

Russell Bears start school daily at 8:25. See you on time!



# BEAR NEWS

## RUSSELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2016

Russell Family Resource Center | 728-2400 ext. 4846 | [fcrossell@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:fcrossell@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 November

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November 1—Russell Bears Parent Group (PTO) meeting, 6:00 Library  
November 4—Family Bingo Night, 6:00 in the gymnasium  
November 7—Conferencing Night and Book Fair 4:00-7:00  
November 8—Election Day. Remember to VOTE!  
November 9—Conferencing Night and Book Fair 4:00-7:00  
November 10—**1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL**, K-3 dismissed at 11:05, 4,5 dismissed at 11:35, Conferencing Day  
November 11—**NO SCHOOL**, Conferencing Day  
November 23-25—No School, Thanksgiving Vacation

## Holiday Programs Will Be Here Soon!

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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 at 9:00am
- \* 2/3 at 10:15am
- \* 4/5 at 2:00pm



## Parent Involvement

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The Russell Bears Parent Group (PTO) will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, November 1st in the Russell Library at 6:00 pm. Come make your voice heard about what you would like to see going on in Russell this year. As the adult community of Russell School, we look forward to sharing in the duties of making our school year promising and fun! Join our group on Facebook: Russell Bears Parent Group. We welcome all adults connected with Russell School. Can't make our meetings? You can still be involved and volunteer. Please email our group at: [ptorussell@yahoo.com](mailto:ptorussell@yahoo.com) we will make sure you are included in our email list.

## Bingo!!

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Get ready to yell BINGO! The Russell Bears Parent Group (PTO) is sponsoring a FREE Family Bingo night on Friday, November 4th at 6:00 in the Russell School gymnasium. Join us for a free night of family friendly entertainment. You just might be our big winner!



# Book Fair

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The BOOK FAIR IS COMING!! The Scholastic Book Fair will be held November 7th through the 10th during Parent Teacher Conferences. Visit the library for an exciting selection of books. Our Librarian Mrs. Caron is looking for volunteers to help with the sales. If interested, please send her an email at:

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

**BOOK  
FAIR**  
COMING SOON!

# Lost and Found

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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. **We all do our best to return items that are labeled with student names inside of items.** 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

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Join Families First in the library at Russell School the evening of Tuesday, November 15th, 6:30-8:30 for a **free class: Encouraging Cooperation: Problem Solving with Children.**

Come learn how to communicate to children in a manner that increases cooperation and reduces whining, defiance, or avoidance; practice strategies to convey respect, encouragement, and confidence in the child. This class focuses on a problem-solving process that allows the child to take some ownership of the solution; a very important piece that remarkably increases success. Childcare is free with advance registration only.

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



# Early Outs and No School

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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. **No School Dates:** 1/2 day of school Thursday, November 10th and no school Friday, November 11th. There is no school Wednesday, Thursday and Friday November 23-25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



# Thank you!!

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Since its creation, MOR4KIDS has provided direct contributions to Missoula's schools. This innovative approach empowers those working directly with children to quickly direct the funds where they are needed most. In addition, with the generous donations of its members MOR4KIDS has been able to provide clothing and school supplies for families in need. A collaboration of MOR4Kids and Missoula's own Runner's Edge, has provided high quality gym shoes to kids who never even dreamed of owning their own.



# 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 X 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 have you been able to teach your family about our new House system? We are excited to integrate six houses in to our Russell School family. Each student and staff member is a part of one of the six houses. Houses create family within family furthering our common goal of creating a climate of cooperation, academic excellence, respect and safety. Russell Bears you have earned over 25,000 points!

**Compassion Courage Gratitude Integrity Resilience Tenacity**

# Missoula Fresh Market

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**25,000!!!!!!**

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!

# Congratulations!

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Montana School Psychologists work tirelessly and often anonymously to better the lives of students. Our very own Russell Bear School Psychologist Marit Waldum was the recipient of the MASP (Montana Association of School Psychologist) School Psychologist of the Year Award! We can't think of anyone more deserving. We are so lucky to have her with us at Russell School!! Congratulations Marit! You make us proud!

## Tips For Pulling Kids Out of the Fall Slump

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You are not alone. The Fall slump isn't just specific to your kids and family. It's very real, and often times many students and families experience a "slump". It's Fall and school has been in session long enough to make summer feel like a dream. The beginning of the year review gives way to new more difficult concepts. Extra-curricular activities can take up most of the week nights and weekends, leaving little room for rest. At some point during the month, most kids feel the weight of it all and "slump." They seem tired. They start complaining about going to school. They drag their way through activities. The Slumps will eventually balance out, but in the meantime, here are a few ways to boost your student's motivation.

Give yourself a break: Jam-packed schedules can wear out the most tolerant person. Check your calendar for something you can skip without major consequences.

Take a Vacation...Sort of! You might feel like a break or a vacation isn't possible. What about a dance party in your living room? Crank up the music and laugh and move as a family. You might be surprised how long the giggles and smiles linger.

Change of Scenery: Shake things up a bit, and make things feel different and fun. What if bedtime reading happened with a flashlight? When is the last time you crawled in to an under the table "fort" and helped with homework? Sometimes the most simple things are what our kids remember!

