



Lynx Link

October 2021

October Calendar-at-a- Glance

5 Vision Screening
11 Coffee, Toffee,
Tea Fundraiser
starts
12 Picture Day!
18-22—Be Buck
Dress Up Week-Pg 3
19 PTA Mtg
6:30-8:00 pm
21-22 No School
29 Halloween@L&C



Welcome New Members of L&C Counseling Team!

Pictured at left are Brandy Gillespie, Behavior Interventionist and Lance Dandliker, counselor, in front of the IB Attitudes Tree at the L&C front office. Mrs. G and Mr. D are working with students in using Kelso's Choices to solve problems, and strategies kids can use to get themselves in the "green" zone ready to learn. We are grateful to have them & their expertise here!

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the Bus/Walk/Bike morning. The Lewis & Clark bike racks were overflowing from all the kids who participated, despite the chilly morning.

A big thanks also to the parent volunteers helping with Lost & Found and Mrs. Sharkey's 1st grade class for picking up trash on the L&C playground!

GRACIAS



L&C's PTA fall fundraiser starts October 11th!

Every Lewis and Clark family (both hybrid and MOA!) is encouraged to take part. The money raised directly supports items such as Chromebooks, teacher grants for field trips, student agendas, the Outdoor Discovery Center and more!

Check out the ONLINE ORDERING ABILITY!

Look for a fundraising packet to come home with your child in the coming weeks.

This is a homegrown fundraiser featuring Montana made products. Please reach out to your family, friends and neighbors. Coffee, Toffee, Tea and more items make amazing gifts and will be delivered in time for holidays!

From the Principal's Office

Lewis & Clark Families,

As the calendar turns a page and we begin October, I am really proud of the positive start to the school year. Teachers and staff worked hard to have the school and classrooms ready for students, families shopped for school supplies and helped kids with back to school routines, and students came to school with smiles and brains ready to learn! It was also wonderful to see all the families at Open House and to enjoy a family event here at school. A huge THANK YOU to the PTA and all the parents helping with ice cream, and to all the families rotating throughout the building at different times to ensure we could be safe. We couldn't do this without each other! Thank you and have a fabulous school year!

Principal Vaneps



Lost & Found!

Our Lost and Found boxes are purged monthly. Items will be displayed the last week of each month for final claiming.

Unclaimed items will be donated to local charities or become part of the FRC inventory.

PLEASE LABEL CLOTHING, LUNCHBOXES & Water Bottles - Items with legible first and last names are delivered to students.

The seasons are changing...

When coming to school, please remind your child(ren) to dress for the cold, wet weather. Students will be going outside to play each day they are at school, unless it is below zero or a complete downpour. Students should wear a warm coat, mittens, a hat, and rain/snow boots. If you need help making sure your child(ren) have warm gear, please contact the Family Resource Center for assistance at: 728-2400x4355 or frclewis@mcpsmt.org



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Parents...

Calling for Change of After School Plans - **emergencies only please**



Please remember to communicate after school plans to your child **BEFORE** school.

The front office is receiving 30-40 calls a day in the last hour of school with a change of plans.

Please use the office for emergency change of plans only.

Check out these tips for supporting reading at home:

https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/practiceguide/wwc_fr_tips_022118.pdf



The 3 B's!

At Lewis and Clark, our behavior expectations are
Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.

We teach and reinforce these behaviors in a number of ways:

Classroom teaching around what the 3 Be's look like, sound like, and feel like in all areas of school.

Be Bucks are used to recognize students for following the 3 Be's. Be Bucks will be entered into monthly drawings, with 2 students per grade level chosen to earn a prize.

Students may also forgo the drawing and donate his/her Be Bucks to AniMeals or the Food Bank.

Every 5 Be Bucks donated equals one dollar!

Monthly Be Awards are teachers' opportunity to recognize 2-3 students in the classroom who are really demonstrating the 3 Be's.

Three times a year we have **Be Buck Boot Camp**: one week dedicated to focusing on a classroom behavior that needs a little practice. We pair this week with fun dress up days:

Our first dress up week of the year is October 18-20.

Monday, October 18th—Wear your favorite color!

Tuesday, October 19th—Wear fun socks!

Wednesday, October 20th—Wear fun and cozy flannel!



Counselor's Corner: A Note from Ms. Myers

Welcome back to the 2021-22 school year! I'm looking forward to meeting with students in classrooms, small groups, and on an as-needed basis.

