

Buffalo Hide Academy: September 2021

Fall Field Labs

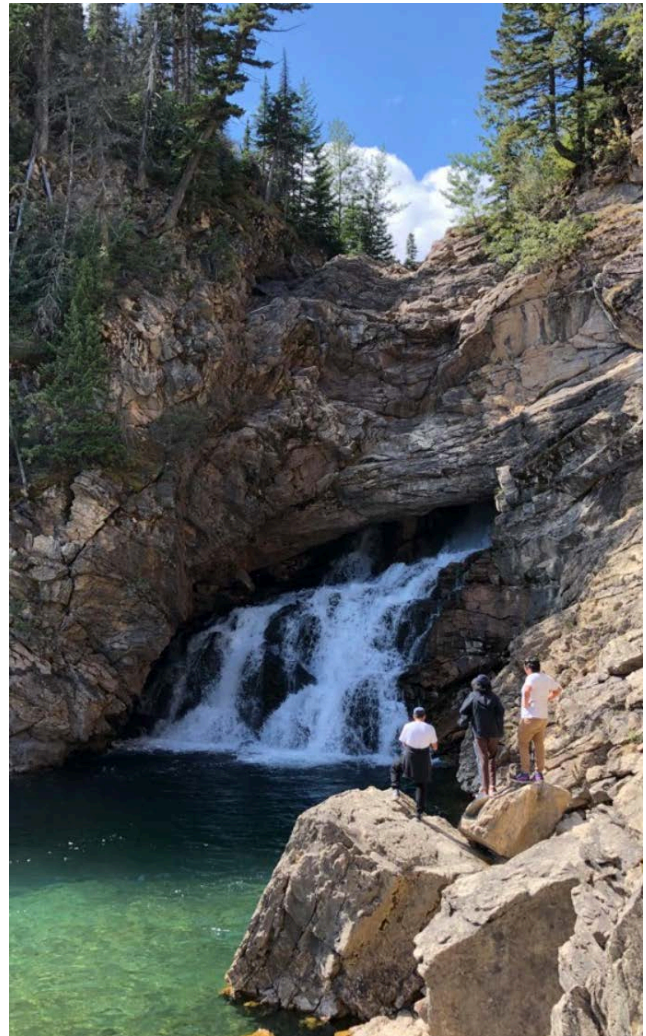
[Link to Article](#)

As part of the first couple weeks of the school year, BHA students ventured into the Two Medicine area of Glacier National Park. This field lab is traditionally the first of the Academy's many field lab experiences throughout the school year where students explore science concepts in their local environment. The students also utilize these field lab experiences to collect data related to science projects ongoing throughout the school year. Besides the therapeutic benefits of walking in beautiful spaces, the students also connect in concepts related to history, local geography, and Blackfeet culture, not only during the field labs but also in the classroom before and after, to connect to writing projects and other classroom-related experiences.

This year's trip had a unique element of analyzing and responding to a recent article published in The Atlantic magazine last spring.



The article, written by David Treuer and entitled Return the National Parks to the Tribes, includes a historical review of how the nation's parks came to be and the complicated history around how the lands were traditionally inhabited and utilized by



various tribes for time immemorial before they were annexed by the federal government. Much of the class discussion and eventual writing response to the field lab centered around the idea that management of all the U.S. National Parks, "should be turned over to a consortium of federally recognized tribes in the U.S." With the help of Glacier National Park rangers Sarah Lent and Jordyn Steele, as well as the Academy staff and students



discussed this idea in various settings and expressed their thoughts and feelings in a written response. The students, many of whom had not hiked and explored this area of the park, expressed feelings of fond connection to the land their Pikuni ancestors had explored and utilized. In their writing, many students discussed their feelings about how the designation of this area as a national park had cut off their ability to connect with this area and agreed with the concept in the article of returning management and control of this and other national parks lands to the tribes.



BHA in the GFT

[Link to Article](#)

Reporter Nora Mabie and photographer Rion Sanders from the Great Falls Tribune made a surprise visit to Buffalo Hide Academy the first week of classes. They came to get interviews about Browning Public Schools' opening week, and following inspiration they got last year after finding themselves in our school while chasing a story about our Rez dogs, they decided to get interviews for another feature article specifically about BHA. They observed and sat down with staff and students in an attempt to capture what is unique about Buffalo Hide. Ms. Mabie captured students working on individual - as well as group - projects and activities, ranging from goal setting to traditional games to creating a personalized identity wheel.

