



BEAR NEWS

RUSSELL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 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 September

September 4—No school, Labor Day
September 5—Kindergarten Parent Informational meeting 6:30-7:30 (parents only)
September 7—Parent Group meeting (PTO) 7:00 pm Russell Library
September 20—Missoula in Motion Walking Bus <https://www.missoulainmotion.com/walkingschoolbus>
September 25—No School, Professional Development
September 26—Picture Day
September 28—Open House, 6:30 pm
September 29—Walkathon (time in the afternoon to be announced)
September 29—Lost and Found—please check for missing items before this date!

Safety To and From School

Our pick up and drop off doors have changed this year to accommodate construction. Grades 2-5 will use the intermediate doors located on the far side of the building. Grades K-1 will use the doors closest to the “cheese wall” on Russell Street. Please plan to drop students here as well as meet at the end of the day.

Please cross streets at marked crossings. 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. Bikes should not be ridden through 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 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!

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 4th—No School
Tuesday September 5th—Red
Wednesday September 6th—Orange
Thursday September 7th—Yellow
Friday September 8th—Green

Monday September 11th—Blue
Tuesday September 12th—Purple
Wednesday September 13th—Black
Thursday September 14th—Pink/White
Friday September 15th—Brown/Griz Colors

Russell Bears Walkathon

Our school walkathon is scheduled for Friday, September 29th. Students will be collecting pledges from family and friends to raise funds for our school year. 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! Pledged funds should be collected and brought to school on Wednesday September 27th. Last year Russell Bears raised over \$4000.00 All money raised stays within our school.

In the past we have been able to pay for music programs, soccer goals a teacher laminator, an awesome new sound system and much more!



Meet Your School Counselor, Ms. Culkin

Hello! My name is Ms. Emily and I'm your child's School Counselor. I'm excited to be starting my fourth year at Russell. A School Counselor is a safe person at school who can help students with difficult thoughts, feelings and behaviors. I'm available to support and encourage all Russell students on the playground, in their classroom and around the building.

The Counseling Program at Russell is designed to be developmental and preventative; I visit classrooms every other week to deliver lessons on social emotional skills (solving problems, regulating emotions), academic success (goal setting, academic skills) and career development (career exploration). In addition to classroom lessons, I may support your child in a variety of ways based on parent or staff referral. This includes short-term individual counseling (six sessions) or small group instruction. I can also support with crisis intervention or provide referral assistance to services within the community. My office is located in the annex building near the K/1 playground.

Happy school year!

A Note From the Music Room

This year will look very different for our school as we are all dealing with construction surrounding our learning spaces. (We are so excited to get our new school!!!!) However, this can cause a great deal of stress, as well as restricted building usage. Because of this, we will not be having traditional whole school music programs this year. Each grade level will be taking on their own musical performance at some point throughout the year. The goal is to integrate the musical performance with something that students are learning about in their home classroom. Our first program will be held on **Monday, November 13th at 2pm in the gym featuring Russell's 1st grade classes.** We will be celebrating Veteran's Day!

Please stay tuned for the announcement of your child's grade level program!

Mrs. Z



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 4th and 25th.

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/Departments>Volunteer%20Resources) <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 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.