My role is to help students navigate through thoughts, feelings, or behaviors that are getting in the way of their learning and feeling successful at school. Please reach out to me if your student needs support.

Helping Students Manage Back to School Stress During a Pandemic

- Routines are important so kids know what to expect, especially as our school schedule changes. Consider making a visual schedule so kids can see what's happening each day.
- Kids benefit from having time to talk about what's going on and how they are feeling. If possible, dedicate a few minutes each day to putting everything aside and taking time to connect and listen.
- Stress is tricky business. Kids might be feeling the effects of stress more than ever right now. Teach your kids about what stress is, how it feels in their bodies, and give them tools to cope. Breathing strategies are a great place to start!

If you worry that your child is having trouble adjusting, please reach out to your child's teacher or school counselor for support.

Linsey Myers lemyers@mcmsmt.org, 728-2400 x4379

Indian Education
Department

Halloween Carnival!



Friday, Oct. 29th—
4:00

Washington Middle
School



Halloween at L&C

Class parties will be at the end of the day on Friday, October 29th.

Look for more details to come!

As in years past, we ask that Halloween costumes **NOT** represent characters of violence or destruction. **NO PROPS of GUNS, KNIVES, BLOOD, OR SWORDS AT SCHOOL PLEASE!**



Inquiry Corner with Kari Henderson

International Baccalaureate Information

Lewis and Clark Elementary is an IB (International Baccalaureate) World School offering the PYP (Primary Years Program). We are embarking on our sixth year as a fully authorized IB World School and have been developing as an IB school since the fall of 2012. We were the first public IB PYP school in the state of Montana.

What does it mean to be an IB World School?

*An IB World School is part of a worldwide community of schools, educators, and students with a shared vision and mission to empower young people with the skills, values, and knowledge to create a better and more peaceful world.

If you would like more information about the IB you can:

- go to the "About Us" tab on the Lewis and Clark homepage and select International Baccalaureate from the menu
- go to ibo.org
- take a look at our POI (Program of Inquiry) bulletin board at the front office
- visit with your child's teacher
- email Kari Henderson, our IB Coordinator, at khenderson@mcpsmt.org



*information from ibo.org

The FRC (Family Resource Center) at Lewis & Clark is here to help all families, especially those experiencing housing or food insecurity or homelessness.

Thank you to the following donors to the FRC:



**Taylor family for girls' clothes and Ms. Hottowe for boys boots!
Brant family for backpacks and binders
Kohler Family for warm coats and outerwear
The Raheem/ Omar family for their generous donation**

**MOR4Kids– continue financial contributions to EVERY school in MCPS,
including L&C PTA for funding new mats for the gymnasium
Anonymous sock donation**

Cheers to Skye Borden and Cori Burns for help displaying and delivering Lost and Found.

Tracey Cravy & Lisa Hayhurst

Family Resource Center - 327-6949

frclewis@mcpsmt.org

M,Tu, Th, F—8:15-3:15 Wed—8:15-4:00

NOTED: September 2021

Greetings from the Music Room and welcome back ALL students! It's great to be with everyone again. Such a joy to make music together.

We have a new schedule this year so here's a snapshot:

Classes are on a four day specialist rotation and are 45 minutes long. Senora Slater and I are splitting the class time with Kindergarten and 1st grade to facilitate seeing those students more often - they have Music and Spanish for 20 minutes twice within four school days; 2nd-5th grades have Music once every four school days for a 45 minute class.

I hope you hear your child singing some tunes and patting rhythms as we learn new material and expand our musical minds!

Many students have asked about Peace Choir. At the moment, Peace Choir is on hold. When we can safely get back together and find a time to meet, I'll let your singers know!

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions. Musically yours, Mrs. Morrison
domorrison@mcpsmt.org



Hello, my name is

Brandy Gillespie and I am the new **Behavior Interventionist**.

I am thrilled to be at Lewis & Clark full time to support staff, students and their families in this position.

I will be acting as a liaison between home, school and the community with the goal of providing more connection for students.

Please reach out anytime!



Brandy Gillespie—
728-2400X4361

SUPPORT L&C WITH YOUR SHOPPING There are many ways to help our schools by donating and volunteering, but you can also help just by shopping at your favorite grocery store! Here's how to give back to Lewis and Clark:



Missoula Fresh Market gives 1% to schools from its patron's receipts. When checking out, write the name of your school on the top of the receipt and give it back to the cashier and they will donate 1% of your receipt amount to your school. The more you spend, the more our school benefits!

