



Lynx Link

December Calendar-at-a-Glance

30-Dec. 4 —Native
American Winter
Gathering (see pg. 5)

8— 6:30pm PTA Zoom
Meeting, look for link in
email

9—Giving Tree Gifts
Due—Please wrap, label
gifts and return to the
front office

23—1/5 Winter Break

**Hey Families! Please
help remind kids to
bring their gym shoes
or leave a pair here at
school!**

**Also, please put an
empty plastic bag in
your kids' backpacks
and ask them to put wet
clothes (mittens/hats,
etc) in the bag to
protect the library
books they also may
have in their bags.**



It's Giving Tree Time!

The Giving Tree is a wonderful opportunity for our
L&C school community to donate or receive
support during the upcoming holiday season.

Due to CoVid restrictions, our Giving Tree is virtual
this year. Please use this Sign Up Genius link—
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4caba72da7f58-lcgiving> that will allow you to select a gift
request(s) to fill. If you have questions, please
contact one of the Family Resource Specialists—
Tracey Cravy or Lisa Hayhurst. They can be reached
at 728-2400 x4355 or frclewis@mcpsmt.org.

**Please remember, wrapped gifts are due at the
front office by**

***Wednesday,
December 9th.***

**Be sure to attach
family number and
letter (if applicable)
and gift descriptions
(eg. .4A– board game)**

Thank you !



From the Principal's Office

Happy Thanksgiving Lewis & Clark Families,

As I reflect on this time of year, I am so thankful for my family, my friends, the Lewis & Clark community, and the amazing staff. The support, kindness, and partnership are felt everyday. I find myself more grateful than ever and cherish small moments of joy from hearing the kids giggling, watching them run and play outside, seeing their artwork and projects in the hall, the 'ah-ha' moment of learning something new or making a connection, and acts of kindness in helping a peer or staff member. I hope this Thanksgiving was special for you in finding precious memories to share with your loved ones, and embracing the small moments of joy that present themselves each day.

I wish you and your family health and wellness this holiday season.

Take Care,
Alanna



Project Give Us Hope

The Winter Holidays are fast approaching. In pre-COVID times, our music teacher, Mrs. Morrison, would be busy getting the students ready for their Holiday Performance. Sadly, that cannot happen this year.

To fill the void, the Specialist Team - Ms. Kees (P.E.); Ms. Morrison (Music); Ms. Myers (Counseling); Mr. Nordtom (Media/Library); Senora Slater (Spanish) and Ms. Swanson (Art) - are doing an all-school project with the students.

*Using the inspiration of **Hope for the Future and Wishes for the World**, each specialist is leading their grade-level cohorts in discussions about how we can take individual responsibility and spread hope. These discussions will be creatively documented in a slideshow to be shared with parents and each other.*

Be sure to watch for the unveiling of Project Give Us Hope before Winter Break!!

"When you share your light, one little candle can grow into a whole hope building community."



The PTA Page

The Parent-Teacher Association of Lewis & Clark Elementary School strives to build an enriching school culture and a welcoming environment for all children, parents, and staff.

Lewis and Clark Families,

Our PTA is grateful for our wonderful parent and family support! A HUGE thank you again for your participation in our fall fundraiser Coffee, Toffee, Tea. We are thrilled that you helped us raise over \$12,000 for our school, your students and our teachers. We were immediately able to give over \$1700 to fund 6 teacher classrooms with more funding plans in the future. Thanks again to these awesome supporters for help with sorting, organizing, distributing or behind-the-scenes work: Jeff Lamson, Emily Mackenroth & Abigail Brown, Keri McHugh, Lindsay Guttermuth, John Strong, Alanna Vaneps, Tia Vaneps, Lisa Hayhurst, Tracey Cravy, Angie Tranel, Shannon Ort, Casey & Kamra Kolendich.



These individuals were the top-selling students in their grade and will be awarded a pizza gift certificate! THANK YOU!

KG – Kaehl Strong in Ms. Cooper's class

1st – Juliet Mackenroth in Ms. Vasquez' class

2nd – Arthur Griffin in Mrs. Meurer's class

3rd – Kendal Kolendich in Mrs. Jensco's class

4th – Ruby Adams in Mrs. Jones

5th – Gavin Tranel in Mrs. Garland's class

Finally, the top-selling classes were Mrs. Garland, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Meurer. Mrs. Meurer's class worked the hardest to sell the most items at \$2637 in products! Congrats and thank you!

