



# Indigenous Insider

June 2022

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## End of the Year - Finish Strong!

We're in the final stretch of the school year and we are so proud of all the hard work and perseverance we've seen from our youth this year! All of us in the Native American Student Services Department would like to encourage all of you students to finish the school year strong.

A very special congratulations to the 48 Native American students who graduated this year! Job well done!! We look forward to hearing about all the great things you accomplish in the years ahead.

We'd like to express our gratitude to the MCPS administrators, board trustees, teachers, and staff for their continued support throughout the school year. We appreciate all of you!

Finally, we ask that you please take a moment to complete our 2021-22 Community Needs Assessment. This helps us as we plan our for next year. The form can be completed online at: [MCPS NASS Community Needs Assessment](#) or you can print the following page and return to either Glenda Weasel or Melissa Hammett. Thank you!

Have a great summer!

*Native American Student Services Department  
Glenda, Ray, Melissa, Dacia, Duran, Mary, and Chayse*

*"Let us put our minds together to see what we  
can build for our children"*

*Chief Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Lakota*



MCPS Title VI Parent Advisory Committee &  
Native American Student Services Department  
2021-2022 Needs Assessment Survey



What do you feel are the most important needs of the Native 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 | 7. Increase college enrollment                             |
| 2. Decrease school drop-out rate   | 8. Increase graduation rate                                |
| 3. Increase academic achievement   | 9. Increase knowledge of cultural identity and awareness   |
| 4. Increase activities for prevention of violence, suicide and substance abuse                                 | 10. Increase Native American Language Instruction programs |
| 5. Increase At-Risk student support  | 11. Increase parent participation                          |
| 6. Increase career readiness skills  | 12. Increase school attendance rate                        |

14. Other suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rank the three most important needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the categories that describe you:

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?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are some 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

909 South Ave W.  
South Bldg. "B" Rm. 120  
Missoula, MT 59801

OR email to: [gfwheel@mcpsmt.org](mailto:gfwheel@mcpsmt.org) or [mshammett@mcpsmt.org](mailto:mshammett@mcpsmt.org)

Your voice is very important to us! Thank you!

Complete online at: <https://forms.gle/V6BvzQZ8cSXW1UYd6>



Missoula County Public Schools  
Native American Student Services  
Department



# END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

**JOIN US FOR A BAR-B-QUE, 3-ON-3  
BASKETBALL, AND TRADITIONAL GAMES TO  
CELEBRATE A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR  
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**JUNE 9, 2022 | 4:30 - 7:00  
OLD COLD SPRINGS SCHOOL  
2625 BRIGGS ST**







# **EVENT SPONSORS**

**Missoula Early Learning Academy**

**All Nations Health Center - Tobacco Program,  
Native Connections, Championship Boxing Missoula**

**3-ON-3 TEAM REGISTRATION: K-8TH 4:30, GAMES BEGIN AT 5:00**

**9TH-12TH 5:00, GAMES BEGIN AT 5:30**

**ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE AT LEAST 1 MALE AND 1 FEMALE**

**TRADITIONAL GAMES OF SHINNY AND MAKE THE STICK JUMP WILL  
BE HELD FROM 6:30-7:00**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT DURAN (406)728-2400 EXT. 1064**

**DCAFERRO@MCPSMT.ORG**



**Do not attend if you are sick!**



## 2021 - 2022 Staff Contact Information & School Assignments

Name	Title	Phone 728-2400	Email	Assigned Schools
Amy Shattuck	Federal Programs Director	ext. 1054	<a href="mailto:avshattuck@mcpsmt.org">avshattuck@mcpsmt.org</a>	
Glenda Weasel	Title VI/Data Support/ Native American Specialist	ext. 1063	<a href="mailto:gfwasel@mcpsmt.org">gfwasel@mcpsmt.org</a>	Seeley Swan HS
Ray Kingfisher	Native American Specialist	ext. 1047	<a href="mailto:rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org">rdkingfisher@mcpsmt.org</a>	CS Porter, Hellgate HS, Washington MS
Melissa Hammett	Native American Specialist	ext. 1028	<a href="mailto:mshammett@mcpsmt.org">mshammett@mcpsmt.org</a>	Willard HS, Sentinel HS
Dacia Griego	Native American Specialist	ext. 1068	<a href="mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org">dgriego@mcpsmt.org</a>	Rattlesnake, Paxson, Jefferson
Mary Fran Plumage	Native American Specialist	ext. 1049	<a href="mailto:mfplumage@mcpsmt.org">mfplumage@mcpsmt.org</a>	Russell, Chief Charlo, Meadow Hill MS, Jeanette Rankin
Chayse Buckskin	Native American Specialist	ext.. 1050	<a href="mailto:cbuckskin@mcpsmt.org">cbuckskin@mcpsmt.org</a>	Franklin, Lewis & Clark, Lowell, Hawthorne
Duran Caferro	Native American Specialist	ext. 1064	<a href="mailto:dcaferro@mcpsmt.org">dcaferro@mcpsmt.org</a>	Big Sky

## 2021 - 2022 Event Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Location
Native American Heritage Day Celebration: Laughter is Good Medicine	Monday, September 20th	6:00pm-8:00pm	Ogren Park at Allegiance Field (Contact: Melissa Hammett)
Trunk or Treat	Friday, October 29th	4:00pm	MCPS Admin Building (Contact: Dacia Griego)
Winter Gathering	Thursday, December 9th	5:00pm-9:00pm	Meadow Hill (Contact: Ray Kingfisher)
Family Fun Time	Thursdays, January 6-February 10 <i>*no family fun on 2/4</i>	5:00pm-7:00pm	Rattlesnake Elementary School (Contact: Mary Plumage)
MCPS Native Youth Powwow	Cancelled		Sentinel High School (Contact: Glenda Weasel)
Graduating Senior Dinner	Thursday, May 4th	6:00pm	Double Tree By Hilton Hotel Missoula (Contact: Dacia Griego and Glenda Weasel)
End of the Year Gathering	Friday, June 9th	4:30pm-7:00pm	Cold Springs Elementary School (Contact: Duran Caferro)

