



# Paxson Family Engagement News

Sept 2017

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Dear Paxson Community,

Last spring, the entire faculty and staff of Paxson Elementary gathered to create a statement that represented Paxson's mission. During this dialogue, we asked ourselves the questions "Who and what are we when we are at our very best?" and "What is it we strive to become?"

As you might imagine, this was not an easy task.. Mission statements do not simply roll off the collective tongues of 25+ people. After hours of dialogue and discussion, we arrived on a statement that we felt represented our goals and ideas. It reads as follow:

**"We communicate and collaborate to create a safe community that nurtures the whole child. We guide individual learners to reach their full potential, practice kindness, gain a global perspective, and persevere through challenging and integrated learning experiences. At Paxson our students, regardless of circumstance, know that they are valued, capable, and celebrated."** (Cont. on page 3)

## September Events:

Ice Cream Social 6 PM	Sept 7
PTA Meeting 7 PM	Sept 14
Parenting Class— Conflict Resolution 6:15 PM	Sept 20
Vision Screening	Sept 26

## Do you know Paxson's Universal Expectations?

1. Be responsible
2. Be respectful
3. Be a learner
4. Be safe



Please don't forget to bring gym shoes to PE each week. You can even leave a pair in your lock-

## Ice Cream Social

Free for the whole family!  
**Sept. 7th.  
6:00 PM**

**\$10/ and \$15  
T-shirts available**



## Mark Your Calen-

Harvest Party	Oct 13
School Picture Day	Oct 18
Hearing Screening	TBA
2 Weeks of Kindness	Oct 9-18



**Families First Parenting Class on Conflict Resolution—Kelso's Choice  
Sept 20 at 6:15 @ Paxson Elementary**

Learn about Kelso's Choice which assumes that all young people are capable of becoming peacemakers. Parents will gain the tools to teach their children conflict management strategies. The class is free and held from 6:15-8:15pm.

Child care is provided. Sign up by calling 721-7690 or online at [ww.childrensmuseummissoula.org](http://ww.childrensmuseummissoula.org).

## The PTA

- ◆ Organizes events
- ◆ FUNd-raises money
- ◆ Supports *Co-Motion Dance*, the *Missoula Writing Collaborative*, and the *FRC at Paxson*
- ◆ Provides supplies and special projects for teachers
- ◆ Enriches our playground
- ◆ Bridges the gap between parents and teachers
- ◆ Improves school-wide climate.

### PTA Co-Presidents:

**Carin Hansen**

cpugh99@hotmail.com

**Renee Sommerset-Mucha**

r.somersetmucha@gmail.com

**Rhett Hoff**, Treasurer

rhetthoff@gmail.com

**Neva Hickman**, Secretary

### TO VOLUNTEER:

Email us at:

paxson.volunteer@gmail.com



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## Bienvenidos! Welcome to our Five New Teachers



**Dorey Kern** teaches Kindergarten in Spanish, teamed up with Mrs. Roos. Dorey grew up in Missoula and brings with her 8 years of experience teaching in TX. She moved here to live closer to her family and loves to sew.



**Jen Deubler** teaches 2nd Grade Spanish immersion with Mrs. Harris. She previously taught Spanish in Taos, NM before landing her position here in Missoula. In her free time, Jen enjoys the outdoors.



**Erin Mills** teaches 3rd grade Spanish Immersion with Mrs. Lofthouse. Erin moved over from 4th grade at Hellgate Elem. with strengths in math, technology, and literacy. She loves to bike, ski and be in the outdoors in her free time.



**Erin Ensley** is our new Music teacher who comes highly recommended by Mrs. Callan. She taught at both Meadow Hill and Target Range before having a baby last spring. Not surprisingly, her favorite thing to do is to hang out with her two



**Kim Olson** teaches 5th grade Science and Social Studies in Spanish. She previously taught at Meadow Hill MS. She is happy to be located at the same school as her daughter, Lucia and loves to hike, bike, and cook in her free time.

## Family Resource Center

The goals of the FRC are to:

- Engage families in student learning
- Help families with food, clothing and transportation as needed
- Assist families in transitional housing situations
- Connect families with resources in the community

You can help by :

- Purchasing new underwear or socks K-3 sizes for students
- Donating lightly used clothing or shoes (all sizes)
- Providing gift cards for gas, groceries, or laundry services

Contact **Melanie Matelich** for more information at  
728-2400 X4590.

Email: [frcpaxson@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:frcpaxson@mcps.k12.mt.us)

Every time I read through this statement, I fall more in love with it. There are words and phrases that jump out to me every time I come across them.

*(Letter from Mr. Halloran continued)*

The first word is “collaborate.” We are a school that almost exclusively uses the phrase “our kids” over “my kids.” Why? As of the coming school year, not a single one of our students will only have one teacher. Make no mistake: this is a strength. Having multiple pairs of eyes on every student multiplies the number of people invested in every kiddo. We all celebrate growth and notice students in their tougher moments. We then share these with one another so we can better support each student.

“Whole Child:” At Paxson, we recognize that there is so much more to an individual child than their scores, abilities, and aptitudes. Our deepest desire is for every student to know, at a conscious and subconscious level, that they are valued, capable, and celebrated. In the classroom this year students will be learning about the Zones of Regulation; a curriculum designed to help students understand their own emotions and feelings and the impact these have on others. In September parents will be invited to Paxson for an evening where they can learn more about this exciting curriculum.

“Practice kindness” Last year we celebrated our first “Two Weeks of Kindness” event, during which time each one of our students learned ways in which they can practice kindness and reflected on how their actions affect the lives of others. We will be celebrating “Two Weeks of Kindness” in October this year, and we will be returning to the principles learned throughout the entire year.

“Global Perspective:” Language is a gateway to communication, and communication is ultimately how we are able to learn about and celebrate those who are different than ourselves. As of this school year, every Paxson student is enrolled in our Spanish Language Immersion program. This means that for a portion of the day, our students will be learning Common Core Content Standards in the Spanish language. This program is the result of years of hard work by the faculty, staff, and community of Paxson.

I think I speak for all of us here at Paxson when I say that we are anxious for the arrival of the first day of school. There is truly nothing quite like the energy of the students in the first days of fall. Please contact me at any time if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Halloran, Paxson Principal

[pjhalloran@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:pjhalloran@mcps.k12.mt.us)

We are launching a new program call Ben’s Bells. More on this in October.

## October Kindness Weeks

October’s focus on kindness kicks off Oct. 9—18th and will feature games, activities and an all-school assembly to kick off and wrap up this event.

All students will read , “Have you Filled A Bucket Today?” in Spanish and English. Students will participate in daily classroom activities, play Kindness Bingo, experience random acts of kindness, show gratitude, and hold a drive for the Humane Society, all while promoting being kind and thoughtful to others.

## Kindness Pledge

I pledge to myself

On this very day

To try to be kind

In every way.

To every person

Big or small,

I will help them

If they fall.

When I love myself

And others too,

That is the best

That I can do.