2020 CENSUS

It is very important that every man, woman, and child get counted in the census - especially Native Americans! The census is only taken every 10 years and each person should be counted no matter if they are a day old to 100 years old.

Each person brings in $20,000 for their community. $600 billion is dispersed annually and in order to get the proper funding for our community every person needs to be counted. That money goes to funding many tribal programs that Natives depend on like IHS, tribal housing, block grants, Head Start, roads, schools and hospitals. It also goes to SNAP, CHIP, WIC, School breakfast programs, LIEAP - the list seems endless!

The census is completely confidential this data is only used for the purpose of the data collecting, it cannot be shared with ICE, FBI, housing etc. In 72 years this information will be released to public in the hopes that confidential information no longer needs to be confidential. Every person needs to be counted no matter if their an undocumented immigrant, refugee, or homeless. We need to make sure that there's funding for the program we ALL use.

Natives & children under five are the must uncounted populations so let’s turn that around. We need to make sure every child is counted because they are going to be in the school system. An accurate count on the census can help ensure school growth instead of over crowded classrooms. Just think for every 50 people not counted is a million dollars your community loses. Get counted!

Devi Cole, Community Organizer at Western Native Voice

Click HERE >> to view “According to Us” a short video from the U.S. Census Bureau
2019-20 Staff Contact Information & School Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Assigned Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen Allen</td>
<td>Executive Regional Director</td>
<td>ext. 1054</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kallen@mcps.k12.mt.us">kallen@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Big Sky, Hawthorne, Jeanette Rankin, Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal White Shield</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>ext. 1064</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cwhiteshield@mcps.k12.mt.us">cwhiteshield@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Chief Charlo, Franklin, Rattlesnake, Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dacia Griego</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>ext. 1068</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dgriego@mcps.k12.mt.us">dgriego@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenda Weasel</td>
<td>Title VI/NAS/Data Support</td>
<td>ext. 1063</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gfweasel@mcps.k12.mt.us">gfweasel@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Willard Alternative HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Yellow Robe</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>ext. 1049</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lyellowrobe@mcps.k12.mt.us">lyellowrobe@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Jefferson, Lewis &amp; Clark, Lowell, Paxson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Bell</td>
<td>NAS Teacher</td>
<td>ext. 8634</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkbell@mcps.k12.mt.us">mkbell@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Big Sky HS, Willard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Hammett</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>ext. 1028</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us">mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>Seeley Swan HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray Kingfisher</td>
<td>Native American Specialist</td>
<td>ext. 1047</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us">rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us</a></td>
<td>CS Porter, Hellgate HS, Meadow Hill, Sentinel HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019-2020 EVENT CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native American Heritage</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 25, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark Elementary School (Contact: Dacia Griego)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week Welcome Back Community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halloween Carnival</td>
<td>Friday, October 25, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Franklin Elementary School (Contact: Raymond Kingfisher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Mini Powwow</td>
<td>Friday, December 13, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Russell Elementary School (Contact: Melissa Hammett)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Funday</td>
<td>Sundays, (January 5, 12, 26) (February 2, 23) (March 1), 2020</td>
<td>1:00-3:00 PM</td>
<td>CS Porter Middle School (Contact: Lewis YellowRobe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Youth Powwow</td>
<td>Saturday, March 28, 2020</td>
<td>Grand Entry 12:00 and 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Sentinel High School (Contact: Glenda Weasel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title VI Public Hearing</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 6, 2020</td>
<td>5:30—7pm</td>
<td>MCPS Admin Building—Rm 14 (Contact: Glenda Weasel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduating Senior Dinner</td>
<td>Thursday, May 14, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Double Tree By Hilton Hotel Missoula Edgewater 100 Madison St. Missoula, MT 59802 (406)728-3100 (Contact: Crystal White Shield)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of the Year Gathering</td>
<td>Friday, June 5th, 2020</td>
<td>4:00-6:00 PM</td>
<td>Bonner Park (Contact: Dacia Griego)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upcoming Events!

