



BEAR NEWS

RUSSELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2017

Russell Family Resource Center | 728-2400 ext. 4846 | frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us

Go to the Russell web page for calendars, menus, teachers' notes, and more!



Important Dates in December

December 6—PTO meeting, 7:00 Russell Library

December 15—Kindergarten Holiday Program 2:00, Russell gym

December 22-January 1—Winter Break, No School

—Lost and Found—please check for missing items



Attendance...Give Yourself a BIG HAND

The first trimester of school our attendance was very much improved! Thank you to our Russell Bear families for having your students here each day and on time. Our Teachers love having all Russell Bears here learning. Our school attendance numbers positively reflect your efforts! If your student will be absent please remember to contact the school at 542-4080.

Science Fair

The third annual Russell Elementary Science Fair will be held on Friday February 23rd. Packets will go out in December for all grades. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with your child discovering science together and encouraging their academic growth and progress.

We would love to have more judges for the day of the event. Judging will take about 30 minutes of your time and can be done at your availability during the morning hours on the 23rd. Please feel free to contact volunteer coordinator, Claire B. with any questions you might have regarding this event at sclaire13@yahoo.com

Information about Holiday Programs

Seasons Greetings! Just a reminder that our program schedule looks different this year. The annual Holiday Programs will be replaced with grade level programs spread throughout the year, **except kindergarten**. Please keep your eyes open for dates of those programs!

Who: All kindergarten classes will be putting on a holiday program

What: *The Night Before Christmas*

Where and When: In the gym on Friday, December 15th at 2pm.



Winter Delays and School Closures

When school is delayed or cancelled due to weather, it is our District's goal to notify families, students and the public by 6:30 a.m. This decision is based on input from local law enforcement, our transportation partner Beach Transportation, and our own staff research of current road conditions.

We post notifications about delays or cancellations on our district website homepage at www.mcpsmt.org. This information will also be posted on each school's website homepage. We also post the information on our district Mobile App, as well as the MCPS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

For those families that opt to receive emails, phone calls and text messages from the school, you will also receive a notice directly via phone, email and text.

Finally, you will see the information reported by local media on the radio and television as well as their own websites. When looking at reports on local media, be sure that you look for notices related to Missoula County Public Schools or School District #1. Sometimes other schools in the area are affected and our 17 schools remain on normal schedules. If in doubt, check one of our MCPS websites or social media accounts.

December Early Outs and No School

Every Thursday is an early out: K-3 dismissed at 2:00, 4,5 dismissed at 2:30.

Winter break: December 22-January 1st. Students return to school Tuesday, January 2nd.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22
				NO SCHOOL

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December 25	December 26	December 27	December 28	December 29
NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL

Lost and Found



To help us return items to their owner, please label all winter clothing and coats.

Missoula Fresh Market

Missoula Fresh Market will donate a portion of sales to Russell School. When paying, let the cashier know that you would like to donate to the school. You will write "Russell" at the top of your receipt, and give it back to the cashier. The cashier can provide a copy of your receipt. Thank you for supporting our student activities!



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Winter...

Students will go outside for recess each day, unless the temperature is 0 degrees or colder. Please send students to school prepared for the Montana winter. Appropriate winter clothing is: snow boots, hats, gloves/mittens, warm coat and snow pants. For easy identification, please label items with student name.

The Russell Family Resource Center can assist students with acquiring winter clothing items.

Please contact: 728-2400 ext 4846 or email: frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us



Parking Lot Safety and After School Arrangements

Our school bus lanes are busy, but when they are clear the buses can come and go quickly and safely. When picking up students please do not park in the bus lanes. The bus lanes are along the sidewalk behind the annex buildings.

Please help us to make sure all students get to their afterschool arrangements by planning ahead.

- ♦ Making sure to clearly communicate to students how they are getting home each day.
- ♦ A prearranged meeting spot helps both the student and the teacher to safely get the student in to the proper hands at the end of the day.
- ♦ Please, no phone calls after 2:00 in regards to after school arrangements!

Bikes

When locking up student bikes, student should make sure to use a good bike lock and spin the combination, so the lock is not easily removed from the bike. We want our bikes to be safe while they are at Russell School.

