



BEAR NEWS

RUSSELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October 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!
www.mcpsmt.org/russell

Important Dates in October

October 4—PTO, Parent Group meeting, Library 7pm
October 6—Walkathon 1:00-2:30
October 19-20—No School, Professional Development
October 31—Halloween parade all grades, 1:30-2:15 Russell Gym
October 31—Lost and Found—please check for missing items before this date!

Russell Bears Walkathon

Our school walkathon is scheduled for Friday, October 6th in the afternoon 1:00-2:30. All pledges should be turned in by Wednesday, October 4th. We do not encourage students to go door-to-door soliciting funds. All students regardless of fundraising, will be participating by walking laps on the trail behind Russell School.

Students collecting pledges can earn tickets for a chance to win some awesome prizes! Last year Russell Bears raised over \$4000.00 All money raised stays within our school.



Who: Anyone that wants to cheer for our students

What: Walkathon

Where: Behind Russell School on the track by the baseball fields

When: Friday, October 6th 1:00-2:30

PTO

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 4th 7:00 pm 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.

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.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is located at the convergence of the 3 hallways. **When items are labeled with names we try our best to get them back to students!!** The lost and found will be cleared out at the end of each month. Thank you for labeling items so that we might get them returned to students!

From our Principal, Mrs. Christensen

Dear Russell families,

I am excited to welcome back every student and I commit to you the support of our entire staff to ensure your student(s) have a successful school year. Our staff members are passionate, committed to student success, and professional. We have invested in our work as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) over the past five academic years. This year, we are doubling down on that investment district-wide with a focus on the day-to-day work of our PLCs ensuring that each of our actions form a collective impact to improve student outcomes.

In order to ensure staff in our school face every day with uncompromising excellence in the quest to improve outcomes for all of our learners, Russell staff are committed to following a data driven dialogue process. This allows every staff member to focus on school improvement, develop strong instructional practices, and build skills in using evidence-based practices and data. We, at Russell School are committed to answering one essential question: *Are all of our students learning?*

We look forward to spending this year together as parent and teacher teams focusing on improving student learning. Together, we will realize the success for every one of our students.

Through the hard work of our teachers, instructional coaches and teaching and learning department, we've aligned our assessment practices to make sure we are not over testing kids and we are providing every classroom teacher with assessment data to guide their instruction.

This year, we have removed the following test from the student's year: Dibels

In it's place, we will be using the STAR 360 formative assessment in our school and district-wide. This 20-30 minute assessment is designed to:

- give teachers, students and parents a touchpoint to see each student's math and English language arts skills in that moment in the school year.
- It allows the teacher, student and parent to set goals for mid-year and end of the year progress.
- The quick STAR 360 assessment given three times per year is only used for instructional purposes such as:
 - Identifying instructional groups within the classroom
 - Identifying specific instruction and skills needed by students
 - This assessment is never used in isolation to make classroom or grade level placement decisions

If you are interested in learning more about the STAR 360 assessment, please view: www.mcpsmt.org->Teaching and Learning->Star 360

We look forward to working together to celebrate and prepare our students for success across the school year.

Cindy Christensen, Principal Russell School

Early Outs and No School

Every Thursday is an early out. Grades K-3 are released at 2:00 and grades 4-5 are released at 2:30. There is no school Thursday, October 19th and Friday October 20th.

Personal Health Committee Parents Needed

Our District Nurse is seeking 1-2 more parent volunteers to serve on the Personal Health Wellness Committee which is one of the 4 pillars of the Student Wellness Council. We meet as a group 4 times a year currently during the school day. It is a cross between an advisory, networking and work group. More information can be provided if you might be interested. Please contact the Russell Family Resource Center. [mail-to:frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us?subject=Health Committee](mailto:to:frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us?subject=Health Committee)

Rockstar Russell Teachers

Congratulations to Miss Seaman!! Miss Seaman incorporates current events into reading tasks for her 4th grade classroom. She was selected as the winner of the KPAX one class at a time grant. Winning the grant assists with the purchase of Story Book Magazine. <http://www.kpax.com/story/36405797/one-class-at-a-time-russell-elementary>



Congratulations to 2nd grade teacher, Miss Judge who won \$500 and 500 bonus points to spend on her classroom library! Her application was chosen from more than 82,000 entries in the 2017 Scholastic Book

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.

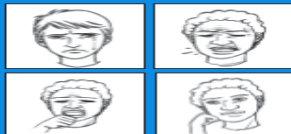



Please help us to make sure all students get to their afterschool arrangements by planning ahead.

- ♦ 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.

