

Indigenous Insider

November 2023

Welcoming New Staff

Missoula County Public Schools has created two new positions in the Native American Student Services Department for the 2023-2024 school year. The new staff members are Billie Jo Juneau who is the NASS Department Coordinator and Sara Ibis who will be joining the department as the Indian Education for All (IEFA) Instructional Coach.

NASS Coordinator, Billie Jo Juneau

Ok! My name is Billie Jo Juneau. I am an enrolled member of the Blackfeet tribe. I am the MCSP Native American Student Service Coordinator. I previously worked as an Assistant Principal at Sentinel High School for two years. Prior to working for MCPS I worked for Browning Public Schools. I started out as a Science teacher but eventually moved into administration (building and district). I have been in education for nearly 18 years.

In 2015, I took a sabbatical and moved to Missoula to work on my Masters degree in Educational Leadership. I fell in love with the area and the people. I was also sold on the lack of wind here (If you are familiar with the weather in Browning, MT, then you know about the wind) and I would not have to commute nearly 80 miles every day (I lived in Babb, MT). Missoula had so many things to offer. I knew I wanted to come back.

With a few years of administrative experience under my belt, I applied for a position at MCPS. Like many people out there, I had a hard time leaving the Reservation. I was leaving everything I had ever known. Initially, I told myself it was to give my kids (Luke, Jude, Lillie, Joliann) opportunities that they would not have back home. Now, after being here a couple of years I see how important it is to help our Native American students develop their cultural identity and to educate all students about Montana Native American history and culture.

I am excited for a great school year. Please reach out if you have any great ideas you would like to see from our department this year. My email is bjuneau@mcpsmt.org.



MCPS Native American Student Services
909 South Ave W.
Building B, Rm 120
Missoula, MT 59802



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

IEFA Instructional Coach, Sara Ibis

Hi, I'm Sara Ibis. I am the new Instructional Coach in the Native American Student Services Department. I'll be helping teachers use Indian Education for All (IEFA) in their classrooms, and developing curriculum and lessons aligned to Indian Education for All. I've been teaching elementary school in Missoula since 2017, and before that I taught in Lolo and Minneapolis, Minnesota. I'm also a certified Montana Master Naturalist. I'm passionate about place-based learning and using the landscape, history and culture of a place to inspire students to be future leaders of our community. Outside of school, I volunteer for the Owl Research Institute and I'm an avid birder. I enjoy trail running, going to Griz games, and watching horror movies. My partner, Andrew, is a mental health therapist and we have two dogs, Dez and Bill.



MCPS NASS Parent Advisory Committee

We are excited to announce the members of the 2023-24 Parent Advisory Committee. We are grateful for everyone who took the time to vote!

All parents and guardians of Native American MCPS students are encouraged to attend PAC meetings on the first of each month.

2023-24 PAC

Parent Representatives:

- ★ Matt Bell
- ★ Julie Cahoon
- ★ KaylaBeth Charlo
- ★ Amber Shaffer
- ★ Chad Villegas

Student Representative

- ★ Jude Juneau

Teacher Representative

- ★ Alyssa Johnson

NEXT PAC MEETING:

Wednesday, November 8th
6pm - 8pm

MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

TITLE VI
PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PAC MEETING!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

6:00pm · Potluck & Visiting
6:30pm - 8:00pm · Meeting

MCPS Professional Learning Lab
909 South Ave. W.
Building B., Rm. 119

Zoom Meeting ID: 843 8456 2714

Visit our website for more information about PAC: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/6728>

Naming Ceremony

The MCPS NASS Department is gauging interest and need to host a naming ceremony this spring for students. Please complete this form to share your interest: [Naming Ceremony Interest Form](#)

For more information please contact NASS Coordinator, Billie Jo Juneau at bjuneau@mcpsmt.org or 406-728-2400 ext. 1063

NASS Visiting MCPS Elementary Schools

This fall, the MCPS Native American Student Services Department has been visiting elementary schools throughout the district to share culturally informed lessons. In September, we shared round dancing with the students at Paxson and Chief Charlo. In October, we visited these same schools and shared lessons on traditional foods with a focus on foods harvested from the land and water.

In November, we will be visiting elementary schools to share a deeper understanding of the bison and its significance to Montana tribes. With winter approaching we will turn our focus to storytelling in December.

Stay tuned for these to hear more about these presentations, as we continue to foster cultural awareness and appreciation within MCPS Native elementary schools.

NASS Monthly Educational Themes

September - Round Dance

October - Fall Harvest & Traditional Foods

November - Significance & Use of the Bison

December - Storytelling

January - Ledger Art

February - Traditional and Contemporary Attire

March - Tribal Names & Language

April - Traditional Games

May - Tipi Etiquette

Fall Photos

American Indian Heritage Day Round Dance



Setting up the NASS tipi



Harvesting at the traditional 3 Sisters Garden



Native Youth Halloween Carnival



One Stitch at a Time - Sewing Class





MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES



>> 2023-2024 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR <<

EVENT NAME	DATE	TIME	VENUE
American Indian Heritage Day - Round Dance	Friday, Sept. 22	5 - 9pm	CS Porter Middle School
SEPTEMBER 22ND - AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY (MONTANA SCHOOLS)			
SEPTEMBER 29TH - AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY (ALL OF MONTANA)			
SEPTEMBER 30TH - ORANGE SHIRT DAY - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (US/CANADA)			
OCTOBER 9TH - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY (US)			
Halloween Carnival	Monday, Oct. 30	5 - 8pm	Franklin Elementary
NOVEMBER - NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH			
NOVEMBER 15 - ROCK YOUR MOCS DAY			
Ribbon Skirt & Shirt Sewing Classes	November 6, 13, 20, 27	5 - 8pm	MCPS Admin - Bldg B
Winter Storytelling	December 13 & 20	5 - 8pm	MCPS Admin - Bldg B
Ledger Art Class	January 17th	5 - 8pm	MCPS Admin - Bldg B
Native Love Sock Hop	February 21st	5 - 8pm	TBD
Naming Ceremony	March 29th	4 - 8pm	Willard High School
Native Youth Powwow	Saturday, April 27th	Grand Entry 12pm - 1st Session 6pm - 2nd Session	Sentinel High School
MAY 5TH - NATIONAL MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS' AWARENESS DAY (US)			
Native Grad Senior Dinner	Wednesday, May 8th	5 - 8pm	Missoula Fairgrounds
End of Year Celebration	Wednesday, June 5th	5 - 8pm	TBD

WWW.MCPSMT.ORG/IEFA