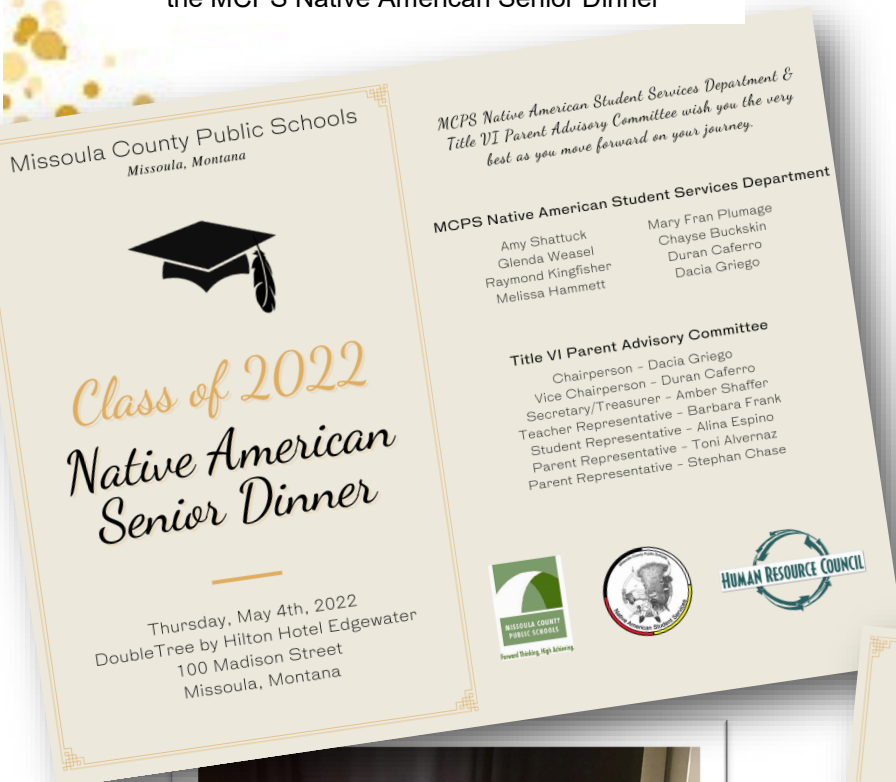
# Native American Graduating Senior Dinner



A handful of the 2022 graduates who were honored at the MCPS Native American Senior Dinner

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! This year we are so proud to celebrate the 48 Native American seniors who are graduating this year!

We were so happy to honor the graduates and their families at the MCPS Native American Senior Dinner in May. We are so grateful for the community support in making this event happen. A special thank you to this year's speakers: Mike Jetty, Dr. Aaron Thomas, Wilena Old Person, and George Kicking Woman; to our sponsors at the Human Resource Council; and to the Title VI Parent Advisory Committee for their planning and fundraising efforts throughout the year.



The Highest GPA Award recipients. (L to R) Katelyn Schindler, Oliver Hughes, Kaylynn Wolf, and Shaye Ewing.



Dr. Rob Watson, Amy Shattuck, and the NASS Staff at the MCPS Native American Senior Dinner





# Title VI Parent Advisory Committee

*The Title VI Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is made up of parents, guardians, students, and teachers within the MCPS Native community. The Title VI PAC provides support to the MCPS Indian Education Dept. 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.*

All parents/guardians and members of the Missoula Native American community are welcome to attend and participate in Title VI Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings and events. Our meetings are open to the public. Our final meeting of the school year will be on June 8th at 5pm.

Several of our voting committee members will be reaching the end of their term this year leaving several vacancies for next year's PAC. We are currently seeking nominations for parent representatives, student representatives, and teacher representative.

- Parent/Guardian Representatives are filled by those who have at least one child who is an MCPS student with a completed Title VI ED 506 Indian Student Eligibility Certification Form. The child can be an enrolled Tribal Member or a 1st or 2nd degree descendant of an enrolled tribal member.
- Student Representatives positions are filled by Native American youth who are enrolled and in good standing at an MCPS high school.
- Teacher representatives are filled by current teachers in the district.

Committee members attend monthly meetings, support the NASS Dept. and participate in fundraising and planning for the Native Senior Dinner.

Applications/nominations are due by Sunday, July 31st. Elections will be held on Wednesday, September 14th, 2022.

Nominations can be submitted by completing this form: [PAC Nomination Form](#) or by emailing your nomination to PAC Chairperson, Dacia Griego at [dgriego@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org)

2021-2022 Title VI Parent Advisory Committee	
Name	Title
Dacia Griego	Chairperson
Duran Caferro	Vice Chairperson
Amber Shaffer	Secretary/Treasurer
Toni Alvernaz	Parent Rep
Stephen Chase	Parent Rep
- Vacant -	Parent Rep
Alina Espino	Student Rep
Barbara Frank	Teacher Rep

Title VI Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Dates	
Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5pm. All meetings will be held remotely via Google Meet until further notice. Contact Dacia Griego for a link to join.	
Date	Time
September 8, 2021	6:00-8:00 PM
October 6, 2021	6:00-8:00 PM
November 10, 2021	5:00-6:30 PM
December 8, 2021	5:00-6:30 PM
January 12, 2022	5:00-6:30 PM
February 9, 2022	5:00-6:30 PM
March 9, 2022	5:00-6:30 PM
April 13, 2022	5:00-6:30 PM
May 11, 2022	5:00-6:30 PM
June 8, 2022	5:00-6:30 PM

# Seeking Nominations for the 2022-2023 School Year!

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The Title VI Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is made up of parents, guardians, students, and teachers within the MCPS Native 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.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

- Parent Representatives (4 vacancies)
- Teacher Representative
- Student Representative

PAC members serve for their choice of one, two, or three school years.

## APPLICANTS/NOMINATIONS DUE BY SUNDAY, JULY 31ST

Submit nominations by completing this  
[Nomination Form](#)

or by emailing PAC Chairperson, Dacia Griego  
at [dgriego@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org)

Please include full name, contact information, and why your nominee would be a good fit for the Parent Advisory Committee. Self nominations are accepted.



# MCPS TITLE VI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# Seeking Nominations for the 2022-2023 School Year!

.....

PAC members serve for their choice of one, two, or three school years.

## **PARENT REPRESENTATIVE**

The Parent Representatives are filled by the guardians of at least one child who is an MCPS student with a completed Title VI ED 506 Indian Student Eligibility Certification Form.

The child can be an enrolled Tribal Member or a 1st or 2nd degree descendent of an enrolled tribal member.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

The Student Representative role is filled by a student who is currently enrolled and in good standing at an MCPS high school.

The child must be an enrolled Tribal Member or a 1st or 2nd degree descendent of an enrolled tribal member.

