPS? Greeting my immersion class Ksisskstukiipo'kaiks every morning and calling on them by their Blackfoot names. More recently, I have been enjoying organizing events that involve Blackfoot language, history & culture with my colleagues. What topic is your favorite to teach about in the BNAS curriculum? I am getting the opportunity to engage students in project-based learning, providing authentic, knowledgeable Blackfoot speakers. The students hear different perspectives. The students in my immersion class are engaged and participating. Teaching this style has been by far my favorite.

Who has inspired you the most as a teacher? My wife, Mrs.Heavy Runner, has always been an enormous support and advocate in my journey of becoming an educator. She always encouraged me to reach my full potential as a teacher. What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning? I learned how imperative it is to provide structure and consistency to my students during these uncertain times. I want my students to know we are in this together. Technology has made this all possible for us to stay connected and support one another. Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers:Get creative with technology, collaborate with your colleagues, & build meaningful relationships with students and parents.

