

BLACKFEET NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

kutto'yii

(helps eat)

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: ǫ' nōkīykūttis "Elk Shirt"
Robert Hall
Email: roberth@bps.k12.mt.us



IC: maistwākii "Crow Woman"
Lea Whitford
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Newsletter:

ǎa"sō'woōtāanākii "Good Shield Woman"
Shaylea Tatsey
Email: shayleat@bps.k12.mt.us

BLACKFOOT WORDS AND PHRASES:

āissō'kīmă'tsis – Drum

'tāissō'kīmō'•p' - Drum Stick

păpō'•kāan – Dream

kšiisstsiimāan – Bead

ō'kāatūkii – s/he is beading

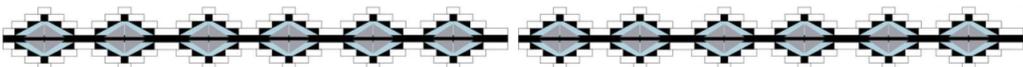
is'tsimō'kāan – Hat

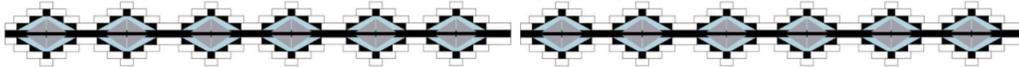
skīnitsiimāan – Bag

kīitsāakă'moōtsiissin – Basketball

Important Dates & Events

Sports can be streamed and viewed on NFHS NETWORK – Support your BHS Runnin' & Lady Indians Sports this winter season.
https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/?utm_source=braze_automation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily+Member+Event+Alert





News

Move the cursor over the blue links, and the hyperlink will pop up to bring you to the hyperlink.

IEFA

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

SELF-CARE

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Kid President](#)

take care of yourself while distance learning and during the Covid-19 Pandemic
[video](#)
[article](#)

[Martin Luther King Jr. for Kids](#)

[Classroom Resources](#)

[Native Education For All](#)

LESSON PLAN/RESOURCES FOR

[Amplify the Voices of Contemporary Native Leaders in Your Classroom](#)

TEACHING TOLERANCE

[Teaching Tolerance](#)

[Tolerance](#)

Culture Matters

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.**

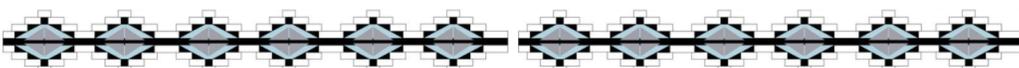
We would like to encourage teachers to use these lesson plans for use in your classes as a way to support the Culture Matters pillar in the BPS strategic plan.

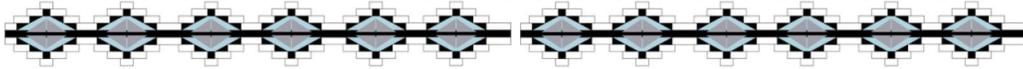
The BNAS Lessons for December/January

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

<u>Cultu</u>	<u>Desig</u>	<u>Histo</u>	<u>Langu</u>
<u>re</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>ry</u>	<u>age</u>
<u>Teas</u>	<u>Stick</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Clans</u>
	<u>Game</u>	<u>feet</u>	<u>&</u>
		<u>Reser</u>	<u>Socie</u>
	<u>Drum</u>	<u>vatio</u>	<u>ties</u>
	<u>Etiqu</u>	<u>n</u>	
	<u>ette</u>	<u>Timeli</u>	
		<u>ne</u>	
<u>Additi</u>			
<u>onal</u>			
<u>Resou</u>			
<u>rces:</u>			

Blackfeet Native American Studies Browning Public Schools YouTube Site:





helpful and the kids enjoy them. To download/create a bitmoji:

<https://www.bitmoji.com/>

Using your bitmoji and google slides, you can create a “Virtual Classroom” for your students to use while distance learning. You can decorate your virtual classroom using images from the internet (using transparent backgrounds to add to google slides.) You can include hyperlinks to youtube channels, links to your activities (IXL, Prodigy, etc).. And of course be creative and make your virtual classroom yours! Here is a helpful link:

<https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-bitmoji-classroom/>

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Britney Weatherwax Shooter *Little Fawn*

Okii, my name is Britney Shooter (Weatherwax). I’m currently the Kindergarten Immersion teacher at KW Bergan. I’ve been teaching Kindergarten for four years. I have 4 children. I like to do activities with my children and husband. Some of my hobbies include crafting, baking, and reading.

Subject(s), Grade & School you teach at:
Kindergarten- Immersion, KW Bergan.