One more thing: please fill out your PTA membership forms at lcpta.org or via the hardcopy that was sent home with your student before Thanksgiving. Membership is imperative to keeping our PTA going!

Thank you!

Kamra Kolendich and Jeff Lamson - PTA co-presidents

PTA Meeting, Membership & NEW Website!

It's not too late to join the PTA. Your membership helps support Lewis & Clark's students and staff.

Complete the membership form here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdT8wCbc7iOA5N_oJ4DICv5BROJ239HS6Vfsw1aqlqKUkoxkw/viewform

See the new PTA website at
LCPTA.ORG

Join the PTA December meeting via Zoom on Dec. 8th at 6:30. Check your email for the link!



PTA Officers 2020-2021 School Year

Co-presidents- Kamra Kolendich & Jeff Lamson
lewisandclark.pta.missoula@gmail.com

Vice-President—**OPEN POSITION; can YOU help?! Contact any officer!**

Treasurer—Emily Mackenroth
lewisandclarkptatreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary—Keri McHugh
lewisandclarksecretary@gmail.com

Teacher Liaison—Jordan Garland,
5th Gr teacher jgarland@mcpsmt.org

Teacher Liaison—Sharon Jones,
4th Gr teacher sgjones@mcpsmt.org

Inquiry Corner with Kari Henderson



Agency and the learning community

The learning community recognizes that agency and self-efficacy are fundamental to learning. A learning community that supports agency offers opportunities for students to develop important skills and dispositions, such as critical and creative thinking, perseverance, independence and confidence. These are vital to the learning process and the development of self-efficacy. The learning community further offers students multiple opportunities to experience the impact of their choices and opinions, which support their evolving perceptions of their identity. In return, students with a stronger sense of self-efficacy bring a stronger sense of agency to the learning community.



*From principles into practice- The Enhanced PYP-ibo.org

Counselor's Corner: A Note from Ms. Myers

Many students have been reporting higher levels of worry, which is understandable under these stressful circumstances. Worry thoughts create a chain reaction. Take a look at what happens:

Worry thought → feeling → action → another worry thought

For example:

I will never get this → overwhelmed → shutdown → I'm no good

This cycle can continue going around and around, bringing feelings of helplessness and anxiety. One powerful tool to managing worry is to tune in to these worry thoughts. Notice that you're having a worry thought and ask yourself: "is this true?" "is there another way to look at this?" "what evidence do I have about this?" Give yourself an alternate thought.

Alternate thought → feeling → action → thought

I'm going to take one day at a time, I can do this → hopeful → make a plan → I can do this

If your student is struggling to manage worries, please reach out for suggestions about how to best support him or her. lemyers@mcpsmt.org or 728-2400 x4379



2020 Winter Gathering Activities

Nov. 30 - Dec. 4



Missoula County Public Schools
Indian Education Department



Tik Tok/Video Challenge: This challenge will be a video, 15s, 30s, and or 60s length with a Christmas theme (does not have to be a tiktok, it can be just a recorded video).

- Physical Activity Ex: Santa/Elf Powwow Dancing, Elf/ Reindeer Running
- Native Language (your way to say "Merry Christmas")
- Christmas Activity

#mcpsiedchallenge2020

Family Christmas Card Challenge: This challenge will be a stand still or video style Family portrait activity. The families can use a Christmas themed background, Christmas theme "dress up." Take a photo of your family and submit to MCPS IED.

#mcpsiedchallenge2020

IED Open Mic Night: This will be a Christmas Karaoke, Christmas Comedy, Poem, Rap, Slam Poetry, Powwow song or any talent.

A contest giving the Missoula Community an outlet to show their talent.

Recorded submissions will be shown to the community on December 3rd from 6pm-8pm. (via Zoom, if not Facebook Live). **I would like to save these from public viewing until Thursday evenings open mic night. Submit Talent Videos to Ray Kingfisher: rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org**

IED/Native Connections Ugly/Sacred Sweater

Challenge: Submit recent picture of your Ugly/Sacred sweater. You will be judged on creativity and holiday spirit. Upload those to "MCPS Indian Education"

Facebook page for viewing.

#mcpsiedchallenge2020

December 3 - MCPS IED Will judge, display and list winners of submissions. They will be announced that evening during the Open Mic Night.