Thank You

Russell Bears would like to say a special thank you to all of the families that donated food during the "Can the cats" food drive organized by Mrs. Whatman's 4th graders. Our school was able to donate 700 pounds of food to the Missoula Food Bank. Thank you for showing so much kindness.

PTO

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm Russell Library.

The Russell Bears Parent Group (PTO) will meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the library. The Parent group coordinates extracurricular activities for students. They are also involved with communicating concerns about policies or procedures.

Join our group on Facebook: Russell Bears Parent Group or drop us an email: ptorussell@yahoo.com

We Love our Volunteers

Russell School loves to have our families and volunteers involved!

All volunteers in Missoula County Public Schools **MUST** complete an application and, depending on their desired volunteer activities, pass a background check prior to working in a school or classroom.

Please visit the Missoula County Public Schools website for more information as well as all of the links for volunteer registration.

www.mcpsmt.org>Departments>Volunteer Resources <https://www.mcpsmt.org/>

Family Resource Center (FRC)

The Families in Transition Program, FIT, is a district-wide program that seeks to assist all students' families with the experiences, challenges, and changes that happen in life. The Russell School Family Resource Coordinator is here to help and advocate for your family.

This program is unique in the way we work with each family. As we all know, every home is different, and therefore, you are the expert of your family.

The FRC can help with:

McKinney Vento Services
Housing and employment—Internet available
Clothing, food and toiletries—supplies and resources
Information, referrals and paperwork assistance
Connections to community supports and programs

The role of the FRC Coordinator is to assist you with the needs, questions, concerns, and ideas that you have for your family. This program is for all of our Russell Bears! The Russell FRC can be reached at 728-2400 x 4846, in person or email frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us

Russell Bears House System

In a world where you can be anything, BE KIND!

#RussellBearsRock

We were busy in November filling the shout out board with so many ways that we are **communicators**.

The month of December focus: Empathy

Why: Our houses will help Russell Bears grow as good citizens. Houses support core values and serve as a way to build a community of respect.





Parent Connection

December

Empathy

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind."
#RussellDearsRock

Book Ideas

I CAN UNDERSTAND AND SHARE THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS.

When someone feels sad/upset:

- Are you okay?
- What can I do to help?
- I'm here for you.
- I understand.

When someone feels proud:

- Awesome job!
- You earned it!
- I'm happy for you!
- Way to go!

When someone feels embarrassed:

- That has happened to me too.
- Do you want to talk about it?
- It's okay!
- What can I do to help you?

- The Invisible Boy - Trudy Ludwig
- Chrysanthemum - Kevin Henkes
- Hey, Little Ant - Phillip and Hannah Hoose
- The Hundred Dresses - Eleanor Estes
- Last Stop on Market Street - Matt De La Pena
- Tight Times - Barbara Shook Hazen
- Those Shoes - Maribeth Boelts
- A Crooked Kind of Perfect - Linda Urban
- A Long Walk to Water - Linda Sue Park
- A Long Way from Chicago - Richard Peck
- Charlotte's Web - E.B. White
- Out of My Mind - Sharon M. Draper
- Fish in a Tree - Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- One - Kathryn Otoshi
- Amazing Grace - Mary Hoffman
- Through Grandpa's Eyes - Patricia MacLachlan

How Parents Can Help Cultivate Empathy in Children

<https://www.goshwvill.edu/files/gse-mon/files/empathy.pdf>

Empathy is at the heart of what it means to be human. It's a foundation for acting ethically, for good relationships of many kinds, for loving well, and for professional success. And it's key to preventing bullying and many other forms of cruelty.

Empathy begins with the capacity to take another perspective, to walk in another's shoes. But it is not just that capacity. Salespeople, politicians, actors and marketers are often very skilled at taking other perspectives but they may not care about others. Con men and torturers take other perspectives so they can exploit people's weaknesses. Empathy includes valuing other perspectives and people. It's about perspective-taking and compassion.

How can parents cultivate empathy? The following are five guideposts based on research and the wisdom of practitioners.

1. Empathize with your child and model empathy for others.
2. Make caring for others a priority and set high ethical expectations.
3. Provide opportunities for children to practice empathy.
4. Expand your child's circle of concern.
5. Help children develop self-control and manage feelings effectively.

****See the website for additional ideas to try with your children.**