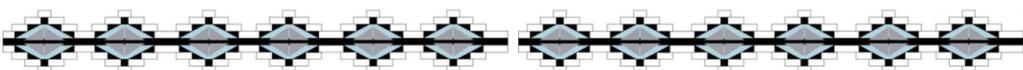
Favorites: 1) Crafting, 2) Reading, 3) Traveling, 4) Shopping, 5) Being with my FAMILY :)

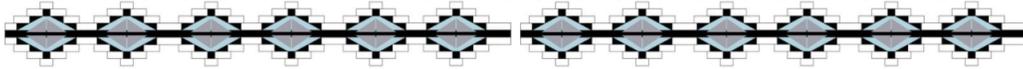
What is your favorite part of working for BPS? My favorite part about working at BPS is the support and guidance that BPS offers to not only the students but the staff as well.

What topic is your favorite to teach about in the BNAS curriculum? Being that I’m teaching Kindergarten and at this grade level, we’re still working on learning how to read and count. So as my students learn to identify numbers, they also are learning how to identify numbers in Blackfeet. When they’re this young, the knowledge will stick with each student because they’re learning both languages and identifying numbers at the same time. Therefore, my favorite topic to teach right now is Numbers.

Who has inspired you the most as a teacher? I always wanted to be a teacher when I was in grade school. I was undecided between being a Teacher or Social Worker. I knew that I wanted to have a career that “helped people”! I knew that I needed to be able to support and make changes. I graduated from University of Montana with my Bachelors in Social Work. I eventually went back to school to get my Teaching Endorsement -- University of Montana Western. Now I’m working on my Graduate degree in Education at MSUN. I started both of my degrees at Blackfeet Community College.

What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning? The main thing that I learned was to always be understanding. As a teacher we need to understand that our students don’t always have internet support and with the winds we experience, the Wifi can always go out.





Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers: Teaching virtual is a lot more work, being organized is key. I have always been organized but when teaching virtually, there is a lot more stuff to do so always being organized will help with consistency and approaching deadlines.

Culture Matters: One thing that I do in my class Morning Meetings is smudge (Ms. Big Throat) will pray and smudge for us. When doing our smudging we talk about the importance of praying, wishing others well, and talk about the steps of “how to smudge” again, this is at a Kindergarten grade level.

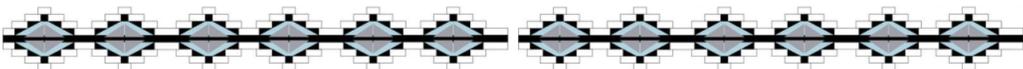


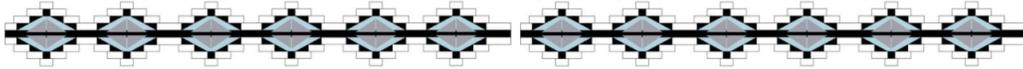
Violet Sinclair-Boggs *Many Bird Woman*

Okii, My name is Violet SinclairBoggs, after receiving a Masters in Education from MSU, Darnell Door gifted me with the Indian Name: Many Bird Woman. As a native of Browning, I am proud to have spent 29 of my 33 years in education right here at home. It has been a pleasure to be in virtual classrooms with many eager minds.

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

Currently, I am teaching Blackfeet History and World Geography at Browning High School





What is your favorite part of working for BPS? For the last 29 years I have been working for BPS; My favorite part would be the students, the teachers, the staff that I have worked with during those years that has been my favorite part, that has kept me returning year after year. Before returning home to Browning, I taught Kindergarten for four years on the Zuni Reservation in New Mexico; I absolutely loved that age, thought I would not teach at any other level, I would be a Kindergarten teacher forever! I was hired by Bob Parsons as a 7th grade ELA teacher when I moved home. Teaching middle school students was such a change from kindergarten I really wasn't sure I was up to the challenge! Working with young adults proved to be a challenge but also a bonus, they were fun to visit with, hear their thoughts, and their viewpoints. Eventually, I was moved to BHS; again thinking middle school was going to be where I retired from-ha! BHS students are one of a kind! When you visit with them, get to know them, they are some really wonderful individuals. Hearing their plans for their future is amazing, they are our future, and I am glad I can be a small part of their years here at BHS. I have absolutely loved my time at BHS

What topic is your favorite to teach about in the BNAS curriculum? As I am currently teaching Blackfeet History; so history would be my favorite. I have been working with students on the history of the Pikuni, using some of the stories from the Blackfeet Heritage Program, along with the Blackfeet Papers.

Who has inspired you the most as a teacher? I was inspired by another teacher to become a teacher. We had a teacher who started with us at middle school and when it was time to move to the high school, he followed us. It was nice to have a friendly face on the first day of high school.

What have you learned the most from virtual/remote learning? Technology has always been my downfall. I am confident with the basics of a computer & basic apps but being in virtual/ remote learning I have had to learn more than just the basics! It has been difficult for me to explain to another, "how to" do something on the computer when you are not in front of them. Like a lot of my students am a visual learner, if you show me rather than just tell me I will learn the process much faster. Screen sharing is a wonderful tool to learn!

Provide tips or advice that may help fellow teachers: Students are pretty knowledgeable when it comes to technology-listen to them, they know! Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for assistance; no sense in recreating the wheel!

Culture Matters: I have found the Blackfoot Papers, the Adolf Hungry-Wolf books have been very helpful!

