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## PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

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[https://www.bps.k12.mt.us/programs\\_departments/parent\\_community\\_outreach](https://www.bps.k12.mt.us/programs_departments/parent_community_outreach)

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### CHILD CARE ~CLOSED FOR DURATION OF 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Child Care has been considering what our center may look like when we re-open this fall. It will largely depend upon what state licensing requires in light of COVID-19. We are mentally preparing to adapt to more stringent health and safety standards at a minimum. Many centers providing childcare to essential workers have had to reduce their child care ratio to staff as well as implement precautions such as wearing face coverings and not allowing parents into the center. The only thing certain is that we miss our kiddos. We are in this together though; Family Connections (our resource and referral agency) has been a tremendous help in guiding us through the uncertainties. They are also currently offering free online training through June 30 which is very helpful to our providers still in need of their annual training hours.



### TEEN PARENT PROGRAM~OPERATING ONLINE/SOCIAL DISTANCING

The BPS Teen Parent Program continues to offer support to our teen parents via email and social media. It is becoming more difficult to conduct outreach given we are so close to “summer break.” However, the teen parents know how to reach out if they are in need of any support. Family Connections generously purchased diapers for our teen parents in need and we will soon distribute those to the teen parents.

We also received a \$500 donation from the IMAGEN COVID-19 relief funding. The “Indigenous Adolescent Girls’ Empowerment Network (IMAGEN) is a new initiative within Indian Country, housed with the Girl Innovation, Research, and Learning (GIRL) Center. IMAGEN seeks to strengthen the protection, safety, and resilience of girls in Native communities by reclaiming neighborhood spaces in which to rekindle matrilineal traditions.” Their generous donation will be used to purchase items needed for our teen mothers during the COVID-19 pandemic-related school closure.

## HI-SET ~ PHYSICAL SITE CLOSED/OPERATING ON-LINE & PACKETS

Our Hi-Set tutor, Jerelyn, continues to offer packet-based work or computer-based through EdReady. Since our last report, Hi-Set has provided 5 returning students with study packets and one new student is online with EdReady.

ĀISSĀOŌMMOŌTSIIYŌ•Ā ~ OPERATING ONLINE/SOCIAL DISTANCING

The āisspoōmmoōtsiyyō•p program continues to rely entirely on the requests, referrals and communication from other BPS staff in direct contact with students and families in order to identify and meet the various needs arising during this time.

**Clothing Closets**~ CLOSED to public

We continue to collect diy masks for our students experiencing homelessness, foster care students and students being raised by grandparents. So far, we have received over #1100 face masks from individuals and sewing groups in Florida, Maryland, New York, Louisiana, Idaho, California and Bozeman, MT. These masks are being shared with each school for distribution with homework packets and other building-based outreach efforts. In addition, we received #250 disposable masks which were donated to Blackfeet Community Hospital, and over #200 manufactured cloth masks which were donated to the Oyop Food Pantry.

We anticipate receiving a donation of spring and summer clothing from our friends and neighbors at the Heart Locker in Kalispell. We plan to share out these items at the beginning of June.



## **Food Pantries** ~ CLOSED to public

The food pantries are becoming depleted and so we want to encourage our families to visit the FAST Blackfeet Oyop Food Pantry located at the Medicine Bear shelter on Mondays and Thursdays. We are currently seeking funding sources to replenish our pantries for the 2020-2021 academic year.

We want to give a huge THANK YOU!!! to our friends and neighbors at the Big Sky Colony for their generous donation of over #200 dozen eggs. These eggs were brought to our partner, the Oyop Food Pantry, for distribution to our families in need.