IED Virtual Craft Fair: (November 30 - December 14)

Calling all local artists! An opportunity to showcase and sell your crafts for the holiday season. All Items must be approved by the Indian Education Department. This will be open to the Missoula and surrounding community, for exchange reasons. Exchange will be agreed upon by seller and buyer. We are only giving a site to sell Native American crafts. Will use pictures and videos of Merchandise and small bio of the Artists. Will use a

Facebook page to post with contact information.

#iedcraftfair2020

Questions? Contact Ray Kingfisher; rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org 728-2400 x1047

THANK YOU FROM THE FRC !

The Family Resource Center (FRC) wishes to express appreciation for the following clothing, and supply donations:

Ogg family—Winter Boots

Furlong Family—Generous donation of money toward the Giving Tree

Guttermuth Family—Laundry Supplies and boys' clothes

McCracken family & Mary's Mountain Cookies for adopting and featuring a L&C family on their store's tree for the Parade of Trees



Family Resource Center

December Wish List

Boys and Girls Snow boots: sizes 5, 6, 7, 8 (Big!)

Girls Coats—12/14, 14/16

Snow pants: sizes 10/12, 14/16

Used items very welcome! Thank you for your generous donations

Your donations are very much appreciated

Family Resource Specialists

Tracey Cravy and Lisa Hayhurst

728-2400 x4355

frclewis@mcpsmt.org

M/ W/F 8:30-3:15 TH 8:30-2:15

HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR MONTANA FAMILIES



HealthCare.gov

Most Montanans qualify for financial help. See what you qualify for:

Income levels valid through Spring 2021.

Family Size	Montana Medicaid <small>If your income is below this amount and you are between 19–64, you may qualify for Montana Medicaid.</small>	Healthy Montana Kids <small>If your income is below this amount, your kids under 19 may qualify for Healthy Montana Kids.</small>	Montana Health Insurance Marketplace <small>If your income is below this amount, you may qualify for financial help when you purchase a plan on HealthCare.gov.</small>
1	\$1,467/mo	\$2,828/mo	\$51,040/year
2	\$1,983/mo	\$3,822/mo	\$68,960/year
3	\$2,498/mo	\$4,815/mo	\$86,880/year
4	\$3,013/mo	\$5,808/mo	\$104,800/year
5	\$3,528/mo	\$6,801/mo	\$122,720/year
6	\$4,043/mo	\$7,794/mo	\$140,640/year

*All income amounts listed are pre-tax.

OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS ON DECEMBER 15, 2020!

For Coverage Effective On: January 1, 2021

Complete Enrollment By: December 15, 2020

To enroll after December 15, 2020, you must qualify for a Special Enrollment Period such as loss of insurance coverage, marriage, the birth of a child, and more.

Have questions? Free local help is available.

(844) 682-6837 | COVERMT.ORG



Lost and Found!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CHILDREN'S ITEMS WITH FIRST AND LAST NAMES.

If they make it to the Lost and Found, they can be returned or claimed easily.

Often classrooms have their own L&F box as well. Please check first with your child's teacher about missing items.

Still missing something? Call or email the FRC (327-6949 or frclewis@mcpsmt.org) and we'll take a look in the Lost and Found for your item.



HEALTH INSURANCE FOR MONTANA NATIVE FAMILIES



**HEALTH INSURANCE
IS NOW MORE
IMPORTANT THAN EVER.**

Most Montanans qualify for financial help. See what you qualify for:

Family Size	Montana Medicaid <small>If your income is below this amount and you are between 19-64, you may qualify for Montana Medicaid.</small>	Healthy Montana Kids <small>If your income is below this amount, your kids under 19 may qualify for Healthy Montana Kids.</small>	Marketplace Special Provisions for Native Americans <small>If you are an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe and your income is below this amount, you may qualify for a free or low-cost plan with no out-of-pocket costs.</small>	<small>If you are an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe and your income is below this amount, you may qualify for financial help and reduced cost-sharing.</small>
1	\$1,467/mo	\$2,828/mo	\$38,280/year	\$51,040/year
2	\$1,983/mo	\$3,822/mo	\$51,720/year	\$68,960/year
3	\$2,498/mo	\$4,815/mo	\$65,160/year	\$86,880/year
4	\$3,013/mo	\$5,808/mo	\$78,600/year	\$104,800/year
5	\$3,528/mo	\$6,801/mo	\$92,040/year	\$122,720/year
6	\$4,043/mo	\$7,794/mo	\$105,480/year	\$140,640/year

*All income amounts listed are pre-tax. Income levels apply through Spring 2021.

