

BLACKFEET NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER öotssiikiisstss

BNAS DEPARTMENT



BNAS STAFF

Location:Napi 338-2835 ext. 4187



Director- Robert Hall

ō'nōkīykūttis

"Elk Shirt"

Robert Hall

roberth@bps.k12.mt.us



Instructional Coach - Lea Whitford

maistwāakii

"Crow Woman"

leaw@bps.k12.mt.us



Newsletter/Website Shaylea Tatsey

āa"sō'woōtāanākii

"Good Shield Woman"

shayleat@bps.k12.mt.us

BLACKFOOT WORDS AND PHRASES:

āasoōtāa - it is raining

sāissksiimō'koō - grass is growing

āapississkiittsii - flower

iyyikāakimāat' - Try Hard

stūmā•pāasō'•p' - as time passes

ii•tāamiitō'tō'•p' - It is happy where

we have arrived

iittss•siinūttsii kiittsiipii moōkoō - It is

foggy and the grass is wet

kāak"tsoōwaiksisstsiikoō - the

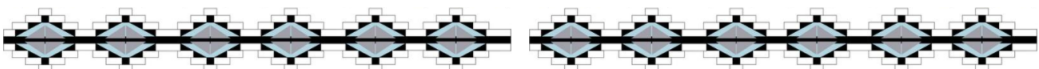
weather of the day changed

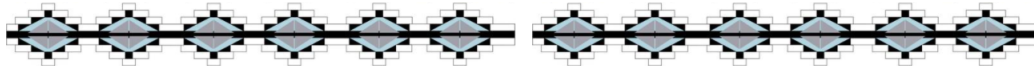
ō'm"ko'wāaksisstō'yii - The hot

gets severe (Global Warming)

Important Dates & Events

- **Teacher Appreciation 5/7**
- **IEFA Best Practices Conference 5/15 & 16**
- **BHS Graduation 5/23**
- **Memorial Day - No School! 5/31**
- **Last Day of School 6/2 (kids)**
- **Teacher Checkout 6/4**





Resources

IEFA

[Upcoming Events](#)

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL CONFERENCE (ONLINE)

Register

Virtual Field Trip Resources

Google Earth

https://www.google.com/intl/en_us/earth/education/explore-earth/

National Museum of the American Indian

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/student-programs/virtual-field-trip>

Nature Conservancy

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/who-we-are/how-we-work/youth-engagement/nature-lab/virtual-field-trips/>

College Search You Visit

<https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch>

BPS BNAS

WEBSITE....

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

The BNAS Lesson Plans: **May**

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.

Culture: [Winter Count](#)

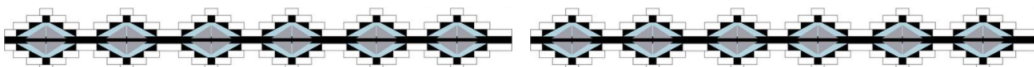
Design: [Native Games](#)

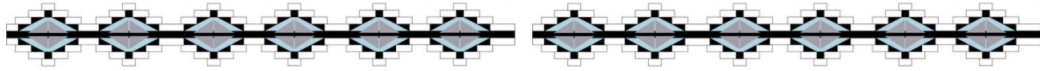
History: [NAID/HB](#)

Language: [Blackfoot Animal Lang.](#)

Blackfoot Native American Studies Browning Public Schools YouTube Site:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzPmwZzDBG5gDWSrZ-tyzdQ/featured>





TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

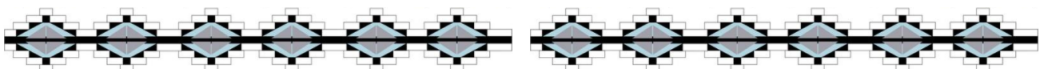
Leo Bird
Ksiksikamiohkitopi
White Swan Rider

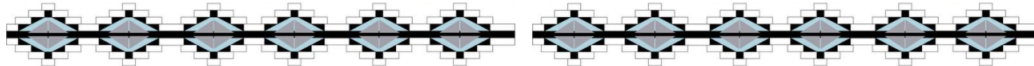


Okii nisstoo anako"K Ksiksikamto"Kito'pii. I have been a teacher at Browning High School for 22 years. My wife, Emmie and I have 8 children and 13 grandchildren. I enjoy teaching students how to think and survive in this World of ours. Our way of life and knowing, the Niittsiittupii, the real people is iiksookaapii. Kittaakitamattsin aapinako's.

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

Blackfoot language 9-12





What is your favorite part of working for BPS? The students are what it is all about. I laugh 50 times or more a day and am amazed at the holistic thought process of many of our students.

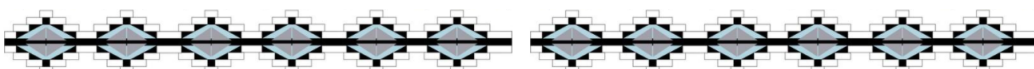
What topic is your favorite to teach about in the BNAS curriculum? Our stories are my favorite. Each time I tell or hear a story I learn more about our Pikunii way of knowing.

