

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



BEAR NEWS

RUSSELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2016

Russell Family Resource Center | 728-2400 ext. 4846 | 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

Important Dates in October

October 4—PTO meeting 6:00 Library
October 18—vision screening (need 2 to 3 parent volunteers)
October 20 and 21st—No School, Professional Development
October 31— Halloween parade 2:15 gymnasium
October 31—Lost and Found—please check for missing items before this date!

Safety To and From School

School starts at 8:25 daily. Our playground is supervised at 8:15. There is no after school playground supervision.



In order to keep our students safe we need everyone to help. After all, “Be safe” is one of our Russell Bear Be’s! Please cross streets at marked crosswalks. Please use the sidewalks, do not cut through the parking lot. **Let the crossing guard change the light. Please refrain from letting younger family members push the crosswalk button**, as Ms. Deb, our crossing guard, watches for other children coming. Students on bicycles, please remember to walk your bike across the street. Thank you for all you do to help our students be safe!

Parent Involvement

The Russell Bears Parent Group (PTO) will be holding their next meeting of the school year on Tuesday, October 4th 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 we will make sure you are included in our email list.

Halloween

Russell School wants all students to enjoy this day. Please no weapons/pretend weapons/rubber weapons/plastic weapons (etc.) are allowed with any costume.

Masks of any kind, face painting and make-up are not permitted. Younger students may become very frightened. Some are bothered by the costumes, scary make-up, loud noises, etc. We want this to be a fun day for everyone. We don't want students in tears!! Thank you for understanding!

Costumes **MUST FIT OVER THE STUDENT'S CLOTHING.**

Students may not come to school in their costumes. They will be put on at 2:00 following last recess.

We are having a Halloween Parade on Monday, October 31st from about 2:15-2:45 families please join us in the gym to view our parade.

Head Lice

Head lice: just thinking about it can make us scratch our heads. We often associate being in school as causing the spread of head lice. However, lice are spread by head to head contact which is not very common in the school setting and more common outside of the school. If your child does get head lice, it's hard to know where they got it. But what you really need to know is what to do next. Most people will have had head lice for about 3 weeks before its noticed. The school district has a web page of useful information to help parents; [click here](#). There are also informational brochures in the Family Resource Centers.

Lost and Found

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!

November Voting and Smart schools 2020

During the 2013-14 and School Year, MCPS undertook a year long study process to decide on priorities for our 17 school sites. As a part of that process, Trustees approved an \$88 million Elementary Bond and a \$70 million High School Bond to place on the November 2015 ballot.

The Elementary Bond would pay to upgrade all 9 MCPS elementary schools- including a new school building for Cold Springs Elementary and a new school building for Franklin Elementary. There are significant renovations happening at all seven other MCPS elementary schools.

In November 2015, Missoula voters generously passed both bonds - planning and construction for 16 projects started immediately. MCPS Trustees contemplated the acquisition of land for a new Cold Springs Elementary school as part of the bond. In the November 2016 General Election, Missoula city voters will have a chance to grant permission to acquire the site identified by MCPS.

This is a ZERO COST question on the November ballot. MCPS has to ask voters for permission to locate a school on this site in Lower Miller Creek.

MCPS selected this site because it is close to where children live. It's also close to trails and parks in the Lower Miller Creek area. This site is also a prime location for an area where 1400 houses are planned to be built over the next 20 years. This is the area where Missoula is growing and where young families will be buying homes.

All residents in SD #1 Elementary District boundary who also reside in city limits will get this question on their ballots. This means that all of our MCPS parents can help support the students at Cold Springs. They need our help to share this information and keep friends and neighbors informed. **Remember, this is a zero cost ballot question. MCPS simply needs permission to locate the school on this site in Lower Miller Creek.**

Please be sure to vote on November 8th, 2016. All MCPS Elementary Schools are polling sites and will be open for voting from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day.

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. There is **NO SCHOOL** Thursday and Friday October 20 and 21st.



Families in Transition

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).

If your family or a student is in a transitional housing situation, please let your Russell FRC Coordinator know, to ensure that you know your rights. The Russell FRC can be reached at: 728-2400 x 4846 or in person during school hours. The FRC is located at the end of the primary hallway nearest to the Kindergarten classrooms.

Family Resource Center (FRC)

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

“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. In our first month of school our houses have earned over 10,000 points! That means our students have been noticed doing over 10,000 great, expected actions!

10,000

Compassion Courage Gratitude Integrity Resilience Tenacity

Missoula Fresh Market

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!