



BEAR NEWS

RUSSELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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 September

September 5—No school, Labor Day
September 6—Kindergarten Parent Informational meeting 6:30-7:30 (parents only)
September 6—Parent Group meeting (PTO) 6:00 pm Russell Library
September 8—Parent Lunch in Mrs. Benders 1st grade classroom, 11:00
September 9—5th grade Parent Luncheon 11:45-12:30 in 5th grade classrooms
September 21—Picture Day
September 22—Open House, 6:30pm
September 26—No School, Professional Development
September 30—Walkathon
September 30—Lost and Found—please check for missing items before this date!

Safety To and From School

Morning drop-off and after school pick-up can be a very hectic time! 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 crossings. Please use the sidewalks. Let the crossing guard change the light. She watches for other children coming. If you pick up your child in the parking lot by the busses, please assist your child in the parking lot. Our playground is supervised starting each morning at 8:15. School starts at 8:25. Please remember there is no after school playground supervision. Thank you for all you do to help our students be safe!

Parent Involvement

The Russell Bears Parent Group (PTO) will be holding the first meeting of the school year on Tuesday, September 6th in the Russell Library at 6:00 pm. The Parent group coordinates extracurricular activities for students. They are also involved with communicating concerns about policies or procedures. 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.

Russell Bears Walkathon

Our school walkathon is scheduled for Friday, September 30th. Students will be collecting pledges from family and friends to raise funds for our school year. 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! Pledged funds should be collected and brought to school on Wednesday September 28th. Last year Russell Bears raised over \$3600.00! All money raised stays within our school.

It's Color Time!

One of the many fun things that we do at Russell School is all 400+ of us dress in matching colors for a couple of weeks. The kids love it! Here is the schedule:

Monday September 5th—No School
Tuesday September 6th—Red
Wednesday September 7th—Orange
Thursday September 8th—Yellow
Friday September 9th—Green

Monday September 12th—Blue
Tuesday September 13th—Purple
Wednesday September 14th—Black
Thursday September 15th—Pink/White
Friday September 16th— Brown/Griz Colors


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!

A Message from our School Counselor, Ms. Culkin

Dear Families- I am so excited to begin my third year as Russell Elementary's School Counselor. 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 re-inforce 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

Early Outs and No School

Every Thursday during the school year 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 Monday, September 26th.

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)

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. Whether it's community referrals about child care programs, county assistance, and thrift stores, to assisting parents with completing or acquiring program paperwork, to immediate needs like toiletries, food, clothing, and the list goes on. The Family Resource Center at Russell School is about supporting families as they face adversity or challenges in life. The goal of the FRC is to connect caregivers, parents, and guardians, with the resources to strengthen their home, their family, and their situation. 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. My role as the FRC Coordinator is to assist you with the needs, questions, concerns, and ideas that you have for your family. My job is to be Family Advocate. 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

"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. We are so excited to watch our entire school thrive!

Compassion Courage Gratitude Integrity Resilience Tenacity