From our School Counselor, Miss Culkin

Dear Families-Again this year we are continuing the zones of regulation curriculum school wide. Each zone is associated with different feelings. The purpose of this program is to support the recognition of feelings, as well as learn coping strategies for each zone. Please reinforce our emotional learning by asking your children to “teach” you about Zones!

The **ZONES** of Regulation®

			
BLUE ZONE Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	GREEN ZONE Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	YELLOW ZONE Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	RED ZONE Mad/Angry Mean Terrified Yelling/Hitting Out of Control



Calling all veterans, service families, and parents! Russell 1st grades will be presenting “A Salute to Veterans” concert on Monday, November 13th at 2pm in the Russell gym. We would love everyone to come help us salute those who have sacrificed so much for us all! Please spread the word and bring all the service men and women in your life!

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. I am 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 <mailto:frcrussell@mcps.k12.mt.us>

Russell Bears House System

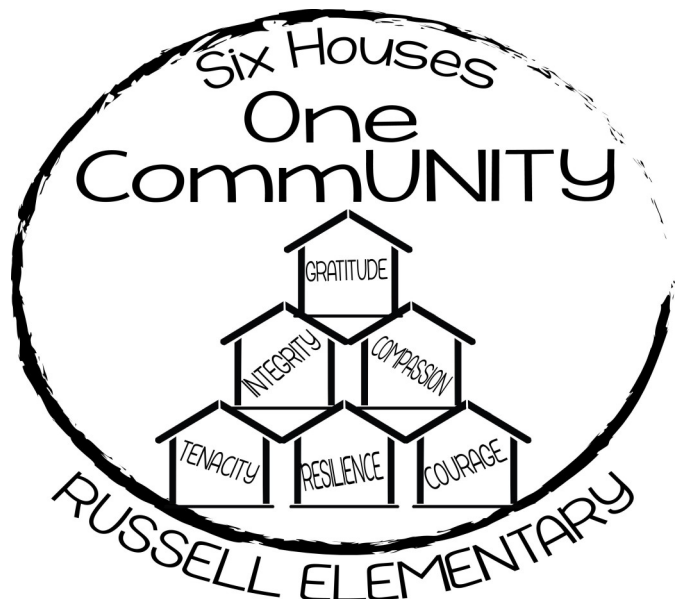
In a world where you can be anything, BE KIND!

#RussellBearsRock

Russell Bears, have you had a chance to share our house system with your families?

Goal: Create a climate of cooperation, academic excellence, respect and safety.

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

October

Friendship/Cooperation

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

#RussellDearsRock

THESE ARE WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILDREN LEARN THE POWER OF COOPERATION THEREBY ENABLING THEM TO DEVELOP BETTER CHARACTER AND EMPOWERING THEM TO MAKE BETTER CHOICES FOR THEMSELVES:

- ♦ Have a discussion about cooperation in the family. In what ways do you cooperate with each other, and how does that make things nice? In what ways do you not cooperate enough, and how does that make things difficult or unpleasant? Make a "family cooperation" chart and see if you can do something about improving the cooperation within the family.
- ♦ Schedule household chores at a time when all members of the family can work together to finish them.
- ♦ Ask your child what would they like for dinner on a day of the week that you select. Whatever the food items selected, have the children locate a recipe to prepare the food item(s) of their choice. Allow the children to help you prepare the dinner using the recipes that they selected. Ask your children, why is cooperation important when a group of people are working together for a common cause?
- ♦ Discuss with your children what they do to be cooperative with their teachers and how their teachers respond to them when they are cooperative.

Book Ideas

- How to Lose All Your Friends (Nancy Carlson)
- Making Friends is an Art (Julia Cook)
- Enemy Pie (Derek Munson)
- The Invisible Boy (Trudy Ludwig)
- Bat's Big Game (Margaret Read MacDonald)
- What If Everybody Did That? (Ellen Javernick)
- Peanut Butter and Cupcake (Terry Border)
- 11 Birthdays (Wendy Mass)
- Harriet the Spy (Louise Fitzhugh)
- My Last Best Friend (Julie Bowe)
- Summer of the Gypsy Moths (Sara Pennypacker)
- Stick and Stone (Beth Ferry)
- You Will Be My Friend (Peter Brown)
- The Sandwich Swap (Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah)

When I cooperate, I am willing to:

- compromise when I need to (adjust my differences to obtain an agreement)
- share my space or resources without complaint
- do my part to get the project done
- encourage others to do their best and stay on task
- listen to and respect the Ideas of others
- show my appreciation for the contribution of others
- treat others the way I would like to be treated
- keep my focus on the job we are doing and not distract the team
- encourage others to do their best and stay on task