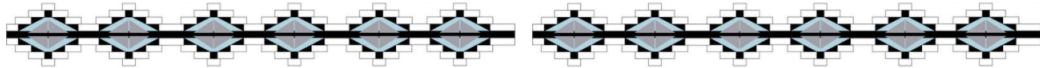
Who has inspired you the most as a teacher? Students and my peers have inspired me the most.

What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning? Because we are kinesthetic hands on learners this has been hard. I have had to be flexible and versatile in my approach.

Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers: turn on the microphones and cameras and laugh. Tell lots of stories. Show enthusiasm.

Culture Matters: Use our Pikuni names/glyphs to tell a story of how you got your name. I used the blue Adolph Hungry Wolf biography book, The Winter Counts by Paul Raczka, The Sun Came Down by Percy BullChild, and pictograph worksheets. Language, sign language, and symbols were used to communicate the story of each student, ending with a hide drawing and frame.





aaa"so'wootaanaakii
Good Shield Woman



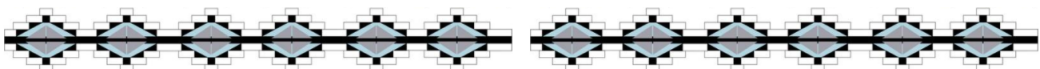
Okii, Shaylea Tatsey. This is my 5th year teaching, going into my 6th year. I've taught at Havre for two years; teaching 5th grade and being an IEFA Coach for the district - I absolutely loved it! Coming home, I landed a 1st grade job, and then entered the BNAS position for the last two years. My family consists of two boys; Thunder & Buck, and my boyfriend, Michael. My family is huge and I proudly come from the Tatsey and Davis family. I call Badger Creek home. When I'm not teaching, I am with my family, or with my horses and dogs or I'm at my craft table with my sewing, and beading.

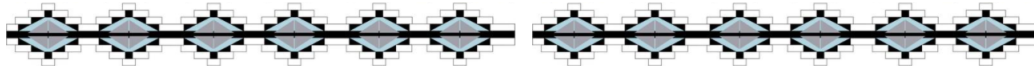
Subject(s), Grade & School you teach at:

Blackfeet Native American Studies 1st grade and the BNAS Monthly Newsletter

What is your favorite part of working for BPS? Being able to work with all my past teachers and teaching all my little relatives.

What topic is your favorite to teach about in the BNAS curriculum?
All of it! I love having the opportunity to teach our culture, language, and history.





Who has inspired you the most as a teacher? My family. My grandma June was in education and has paved the way for all of us. My grandmother Cyn was fully involved in our Pikuni ways, and has inspired me with all her knowledge. My grandparents Lorrie & Rusty are both teachers and have supported me through all my teachings. My Auntie Darcy Skunkcap; I want to be like her in many ways.

What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning?

I have learned not everyone can sit still all day and learn from a screen, but there are fun ways to add to our learning and were all able to be safe and still be able to have contact with one another. I really enjoyed making my google classroom, and learned how to make educational videos for my students.

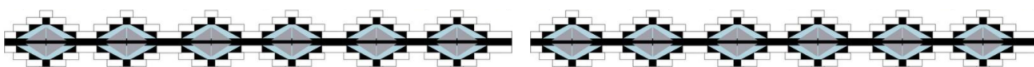
Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers: get to know your students, build relationships with them, and get to know their families so you can include them in, and build a great plan for teaching to their needs.

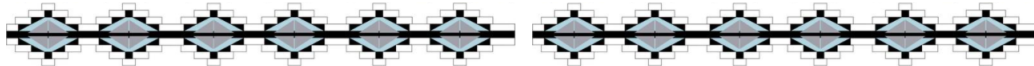
Culture Matters: Animal Names & Sounds. I teach the names of the animals. Then to memorize the names, I play this game, "What animal makes this noise?", "Tsa anisto kimmo poonakamiita?" and the students have to respond with the animal sound.

Tsa anisto kommi imiita?

Ruff, ruff

BLACKFOOT ANIMALS





nināamkwiskiinäahkii
Thunder Pipe Paint Woman

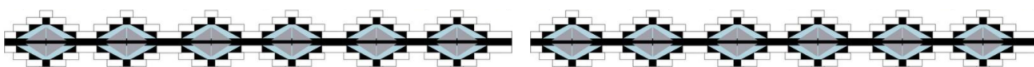


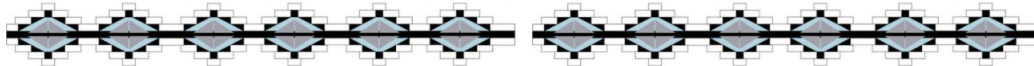
Ok! I am in my 4th year teaching in an Immersion Classroom with Mr. Westwolf as my Culture/Language partner. I enjoy learning the language and every year I get a bit better.