## **TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE**

The Teacher Representative position is filled by an MCPS educator.

**NOMINATIONS DUE  
JULY 31ST**

**PAC ELECTION  
SEPTEMBER 14TH**

**CONTACT: DACIA GRIEGO (PAC CHAIRPERSON), [DGRIEGO@MCPSMT.ORG](mailto:DGRIEGO@MCPSMT.ORG)**

# MCPS Native Youth Powwow Club

This spring we made the difficult decision to cancel our powwow, but knew it was the right choice as we continue to prioritize our community's health. We still wanted to provide an opportunity for our youth and families to gather, learn, and practice powwow skills. So we created the MCPS Native Youth Powwow Club.

We hosted six sessions of Native Youth Powwow Club in March and April. Youth were able to learn and practice singing, drumming, and dancing with help from community members and experienced peers. We also had multiple craft spaces where attendees learned different beading and sewing techniques. Snacks were provided by the Missoula Food Bank & Community Center's Kid's Table program. We ended the season with an ice cream celebration donated by [2 Moms Ice Cream](#).

Thank you to the following community members who helped make powwow club a success: George Kicking Woman, Tracy Kicking Woman, [Latisha Buck Elk Thunder](#), [Rebecca Bearcub](#), Peyton Whitehawk, and Rod Brod.

It was so positive to have our community gather together. We are so proud of our children who showed up ready to practice and eager to learn! It was beautiful to see some of our older youth step into leadership roles to mentor and teach the younger ones! It was also wonderful to have some of our elders and other community members come and spent time with our kids.

We are looking forward to continuing this program next year. We have dreams of forming a youth dance troupe and a youth drum group for our powwow next spring! We'd also love to start a regalia lending closet for student's who do not have their own regalia to borrow during our youth powwow in March. Please let us know if you'd like to support these efforts in any way! We are happy to welcome sponsors, donations, and instructors.

Contact Dacia Griego at [dgriego@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org) or 406-728-2400 ext. 1068 for more information.







# Native American Student Services Department



## 2021-2022 MCPS "8th" Grade Funday Schedule Middle

School	Day	Date	Start Time
C.S.Porter	Wednesday	06.08.2022	All Day
	Place:	2510 W. Central, Missoula, MT 59804	
	Event:	End of the year Field Trip	
	Thursday	06.09.2022	All Day
	Place:	2510 W. Central, Missoula, MT 59804	
	Event:	End of the year Barbecue during school day	
Meadow Hill	Thursday	06.09.2022	Morning till Noon
	Place:	McCormick Park..... 600 Cregg Ln, Missoula, MT 59801	
	Event:	End of the year Funday w/Food, Snacks and games	
Washington	Thursday	06.09.2022	10:00am - Noon
	Place:	645 W. Central, Missoula, MT 59801	
	Event:	End of the year Funday "Carnival" School Day	



# Montana Tribal Flag Ceremony at MCPS Boardroom

The eight Montana tribal flags were placed in the MCPS Board Room on April 22nd. The honoring was hosted by the MCPS Native American Student Services Department. Chayse Buckskin started the ceremony with a Blackfeet prayer, followed by an honor song from George Kicking Woman. The flags were then placed by four Native American Veterans: Ray Kingfisher (Marines), Allen Goddard (Army), Fayanna Weasel (Air Force), and Aaron Franklin (Army). Superintendent, Dr. Watson, read a land acknowledgement recognizing that MCPS, being in the Missoula Valley, exists on the original homelands of the Séliš (Salish) and Ql̓ispe (Pend d'Oreille/Kalispel) people. MCPS Board Chairperson, Wilena Old Person, spoke about the importance of representation of our Indigenous students in MCPS buildings.



MCPS Native American Student Services Department Staff, MCPS School Board Chairperson Wilena Old Person and George Kicking Woman after the Montana tribal flag ceremony on April 22, 2022.

(L to R): Glenda Weasel, Dacia Griego, Ray Kingfisher, Melissa Hammett, Mary Fran Plumage, Wilena Old Person, Chayse Buckskin, and George Kicking Woman.



Montana tribal flags were placed in the MCPS board room on April 22, 2022 by four Native American Veterans.

Photo retrieved from: <https://www.facebook.com/missoulacountypublicschools/photos/a.150647224987155/5287809524604207/>

It is the goal of MCPS to have the Montana tribal flags placed in each building across our district. Over the years the flags have been placed in most of the schools. During the 2022-2023 school year we will present the flags to the final 3 buildings.

For more information about the tribal flags:

- [MT OPI Seals of Tribal Nations](#)
- [Montana Tribal Flags and Seals \(UMT\)](#)

The MCPS Native American Student Services Department presented to the MCPS Board of Trustees on April 26, 2022. During the public school board meeting Chayse Buckskin offered a prayer followed by an honor song from George Kicking Woman. Mary Fran Plumage and Chairperson Wilena Old Person spoke about the meaning behind the tribal flags and significance of their placement in the board room. We were honored to have the support of our school board and district administrators during this ceremony.



George Kicking Woman sings an honor song at the MCPS Board Meeting on April 26th, 2022.

Photo retrieved from: <https://www.facebook.com/MissoulaCommunityTelevision/photos/pcb.7176096415797978/7176096309131322/>



# Oki Niksookowaaksi Tsa Niitaapi? By Raymond D. Kingfisher

(Hello My Relatives How is it Going?)

Oki Niksookowaaksiiksi,

We are closing in on the end of the 2021-22 school year. There have been many ups and downs this school year. Some days you feel like you have things under control and boom, everything is falling apart. That is how I can explain this school year. I am so proud of all the students that kept putting one foot in front of the other and making things happen. For those that had some tough times I get it and I know you tried your best. I encourage you to keep going, get back on track and fulfill those goals.



In the schools, at Porter we have been doing some Blackfoot language as well as looking at the history of "Indian Education." The students that have been stopping in regularly have been coming back with more and more questions about "why?" This tells me that they are thinking about some of the things that affect us as Native people.

At Washington Middle School, I have been following that same model. I have not had the turn out I was hoping for as there are not as many students there as previous years. Covid and missing a year has put my presence at a disadvantage as I have to get to know these new students as in previous years I knew them once they started. It takes time to gain that trust with students and Washington was a challenge this year.