Sunday Funday is up and running through the winter. We have 2 more dates coming up: February 23 and March 1. During Sunday Funday the Indian Ed. Dept. hosts activities for all ages at CS Porter. In addition to basketball, kickball, and soccer we’re excited to offer the opportunity for participants 14 years and older to learn brick stitch beading and for families with graduating seniors to get support beading graduation caps!

We have several other events coming up over the next few months. We’re hosting a Sweetheart Round Dance in February and our Native Youth Powwow in March! Flyers for each event can be found in this month’s newsletter.

*Don’t miss our reminders and updates - make sure your contact information is up to date with your child’s school!*

---

**Missoula County Public Schools**

**Indian Education Department**

**SUNDAY FUNDAY:**

**When:** February 2 & 23 and March 1, 2020

**Where:** C.S. Porter Middle School, 2510 Central, Missoula MT

**Time:** 1pm - 3pm

Youth 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult

**Basketball, Kickball, Soccer & Coloring**

**Brick Stitch Beading class**

First 20 spots will be provided with beading kits for the class. Must be age 14 years and older. Classes are February 2 & 23 and March 1. Beading kits include needle, thread, beads, and earring wires.

**Graduation Caps Beading**

Supplies are limited. Families are encouraged to bring their own beading materials for graduation caps.

**Tobacco Education - February 23**

Students and families can participate in the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center Tobacco Education Advisory Committee meeting and evaluation. Everybody will get a prize regardless if they participate or not in the evaluation.

All are welcome. For more information, contact: Lewis YellowRobe 406.728.2400x1049 or Ray Kingfisher x1047
Save the Date for Missoula’s First Native Fashion Show!

The MCPS Indian Education Department is pleased to announce that at this year's Native Youth Powwow, we will be having Missoula's first Native Fashion show! 10 local Missoula Native fashion designers have been invited and will be showcased in this event.

The NYP Native Fashion Show will be held at Sentinel High School at 5pm on March 28, 2020.
Missoula County Public Schools
Indian Education Department
PRESENTS:

2020 NATIVE YOUTH POWWOW
Saturday, March 28, 2020
SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL
901 S. Ave. West, Missoula, MT 59801

MC: TUFFY HELGESON, LODGEPOLE  AD: DEVAN KICKNOSWAY, ROCKY BOY
YOUTH HOST DRUM: GOOD MEDICINE, HAYS, MT
YOUTH HEAD MAN: NOVI LAHR AND DREYDON BREWER
YOUTH HEAD WOMAN: RHIANNON EAGLE SPEAKER AND HAILEY HAMMETT
GRAND ENTRY: 12PM AND 6PM

- Tiny Tots paid each Session (Must be in regalia) Sponsored: 1st session
  “In Memory of Allison Eagle Speaker,” 2nd session “In honor of” granddaughter ShoBan Tzi Tzi Princess Raine Williams by Crystal White Shield family
- Jr girls (6-12): Traditional, Fancy Jingle (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- Jr Boys (6-12): Traditional, Grass, Fancy, Chicken (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- Teen Girls (13-17): Traditional, Fancy, Jingle (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- Teen Boys (13-17): Traditional, Grass, Fancy, Chicken (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- Adult Women (18+): Traditional, Fancy, Jingle $100 1st place each category
- Adult Men (18+): Traditional, Grass, Fancy, Chicken $100 1st place each category
- 2019-20 Princess Luliana Brown “17 and Under All Around Girls Special”
- “Special Needs Dance Special” sponsored by max plumage family
- 2020-21 Native Youth Princess Royalty Pageant
- MCPS Indian Education Dept. Native Fashion Show (Supper Break)
- Community feed during break sponsored by MUIHC
- Youth War Cry/LeLe Challenge

VENDORS WELCOME FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
VENDOR CONTACT: LEWIS YELLOWROBE 728-2400X1049 OR LYELLOWROBE@MCPS.K12.MT.US
Powwow Contact: GLENDRA WEASEL 728-2400 X1063 OR GFWEASEL@MCPS.K12.MT.US

First 10 drums registered paid

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT, INJURY, OR FINANCES
Join us on Facebook!

We post event information, updates, and other relevant articles and information in our Facebook group.

MCPS Indian Education Department

Data Guru by Glenda Weasel

Tansi. Hello.

