



Indigenous Insighter



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

Welcome Back

2022-2023

The Indigenous Insighter is our department newsletter where we'll share updates from our staff, information about community events and resources, and highlight throughout the year.

We hope your school year is off to a great start! We are all happy to be back in the office and in the schools visiting with all of you! We have a lot of classroom visits and community events planned for this year and we look forward to getting to spending time together.

Feel free to reach out to one of our specialists if you have questions, ideas, or just want to say hello! Our contact information and school assignments are on the following page.

Inside:

School Assignments & Contact Info • P2

2022-23 Event Calendar • P3

Orange Shirt Day • P4-P6

Parent Advisory Committee • P7

NASS Updates • P8-P11

Halloween Carnival • P12

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2022-2023 NASS SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS AND CONTACT INFO

Name	Title	Phone	Email	Assigned Schools
Glenda Weasel	Data Support Staff/ Native American Education Specialist	ext. 1063	gfweasel@mcpsmt.org	Seeley Swan HS
Ray Kingfisher	Native American Education Specialist	ext. 1047	rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org	Hellgate HS CS Porter Washington
Melissa Hammett	Teacher/ Native American Education Specialist	ext. 1028	mshammett@mcpsmt.org	Sentinel HS Willard HS
Dacia Griego	Social Worker/ Native American Education Specialist	ext. 1068	dgriego@mcpsmt.org	Paxson Rattlesnake
Duran Caferro	Native American Education Specialist	ext. 1064	dcaferro@mcpsmt.org	Big Sky HS
Mary Plumage	Native American Education Specialist	ext. 1049	mfplumage@mcpsmt.org	Jeanette Rankin Russell Meadow Hill
Chayse Buckskin	Native American Education Specialist	ext. 1050	cbuckskin@mcpsmt.org	Franklin Lewis & Clark Lowell
				Chief Charlo Hawthorne Jefferson

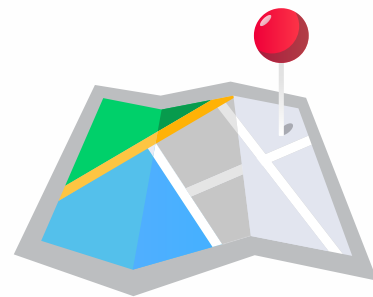
WE ARE
HIRING
JOIN OUR TEAM

open position:
Native American
Education Specialist

8 hours per day, Monday-Friday
180 days, 9 holidays
\$18.74 - \$19.54 per hour (DOE)
TRS (Teachers Retirement System)
Insurance Eligible, Sick and Vacation Leave Accrual

mcpsmt.org/employment





909 South Ave W.
Building B
Rm 120

2022-2023 MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES CALENDAR

EVENT NAME	DATE	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT PERSON
DerRic Starlight, Indigenous Puppeteer	Wednesday, Sept. 21	6:30 - 8:30pm	UC Theater, University of Montana	Chayse Buckskin cbuckskin@mcpsmt.org
Traditional Belt Making Workshop	Friday, Sept. 23 & Saturday, Sept. 24	Day 1: 5-8 pm Day 2: 10am-5pm	MCPS Professional Learning Lab	Melissa Hammett mshammett@mcpsmt.org
SEPTEMBER 23RD - AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY (MONTANA)				
SEPTEMBER 30TH - ORANGE SHIRT DAY - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (US/CANADA)				
OCTOBER 10TH - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY (US)				
Halloween Carnival	Saturday, Oct. 29	2-5pm	Franklin Elementary	Dacia Griego dgriego@mcpsmt.org
NOVEMBER - NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH				
NOVEMBER 15 - ROCK YOUR MOCS DAY				
Round Dance	Thursday, Nov. 17	6-9pm	Meadow Hill Middle School	Ray Kingfisher rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org
Winter Gathering	Friday, Dec. 2	6-10pm	Meadow Hill Middle School	Mary Plumage mfplumage@mcpsmt.org
Sunday Funday - Powwow Club	January 15, 29 February 12, 26 March 12, 26	1-3pm	CS Porter	Dacia Griego dgriego@mcpsmt.org
Native Youth Powwow	Saturday, April 1	Grand Entry 12pm 6pm	Sentinel High School	Glenda Weasel gfweasel@mcpsmt.org
Native Youth Art Market	Friday, April 7	5-8pm	TBD	Dacia Griego dgriego@mcpsmt.org
MAY 5TH - NATIONAL MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS' AWARENESS DAY (US)				
Senior Dinner	Wednesday, May 10	6pm	DoubleTree Missoula Edgewater	Melissa Hammett mshammett@mcpsmt.org
End of Year BBQ	Thursday, June 8th	TBD	TBD	Duran Caferro dcaferro@mcpsmt.org

**Events are subject to change. Visit our website for updates: www.mcpsmt.org/iefa*

ORANGE SHIRT DAY: HEALING FROM INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL TRAUMA

TRIGGER WARNING: INDIAN RESIDENTIAL/BOARDING SCHOOLS

Last spring news broke that the remains of 215 Indigenous children were found buried near Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, Canada. Since the gruesome discovery thousands of remains have been found at Indian Boarding Schools across Canada and in the United States. Researchers estimate tens of thousands of children died at the government and church-run schools in the United States.

