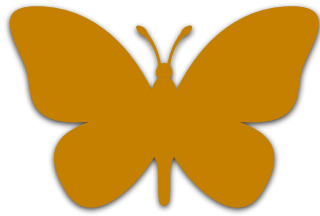


PCOP

EARLY CHILDHOOD  
LEARNING CENTER

HI-SET



ĀISSPOŌMMOŌTSIIYŌ•P

# PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

## BPS Early Childhood Learning Center~ report submitted by Rose Racine, Child Care Coordinator

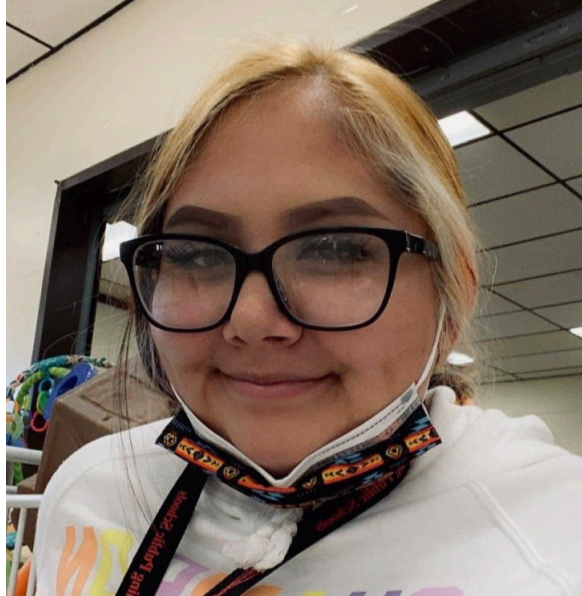
Welcome to November! This is the month of thanks and an introduction into animals that live in the forest and celebrate the vibrant colors taking place in the great outdoors. As time slips away at high speed, we do our best to help each child discover their unique individual interest. We have a drummer, one who wants to try out scissors every day and a tiny that is happy if he can find his toes!

We currently have #12 children enrolled. There are #7 infants and #5 toddlers. Of those, we are serving #1 teen parent and #11 staff members. We have an additional #2 on the waitlist (pending hiring of our final staff member and the transition of children aging into the toddler room).



We are being extremely vigilant in terms of student health and safety. We understand that parents may be inconvenienced when they are not allowed to bring a symptomatic child to the center; however, we all realize it's in the best interest of each other. We have already experienced RSV and have been able to minimize the spread, and with the support of the parents we serve, have so far been able to avoid exposure to Covid-19. We attribute this to our daily health screenings conducted throughout the day, consistent mask-wearing, hand-washing and diligent disinfecting. Social distancing is not a realistically enforceable strategy, nor are cohorts due to staff shortages.

We want to welcome a new staff member to our Dream Team, Bri'leigh Kipling. Bri'leigh earned the majority of her community service hours for BHS graduation by volunteering in the child care center in 2019. We are so excited to welcome her full-time!



Our newest child care provider!

This seems to be a short month and I think Santa is on our minds!

## HI-SET & Adult Basic Education~report submitted by Jerelyn Gobert, HiSET tutor and GRG/Kinship point of contact

### HiSET

The HiSET program is going well at this point. I am currently working with EdReady Montana to set up the TABE test online. They have math and English available for TABE and are working on science and social studies. I have 17 clients enrolled and 5 are online, 11 in person and one taking packets home. There are 0 new enrollees for November.

### GRG/Kinship

I have taken a Kinship Facilitator Training through the Montana State University's Kinship Navigation Project. This training will allow me to be able to offer a support group to primary care givers who are raising children that are related but not their biological children. I have facilitated one support session with 3 grandparents so far, and plan to have a session once a month. The session that we had was very interesting and the grandparents are realizing that there is more help out there that can be utilized. In the near future I would also like to facilitate Kinship sessions virtually as well as in person.

Currently, we have identified #392 students in kinship/GRG care. As we get to know the families, we are also learning which of these students are also eligible as experiencing homelessness per the McKinney-Vento definition or in Foster Care.



Browning High School volunteers put together gift bags for grandmas and grandpas. All items were donated by our “adopted” Grandma Margaret from Indiana.

## āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p ~report submitted by Nikki Hannon

**McKinney Vento Data update:**  
We have currently identified #144 students as experiencing homelessness.

### **Welcome to the Dream Team, Robin England!**

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Robin England to the dream team as our new Systems Navigator! Robin started less than a week ago and has been running ever since! Robin is delegated with filling all of our student needs' requests (such as coats, hygiene items) and is inadvertently our secretary when she gets a spare minute to sit!

Robin has also taken the lead on organizing the procurement and distribution of our Thanksgiving dinners. We know that there is a turkey shortage but Robin is so well-connected, that she found #50 turkeys last minute for us! She is so resourceful that she reminds me of Morgan Freeman's character on Shawshank Redemption, "Red," the "man who knows how to get things."



### **School-based Clothing Closets**

We have gotten quite a few requests for winter apparel and are happy to be able to meet these requests. We are providing winter coats, hoodies, hats, scarves, gloves, and boots (when available). We recently received a nice donation of items from Whitefish (Big Mountain et al.)



**School-based Food Pantry**

We have begun to re-stock the food pantries at PCOP, Buffalo Hide, Babb Elementary, BHS and BMS. There will be snacks for students, as well as other shelf-stable foods for families in time for Christmas.

With Thanksgiving coming up fast, we are coordinating with the other buildings/programs to offer turkey dinners to families in need.

We estimate that nearly #200 dinners will be provided through the following:

PCOP #50 dinners

Everett & Rae #50 dinners

BHS #30 dinners

BHA #40 dinners

BMS #12 dinners

**BPS YHDP****#60\***

Irene has been extremely busy in meeting the needs of our unaccompanied homeless youth identified through the YHDP. These needs range from diapers for teen parents, to social security cards for youth seeking employment, to enrolling students in school and connecting them with mental health services. She is currently also collecting her students' "Secret Santa" letters so that we can match them anonymously to community sponsors for Christmas.

We are still seeking liability insurance to be able to offer host homes. In the meantime, we also continue our partnership with the BTBC and Tribal Health in their planning phase of offering a Youth Transitional Home for youth experiencing homelessness. We are hoping to take a tour of their facility within the next month.

\*This number is included in the #144 posted above.

# Foster Care

As the district's Foster Care Point of Contact, I have recently been prioritizing this component of our āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p program. I attended (virtually) the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEH CY) conference this month. I specifically selected all sessions relating to Foster Care so that I can hone my skills in serving this specific population. There is A LOT of work to be done in terms of providing the same level of support to our Foster Care students as we have done for our McKinney Vento students through the āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p program. +



## āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p *"We Help Each Other"* for the Holiday Season

The āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p program for Browning Public Schools is offering you the chance to sponsor a student in need this Christmas. This year, we are also partnering with the senior toy drive. We are also providing families with a holiday meal if you would like to donate dinner items.

If you need some suggestions, here's a list of items you might want to gift:

- Clothing
- Toys
- Books
- Shoes
- Hygiene & Cosmetics
- Gift Cards

Donations are needed by December 15, 2021.

If you would like to refer a family in need, please contact the email or number given below. All sponsors will be kept anonymous and student referrals are confidential.

If you are interested, please contact Nikki Hannon: [nikkih@bps.k12.mt.us](mailto:nikkih@bps.k12.mt.us) or call (406)338-5025.