BNAS Board Report Febraury 2024

BNAS has been focused on creating a plan for implementing our Starlab within the district and larger community. Here is a list of things we have done: 1) we have purchased a lovely collection of book centered on astronomy that range from children's book to scholarly level works, here is some titles: 'The First Astronomers: How Indigenous Elders read the Stars,' 'Stargazing for Kids,' 'Kid Astronomer: The Space Explorer's Guide to the Universe,' 'Astronomy for Curious Kids,' 'The Ultimate Interplanetary Travel Guide,' and more. 2) We have determined that the BPS Librarians (and the high school astronomy and geology teachers) are the best individuals to have training and understanding of the dome. BNAS officially met with the librarians on Feb. 14 and the meeting was full of curiosity, ambition, and the drive to make a cohesive plan to get our students into the dome. It is important to mention that we will have to figure out the logistics of each building in putting up the dome, this includes having a space large enough for the 12.5 foot high dome. For example, WBA, BHS, and BMS have spaces other than a gym that can accommodate the dome's size but Bullshoe, Napi, and BES can only house the dome within their gyms. This bring us to 3) BNAS has communicate with both the Facilities committee and the architect, Tim, about the possibility of insuring there is space for the dome within our new building up by the high school. It sounds promising (also, sounds like it will cost nothing). 4) This gives us an opportunity to create a district wide astronomy lesson plan that goes from child care to graduation. 5) We are reaching out to fluent Blackfoot speakers about helping us translate our star stories. 6) we will by a 360 degree camera and create our own videos of our own stories. We have recently purchased things that will help with the experience of the Starlab, as well. Matts for comfortable viewing, a dolly to haul it, a small desk for the laptop used to run the programs, headlights and a lamp to help put up and take down the dome, laser pointers for lecturing. Needless to say, this will be an investment we want all students to enjoy.

BNAS has awarded Tanner Iron Pipe with the 'Indigenous Linguistics & Computer Science Scholarship' in the form of a computer. Tanner has proven to be a superb student in the district and has enriched the BNAS curriculum. With his computer Tanner will help with launching the BNAS online dictionary. I could not be happier that a student is part of this project.

Blackfoot Language Resources continue to be created and expanded. I have attached a lesson designed with a few things in mind. 1) show the importance of annunciating the aspirate tone in Blackfoot, 2) show how new nouns have been made, 3) ultimately reveal the innate philosophy weaved within the Blackfoot Language