Our community is heartbroken by these findings, but unfortunately many are not surprised. For generations our people have told the stories and lived through the trauma experienced at Indian Boarding Schools. Our communities still face the impacts of historical trauma stemming from the forced removal of our children. Many of us are the children and grandchildren of Boarding School survivors. "Our communities are still mourning," stated US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) in reference to Indian boarding schools.

Initiatives have started in both the United States and Canada to uncover the truth and reconcile the trauma that occurred due to Indian Boarding Schools. In the coming months and years we will hear more about the tragic loss of life and culture our people experienced. The news and headlines shared on social media and in the news may be triggering for many of us. We encourage you to take care of yourselves physically, mentally and spiritually during these times. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need resources to help process this grief.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY: HEALING FROM INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL TRAUMA

On September 30th, we will be recognizing "Orange Shirt Day" to honor the children lost and those who survived Indian Residential Boarding Schools. We hope that you'll join us in acknowledging this painful history by wearing an orange shirt, learning more about the history and impacts of Indian Boarding Schools, and supporting initiatives and organizations aimed at healing from this trauma.

Click on the links below to learn more about Orange Shirt Day and Indian Boarding Schools:

- [US Indian Boarding School History](#)
- [Interior Sec. Haaland Announces Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to Shed Light on the Dark History of the Boarding School System](#)
- [CBC Kids: What is Orange Shirt Day?](#)



BOOKS ABOUT INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

Elementary Level

- Shi-shi-etko by Nicola I. Campbell
- When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson
- I Am Not A Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis

Middle Grades

- Fatty Legs: A True Story by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton
- My Name is Seepeetza by Shirley Sterling
- The Journey Forward by Richard Van Camp and Monique Gray Smith

High School and up

- Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese
- 7 Generations: A Plains Cree Saga by David A. Robertson



CALLING ALL EDUCATORS

How are you planning to teach about Indian Boarding School history this school year?

DOWNLOAD FREE LESSON PLANS AT
BOARDINGSCHOOLHEALING.ORG/CURRICULUM

Free lesson plans for all grade levels are available on our website:



DOWNLOAD AT
BOARDINGSCHOOLHEALING.ORG/CURRICULUM



Hybrid Speaker Sessions

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022
**BOARDING SCHOOLS:
REMEMBERING OUR
RESILIENCY AND SHARED
KNOWLEDGE FOR TRAUMA
INFORMED LEARNING**

Orange Lighting of
University Hall



ALi Auditorium (Hybrid \$15; In-Person \$50)
Phyllis J. Washington College of Education

8:30 am-10:30 pm

WEAR ORANGE to honor boarding school victims, survivors, and future generations

Keynote: Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart
and Dr. Deidre Yellowhair



Every Child Matters
Walk on UM Oval

Registration
QR Code



UNIVERSITY OF
MONTANA



Contact for General Inquiries: Bradford.Hall@mso.umt.edu
Contact for Directions or Location: jamie.McNally@mso.umt.edu

TITLE VI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

The Title VI Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is made up of parents, students, and teachers within the MCPS community. The Title VI PAC provides support to the MCPS Native American Student Services Department throughout the year and hosts the Native Senior Dinner at the end of each school year to honor that year's graduating class of Native American seniors.

PAC meetings are open to the community and we welcome families and MCPS staff to attend. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 6pm to 8pm in the MCPS Professional Learning Lab (in Building B).



2022-2023 PAC NOMINEES:

Parent Representatives:

Amber Shaffer
Chelsea Bellon
George Kicking Woman
Shauna Yellowkidney
Stacie Brod

Student Representatives:

Alishon Kelly (Hellgate HS)
Shawndaya Butler (Sentinel HS)
Jayden Crawford (Sentinel HS)

Teacher Representative:

Linsey Kuntz (Lowell)

Updates from the Specialists

AS THE REZ TURNS BY MARY FRAN PLUMAGE

Hau Kona (Hello Friends)

I am excited to be starting another school year with all our wonderful students and staff of MCPS. I am approaching my one year mark with the NASS department and my 7th year with MCPS! I am enjoying my co-workers and love getting my daily dose of indigenous humor. My schools this year are Russell Elementary, Jeanette Rankin Elementary, and Meadow Hill Middle School. I am excited to meet new students and see the old faces. I will be visiting classrooms and having lunch groups, so if you see me around just give me a wave or grab your tray and come join me for lunch.