At Hellgate High, I had a good following. The students that had interest in "Lunch Group" got to learn some good knowledge about Blackfoot history, language, and ceremony. We had some good laughs at various takes on how film/Hollywood stereotypes Native Americans. Even today we realize that people still think we live in teepees. All in all I have had some great times with the students this year.

I went two years without getting covid. I relaxed for a few days and ended up getting it. I had a tough time as I do have some underlying medical conditions. It was scary at times but my family made it through. We are grateful for all that checked in on us and provided support. I hope you all stay healthy and happy.

I missed the "Senior Dinner" this year, one of my favorite events that we host. I know the students will go on to do great things. I will watch for you all as we continue to walk in this life. I wish you all nothing but success, good health and happiness.

With that, I hope you all have a great summer.

Ray



Join us on Facebook!

[Facebook.com/groups/mcpsNativeAmericanStudentServices](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcpsNativeAmericanStudentServices)

[Facebook.com/groups/mcpsmtTribalLanguages](https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcpsmtTribalLanguages)

# Tansi Nitotemak! (Hello Friends!) by Dacia Griego

Tansi! Hello! Well, this year feels like it flew right by!

This spring I read some of my favorite books during my K-2 IEFA Read Aloud visits. Titles included: *Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest*, *The Moccasins*, *Powwow's Coming*, and *Frybread: A Native American Family Story*. It was so nice to return to in person visits this year and spend time with students in the classroom and during recess. I also continued visiting some of the MOA classes to share IEFA read alouds and lessons with online students as well.

I really enjoyed working closely with more families this year in my role as our department's social workers. I love having the opportunity to get to know families and advocate for them in school settings. I'm always keeping myself updated and involved with community resources so that I can share that knowledge with my colleagues and families as needs arise. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you ever need anything.

I've continued to facilitate our district's anti-bias working group, IVALUE. This spring we hosted another training series with 60 MCPS staff members and administrators participating. The training series covers identity and perspectives, understanding and recognizing bias, interrupting oppression, creating culturally safe classrooms, and making a plan for institutional strategies for change.

The year was also busy with events. We kept our events small but it was still amazing to see our community come together again. I hope to see many of you at our end of the year celebration on Thursday, June 9th at the old Cold Springs Elementary School. We're having a BBQ with basketball and traditional games.

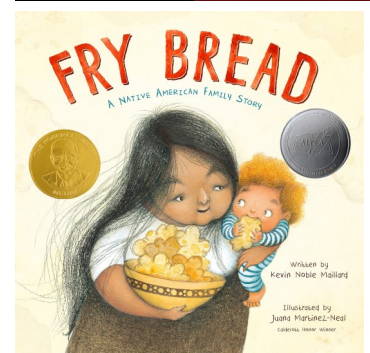
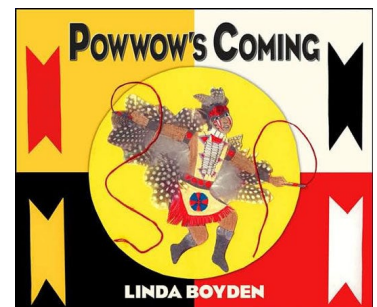
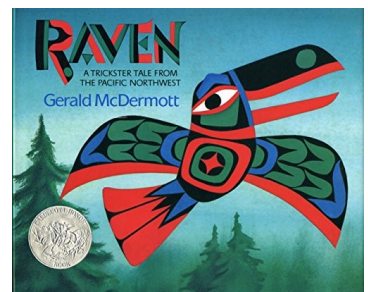
I hope you all had a great school year and send my best wishes for a happy and healthy summer break!

Miss Dacia



Dacia Griego, BSW (she/her)  
Native American Education Specialist  
Social Worker

[dgriego@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org)  
406.728.2400 ext. 1068





# Áaaa, oki! by Chayse Buckskin

Oki,

Happy spring! I hope you all are keeping well and safe. My name is Chayse Buckskin and I'm a Native American Student Specialist at Lowell, Franklin, and Lewis and Clark Elementary.

I'm the newest to the team and have enjoyed building relationships within the MCPS family. It has been a true joy to get to know the students, families, teachers, and faculty. I look forward to continuing to do so in the coming months as the school year winds down.

Over the winter I've been visiting classrooms to do read-alouds and share about powwows. The students enjoyed learning about dancing, singing, and the joy during pow wow celebrations. I encourage you all to attend to a powwow with your children over the summer if you get a chance. It's a great way to learn and experience culture of Indigenous people.

This spring we launched powwow club for all students and it has been exciting to see the kids take part. I'm also working on a garden mural with Indigenous stories of plants at Franklin school.

Finally, I want to give a huge congratulations to our Native high school graduates. The department hosted a beautiful honor night for the graduates and I wish them the best on their future endeavors. Their resilience and perseverance should serve as inspiration for us all.

As we round out the school year I look forward to continue meeting with students. I am here to be a bridge and advocate for the children—if you ever need anything don't hesitate to reach out.

Chayse Buckskin



## Frybread Friday Returns

Our much anticipated Frybread Friday fundraisers made a successful return this spring! We were able to provide a grab-and-go style sale that sold out in less than 2 hours!

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser!  
The proceeds go directly toward our community events.  
We look forward to more sales next school year!



Some of the frybread crew (L to R): Glenda Weasel, Amber Shaffer, Dacia Griego, and Mary Fran Plumage.



Ray fried up close to 300 pieces of frybread!

# Data Guru by Glenda Weasel

Tansi:

Everyone is winding down for the summer vacation. Keep in mind we still have school and other year-end activities to finish. Since my last report so much has happened within our NASS Dept. with our activities. I am so glad we are back into the schools and are able to see everyone face to face without having to wear a mask. Still be mindful that the Corona Virus is still out there and people are still able to spread the disease.

The NASS Dept. has started a MCPS NYP Powwow Club that has been happening on Sundays. We started on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and our last one for the year will be on May 22, 2022. Thank you to all that have attended to make this event as success.

We also had a Flag hanging Ceremony held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 in the Missoula County Public Schools Boardroom. We hung the Montana Tribal Flags with the help of Native American Veterans. We had a prayer and smudging of the flags before we hung them up. Was a very humble event. We then presented to the MCPS Board of Trustees at their Tuesday monthly meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with a presentation of the Montana Tribal Flags for each reservation represented. We almost have all our MCPS schools situated with all the Montana Tribal Flags.

