

Parent Community Outreach/Childcare~ Nikki Hannon
Board Meeting: February 27, 2019

- **Child Care**~ The cold winter chill of February didn't seem to slow down childcare at all. Two of our staff members attended a childcare training in Cut Bank entitled, "Calm the Child, Save the Teacher." This training shared techniques on how to teach older children to self-soothe, which will be very useful in the toddler classroom. The toddlers are learning the letters "R, S, T", the numbers "12 & 13", and the shape for the month is "heart". We celebrated Valentine's day with a small party where the children exchanged sweet notes and treats. The childcare family grew with the welcoming of a new teen parent's infant. We are also very excited to have a new part-time staff person on board! We are keeping our fingers crossed to receive a small grant through Family Connections that will allow us to purchase some much needed equipment to meet safety standards (ie. Rest mats and covers), as well as other supplies (ie. Sand and water table, STEM toys) to improve the quality of care we provide.

- **Hi-Set**~ Attendance is slowly improving in the Hi-Set tutoring center. We had two new students start and four other returning students have picked up their studies again. Our Hi-Set tutor continues to post flyers around town and advocate for referrals. She has reached out to Manpower, Opportunities Inc and NACDC to invite them to do job-related skill building trainings for her clients. Outreach efforts will continue; however, it's ultimately up to the client to decide to attend on a regular basis.

- **Teen Parent Program**~ We have had one teen parenting class at the Buffalo Hide Academy since the new semester began. We hope to meet with the teen parents at least ten times this semester to cover topics such as healthy relationships, financial literacy, age appropriate child-discipline, safety in the home, potty training, and early literacy. We recently partnered with BES Librarian, Jimi Champ, to host a Little Free Library and have also reached out to Hopa Mountain in Bozeman to initiate a StoryMakers presence in the district. We want to make every opportunity available to our teen parents to access quality children's books to promote early literacy.
 - Also in February, we assisted three teen parents with diapers and wipes, two teen parents with baby clothes; and we had a sponsor in Indiana generously donate three very large bags of baby items and hygiene items for the teen mothers. We welcomed in one new teen parent to the childcare center and have inquiries from two others.

- **āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p̄ (FIT)** ~ February was a rather quiet month for the āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p̄ program. We have updated our reports and have identified #251 students as meeting the federal definition of homeless. Additionally, we have identified #205 students as being raised by grandparents. We are currently in the process of distinguishing of these 205, how many are in foster care, how many are in legal custody of grandparents, and how many also qualify as homeless. By more accurately identifying

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our students, we will be able to provide more appropriate resources and seek out additional funding to continue offering these resources.

- **Clothing Closets~** We received a few small donations from private donors and filled numerous requests for winter apparel due to the harsh cold experienced this month. We recently initiated a request via Facebook asking for donations of gently used prom dresses and such. Based on our experience last year, we know the requests will soon start pouring in from students in need who wish to attend prom. We will again be making prom corsages at zero cost to our students in need. We are also asking for sponsors to fill requests for prom tickets, pictures, dinner certificates and hair certificates. We want to support our students in need to ensure they have the same opportunity to create Prom memories as their peers.
 - Featured Below is the **BHS Clothing Closet~** thank you Josephine Wagner for all your hard work in getting it organized!



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- **Food Pantries~** Each of the (4) district food pantries have seen an increase in traffic which may be a reflection of the previous government shut down and subsequent release of SNAP benefits early in January. BMS continues to deliver food boxes to families, as does the William Buffalo Hide Academy.
 - Featured below is the BHS Food Pantry~ thank you Joe Jessepe and Jack Parrent for your hard work in getting this cleaned up and organized!



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The mission of the Parent Community Outreach Program is to serve as a resource to the school district and our community in a collaborative effort to keep our students in school until graduation.