

Parent Community Outreach/Childcare~ Nikki Hannon
Board Meeting: January 30, 2019

Happy New Year!

- **Child Care**~ January at the Child Care was pretty mellow with everyone adjusting easily from the long Christmas break. We attempted to host another family activity night but it seems that our hard-working teachers and teen parents are simply ready to head home after a long day so participation was minimal.
 - We continue to work on our child care trainings, as well as coming in to compliance with licensing requirements.
- **Hi-Set**~ Surprisingly, we didn't experience the "rush" of Hi-Set students we normally have in January. Attendance was at a low, with no real explanation given the fact that the weather has been so mild. We had one student come in for in-class tutoring, and another student worked online from home. Our Hi-Set tutor continues to do outreach to former students, and attempt to recruit new students. It seems that anytime she or I shop at IGA, at least one person approaches to inquire about Hi-Set. We have received 5 new referrals but the students haven't started yet. I fear that our lack of attendance is a reflection of the numerous barriers our people face to receiving their education.
- **Teen Parent Program**~ We have had a slow start with the teen parent classes due to the long break, conflicting schedules and start of a new semester. We intend to kick off in February at the Academy, and would like to offer more support to teen parents at BHS. Currently, we are aware of #19 teen parents enrolled in school. We invited them all, via email, to stop by the PCOP for baby clothes. We currently have two of the babies enrolled in childcare, and anticipate two more enrolling in February. We continue to collaborate with the Blackfeet Teen Parent Coalition to meet the needs of these young parents.
- **āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p̄ (FIT)** ~ January has been a very active month for the āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p̄ program.
 - **Clothing Closets**~We received another large donation from the Heart Locker, delivered by the Lutheran Church of Columbia Falls. This donation has maxed out our clothing closets throughout the district so we have been able to share our resources now community-wide. We have distributed more clothes to the Heart Butte School District's clothing closet, Heart Butte HeadStart, the Blackfeet Boarding Dorm, DeLaSalle, CutsWood and the Nurturing Center. The Nurturing Center can only accept new clothing donations, so we set aside anything with a tag for their children.
 - We also received the much-anticipated new school backpack & supplies donation from Walking Shield, Inc. (a non-profit out of California). We distributed #100 backpacks to students-in-need that were filled with



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goodies by Pasadena High School students. Additionally, we received a separate donation of #30 gently used, and also generously filled, school backpacks from Columbia Falls.

- Special thanks to JoRae Rattler & Jeri Gobert (PCOP) for tirelessly sorting through donations; the bus garage for delivering to the schools; Jennifer Fenner (Babb), Josephine Wagner & Carla Whitegrass (BHS), Karleen Whitegrass (Academy), Sheila Rutherford & Joey Hall (BMS), Dana Bird & Jason Andreas (Napi), Jennifer Wagner & TA's (BES), and Sydney St.Goddard (KW/Vina) for maintaining the school-based clothes closets.
- **Food Pantries**~ Each of the (4) district food pantries recently received a pallet of food to re-stock after the holidays. The middle school has delivered over #50 boxes of food to families in need, and those effected by the government shut-down. There are three advisory classes of BMS students who will be assisting in the food pantry/clothing closet as part of their community service projects.
 - Special thanks to Karleen Whitegrass & Lacie Salois (Academy), Jack Parrent & Joe Jessepe (BHS), Sheila Rutherford & Joey Hall (BMS) and Jennifer Fenner (Babb) for keeping the food pantries organized, stocked and encouraging students to access as needed.
 - **The weekend MFBN backpack program** continues to give out #250+ food bags per week to students experiencing food insecurity on the weekends. We continue to have a relationship with Nourish the Flathead out of Whitefish so that our students periodically receive fresh produce to supplement the backpacks.
 - Special thanks to Sydney St.Goddard (KW/Vina), Dawn Cobell (BES), Jason Andreas & Dana Bird (Napi) and Jennifer Fenner (Babb) for making sure the kids receive their backpacks every Friday.

The mission of the Parent Community Outreach Program is to serve as a resource to the school district and our community in a collaborative effort to keep our students in school until graduation.