In the month of May the NASS Dept. did a presentation to the CSKT Tribal Education Committee on what we are doing in our MCPS school district and they reciprocated with a presentation of all they are doing within their community school district. We have a scheduled meeting with the CSKT Tribal Council at the end of the month to do our presentation to them also.

The "Honoring of Our Native American Senior Dinner" was another successful event. It is such a great experience to see all of our MCPS NA graduating seniors in one setting. Every year we have our MCPS Board of Trustees, Principals, Senior Counselors, Community Collaborators, Parents, family and friends all in attendance. Thank you to NASS Dept. and the Title VI (PAC) Parent Advisory Committee for all your hard work.

End of year Celebration 06.09.2022 @ the Old Cold Springs School 4:30pm-7:00pm



## Supaman Visits MCPS Middle Schools

In April MCPS 8th grade students got a special treat. Thank you to SPARK! For bringing SupaMan into our schools. Definitely was good medicine to hear the music and listen to him speak.





## Creatively Indigenous by Melissa Hammett

OK!!

The school year is almost at the end! Ready for summer?

It's been such a great experience to teach NAS class at Willard Alternative High School this year. The atmosphere is amazing, friendly, and inviting. The third block at Willard, I got to teach a beading class. The students made fun and amazing beaded items for themselves, friends, and family. I am looking forward to teaching NAS class at Willard next year.

Sentinel High School has a RISE group that participates in the biweekly meetings. We have several students who are a part of the group that continue to show leadership and interest in Native issues. We are in the process of hosting the first RISE group Indigenous foods pot luck at Sentinel High School at the end of May 2022. We are hoping to invite students and their families from the other high schools to join our pot luck. The potluck would include the families' favorite traditional foods to share with others.

It's been a great year for our Native American Student Services department. We are expanding our department and welcome our newcomers.

Melissa Hammett, M.ED



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## Wašte' Ya'uspe (Good Words) by Mary Fran Plumage

At Russell and Chief Charlo we have been learning about pow wows and what you will see at a pow wow. We talked about the different styles of dancing and the students got to look and feel moccasins. They got to see a jingle dress and a grass dance outfit. Some shared that they have been to pow wows before and some wanted to know when the next pow wow is so they could go. At Jeanette Rankin we have been talking about our Montana Tribal flags and the students have been making their own flags that represent who they are and the traditions they do in their own families.

At Meadow Hill I have been meeting with my lunch group and giving the 8<sup>th</sup> graders the end of the year push. Almost there 8<sup>th</sup> graders! With the sun shine coming out, lunch group will be spent outside on some days. Good luck to our graduating seniors class of 2022!

Pinamiya!

Mary Fran Plumage



# Stoodis! by Duran Caferro

Good Day Everyone!

Over the last few months, Big Sky and Willard Native American groups have been busy meeting goals in their traditional western education standards as well as connecting with *traditional knowledge systems*. *Through organizing, students have connected to one another and our unique histories. Lessons will better position our rising scholars to take part in creating a better future. Below is what we have been up to:*



- At Willard, students traveled to Diamond 4D ranch to participate in a Blackfeet Buffalo Ceremony. Students participated in the offering ceremony and gutting and skinning. We learned about many of the countless uses of the Buffalo. There were many lessons in gratitude and appreciations for many of the comforts we take for granted.
- RISE – A statewide youth group who organized and facilitated a Native Youth Conference. Students have been meeting virtually, bi-weekly for over a year. Through RISE, students have learned about organizing, facilitating, public speaking, and professional meeting form. Students have gained so much confidence in leadership as well as a sense of belonging and positive self-image.
- Morning Circles – BSHS students meet weekly to play some basketball, check in on their assignments, and check in with one another through a talking circle. Students look forward to this time to refresh, reflect, and look ahead.

MCPS Native American families represent 49 distinct, unique, and beautiful Tribal Nations. While there is great diversity among each sovereign tribe in their languages, cultures, histories, and governments, one thing we agree on is we are all rooted in gratitude. With that, I would like to express my gratitude to all my colleagues for showing students caring, support, and guidance this school year. I would also like to thank the families we serve for demonstrating the value and importance of education to your children. *Neaese!*

Have a great summer!

Duran Caferro (he, him, his)  
 MCPS Native American Community Specialist  
 MCPS Native American Student Services Dept.  
 (406)728-2400 ext. 1064  
[dcaferro@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dcaferro@mcpsmt.org)

***Stoodis - a colloquial portmanteau meaning "let's do this"***



Families can still register their children for kindergarten at their neighborhood school through June 10th. Children must be age 5 on or before Sept. 10, 2022, to register. Register right away to be updated on Kindergarten Roundup events coming up soon!

For more information: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/9045>



# Early Kindergarten Application

Missoula County Public Schools

2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Must be 4 by 9/10/2022

First Day: September 6th, 2022



**LEARN**

**JEFFERSON CENTER - 1700 SOUTH AVE W**

Families in the Franklin, Hawthorne, Lowell & Russell school boundaries are encouraged to apply. Spots are limited so don't delay.

- Early Kindergarten Application Packet
- Immunization Records
- Copy of certified Birth Certificate
- Two Forms of Address Verification



OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES  
**SUMMER  
LEARNING  
PROGRAM**  
JUNE 1 - AUGUST 31

Funded in part by a grant from the Missoula Public Library Foundation



The Summer Learning Program is part of MPL's mission to promote children's literacy, help prevent the "summer slide" in reading skills, and provide lifelong learning opportunities for readers of all ages. The theme this year is Oceans of Possibilities! For more information visit: <https://www.missoulapubliclibrary.org/home/programs-events/summer-learning-program/>



## KIDS EAT FREE ALL SUMMER LONG! 2022

### MFB&CC Open Meal Sites

Not serving these sites  
June 20th or July 4th

**EmPower Place**  
June 13 - August 30  
Breakfast: M-F 10-11:30  
Lunch: M/T/Th 11:30-6  
& W/F 11:30-1

**Kids Eat Free Bus**  
June 13-August 30  
Lunch: M-F  
Linda Vista Apts: 10:35-11:00  
Sission University Apts: 11:20-11:45  
Travois Mobile Park: 12-12:25  
Futura Mobile Park: 12:40-1:05

