

BNAS Board Report March 2024

BNAS Instructional Coach Lea Whitford (along with Dana Bremner) attended the National Education For All for funding Native American Education in Washington, DC. BNAS is proud to have such proficient person be the ambassador for our school and Blackfeet tribe. Her skills in creating meaningful relationships with other tribes, organizations, and people is invaluable to our pursuits to teaching and curating our culture, history, and language. The attached document includes her synopsis of the event.

Lea also attended the IEFA best Practices conference in Billings, MT along with others BNAS team members. Feedback from staff paints the event as fulfilling and enjoyable. Staff will share materials and skills gained in their individual buildings. BNAS is also proud to have helped BMS math teacher, Adrienne Tailfeathers, with lodging. It is a joyous thing when we can include other BPS employees in our BNAS mission.

On Friday March, 8th BNAS Director, Robert Hall, attended that Blackfoot Confederacy meeting held here in our hometown of Browning, MT. a large percentage of the meeting was conducted in Blackfoot and it is always a lovely opportunity to share space with prolific Blackfoot Speakers. The meeting was planning out future events of the next Blackfoot Confederacy Language conference and Language Symposium, site visits, and materials being created from the Blood Reserve. It is exciting that our confederacy is focused on building more language materials. It is a source of great confidence when speakers from the confederacy treat our school with respect with the materials and success we have achieved.

Here are some words I was able to write down in my notes:

Åaʷksiiṗāʷtsii•póʷyii•s – ‘they may mispronounce Blackfoot’

kūkitāapoʷyāakii – Just standing there woman (traditional name)

oōnisstāisāami – Calf Looking

iiḱiiyiyiyoōtā•s – owns a fast horse

iiḱsoōḱāpii niitsii•tāamōʷpōʷ•pʷ - it is a good thing how we sit here joyously

stūmiksoōsūks – Buffalo Bull’s Backfat

ṗiināḱkoʷiyim – Seen from afar

nittāakoʷto•iissṗinnāan – We go to pick berries

iiḱsskoʷnnūttāapsii kū•āʷsinnoōn – our grand parent is powerful

măatsoōwăăpiinăamăă´kăan – Takes a Fine Gun

tsă kittăan´kătoō•p´ - what do you call _____?

í`tăisskssinim – Computer (It knows things)

ō•piinŭks and ō•piino´•`s for spider web

măanō•piinŭks as a potential word for internet (means 'new [spider] web')

nittaiisīyīyīi – I lied

iitsinsoōyīi kŭkăatō´osii – a falling star

ăappŭn – blood/hemoglobin

spiitsii•pō´•`sin – the high language

ăkkaii•pō´•`sin – the ancient language

iiṡsiikīyīyīyīi – they were very fast

kīisoōm – month

spoōmikitstŭkyăakii – heavenly offering woman

săakyăattŭpisskoōyăaw – there is still a presence there

iiĭŭnnăso´yi – shining

iiṡano´yoōkim – Moonlight

tsă niităan´kăṡă – How would one say

miiĭkoṡtsiikăan – Red Robe

sikoōnoōyīiks – black nostrils (Hindus)

ō`kŭnnăasŭpăăpii – everything is in place

iiĭăamoō•sătoōm – s/he stole it

măatŭtō`tsimi´p - they do not hear

ot̄tsiik̄āamoōtsiipyōk̄ - it saved him/her

oōyiitsāapsii – s/he is grieving

māatō "kwaikii kittāa" koōyiitsāapsin – it is okay to grieve