

## **Buffalo Hide Academy February Board Report 2023**

### **The Buffalo Experience**

BHA has spent the last few years cultivating relationships that really blossomed this year, leading to incredible partnerships and opportunities for our students. The most profound by far has been the Buffalo harvest trip we have done for 2 consecutive years now. Steve Tatsey, working for the Tribal Buffalo Program, has been fantastic in facilitating a harvest for us and committing to allow us to harvest a Buffalo at least once annually.

This year he arranged for Rusty and Lori Tatsey to perform ceremony to formalize the event. They both did a fabulous job explaining the importance of the Buffalo to Blackfeet life and used the opportunity to talk to our students about how traditional value systems can be incredibly important and relevant in our lives today. Steve also brought in local Buffalo experts, Chazz Racine, Ryan (Sticks) RunningCrane, Ethan RunningCrane, Darryl Hall, and Adrian Costell to offer their knowledge and help lead the field processing.

Last year, we had our Buffalo butchered in Babb at C & C Meats by Christina Flammond and her father, Charlie Chan. They were excited at the time that our students were involved in harvesting their own food and invited our school to their butcher shop if we had another opportunity. So, this year I notified Christina before our trip and both her and Charlie Chan joined us in the field. Christina did an amazing job showing our students techniques in field dressing and explaining the anatomy of the animal. She also talked a lot about traditional and contemporary values and the importance of being involved and skilled in our local food systems. It was inspiring enough for many of our students to advocate to join her in Babb for the butchering, so with the help of transportation and food services we were able to arrange another field trip to C & C Meats 2 weeks later to participate in and learn about butchering the animal we harvested.

The experience was incredibly powerful and even had staff expressing how profound an impact it had on them to see the whole process first hand. In the future we hope to complete the unit with a cooking class!











## Buffalo Hide Academy Annual Ski Trips to Teton Pass

The Buffalo Hide Academy attended its first of two Field Lab ski trips to Teton Pass on January 27th. This PE activity provides skiing and snowboarding lessons for students to experience winter activities that provide experienced skiers and snowboarders a chance to refine and improve their skill, while lesson are provided by the Teton Pass staff for the students new to skiing and snowboarding. This trip is usually a highlight for many of the students who enjoy an alternative approach to PE that also provides and introduction to careers in working at and managing a ski resort. The follow up visit to Teton Pass with students will take place March 3rd. Students will continue to develop their skills and connect in snow science concepts from the classroom while on the second visit.



## **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT!**



### **Ciara Roundine**

17 year old Senior  
Parents: Tessa Fish and Merle Roundine  
1st year BHA

Ciara loves music! Especially Billie Eilish and Kendrick Lamar.

She likes Buffalo Hide Academy because she feels supported.

Ciara hopes to go to college starting at BCC and wants to eventually study Tribal law at the University of Montana in Missoula.

She has two cats named Chloe and Boots.

She likes to babysit and has been employed at Town Pump for the past year to support her family.

Her advice to other students is to keep going and don't give up on yourself.

Her Grandmother, Stella NoRunner, is a great inspiration to Ciara, and the main person she wants to see her graduate.