I want to encourage all students to make some goals as we start the new school year. For some this is your first year and some this is your last year in MCPS. Be thinking about what you want to get out of this year, month, week, or day. It doesn't have to be something drastic, maybe you want to get better at math, join a club\sport, or make a new friend. Whatever your goal may be I BELIEVE IN YOU! I also encourage our families to continue teaching your cultural history at home. When I am in the classrooms I like to have everyone participate and we learn so much about one another through our cultural lifestyles. The teachers love to hear the students' way of life and so do the other students.

Russell has been working hard all summer on their community garden and I am excited to see some of our native plants growing as well. Soon we will add some signs with tribal language to identify the plants. Way to go Russell Bears!

Meadow Hill Mustangs are starting Family Fridays! This will allow parents, relatives, caregivers, and family to join their students at lunch time. It will be a volunteer position and an awesome way to provide support to the staff during lunch time, as we know lunchtime can be a crazy time for students. If you would like to teach a game, play games, or just show up to have lunch it is a great way to spend your lunch hour. Meadow Hill will have a volunteer sign up on their school page soon. I will keep you updated on when this will start and when the sign up is available on the school page.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Now let's have an awesome school year!!

Mary F. Plumage

TANSI NITÔTÊM! BY DACIA GRIEGO

Tansi Nitôtêm! Hello friend! My name is Dacia Griego and I am the Native American Education Specialist at Paxson Elementary School and Rattlesnake Elementary School. I am also our department's social worker. I am Chippewa Cree and Mexican and I grew up in Butte, Montana. I'm an enrolled member of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe and my pronouns are she/her.

At my schools, I will be continuing the IEFA Read Aloud program where I visit Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classes to read stories written by and about Native Americans. I will also be visiting visiting grades 3-5 throughout the year for IEFA lessons and activities.

Part of my role as the department's social worker is to be an advocate for families to help connect to resources and support. Please let me know how I can help you have a successful school year. I look forward to meeting you all and I hope to see you at our events throughout the year!



STOODIS! BY DURAN CAFERRO

Good Day Everyone!

I hope everyone had a great summer playing outside and visiting around. I had the pleasure of reading about some of our students' victories in academic and sports endeavors. Congratulations, and keep up the good work!

It is good to be back in the school routine. I will begin this schoolyear by meeting students and families I haven't met before and catching up with those I have. At Big Sky, I will have students scheduled in our own Advisory, where we will continue to build connections through a weekly student led circle. We will also have a small group study hall. Feel free to shoot me an email if you are interested in adding either of these to your schedule. I am in room 21 every regular Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday in the morning through lunch. Have your Big Sky student stop by at lunch and say hello.

Duran Caferro (he, him, his)



ÁAAA OKI BY CHAYSE BUCKSKIN

Oki, Welcome back Students and Staff!

My name is Chayse Buckskin and I'm one of the Native American Specialists with MCPS. I am from The Blood Tribe/Kainai Blackfoot Reservation in Alberta, Canada. I will be working directly with Lewis & Clark, Lowell and Franklin Elementary schools this year. I look forward to meeting all the new students and working with the great staff. Let's iikakiimaat (Try Hard) and have an awesome school year!



DATA GURU BY GLENDA WEASEL

Tansi:

Welcome to all our MCPS families. It has been a short summer vacation. I am glad everyone is in good health and is back to get into the SY groove of 2022-2023. We, the Native American Student Services (NASS) Dept., have jumped right in and have started a positive engaging start of the school year. I am already into the wonderful world of data and all it entails.



The MCPS Native American Week was another success and in the record books. Thanks to Native American Specialist Chayse Buckskin for being the team leader on this event.

I would like to thank and welcome all of our Missoula collaborators in which we will be working with this SY 22-23.

First Day of School

Melissa

Missoula County Public Schools
2022 - 2023

My Schools
Sentinel and Willard

My Tribal Affiliation
Blackfeet

Favorites:
Color: Purple
Food: Tacos
Subject: Math and Business
Animal: Sspopii (Turtle)
NDN: My grandma, Cecile Dog Taking Gun Grant

Fun Fact About Me
I was put on earth to make babies and ribbon skirts!

First Day of School

Ray

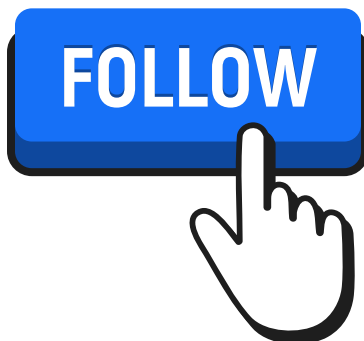
Missoula County Public Schools
2022 - 2023

My Schools
CS Porter (Mondays)
Washington (Wednesdays)
Hellgate (Thursdays)

My Tribal Affiliation
Blackfeet & Northern Cheyenne

Favorites:
Color: Blue
Food: Panda Express
Subject: Native American Studies
Animal: Boston Terrier
NDN: Makoyi Sapo'p

Fun Fact About Me
I'm a 3-point threat!



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MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 29
2 P M - 5 P M

FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CONTACT: DACIA GRIEGO . DGRIEGO@MCPSMT.ORG . 406-728-2400 EXT. 1068