# **BROWNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# Parent Community Outreach Program

## 132 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW

https://www.bps.k12.mt.us/programs\_departments/parent\_community\_outreach

T: (406) 338-5025

The Parent Community Outreach Program has had a very busy kick-off to "Springtime". Nikki attended the first annual Homelessness in Montana Conference in Helena. The conference brought together people from across the state to share their challenges and successes. The highlight was definitely hearing from youth who previously experienced homelessness and are now successful thanks to various transitional youth homes. Blackfeet Country needs one!

# CHILD CARE

The children are truly enjoying the sporadic sunny days that April has brought in. They have gotten to enjoy the playground, take walks and let the sunshine in!

In the infant room, the children continue to develop their fine motor skills by coloring and stacking building blocks. As the children get older, we focus more on social-emotional skills development, such as empathy and sharing.

In the toddler room, the children are learning the letters "X," "Y", and "Z," the numbers "15" and "16" and the shape "diamond". We recently invited our very own BES Librarian, and childcare parent, Jimi Champ, in to share the love of reading with the children. The kiddos loved it!

Our focus on early literacy is also reinforced by our Little Free Library, and our recent partnership with Hopa Mountain's Story-Makers program. Stay tuned for details!



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# APRIL 27

BHS Senior Portfolio Presentations~ We will have portfolio attire available for students the week prior to presentations. Please email Nikki or JoRae with requests for students.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Childcare was awarded a \$2855 Fresh Start grant through Family Connections. The grant will provide the BPS childcare center with items needed to address our current deficiencies. These include sleeping cots, cubbies, musical instruments, STEM toys, a sand table and a bookstand. We are very excited to give our learning environment a Fresh Start!

#### MORE IMPORTANT NEWS

#### TEEN PARENT PROGRAM

We continue to meet with our teen parents to offer parenting skills, support and referrals to community resources. Our working relationship with Carol Williamson and the Blackfeet Pregnant/Parenting Teen Coalition has been a vital piece to this support.

We are excited to bring aboard Katie McDonald as an early literacy advocate to work with our teen parents at the Academy. Katie already has established relationships with these students so encouraging them to read to their children is an ideal opportunity.

We strongly encouraged our teen parents to attend Prom 2019 and assisted in various ways to make this possible. See below for more details.

#### HI-SET

The warmer weather has definitely helped bring the Hi-Set students out of their homes and back in to the classroom. We have had seven students coming in to study with several other inquiries about returning. Jeri continues her outreach efforts and has even started to offer beading workshops to attract new adult students. She has extended the invitation to high school seniors who want to bead their cap for graduation.



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- Clothing Closets~ We now have a baby clothes closet available to teen parents. It is located in the PCOP building, along with our district Breastfeeding room.
- PROM! Prom was a major success as most have read in the Glacier Reporter. Jeri & JoRae, along with their volunteers, assisted #40 students with dresses, shoes, jewelry, men's attire/tuxes, flowers, hair and make-up. They are already making plans for Prom 2020!



#### FOR THE COMMUNITY

#### FREE BEADING CLASS

Every Friday at 2:30-4:30 pm at the PCOP building, Jeri is teaching a beading class so seniors can have their graduation caps beaded. We are providing all supplies as well.

#### FREE DANCE CLASS

Cut Bank Dance Center is holding free dance classes for BPS students in grades 1-4 at the PCOP building. The classes are on Saturdays in April at 10:00-11:30 AM. A spring recital will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> in Cut Bank.