I would like to welcome everyone back to the start of a new year 2020. This year my goal is to try and meet one new person a month and start new friendships.

Data, data, data. That is how my month is going. Everyone wants their data. At the beginning of this month we had a successful meeting between the Title VI Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)/MCPS Indian Education Dept. & MCPS Graduating Students and Parents. Bob Casagrande from Missoula Jostens was there to give information on how the process of ordering the cap/gowns/tassels goes and if Native American how we can go about getting our caps sooner, if needed, to be bead-ed.

I am currently working with Willard FRC (Families in Transition) on bringing in a presenter starting in March and work with the students until end of April. More information on this on the next newsletter.

The Indian Education Team and I have been currently working on preparations for our MCPS Native Youth Powwow on Saturday March 28th, 2020. This is one of our bigger events that we host for our Missoula Community honoring our MCPS Native American Students. We collaborate this event with many of our community organizations who help support us with this endeavor.

Glenda Weasel
Title VI Native American Specialist/Data Support Staff
(406)728-2400 ext. 1063
gfweasel@mcps.k12.mt.us
Oki Niisksokowaaksii (hello my relatives),

I have been busy busy busy these past few months. In December, we hosted the Winter Gathering at Russell School. It was good to see our current students and families attend as well as some of our former youth growing into adulthood. It was an event enjoyed by all in attendance. Native Youth Powwow 2020 is set for Sentinel High March 28, 2020, Grand Entry NOON.

In the schools, I see some of the Native American students struggling, socially, mentally and educationally. Attendance is a big issue in the student’s success in the morning classes. I have sat in on numerous IEP and Student/Guardian meetings and there is a trend of getting to school at 9-10 AM that is almost half the day gone. The staff at the schools are doing a great job in helping our students and are to be commended for those efforts. The principals are going above and beyond in some situations to help students succeed.

To the students and families that are working hard and doing well, keep it up! I talk to the students about “breaking the cycle” and setting goals. You need something to look forward to, something to achieve if you don’t we end up sulking and looking at others around us.

Big thanks to the MUIHC contributions, they have allowed me to open up the gym for 5th – 9th grade students to play basketball and hang out. We have had some great turn outs for OG. I am also coaching a Kiwanis team this year to get a core team going, so far so good. I am also doing transportation and working with the MUIHC and their evening family programming. If you can come out and attend those programs they are healing and support for our Native American community. During Stitches and ROR we will be singing and drumming.

Looking out into the community our ceremonies are nonexistent. That is sad to me as none of our youth are getting that experience and teachings. There is a sweat done at Fort Missoula on designated Saturdays, if you can get out there and attend that would be good. If you have any questions about ceremony stop in and see me and we can talk.

Here is some things going on:

- Youth Advisory Council 15-24 year old wanted to join: FEBRUARY 12, 2020 4:30-5:30 @PNAC UM
- Go Red for Native Women: Room 103 @PNAC UM January 28, Feb. 4th, Feb. 11th 5-8PM
- Restoring Our Relations (ROR): Thursdays 5-7:30pm February 6 through February 12th @PNAC
- One Stitch at a Time: @PNAC February 25, March 10 (Skaggs), March 24, April 7th, 21st May 5th 6-8pm

Ray Kingfisher
Email: rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us
Phone: (406) 728-2400 Ext. 1047
Tansi Nitotem! by Dacia Griego

Tansi! Hello! And Happy New Year! It was so nice to see so many families and community members come out for our Winter Gathering in December. I especially loved seeing the little ones out there dancing. Thank you to all the parents who brought your children out to dance and participate in our gathering. I hope to see you all at our Native Youth Powwow in March!

For January’s IEFA Read Aloud, I read Where Did You Get Your Moccasins? by Bernelda Wheeler and The Moccasins by Earl Einerson. Both are very quick reads that describe moccasins. After reading the story I shared different moccasin making materials (buckskin, beads, etc.) and a few different Plains style moccasins. I’ve encouraged the students to explore the materials by feeling the different textures and smelling the buckskin. The kids have asked great questions and many have shared their own experiences of wearing moccasins. Several students have received positive feedback from their classmates and teachers as they described their own moccasins. I have so enjoyed this month’s lesson! It has been great for those students who are learning about and seeing moccasins for the first time and has also been empowering for students who have been proud to share about their own moccasins with their classmates.

