Indigenous Insighter

MCPS Native American Student Services Department Newsletter. February 2023

# MCPS Native Youth Powwow

2023 MCPS Native Youth Powwow - "Honoring our Native American Graduating Seniors"

Saturday, April 29, 2023   
Grand Entry 12pm and 6pm  
Sentinel High School Gym   
901 S. Ave. West  
Missoula, MT 59802

MCPS is not responsible for lost or stolen items, injuries, illness or expenses. The MCPS Native Youth Powwow is a drug and alcohol free event.

# 2023 MCPS NYP Head Staff

MC: Vincent Short (Aaniiih); AD: Zachariah Ridesatthedoor (Amskapii Piikani); Youth Host Drum: Willow Creek Singers (Amskapii Piikani); Youth Head Dancers: Head Girl – Harmoni Thomas (Aaniiih), 2nd Grade MCPS Student; Head Boy – Dane Fisher (Northern Cheyenne, Blackfeet), 5th Grade MCPS Student; Head Young Woman – Cecelia Coon (Northern Cheyenne, Crow, Chippewa Cree), MCPS Graduating Senior; Head Young Man – Snpaqsin Morigeau (Bitterroot Salish, Wind River Shoshone), MCPS Graduating Senior.

# Host Hotel

A limited number of discounted rooms are available at our host hotel, the Sleep Inn of Missoula. Mention the “MCPS Native Youth Powwow” when booking your stay. Sleep Inn of Missoula, 3425 Dore Lane, Missoula, MT 59801. 406-543-5883. GM.MT42@choicehotels.com

# Vendor Space Available

Vendor space is available for the 2023 MCPS Native Youth Powwow. The vendor fee is $40 and all proceeds go toward community cultural events hosted by the MCPS Native American Student Services Department. There is no fee for non-profit organization info tables. Apply online at: <https://forms.gle/dxeEfhmHuHrzq6iR9>. Contact person: Dacia Griego, [dgriego@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org) or 406-728-2400 ext. 1068

# Sponsors

The MCPS Native American Student Services would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support: Human Resource Council and All Nations Health Center.

# Powwow Guide

Here is a helpful guide from OPI for those who are less familiar with powwows or those who are interested in learning more: <https://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Indian%20Education/Indian%20Education%20101/PowWows.pdf>

# Help Wanted: Volunteers and Regalia Donations

The MCPS Native Youth Powwow would not be possible without the support of our community. We are seeking volunteers to help during the powwow in areas like concessions, cooks, servers, and floaters.

We want all of our youth who want to dance to feel confident in participating even if they don’t have their own regalia. This year we are building a Regalia Lending Library. This will be a closet of powwow regalia and clothing that MCPS Native Youth can borrow during the powwow. We are seeking donations for the closet of all sizes and styles.

All volunteers and regalia donors will be entered in a raffle for a King Size Pendleton Sherpa Blanket and Pendleton Coffee Mug! Contact Dacia Griego to sign up or for more information: [dgriego@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org) or 406-728-2400 ext. 1068

# Honoring our Graduation Senior

There are 48 Native American students that are part of the MCPS graduating class of 2023; 5 of these students have already graduated! We are so proud of our youth and the hard work and perseverance they have shown to reach this milestone! We invite the community to join us in celebrating these students during the MCPS Native Youth Powwow on Saturday, April 29th at 3:30pm.

Agenda: Prayer, Speaker: Dr. Ann Douglas, Blackfeet, Honor Song/Dance, Recognize Graduates, Community Feed

# “Rising Stars” – Class of 2023 Poster Series

The “Rising Stars” poster series will be on display during the MCPS Native Youth Powwow. The series features Native American high school seniors who are part of the Class of 2023. Two of the students featured are our Head Young Woman, Cecelia Coon and our Head Young Man, Snpaqsin Morigeau.

# MCPS Native Youth Powwow Princess, Luliana Brown

Luliana Jade Brown was born on the early Thursday morning of February 22nd, 2007 and has just turned 16 years old. She's a Ronan Middle School seventh-grader who loves history, art, and sports, especially basketball, softball, and soccer.

Luliana, or "Lula", as we like to call her, is an enrolled Salish member of the Flathead reservation who also carries Arapaho and Gros Ventre blood. She comes from Pierre (Spiel), Antoine, Grant (Takes a Bow), Steele, and Brown (Lone Bear) families. Her Salish name is Q'awxe', which means "Yellow Bell". Lula is very proud of her heritage and where she comes from. She works hard to learn her culture, language, and significance behind her dancing and ceremonies. She loves to powwow, to be outdoors hunting and gathering, hiking, camping, and fishing with her family.

