

PARENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

132 1st Ave SW

https://www.bps.k12.mt.us/programs_departments/parent_community_outreach

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Happy New Year! The holidays kept us busy....

CHILD CARE



Child Care has spent the past two months with the children and preparing many of their activities for the winter break.

In December, the highlight for both infants and toddlers was getting to visit Santa both at KW and at the school. A very special Christmas party for the children was held. A volunteer from West Glacier, who is also a parent at the Residence, Sue Cox, did a fun painting activity with the teen parents (photo at left).

Five of our infants turned 2 years old over the month and had a very smooth transition to the toddler room. We are able to accept several new babies to the toddler room on our waitlist. Our toddler room's enrollment is currently #5; we have #3 slots available for that room, which is a great sign. We have #3 slots completed applications.

We are extremely excited to share that our new toddler room was approved in December!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 14th PCOP Valentine's Party

Happy Feet! Thank you, AASA!



TEEN PARENT PROGRAM

The last two months has been fairly quiet with the teen parent program. One of the teens we had recruited to return to school decided not to return after the birth of her daughter so we had to let her child care slot go. The Teen Parent Coalition is actively trying to reach out to her. We noticed a significant decline in childcare attendance of teen parents through December and January. We hope the warmer weather makes it easier on them to get their children to child care.



Students sorting through donated items for teen parents; donation from Margaret Jane Long in Indiana

HI-SET

The Hi-Set program really slowed down in December and January; a trend which has repeated itself the last few years. We continue to offer to eliminate barriers such as transportation (by providing transit passes); and food insecurity (we offer light snacks as well as refer students to the FAST Blackfeet Food Pantry). Our tutor, Jerelyn, has a gift of quickly establishing a trusting rapport with her students. Despite these efforts, attendance continues to be a major challenge. Enrollment for December 2019 was #4 returning and #2 new referrals. As of 1/20/20, enrollment for January was #2 returning and #2 new referrals. We have had #0 students test for Hi-Set this academic year.

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The FIT program decided to host a “pop-up” Winter Apparel “store” rather than a one-day give-away in order to fill all of the requests for coats, hats, gloves, snow pants and snow boots. We received a couple of hundred winter coats from Coats for Kids, Inc out of Kalispell; the Heart Locker in Kalispell also donated close to a hundred coats; and we had individual sponsors donate boxes and boxes of new winter coats and other winter apparel. In addition, Sam’s Club in Great Falls gave us an awesome deal on snow pants (less than \$5 a pair!).

So far this winter, we have distributed #50 hats, #40 pairs of gloves, #82 coats (and an additional #43 were shared with HeadStart), #25 snowboots and #13 pairs of snowpants.

Clothing Closets



The Clothing Closets in each building continue to serve the needs of the students. There is no shortage of clothing thanks to the monthly deliveries from the Heart Locker, transported by the Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls. We also recently received a generous donation from the Sons of Norway to purchase new socks (#394 pairs!) and undergarments specifically for our youth experiencing homelessness. We are also thrilled to share that we have been able to start purchasing shoes with the \$2500 AASA donation. So far, we have purchased #44 shoes for youth experiencing homelessness. A Walmart associate in Great Falls gave us an amazing deal (\$5 a pair!) for extra shoes to keep in stock for emergencies.



Food Pantries

Thanks to the Town Pump grant, we were able to order a pallet of non-perishable food for each of the school pantries located in Babb, BMS, WBHA, and BHS. Through other donations, we were also able to purchase non-food items for the pantries, such as toilet paper, dish soap, plastic cutlery, etc. Finally, we have been able to distribute much-needed hygiene items (ie. Feminine products, toothbrushes) to each of the pantries as well. These items are especially helpful to those students considered Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and are trying to make ends meet while attending school.

We want to give a shout out to Samantha Devereaux for re-establishing the Babb Food Pantry!



Volunteers putting together the Thanksgiving feasts



Babb Elementary School Food Pantry (pictured above)

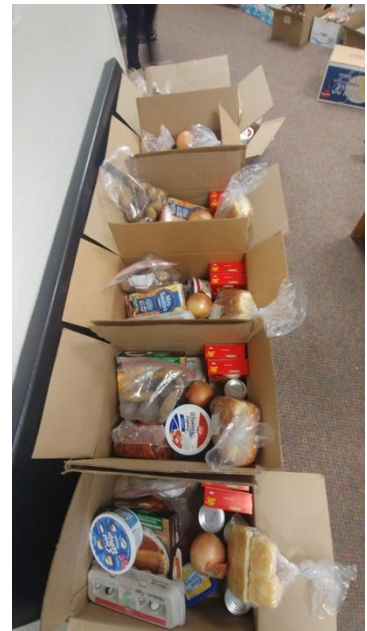
Holiday Highlight

The FIT program was very excited to partner with the BHS Senior Toy Drive this holiday season. We selected #30 families in our program to refer to the Toy Drive, which included nearly #150 children. Our referrals were prioritized by age of children (for Santa’s sake!) and family size (the more the merrier!). We also received several gifts from sponsors out of town; these gifts were donated in honor of the sponsors’ grandmother who had passed away so we made sure to honor our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with these specific gifts.

We were also thrilled to provide huge Christmas dinners to each of the Toy Drive families, thanks to the Town Pump grant (which



purchased sides), FAST Blackfeet Food Pantry (which provided the fresh produce) and Nourish the Flathead (who provided the main entrée!).



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The attendance committee continues to focus on the Hot List and provide incentives for improved attendance. The committee has also taken on looking intently at our current drop-out data for the past three years. We also recently established a sub-committee to take a deeper dive into our district's attendance policies and building practices.