

# Panther Press

The Latest and Greatest News from PAXSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

June 2014

## From Ms. Chumrau

### PCA = Parent Community Association

**Ragna Thorne-Thomsen**, our PCA President, **Caryn Schwarze**, our PCA Secretary, and **Ann Wiltse**, our PCA Treasurer will all complete their terms this June. I am incredibly grateful for these strong women who lead the movers and shakers of Paxson School. They live for our kids, they devote their limited and precious time to our students, they believe in providing enriching learning experiences for our students, they have reinvented the status quo, they push us to be better, and they love a good challenge. Ragna, Caryn, and Ann: thank you from the bottom of my heart. When you see these amazing wonder women on the playground, please thank them for their service.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome **Rhett Pruitt-Hoff** as incoming PCA President, **Miriam Richmond** as incoming Vice President, **Carin Hansen** as incoming Secretary, and **Jessie Barnes** as Treasurer. Thank you for taking on these important roles, and I look forward to working closely with you to maintain a strong PCA!

### Help Wanted – New Editor

For the past four years, Holly Rogers has served as our



Newsletter Editor for the Panther Press. It is with great sadness that we must say goodbye to Holly as she and her family are moving. Thank you, Holly, for communicating with the masses, for spreading good news, and for keeping us all informed. We wish you and your family the best. This is Holly's last

newsletter, so please let me know if you are interested in taking over this important job!

### Teacher Appreciation

We have the best teachers at Paxson. They are dedicated professionals who consistently go above and beyond to meet the academic, behavioral, social, and emotional needs of



our students. I could not ask for a better staff. Thank you, Paxson Team, for loving your work, for caring deeply about our kids, and for being creative, agile, progressive leaders! I appreciate you!

Love, Kelly





Thank  
You

# From the PCA

THANK YOU to **Kristen and Gia and Lisa** for coordinating the AST after-school classes.

THANK YOU to **Caryn and Kylie** for organizing the Spring Auction.

THANK YOU to **Miriam** for organizing MT Fit Kids Day.

THANK YOU to **All** who brought in food for conferences and teacher appreciation.

THANK YOU **Sasha & Ronni** for organizing the SOCK HOP!

THANK YOU to everyone who plans and cares for the Outdoor Learning Center.

THANK YOU **Holly** for putting together the Paxson Newsletter for years!

Spring is finally here, and the school year is winding to a close. The school is bursting with energy and you can almost see new ideas popping in the kids' heads from nearly a whole year of learning from our great teachers. The sound of hundreds of kids' voices singing in the spring concerts spreads from the gym performance and is carried in our hearts out into the world. The poetry performances give us such insight into the depth of their thoughts and feelings. The art lines the halls and classrooms, and now in the spring we see the works in progress from the artist in residence program—we see their expression through visual arts and symbols. Our kids can stretch a little farther and run a little faster and can both show and verbalize this. They can move their energetic little bodies to express themselves with and without music.

If we look back on schoolwork from the beginning of the year we see a progression in the questions, the problem solving, and the expression in language, math, and science. The kids come home with new ideas from their garden, with dirt under their fingernails, understanding the circle of life from hands-on experience and with a fundamental understanding of where good food comes from. This all happens during the school day.

We are so grateful to have our kids at Paxson, a public school that fosters growth in so many facets of expression and so many kinds of intelligence. These facets of intelligence feed each other and work symbiotically with our kids' neurons and emotions to allow them to blossom. Some of these programs are organized and funded by the Paxson Community Association, all you parents and families. Parents and teachers over the years have come forward with different ideas to add to our kids' school experience, or to fill any voids and help them bloom. This is a work in progress and will continue to evolve with new ideas and new programs. It is an amazing process. **Thank you** to our teachers, staff, and so many, many volunteers for helping Paxson kids bloom. Happy Spring!

We are grateful for having served on the PCA board for the last two years. We have learned a lot and been very inspired by all the support and volunteers. We look forward to the next two years with a new board of excited and dedicated parents. **We welcome in the new board elected this spring: Rhett Pruitt-Hoff, President; Miriam Richmond, Vice President; Jessie Barnes, Treasurer; and Carin Pugh Hansen, Secretary.**

With gratefulness and sincerity,

**Ann Wiltse, Caryn Schwarze, Ragna Thorne-Thomsen**



Thank  
You

# Corps of Discovery CAMPOUT

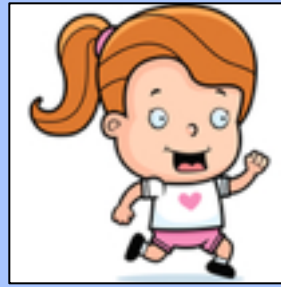
Travelers' Rest State Park, in collaboration with Missoula Parks and Rec and the Missoula Children and Nature Network, will host the Corps of Discovery Campout on June 28-29. This program is for families with little or no camping experience.

Corps of Discovery Campout is FREE and includes:

- Gear (tents, camp stoves, sleeping pads – limited availability)
- Food
- Fun activities for kids
- Hands-on training for grownups on camping basics like meal planning, fire safety, first aid, what to pack, and more!

Campers should be ready to learn and cooperate with other families. There are a limited number of spaces available, so we encourage folks to register early. Registration forms will be available May 1st online at [www.travelersrest.org](http://www.travelersrest.org) or at the Visitors Center at Travelers' Rest State Park in Lolo.

The Corps of Discovery Campout is supported by a Public Lands Every Day grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation and Toyota USA.



**Don't forget the  
YMCA  
Riverbank Run  
Saturday,  
May 10!  
Go Panthers!**

## Sock Hop!

**May 9  
6-8pm  
Paxson  
Gym**



## FROM THE PAXSON LIBRARY

All student-checked-out library books are due at the Paxson Library by Friday, May 30. Students with outstanding library accounts at the end of the year will not receive their report cards.

Thank you to everyone who saved and sent in the Box Tops for Education coupons and Campbell's Soup labels. We will collect those again next year, so please save them during the summer.

**Happy summer reading!**

