



# BEAR NEWS

## RUSSELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 2016

Russell Family Resource Center | 728-2400 ext. 4846 | [frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us)  
Hey Russell Bears, go to the Russell web page for calendars, menus, teachers' notes, and more!  
[www.mcpsmt.org/russell](http://www.mcpsmt.org/russell)

## Important Dates in December

December 6—Russell Bears Parent Group (PTO) meeting, 6:00 Library  
December 13—Families First class, "Talking and Listening" 6:00 Library  
December 16—Holiday Programs in the gym (K/1 9:00, 2/3 10:15, 4/5/band/orchestra 2:00)  
December 23-January 2—No School, Winter Vacation

## Holiday Programs Will Be Here Soon!

We invite you to our Holiday Programs! Russell School Holiday programs will be in the gymnasium on **Friday, December 16th** at the following times:

K/1: 9:00 am

2/3: 10:15 am

4/5/Band/Orch: 2:00 pm

\*\*\*\*\*A reminder that 2nd and 3rd graders will be Cowboy/Western themed. If possible please help your students to dress in as much Western gear as they want!



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## Thank you!

We have amazing families at Russell School!

- Thank you for the great donations to our bake sale. This made it possible for our PTO to raise funds for our students. On the day of the bake sale we had a parent continuously manning the bake sale table for the duration of the school day! Thank you Kayla!
- It is through the support and generosity of our families that we were able to feed our teachers during Conferences. Thank you to those families that brought food and snacks!
- Last but not least...thank you to Lindsay, Scott, Mykell and Janie for helping us sell smencils. Smencil funds will also go right back to supporting the success of our Russell Bears!

## Family Involvement (PTO)

The Russell Bears Parent Group welcomes all family members of Russell Students. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 in the library.

Can't make our meetings? Help us make sure that you are on our email list: [ptorussell@yahoo.com](mailto:ptorussell@yahoo.com)

**Upcoming event: Russell Snowball, Friday February 10th**



# Recycling



With many thanks to generous sponsors we have a recycling bin with pickup! Russell School was also awarded a grant to participate in the National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA's "Litter Less" Recycling Campaign. We are excited to be active with recycling. Russell Bears are hands on in being good stewards of our earth.

## Labeling Winter Clothing

Winter is coming, which means lots of hats, coats, mittens and boots! **We DO return items that are labeled with student names.** The Lost and Found is located at the convergence of the three school hallways. When items are found, they are hung on hooks on the wall, or placed on the bench. The Lost and Found will be cleared out on the last school day of each month. Any unclaimed items on the last day of the school month will be collected and they will leave the building. Thank you for helping us keep our school looking GREAT!

## Families First and Children's Museum Missoula

Join Families First in the library at Russell School the evening of Tuesday, December 13th, 6:30-8:30 for a **free class: Talking and Listening: Enriching Family Relationships**

A key factor that contributes to a sense of well-being in family is good communication. Good communication patterns help family members support one another, make decisions and solve problems. This class will help families enjoy one another more and express themselves clearly and sensitively and will increase family harmony. Childcare is free with advance registration only.

Register online through The Life Long Learning Center at: [www.missoulaclass.com](http://www.missoulaclass.com) or by calling 721-7690.



## Early Outs and No School

Every Thursday during the school year is an early out. Grades K-3 dismiss at 2:00 and grades 4,5 dismiss at 2:30. **Winter Vacation Dates:** December 23-January 2nd.



## Thank you!!

We have an amazing community. Thank you to the YMCA, New Hope Christian Fellowship, Cabela's, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Missoula, and First Christian Church. Thank you for making Christmas brighter for many Russell Bear families.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of Missoula



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

# Families in Transition

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Did you know that a family or student living in a **temporary housing situation** might be eligible for education support services under the McKinney-Vento Act?

A child may qualify as homeless if s/he is:

- Living in an emergency shelter, domestic violence shelter, or transitional housing;
- Living in a motel/hotel or campground;
- Living in a car, park, public place or other structure not meant for housing;
- Doubled up with relatives or friends due to a loss of housing and economic hardship;
- Living in kinship care (not a legal guardian);
- Unaccompanied youth (if their living situation meets the above criteria);
- Living in substandard housing (living without electricity, cooking facilities, running water).

## How can I access McKinney-Vento services?

If you feel your child or family meets one or more of the qualifications to receive services provided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and your child is currently or will be enrolled in an MCPS school, please contact the Russell Elementary School FRC (Family Resource Coordinator) for more information or for assistance with determining eligibility. The Russell FRC can be reached at: 728-2400 ext. 4846. The FRC is located at the end of the primary hallway nearest to the Kindergarten classrooms.

# Family Resource Center (FRC)

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How wonderful that there is a place where a child can get a change of clothes when he/she slips into a puddle or a pair of mittens when he/she forgets them on the bus on a cold day. There are many reasons why children find themselves borrowing items from the FRC. In fact, several hundred items get loaned out throughout the year. In order to keep this helpful resource running efficiently, we ask that families return all borrowed items. Returned items can be laundered by the FRC. Additionally, the FRC is always looking for donations of gently used or new sweat pant/legging type pants in sizes 4-8 youth.



# Russell Bears House System

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“Working to create a CommUNITY of respect everywhere” Russell Bears recently were able to celebrate the House of Tenacity! The students in Tenacity (purple) accumulated the most points during the first trimester of school.

**Compassion Courage Gratitude Integrity Resilience Tenacity**

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Want to help Russell School raise money by doing something we already do? Missoula fresh market donates 1% of all transactions when you notate “Russell” on the top of your receipt when paying. Simply write Russell on the top of your receipt and hand it back to the cashier. You can ask for a second or duplicate receipt to take with you. It’s that easy!

# News From our Library

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Thank you Russell Bears for your generous support at our Book Fair. We raised \$2000 for new books for our library!

Save your Box Tops. Look for these Box Tops on hundreds of products. They come in all shapes and sizes and each one is worth 10¢ for our school. Students may bring them to the library. All Box Tops are due on February 28th.



## Battle of the Books!

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 may choose to participate in the Missoula-wide Battle of the Books competition that will be held in March. Battle of the Books is a trivia competition for teams based on 12 books. This year's BOB program includes a 3rd/4th grade level competition and a 5th/6th grade level competition. Each level has separate books, teams, and competitions. More information and book titles can be found on our library website. We'd love to have your support. Please contact Darcy Caron in the library if you'd like to volunteer to help a student study.



## Welcome Ms. Thacker our Native American Specialist

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Russell School would like to give a very warm welcome to Ms. Stacy Thacker, our Native American Specialist. Ms. Thacker will work with Russell, Chief Charlo, Rattlesnake and Franklin Schools. Ms. Thacker has been able to see first hand how Russell Bears open up and get excited to see their Native American Specialist. The students and staff are so excited to have her in our building, we look forward to her meeting our amazing families and becoming part of our Community!