**Missoula Public Library**  
June 13 - August 30  
Lunch: M-F 11:30-1

**Council Groves Apartments**  
June 13-August 26, not July 4th  
Breakfast: M-F 9-11  
Lunch: M-F 12:00-2:00

**River of Life Church**  
June 13-August 26 M-F  
Not serving July 4th or 5th

**Creekside Apartments**  
11:00 -11:30  
1405 E Broadway St, Missoula

**East Missoula Lions Park**  
11:45-12:15  
766 Michigan Ave, Missoula

**West Riverside Community Park**  
12:30-1:00  
1305 Haaglund Dr, Milltown

**Missoula County Public Schools**  
June 13-August 12  
Not serving July 4th  
Breakfast: 8:30-10:30  
Lunch: 11am-1pm

- Chief Charlo • Franklin
- Lowell • Russell



Call 406.549.0543 for more info or  
text FOOD or COMIDA to 304304  
[www.missoulafoodbank.org](http://www.missoulafoodbank.org)

**EMPower place**  
missoula food bank  
& community center







# June 2022 Free & Low-Cost Activities

Activities in Green are FREE & Activities in Blue are \$5 or Less.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Fun places that are \$5 or less or FREE!</b> 			<b>1 Tiny Tales</b> 10:30 EmPower Place <b>Out to Lunch</b> , 11 am-2 pm, Caras Park <b>Wind Band Concert</b> , 7 pm, Bonner Park <b>MAMA Open Mic</b> , 7 pm, ZACC	<b>2 Bug Encounter</b> , 3-5, Missoula Public Library (MPL) <b>Kids Cook</b> , 3:30-5, MPL <b>Leadership League</b> , 4 pm EmPower Place <b>Drop-in Pickleball</b> , 6-8 pm, Fort Missoula Pickleball Courts	<b>3 Tiny Tales and Story Time</b> , 10:30 MPL <b>Yarn @ MPL Knitting Group</b> , 12-2, MPL <b>Lolo Farmers Market</b> , 2-6 pm, Lolo Comm. Center <b>First Friday</b> , 4-7 pm, Radisson Gallery	<b>4 Story Time</b> 10:30 MPL <b>Missoula Farmers' Mkt</b> , 8:30-12:30 @ XXXX's <b>Young Kids Dance Party</b> , 11 am, @ MCAT in MPL <b>Town Studio</b> 12:30 MAM <b>Pride All-Ages Afterparty</b> , 9 pm, ZACC
<b>5 Wild &amp; Edible Plants</b> , 10 am MPL parking lot <b>Art Lounge</b> 12-4, ZACC <b>Paddleheads Kids Free Sunday</b> , 2 pm, Ogren Park Allegiance Field	<b>6 Maia Movers Coffee Walk</b> , 9 Moon Randolph Homestead <b>Art Lounge</b> 10-6, ZACC <b>Lego Club</b> 3:30 MPL <b>MCAT Tour &amp; Training</b> , 6 pm, Missoula Public Library	<b>7 Arts and Crafts</b> , 12-3, Big Sky HS; young kids <b>Drop-in Pickleball</b> , 6-8 pm, Fort Mele Pickleball Courts <b>Yoga in the Park</b> , 6 pm, McCormick Park <b>Yoga</b> , 6:30 pm, MPL	<b>8 Tiny Tales</b> 10:30 EmPower Place <b>Families First Blue Block Building</b> , 11-5, MPL <b>SpectrUM</b> , 2-6 pm, MPL <b>MCAT: Virtual Reality Experience</b> , 4:30, MPL	<b>9 Tiny Tales</b> 10:30 Missoula Public Library <b>Bug Encounter</b> , 3-5 pm, MPL <b>Leadership League</b> , 4 pm EmPower Place	<b>10 Maia Art Museum</b> , 10-5, all ages, Tues-Sat <b>Tiny Tales and Story Time</b> , 10:30 MPL <b>Yarn @ MPL Knitting Group</b> , 12-2, MPL	<b>11 Story Time</b> 10:30 MPL <b>Young Kids Dance Party</b> , 11 am, @ MCAT in MPL <b>Moon Randolph Homestead Open 11-5 every Saturday</b> <b>Kids Activity</b> 1-3 pm MT <b>Natural History Center</b>
<b>12 Town Bound Birding</b> , 8-10, Fort Missoula Quarry <b>Art Lounge</b> , 12-4, ZACC <b>TLC Dance Party</b> , 18 & under, 7 pm, ZACC	<b>13 Kids Summer Meals</b> , M-F 11:30-1, MPL <b>Lego Club</b> 3:30 MPL <b>Hula with UM's Pacific Islanders Club</b> , 6:30 MPL <b>MCAT Tour</b> , 6 pm, MPL	<b>14 Buffalo Soldiers Bike Ride</b> 5:25 AM Fort Mele <b>Memory Café</b> , 2 pm MPL <b>Teen Art Project</b> , 3-6 pm, MAM, must pre-register <b>Yoga</b> , 6:30 pm, MPL	<b>15 Tiny Tales</b> 10:30 EmPower Place <b>Families First Blue Block Building</b> , 11-5, MPL <b>Missoula City Band</b> , 8 pm, Bonner Park	<b>16 Native Cultural Demonstrators</b> , 11-4, Travelers Rest State Pk. <b>Bug Encounter</b> , 3-5 MPL <b>You're an Engineer</b> , 3:30-6:30, MPL	<b>17 Tiny Tales and Story Time</b> , 10:30 MPL <b>Yarn @ MPL</b> , 12-2, MPL <b>Families First Art with a Purpose</b> , 2-4 pm, MPL <b>SpectrUM</b> , 2-6 pm, MPL	<b>18 Clark Fork Market</b> , 8-12:30, 101 Carousel Drive <b>Story Time</b> 10:30 MPL <b>Young Kids Dance Party</b> 11 am, @ MCAT in MPL <b>The Big Paddle</b> , 10-4:30 <b>Frenchtown Pond</b>
<b>19 Art Lounge</b> 12-4, ZACC <b>Juneteenth Celebration</b> , 10-4, Historical Museum at Fort Missoula <b>MADE Fair</b> , 10 am, Caras Park	<b>20 Maia Movers Coffee Walk</b> , 9, the M Trailhead <b>UM Living Lab Research Studies for Kids</b> , 10-6, MPL, ages 5-8, register <b>Art Lounge</b> 10-6, ZACC <b>Lego Club</b> 3:30 MPL	<b>21 Bowling</b> , 9 am-5 pm, Westside Lanes <b>Garden for Wildlife</b> , 2-3 pm, MPL <b>Yoga in the Park</b> , 6 pm, McCormick Park <b>Yoga</b> , 6:30 pm, MPL	<b>22 Tiny Tales</b> 10:30 EmPower Place <b>Blue Block Building</b> 11 MPL <b>Women Bike Missoula</b> , 5:30, UM Footbridge <b>Missoula City Band</b> , 8 pm, Bonner Park	<b>23 Tiny Tales</b> 10:30 MPL <b>Bug Encounter</b> , 3-5 MPL <b>Leadership League</b> , 4 pm, EmPower Place <b>Families First Dream Bigger Montana</b> , 10am-3 pm, MPL	<b>24 Tiny Tales and Story Time</b> , 10:30 MPL <b>Art Lounge</b> 10-6 ZACC <b>Yarn @ MPL</b> , 12-2, MPL <b>SpectrUM Sci</b> 2-6 MPL <b>4HistoryBuffs</b> , 7-9 pm, Missoula Public Library	<b>25 Story Time</b> 10:30 MPL <b>Young Kids Dance Party</b> , 11 am, @ MCAT in MPL <b>Kids Activity</b> 1-3 pm MNHC <b>Expedition Days</b> , 11-4, Travelers Rest
<b>26 Art Lounge</b> , 12-4, ZACC <b>HERE Montana</b> , outdoor rec group for BIPOC community. Find on Instagram.	<b>27 Maia Movers Coffee Walk</b> , 9 am, 4981 Deer Creek Road <b>Art Lounge</b> 10-6, ZACC <b>Lego Club</b> 3:30 MPL	<b>28 Bowling</b> , 9-5 Westside Lanes <b>Yoga in the Park</b> , 6 pm, McCormick Park <b>Yoga</b> , 6:30 pm, MPL <b>MT Racial Equity Book Club</b> , 6 pm MPL	<b>29 Tiny Tales</b> 10:30 EmPower Place <b>Families First Blue Block Building</b> , 11-5, MPL <b>Missoula City Band</b> , 8 pm, Bonner Park	<b>30 Bug Encounter</b> , 3-5 MPL <b>Leadership League</b> , 4 pm EmPower Place <b>BASE Showcases</b> , 7 pm, ZACC	<b>EmPower Place Hrs</b> M/W/F 10 am-1 pm <b>Tues/Thurs</b> 10-6 <b>Free meals</b> 3-6 Tues/Th <b>YMCA Active 6</b> , for 6th grade students, reg here	<b>Thank you to our 5-2-1-0 Sponsor:</b> 