Ever since Lula was in her Mother's belly she was dancing, and since she could walk that's what she did. When she was in grade school she awoke from a dream where her dancing healed the old and sick people. So, her parents worked toward helping her do what they believed she was destined to be. She's been dancing ever since, and loves all categories possible for young ladies, including Jingle, Fancy, and Northern Traditional.

Luliana tried for a prestigious title esteemed in her dancing for years before she was honored with the Missoula County Public Schools Native Youth Powwow Princess royalty. It took a lot of failing and not giving up or getting too discouraged. She relied on her positive attitude, family, and culture to persevere. Her advice to any young people who would like to pursue a responsibility like this is; **"Never give up. Everything will happen when it's meant to and when Creator sees you're ready."**

Lula was most excited to carry this title due to her love of helping and encouraging younger generations. It meant a lot to her to have younger girls looking up to her wanting to be like her. She took that role very seriously and understands the importance of each dance as well as their origins. She carries this knowledge with love.

Luliana strives to uphold values of respect, honor, & pride. She carries herself in a graceful and admirable way to be an upstanding and positive role model. Before becoming princess Luliana was very shy and has since come out of her shell and blossomed into quite a fierce leader. Lula said this experience has been very special to her and one she will never forget. She loved traveling, meeting new people, and making new friends. She hopes everyone can see how much fun she had and how thankful she is for the opportunity.

We are so very proud of her accomplishments and the young lady she has become.

The Family of Luliana Brown

# Outgoing NYP Princess Girls Special

Our Native Youth Powwow Princess, Luliana Brown and family, are sponsoring a Girls Special during Evening Session. Luliana is inviting girls 17 years and under to compete in a Girls All Categories Special. There will be 3 categories: Girls Traditional, Fancy Shawl, and Jingle. One winner will be chosen from each category.

# MCPS NYP Princess Pageant

Applications are open for the 2023 MCPS Native Youth Powwow Princess. MCPS Native American Student Services Department hosts the princess pageant to honor all Native American youth of Missoula County Public Schools. The MCPS NYP Princess will serve as a role model, leader, and goodwill ambassador on behalf of Native American children.

Eligibility:

* Open to girls and non-binary youth age 5 - 17 years old
* Own or have access to traditional and/or powwow regalia,
* Strongly familiar with cultural etiquette and protocols,
* Ability and willingness to attend gatherings, celebrations, conferences, powwows, and other events to represent MCPS Native Youth Powwow,
* Willing to practice public speaking skills,
* Demonstrate family and community support (parents/guardians will be expected to participate throughout the year),
* Must represent MCPS Native Youth Powwow in a positive and honorable manner, and
* Must be drug and alcohol free.

Download application online at: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/18741>. For more information please contact: Melissa Hammett at 406-728-2400 ext. 1028 or mshammett@mcpsmt.org

# 2022-2023 Staff Contact Information and School Assignments

* Glenda Weasel, Title VI Data Support, Native American Specialist at Paxson Elementary School and Seeley-Swan High School; 406-728-2400 ext. 1063, [gfweasel@mcpsmt.org](mailto:gfweasel@mcpsmt.org)
* Ray Kingfisher, Native American Specialist at CS Porter Middle School, Hellgate High School, and Washington Middle School; 406-728-2400 ext. 1047, [rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org](mailto:rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org)
* Melissa Hammett, Native American Specialist at Sentinel High School and Willard High School; 406-728-2400 ext. 1028, [mshammett@mcpsmt.org](mailto:mshammett@mcpsmt.org)
* Dacia Griego, Social Work for Native American Student Services Department and Native American Specialist at Rattlesnake Elementary School, Paxson Elementary School, Jefferson Preschool; 406-728-2400 ext. 1068, [dgriego@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org)
* Duran Caferro, Native American Specialist at Big Sky High School; 406-728-2400, [dcaferro@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dcaferro@mcpsmt.org)
* Mary Plumage, Native American Specialist at Jeanette Rankin Elementary School, Russell Elementary School, and Meadow Hill Middle School; 406-728-2400 ext. 1049, [mfplumage@mcpsmt.org](mailto:mfplumage@mcpsmt.org)
* Chayse Buckskin, Native American Specialist at Franklin Elementary School, Lewis & Clark Elementary School, and Lowell Elementary School; 406-728-2400 ext. 1050, [cbuckskin@mcpsmt.org](mailto:cbuckskin@mcpsmt.org)
* Benji Headswift, Native American Education Specialist at Chief Charlo Elementary School and Hawthorne Elementary School; 406-728-2400 ext, 1064, [bheadswift@mcpsmt.org](mailto:bheadswift@mcpsmt.org)