Healthcare.gov Enrollment Deadlines:

For Coverage Effective On: January 1, 2021 Complete Enrollment By: December 15, 2020

Enrolled members of federally recognized tribes, can enroll anytime.

Have questions? Free local help is available.

(844) 682-6837 | COVERMT.ORG



Help Our Schools Stay Open!

Paraeducators, noon duty aides, and substitutes are essential to smooth operations at school. Be part of the solution!

Apply online or visit the District office. 909 South Ave West (406)728-2400

www.mcpsmt.org/employment

Substitutes

Teachers(requires 4-year college degree, does not need to be in education)
\$11.43/hour

Para educators \$11.43/hour

Custodians \$10.50/hour

Secretaries \$10.75/hour

Kitchen Helpers \$9.50/hour

PEACE CHOIR

**Join Peace Choir Zoom Meeting
Tuesdays 3:00-3:30pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/94870386890?pwd=QzkvYStRMjlmcTJlb2tkZHZ2VnVPZz09>

Meeting ID: 948 7038 6890
Passcode: 07i048

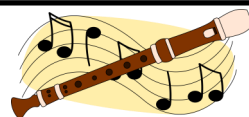


Singers are welcome anytime and regular attendance is not a requirement.

We hope to sing with you on Zoom!!



Rockin' Recorders!



Thanks to a grant from your Lewis & Clark PTA, an on-line soprano recorder program will be offered to interested 4th & 5th grade students. A regular part of the music curriculum, recorders cannot be used at school because of the extra amount of aerosols released when played. Now students who want to learn recorder can have one to use at home. Mrs. Morrison will be introducing the program to 4th and 5th grade students the first week of December. Students will need to sign up to receive a recorder. The program will start as soon as the new recorders arrive. Contact Mrs. Morrison if you have questions: domorrison@mcspmt.org

Community COVID Resources

Parks & Recreation

City of Missoula • 600 Cregg Lane • 721-PARK

Welcome to **BASE Camp Missoula** where kids ages 5 and up will be outdoors and active with the EPIC adventures families have come to love with Parks and Recreation summer camps! The program includes art and science-based activities with partners like the Insectarium, Clay Studio Missoula and more. To support hybrid school schedules, we'll facilitate time for homework and access to computers for online work. Snacks are provided. When the weather turns cold, we'll move the program indoors to the former public library building in Downtown Missoula. Our highly trained staff, low participant-to-staff ratios and rigorous COVID-19 safety protocols will help ensure a fun, engaging experience for your child! Sign up online today - <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2525/Day-CampsAfterschool> or give us a call at 721-PARK (7275)!

Reduced fees for ALL families through the Montana Coronavirus Relief Fund! BASE Camp Scholarships are available through December 31, 2020, with the possibility of extending into the new year. Apply ASAP. Thanks to grants from the state Coronavirus Relief Fund, families will receive discounted fees based on their self-reported income level. ALL families, regardless of income, are eligible for a 50% discount. Additional discounts can range from 75% to 95% depending on income.

YMCA Full-Day Enrichment Offered Monday–Friday from 7:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Grades K–6 Our Full-Day Enrichment program offers a full-day blended learning environment dedicated to supporting your child's body and mind during MCPS' phased reopening. At our full-day enrichment program, your out-of-school time becomes in-school time through structured STEAM projects, homework help, online learning, and physical activity. Our highly-trained staff facilitate a fun and learning-focused environment complete with PE, extracurriculars, and so much more!

Registration required—<https://www.ymcamissoula.org/programs/school-age-care/full-day-enrichment> Please register 48 hours in advance.

Thanks to grant funding, we are reducing program costs by up to 50% to all families who participate in Y Before School, After School, and Full-Day Enrichment. Discounts guaranteed thru December 31st, with funding hopefully extended into 2020. For families seeking additional assistance, we're proud to offer a new barrier-free financial assistance option for our out-of-school programs. Contact ymca@ymcamissoula.org to learn more.



Zootown Art Academy

Runs Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM, during the 2020/2021 school year for Missoula kids aged 6-12. Parents may choose to sign up students for 1 day a week, or multiple days depending on their needs. Scholarships available. Have a question about the academy?

Contact Education & Volunteer Coordinator Joe Kirk at joe@zootownarts.org and he'll get back to you shortly!