During lunch groups students have had the option to make paper dolls and bookmarks or color moccasin coloring pages while we visit and eat lunch. Sometimes, especially for my older students, we just visit about their day, week, or whatever is on their mind. As always, I enjoy this time I get to spend visiting with students.

Dacia Griego
Native American Specialist
(406)728-2400 ext. 1068
dgriego@mcps.k12.mt.us
READ ALOUD
I read Coyote and the Sky by Emmett Garcia. He is an author and Tewa Tribal member. His book tells the story how animals helped bring light to the world. Before the reading, the students learned about Tewa housing, drumming, and yucca mat. The readings took place at Paxson, Lowell, Lewis and Clark, and Jefferson School in the Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd students.

STAR LAB
Paxson School hosted an Around the World Event that showcases cultures throughout the world. Over 150 people attended the event. At the event, students and families viewed the constellations in a portable planetarium They heard the following tribal star stories:

Crow: Seven Stars – Seven Bulls (Big Dipper) Who Protect a Boy (North Star);

Dine: Male Revolver (Big Dipper), Female Revolver (Casseopeia), Central Fire (North Star).

Blackfeet: Scarface – Morning Star, Sun, Moon, and Wolf Trail (Milky Way).

Lewis Yellow Robe
Native American Specialist
(406)728-2400 ext. 1049
lyellowrobe@mcps.k12.mt.us

The Teacher’s Corner by Matt Bell

We finished semester one at Big Sky! Our Native Studies class had a few small lessons in Nakoda using the app and finished up strong on some current events.

Nakoda Vocab Builder

We will not have a Native Studies class at Big Sky for semester two due to low enrollment. It has been replaced by a Science Fiction Literature class.

Matt Bell
mkbell@mcps.k12.mt.us
The Morning Star by Crystal White Shield

E-peve’eseeva! (“It is a good day” - Cheyenne) 
Eaéneve. (“It is winter.” – Cheyenne) 

I have my Read-Aloud programs up and running at Jeannette Rankin and Hawthorne Elementary Schools. Stories that been read to the K-2 students are:

The Good Luck Cat by Joy Harjo
Coyote and the Stars by Verbena Greene
Coyote Arranges the Seasons by members of the Klamath, Modoc and Paiute Committee
Doesn’t Fall Off His Horse by Virginia Stroud
Iktomi and the Buzzard by Paul Goble

At the Elementary Schools, I have been taking advantage of the winter story telling season when trickster stories are allowed to be read. Tricksters are the Coyote, Spider aka “Iktomi”, and other various tricksters. These are stories that have a moral to their stories, or to use to teach children lessons on life during the long winter seasons. I encourage all parents to tell your own winter time stories to your children.

At Washington Middle School, I am working with the principals and counselors to get more student participation. Mrs. Laslovich and I will be planning pizza luncheons for students in a few weeks. Please look out for the announcement on that.

At Big Sky High School, students were able to have 2 pizza luncheons provided by myself, to encourage them to keep doing well in school. The last one was today, 1/28/2020. I encourage more students to come to the lunch groups and have more student led discussions. We went over MMIP, and how Selena Not Afraid’s passing has affected them. BSHS staff and I are more than happy to support the students in the MMIP movement.

The Sunday Fundays have been going well! If you’re a parent of a MCPS Senior, and have ambitions to bead your son or daughter’s grad cap, I’d be happy to help you with that. You will need to bring your grad cap in order to participate. We have limited supplies available, so I encourage you to bring your own supplies if you can. I am available to help you get started at the upcoming, last 3 Sunday Funday events. I will also be available on Friday’s in April – June to help you with your grad caps. Please RSVP if that is something you and your graduate is interested in. If you have not ordered your son or daughter’s grad cap & gown, you can order now by contacting Julie Casagrande at Jostens at 406-239-2997.

Néá’ēše. Haho! Thank you.