We were extraordinarily proud of the students that met with Ms. Mabie and shared their journeys and opinions about their experiences in school, especially considering this was the “first day/week” of school our students had in two years.



Zakary Ray Kittson: BHA Class of 2019

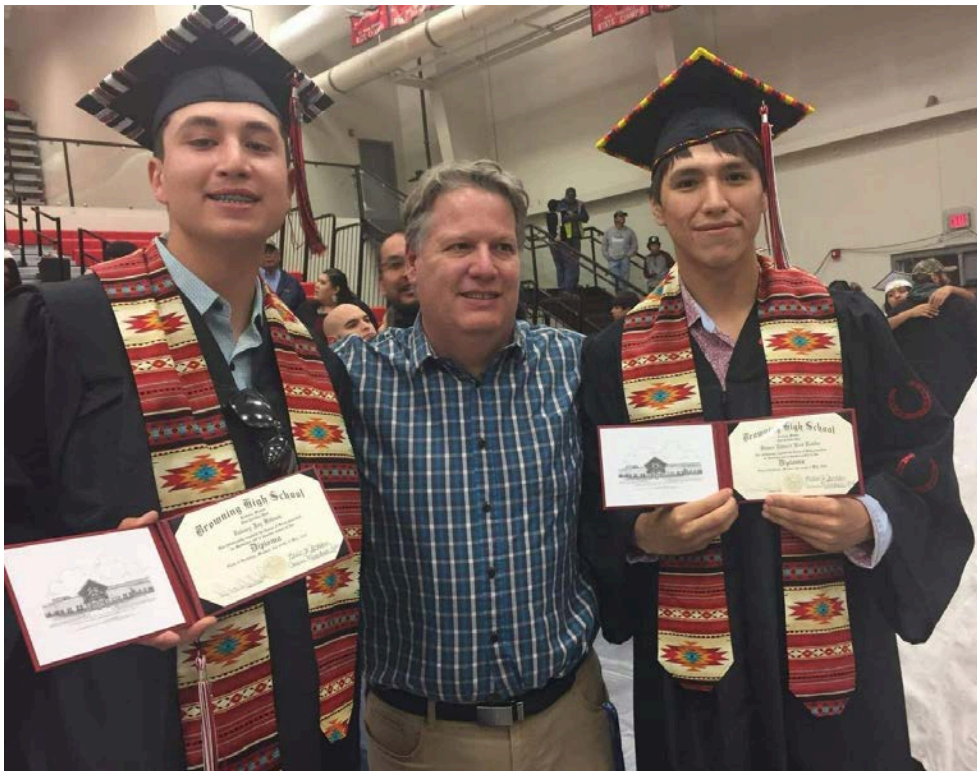
It is with heavy hearts that we honor the life of Mr. Zak Kittson. Zak is a beloved former student that was killed in a vehicle accident last week outside of Browning. He was 21 years old. Zak graduated from BHA in 2019.

There are zero words to convey the sadness, pain, and heartache we feel for Zak and his family, but suffice to say that our entire school community grieves for this loss. Zak was an incredible kid whose humor and warm nature knew no bounds.

He was a son, a brother, an amazing friend, and a father to two little boys. His time at Buffalo Hide changed our school for the better. And knowing Zak and loving him and supporting him all these years made us all better people too.

The Buffalo Hide Academy will continue to honor Zak and his legacy by tirelessly advocating for people that need us. Because that's what Zak would have done. Zak will remain in our hearts and minds and dreams forever.

Rest in Power, Zak. We love you buddy.



BHA Student Spotlight: Kaylissa Cobell



“Fall Wind”

When the sun goes down
The nighttime cold comes around
The wind, the one sound

By: Kaylissa Cobell

Name: Kaylissa Cobell
Grade: 11th Grade
Years at BHA: 1 year
Interesting Fact: “I have a lot of interpersonal intelligence.”*

*As her boyfriend Kris nods in agreement!