# Summer '22 Free & Low-Cost

Activities in Green are FREE & Activities in Blue are \$5 or Less.

Printing made possible by



Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
<b>Missoula Parks and Rec Splash Decks:</b> 11 am - 9 pm, 7 days/wk Weather Dependent Locations: Franklin Park Bonner Park Westside Park Marilyn Park  <b>Parks &amp; Rec Spray Pools:</b> 11 am-9 pm, 7 days/wk IF 75 degrees or warmer Locations: Sacagawea Park Southside Lions Park <b>Art Lounge</b> , 12-4, ZACC  <b>Splash Montana</b> at Playfair Park and <b>Currents Aquatic Center</b> at McCormick Park; discounted rates with Missoula City Card. Save more with punchcard. See website for hours.  <b>Check out the all-abilities playgrounds:</b> Silver Summit Playground in McCormick Park and Mac's Playground at Fort Missoula Regional Park. Mac's Playground also features an adult workout circuit.	<b>EmPower Place</b> Hours: 10 am-1 pm  <b>Art Lounge</b> and indoor play space, 10-6, Zootown Arts and Community Center (ZACC)  <b>UM Living Lab:</b> Research Studies for Kids, 10 am-6 pm, by appointment, ages 5-8  <b>Lego Club</b> 3:30-5 pm, Missoula Public Library  <b>Missoula Community Access Television (MCAT) Tour and Training</b> , 6-7 pm, Missoula Public Library. Register in advance.  <b>Oceans of Possibilities Summer Learning Program and Reading Challenge</b> , June 1- August 31, Missoula Public Library	<b>EmPower Place</b> Hours: 10 am - 6 pm  <b>Bowling</b> , 9 am-close, Westside Lanes (\$2 shoe rental + \$2 per game, all ages)  <b>Art Lounge</b> and indoor play space, 10-6, Zootown Arts and Community Center (ZACC)  <b>SpectrUM</b> , 10-6, Missoula Public Library  <b>Missoula Art Museum</b> , 10 am-5 pm, all ages <b>Do-It-Yourself Arts and Crafts</b> , 12-3, Big Sky H.S. Branch Library, for young kids & their families  <b>Missoula Farmers Mkt</b> , 5-7 pm @ the XXXX's In-downtown Missoula. Can use Double SNAP Dollars! <b>Yoga</b> , 6:30 pm, Missoula Public Library, family friendly	<b>EmPower Place</b> Hours: 10 am - 1 pm  <b>SpectrUM</b> , 10-6, Missoula Public Library <b>Tiny Tales</b> 10:30 EmPower Place  <b>Art Lounge</b> and indoor play space, 10-6, Zootown Arts and Community Center (ZACC) <b>Families First Blue Block Building</b> , 11-5, Missoula Public Library  <b>Missoula Art Museum</b> , 10 am-5 pm, all ages welcome. Be sure to check out their Art Park, too. <b>Out to Lunch</b> , 11 am-2 pm, Caras Park  <b>Missoula City Band Concerts</b> , 8 pm every Wednesday, June 15-August 10, Bonner Park Bandshell. All ages welcome.	<b>EmPower Place</b> Hours: 10 am-6 pm <b>Mini Naturalist</b> 10-11, MT Natural History Ctr <b>Missoula Art Museum</b> , Open 10-5 Tues-Sat, all ages welcome  <b>SpectrUM Sci</b> 10-6 Missoula Public Library <b>Art Lounge</b> and indoor play space, 10-6, Zootown Arts and Community Center (ZACC)  <b>Tiny Tales</b> , 10:30, Missoula Public Library <b>Bug Encounter</b> , 3-5, Missoula Public Library <b>Leadership League</b> , 4-5 pm, EmPower Place  <b>Orchard Homes Farmers' Market</b> , 4:30-7:00 pm, 2537 South 3rd Street West. Can use Double SNAP Dollars here!	<b>EmPower Place</b> Hours: 10 am-1 pm  <b>SpectrUM Sci</b> 10-6 Missoula Public Library  <b>Missoula Art Museum</b> , Open 10-5 Tues-Sat, all ages welcome <b>Art Lounge</b> and indoor play space, 10-6, Zootown Arts and Community Center (ZACC)  <b>Tiny Tales and Story Time</b> , 10:30 Missoula Public Library <b>Hike the "M" Trail</b> on Mount Sentinel or the "L" on Mount Jumbo  <b>A Carousel for Missoula</b> , open Wed-Sun 11:53:0 (call ahead to confirm hours), 101 Carousel Dr. Dragon Hollow, generally open 9 am - 8 pm seven days/week, weather permitting.	<b>Missoula Farmers' Mkt</b> , 8:30-12:30 @ XXXX's <b>Clark Fork River Market</b> , 8 - 12:30, 101 Carousel Drive *Can use Double SNAP \$ at farmers' markets!  <b>Missoula Art Museum</b> , Open 10-5 Tues-Sat, all ages welcome  <b>SpectrUM Sci</b> 10-6 Missoula Public Library  <b>Art Lounge</b> and indoor play space, 10-6, Zootown Arts and Community Center (ZACC) <b>Story Time</b> 10:30 Missoula Public Library  <b>Young Kids Dance Party</b> , 11 am @ MCAT, located in Missoula Public Library  <b>Moon Randolph Homestead</b> , Open to the Public, 11 am - 5 pm
<b>Fun places that are \$5 or less or FREE!</b> 	<b>Fun places that are \$5 or less or FREE!</b> 	<b>Fun places that are \$5 or less or FREE!</b> 	<b>Thank you to our 5-2-1-0 Sponsor:</b> 	<b>Missoula Food Bank and Community Center</b> hours for food distribution: Monday: 10 am-7 pm Tuesday: 10 am-7 pm Wednesday: 10 am-1 pm Thursday: 10 am-7 pm Friday: 10 am-1 pm	<b>YMCA Active 6</b> , for kids in 6th grade. Please register. Students eligible starting in June following their 6th grade year. Membership is good through August after 6th grade.	<b>HERE Montana</b> , outdoor rec group for BIPOC community, thru Missoula Parks & Rec. Find on Instagram.