Crystal White Shield
Email: mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us
Phone: (406) 728-2400 Ext. 1028
Smoke Signals by Melissa Hammett

Oki

I am the Native American Specialist for Seeley Swan high school and visit the school every three weeks. Weather permitting, my visits will change based off of roads and conditions. I work closely with the English Language Learner Program (ELL) and will continue throughout the year. My focus is on the Native American students associated with the ELL program mainly in Elementary and Middle School. I am excited to be working with the ELL program and collecting this data. This is a new venture that the MCPS Indian Ed. Department is collaborating on with the ELL program that, I believe, will benefit all those involved especially Native American Students.

Blackfeet Words:

Month: February “Saomitsiki’som” “Unreliable Moon”
Shape: Rhombus “Il-taa-wa-ko-mo-tsi-iop”
Number: Three “Nii-Yo-K-Ska”
Day of the Week: Thursday “Nami-ksistsiko” “Nothing Day”
RESPECT “I-ni’yimm” “Consider Special”

Melissa Hammett
Email: mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us
Phone: (406) 728-2400 Ext. 1028

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Winter Gathering Social Powwow!
Fundraising Update:

The PAC team is continuing with fundraising efforts through the spring for the Class of 2020 Senior Dinner. We hosted a luncheon at the Wrestling Tournament in January and will be working with UM Concessions to work a stand during HS Basketball on January 31st and the State C Basketball Tourney in March. We can always use extra help with our fundraising events. Please contact Crystal White Shield at 728-1400 ext. 1064 if you are interested in helping at any of our events. Anyone over 16 years is welcome to help at these events.

Graduation/Senior Dinner Update:

We met with parents and representative from Jostens on January 8th. If you have questions about ordering your student’s cap and gown please contact Julie Casagrande at 406-239-2997. We have several volunteers available to help anyone who would like to learn how to bead their senior’s graduation cap. For more information about beading grad caps please contact Crystal or Glenda.

PAC Meeting Times:

Please note that we have changed the time of our monthly meetings. We will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month, but the meeting will start at 5pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

---

**2019-2020 Title VI Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crystal White Shield</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benji Headswift</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Coon</td>
<td>Parent Rep. and Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dacia Griego</td>
<td>Parent Rep. and Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toni Alvernaz</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephan Chase</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bella Lemus</td>
<td>Student Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>Teacher Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**TITLE VI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 4, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 8, 2020</td>
<td>5:30 - 7:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5, 2020</td>
<td>5:00 - 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 2020</td>
<td>5:00 - 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2020</td>
<td>5:00 - 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2020</td>
<td>5:00 - 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3, 2020</td>
<td>5:00 - 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Children learn from what they see. We need to set an example of truth and action.*

- Howard Rainer, Taos Pueblo-Creek (2012)
What do you feel are the most important needs of the Indian students in Missoula County Public Schools? Please indicate your thoughts by placing a circle around the number.

1. Enhance problem solving and cognitive skills development and directly support attainment of state standards
2. Decrease school drop-out rate
3. Increase academic achievement
4. Increase activities for prevention of violence, suicide and substance abuse
5. Increase At-Risk student support
6. Increase career readiness skills
7. Increase college enrollment
8. Increase graduation rate
9. Increase knowledge of cultural identity and awareness
10. Increase Native American Language Instruction programs
11. Increase parent participation
12. Increase school attendance rate
13. Increase school readiness
14. Other suggestions: ____________________________________________________________

Rank the three most important needs: _____________________________________________

Please check the category(ies) that describe you (check all that apply):

Native American _____Yes   No____
_____ Parent/Guardian   _____ Middle School Student
_____ Community member  _____ Elementary School Student
_____ High School Student _____ Missoula County Public Schools District Employee

What do you think is working well in the Missoula County Public Schools Indian Education Department?

______________________________________________________________________________

Are there areas that you would like to see addressed by the school district or services that you would like to see offered by the Indian Education Department?

______________________________________________________________________________

Please drop this by or mail to: Missoula County Public Schools
Indian Ed. Department B2
215 S. 6th Street West
Missoula, MT  59801

OR email to: gfweasel@mcps.k12.mt.us or mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us
Your voice is very important to us! Thank you!