

BNAS November Board Report

Assessments:

BNAS assessments have been prepared with the assistance of Anna East, our contact at MTDA. Assessment administration began on November 24, and the resulting data is expected to be ready for presentation in early 2025. The assessments involve five students from each immersion class and an additional 12 from each grade.

This selective sampling approach is due to the significant time investment required to assess all students across the district. Despite this, the sample will effectively provide insights into the progress of Blackfoot language instruction. Moreover, it will serve as a community assessment, recognizing that language revitalization is a shared effort where individual successes reflect the opportunities offered by the community. This strategy ensures our department and school have the necessary data to guide the future of the language program in terms of instruction and learning.

Blackfoot Language:

The primary focus of the BNAS office has been on language development. The district has received continuous updates, including expanded word lists, stories, and terminology. A monthly update of the BPS Blackfoot Dictionary and phrases will be provided.

In the last month alone, over 500 new words and phrases were added. For this meeting, I've included a word list of philosophical terms and the story 'Naapii and the Wolves on Ice' as links to avoid overwhelming participants with the lengthy dictionary and list of phrases.

<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=XZXcwX5Z1jyxGTPXoxHA0vTuvwWVK0dzYWA7#returl=https%3A//u.pcloud.link/publink/show%3Fcode%3DXZXcwX5Z1jyxGTPXoxHA0vTuvwWVK0dzYWA7&page=login>

Starlodge:

Creating original video content for the Starlodge remains a priority. The BNAS office has developed a rudimentary fulldome video using PowerPoint. While the video requires significant editing, progress has been made.

Currently, animation for 'The Seven Brothers' story is in development. Although incomplete, we have established a clear direction for future advancements.

Native American Language Grant:

Last school year, our BNAS program was recognized as a highlight among those awarded the Native American Language (NAL) grant. Representatives from NAL visited our district and filmed our activities over two days.

The completed film was recently sent to me and has been shared with the Board Secretary. This recognition underscores the strength and impact of our program within the broader language revitalization community.