# All Nations Health Center Activities, Programs & Events



## JOIN US THIS SUMMER

Join us to learn about native plants, their traditional uses, and how you can continue to incorporate them in your life today! Dr. Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfeet, Métis) a professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Montana will be our guide. We will meet the first Wednesday of every month, June-Sept 2022, from 6:30-8pm

### JUNE 1 Daily Plant Uses

Learn about the UM Ethnobotany garden and native sages of Montana.

### JULY 6 Plant Walk

We will take a nature walk to identify plants growing near the river in Missoula, and explore their many uses.

### AUG 3 Personal Care

What did Native people use for shampoo, body wash, and lotion? We'll learn and make some for ourselves.

### SEPT 7 Four Sisters Garden

Many Tribes domesticated plants. We'll see what's ready for harvest in the PEAS Farm's Four Sisters Garden.

**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration



REGISTER: [bit.ly/38JyAn](https://bit.ly/38JyAn)



[lfprice@allnations.health](mailto:lfprice@allnations.health)  
[dkingfisher@allnations.health](mailto:dkingfisher@allnations.health)

ALL NATIONS TRADITIONAL HEALING

**SWEAT LODGE SERIES**

ANHC IS HOSTING A TRADITIONAL SWEAT LODGE SERIES FOR OUR CLIENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

SPRING 2022

SATURDAYS

21ST

11TH  
18TH

2ND

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

8 AM--SET UP/START FIRE

11 AM-----GO IN LODGE

4 PM-----CLEAN UP

MAY

JUNE

JULY

TUESDAYS

24TH  
31ST

14TH  
21ST  
28TH

TUESDAY SCHEDULE

2 PM--SET UP/LITE FIRE

5 PM-----GO IN LODGE

9 PM-----CLEAN UP

**SWEAT LODGE LOCATION**

- Just West of the "Native Plant Garden at Fort Missoula"

- Look for the "Sleven's Island" sign

- Drive through the gate and follow down to the river under the water tower

FOR MORE INFO/QUESTIONS EMAIL CORWIN AT

CYELLOWKIDNEY@ALLNATIONS.HEALTH

work call (406) 338-1340



**Sleven's Island**  
This is a UM research & natural area  
Please pack out what you take in.  
Sleven's Island is within the Missoula City limits.  
**DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS IS PROHIBITED within the city limits (Municipal code 9.62)**  
This includes paint ball guns.  
If you witness anyone discharging firearms contact UM Office of Public Safety 202-964-4600

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Participate in a 45-60 minute Interview on Zoom

**\$40 Grocery Gift Cards!**

### ELIGIBILITY:

- ★ Identify as Native American
- ★ Live in Missoula, Great Falls, or Billings
- ★ Experience w/ SNAP, Double SNAP Dollars, or WIC
- ★ Children Ages 0-8 in your household

 **406-304-4828**



BILLINGS URBAN INDIAN  
HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER



## POWWOW DANCE PERFORMANCES

All Nations Health Center is recruiting dancers and singers!

### THURSDAY JUNE 16TH

All Nations Indigenous Heritage Celebration kick off at the Paddleheads stadium.

- Recruiting dancers and singers of all ages.

### FRIDAY JUNE 17TH

Performance during the CoLang 2022 evening reception.

- Recruiting adult dancers and singers

### IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Native Connections office,  
1515 S Russell

- Tuesday May 31st from 4p-6p
- Tuesday June 7th from 4p-6p

CONTACT DANA KINGFISHER:  
[DKINGFISHER@ALLNATIONS.HEALTH](mailto:DKINGFISHER@ALLNATIONS.HEALTH)







## American Indian Commercial Tobacco Prevention



Honoring Sacred Tobacco and Sustaining the  
Health and Wellness of Indigenous People

*Logo: Courtesy of Kira Murrillo*



# Youth Tobacco Summit

• YOUTH SUMMER CAMP 2022 •

Open To: AI/AN students age 14-17

JUNE

13-16

Contact: Dana at [dkingfisher@allnations.health](mailto:dkingfisher@allnations.health)

Meetings: Thursday June 2nd: 4:00p-6:00p

Native Connections, 1515 S Russell

Thursday June 9th: End of Year BBQ

2625 Briggs St, Old Cold Springs School