I am from Rocky Boy and am a member of the Chippewa/Cree Tribe. My husband is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and our children are enrolled members also. We have made Browning our home and we enjoy our time here. I have been a teacher here since 1997, so this is my 24th year of teaching. I've taught 4th grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade and all the other lower grades during summer school over the years I've been teaching.

Subject(s), Grade & School you teach at: 3rd Grade Immersion Class at Browning Elementary School

What is your favorite part of working for BPS? My favorite part of working for BPS is working with the children. We have some of the brightest and most respectful children I have ever met.





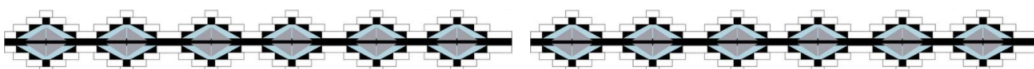
What topic is your favorite in the BNAS curriculum? My favorite topic to use the language in is math. The numbers are easy to translate. I enjoy learning new words in language too.

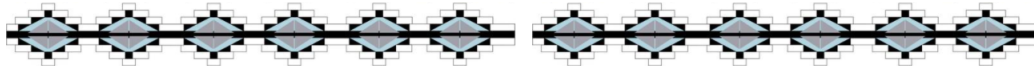
Who has inspired you the most? The people who have helped and inspired me the most are Mr. Westwolf & Mr. Hall. They are very encouraging and always find the words I need when I need help!

What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning? I have learned that I need to learn so much more! There's always something new or better to use to teach the children.

Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers: Never give up! There's always someone that is willing to help.

Culture Matters: One project that I enjoy working on with my students is to make a Rain Stick. This is the season for us to get rain and the children absolutely love the fact that the southern tribes use the Rain Sticks to bring rain to their arid region. The students have to research the rain stick, write up a one page paper on what tribe it came from, how it is used, how it is decorated and what they put inside it to make it sound like rain. Then the children make their own Rain Stick using mailing tubes, rice, dried split peas, or anything else they can think of to use. They also learn how to cite their sources at this time also.





Ootsskwiks-stsimaakii
Blue Bead Woman



I was hired in the BNAS department as the Assessment Specialist. I am working on an assessment for the BNAS department to assess the learning development in the language and other areas. I have taught some of the Black-foot Studies classes at BCC. The classes that I have taught over the years were beading and sewing, Blackfeet Women, Blackfeet Cultural Geography and moccasin making.

What is your favorite part of working for BPS?

Working with the staff and learning more about the language and how to assess the student's advancement.

What topic is your favorite in the BNAS curriculum?

History, Culture and Language. You really cannot separate these because they all go together and make us who we are.

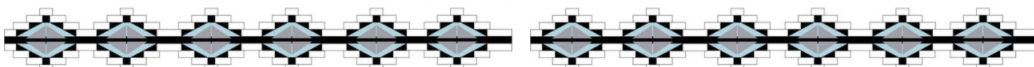
Who has inspired you the most?

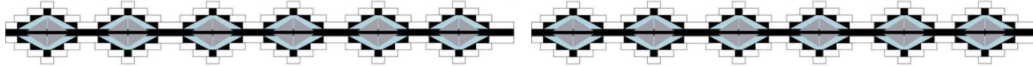
My Mom inspired me the most. She always told me it was never too late to learn and that education is something that can never be taken away once it is learned.

What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning?

I have not taught remotely, but from looking at some of the lessons it is possible to teach and reach students.

Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers: Keep up the great work





Matsoo Aanoniisii Aakii

Fine Otter Woman

Karleen White Grass



I am from Browning and have worked in the school district for several years. I am currently working on my teaching degree in the 2 plus 2 program here at the Blackfeet Community College. I was asked to teach 6th grade Immersion at the BMS.

Subject(s), Grade & School you teach at: ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

What is your favorite part of working for BPS? Working with the staff and learning more about the language and history. My favorite part of working with the School Dist. is then kids and just how eager they want to learn. Staff is so kind and great to work with and share their own personal knowledge.

What topic is your favorite in the BNAS curriculum?

History, Culture and Language. All topics are so much fun to learn with the students. The excitement expressed from different knowledge they receive

Who has inspired you the most?

My daughters, my parents, my sisters. No matter the age one is, learning never stops. And to see what each student learns on a daily basis is going home with something new as for we all learn and share our own point of view and angle from one base knowledge we were taught through either college or home parents grandparents aunts uncles and elders. I am excited to be part of keeping our culture a huge part of the past, present, and future.

What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning?

It was a challenge at first, and being honest with the students from the start was scary and we learned together.

Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers: Never be afraid to ask questions, even as a teacher.