Good Food Store provides 3% back to schools AND it's easier than ever! When checking out, just tell the Good Food Store cashier you want to donate to Lewis & Clark or give them our school "prefix" code of 334. They will send 3% of your purchase to L&C.

TRY THE BOX TOP APP: please consider installing the Box Top app on your smartphone. After you install the app and enter the school info, it is a simple process. Scan your receipt within 14 days and BAM! Box Top money is sent to the school!



Hello! I'm **Christy Meurer**. I've been a teacher at Lewis and Clark for 21 years, and this year I'm working as the **Intervention Specialist**. My job is to support teachers and help students build reading skills. I'll be sharing tips and tricks to keep your readers engaged and learning throughout the year.

Tip #1: Read with your child at home every evening! Research shows that time spent reading books is the *best* predictor of a child's growth as a reader. If your child isn't reading on their own yet, reading to them helps build language and thinking skills. If your child is reading independently, support them by listening to them read and talking about their books with them. Every minute you spend reading with your child has a positive impact!



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.

The PTA was delighted to have the ability to host a very successful ice cream social on our school playground this year! It was wonderful to see students give tours of their classrooms to their parents and families for the first time in over a year!! We know it took a village to make this happen. **THANK YOU** to the generous support of parent-volunteers for helping to set up, scoop ice cream and clean up for this event! Props also go Alanna Vaneps, the teachers, Lisa Hayhurst, Tracey Cravy and our custodians Tom and Wendall for their help in preparing for this event. We loved the good energy of meeting teachers, seeing classrooms, eating ice cream and outdoor socializing brought to our community!

It's going to be a good year!

Mark your calendars:

Our annual fall fundraiser, Coffee, Toffee, Tea and more (CTT) will be starting October 11.

Your child will be coming home with an order sheet and information on these delicious Montana-made products. More info to come soon!! All the proceeds made from this fundraiser go back to our school, kids and teachers!!

PTA MEMBERSHIP

We would LOVE for you to join the Lewis and Clark PTA.

What does having a membership mean?

It just means you support our school, our kids and our staff!

It does not mean you need attend any meetings. We love and encourage having volunteers throughout the year helping with PTA-sponsored events but being a PTA member doesn't mean you have to do this either. Your presence or presents can help us out!

Your membership gives back to the school in meaningful ways. \$10 is the minimum membership (these fees go to the state PTA board) and the sky is the limit after that. After \$10 the rest is a donation.

Click on this link to become a member: <https://lewisandclarkpta.memberhub.com/store>

to become a Lewis and Clark PTA member today. Cash, check, Venmo accepted, as well as, credit cards through our member hub link below. Please fill out this form to become a PTA member today. You will receive a school directory and be helping our school!

<https://lewisandclarkpta.memberhub.com/store>

Questions?

Please contact Kamra Kolendich
at lewisandclark.pta@gmail.com

Be your kid's biggest fan.
Be PTA.

So what has the PTA been up to?

-We purchased 6 outdoor benches for the playground and Outdoor Discovery Corp in late spring and they have finally arrived and to be installed soon!

-We are in the process of purchasing new gym mats in school colors for the gym to replace the old blue mats. We are getting our Lewis and Clark Lynx logo printed on them!

-We funded \$2,645 for teachers' classrooms and curriculum last spring and plan on funding more this November including technology funding for media arts.

THANK YOU to you awesome parents who have turned in the GREEN volunteer form! We appreciate having volunteers! You will be contacted soon for many upcoming volunteer opportunities. There is STILL time to get those forms in. Please send them with your student to school. We also realize not everyone can volunteer time but check out the form. Lots of small, low-commitment opportunities available too!

THANK YOU to parent Kirby Beierle for being our creative volunteer who is decorating our bulletin boards throughout the school!

2021-22 PTA Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held 6:30-8 pm unless otherwise noted. All are welcome! Meetings will be in person, unless otherwise noted.

Oct. 19

Nov. 16

Dec. 14

Jan. 18

Feb. 15

April 19

May 17

June 7



PTA Officers 2021-2022 School Year

President- Kamra Kolendich lewisandclark.pta.missoula@gmail.com

*Vice-President—*Keri McHugh lewisandclark.pta.vp@gmail.com

*Co-Treasurers—*Kyle Bocinsky & Staci Nugent
lewisandclarkptatreasurer@gmail.com

*Secretary—*Jeff Lamson lewisandclarksecretary@gmail.com

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

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