Oki Niiksokowaaksi,
The Indian Education For All team is back at it. I have two new schools this for the 2019-20 school year. I will be at C.S. Porter on Mondays, Meadow Hill on Tuesdays, Sentinel High School on Wednesdays and Hellgate High School on Thursdays. I have a total of 278 Native American students that I will be working with. So, parents/guardians I will need your help in keeping these young people up to par.

C.S. Porter is under construction at this time, so space to meet is hard to come by. When we do begin I will be starting with some facts and discussion about the massacres that happened with Native American people. We will look at the history and stories of Montana tribes. Current events that are affecting tribes will be introduced as well. We are lucky to have Mr. Dennis Juneau take the vice principal helm. I have heard nothing but good things from the staff and students about his duties.

Meadow Hill is in the finishing part of construction. The new additions are outstanding and will be a welcoming up to date educational facility. I am located in the sixth grade computer lab. We have started doing moccasins in hopes to be done by November 9-16 National Roc Your Mocs dates. I have had the opportunity to meet most of the sixth graders coming in. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sentinel High School is off and running. I met some new faces and welcomed familiar ones. The high schools are hit and miss during the lunch time. The students do know who I am and are starting to get to the Lunch gathering. I started with expression, I wrote a couple poems that I thought would intrigue their interest. So far I have heard laughter and memories come from the readings of these poems.

Hellgate High is a new school for me. The construction has finished. I am quickly finding out that this is a huge school. I can see our students feeling invisible in such a big place. I will continue to visit with them and encourage them to take it serious. I am following the Sentinel game plan here at Hellgate. We have been allowed to use the space with the best technology in the school. I hope we can get more students to the Lunch gathering.

Have a great October!

Raymond D. Kingfisher  - 728-2400 X1027 or rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us

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“Let us put our minds together to see what we can build for our children”
—Chief Sitting Bull
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></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>Big Sky, Hawthorne, Jeanette Rankin, Washington</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>Chief Charlo, Franklin, Rattlesnake, Russell</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>

The Teacher’s Corner by Matt Bell

Our Native Studies course at Big Sky has started the year with our novel study of, The Last Pow Wow by Stephen Paul Judd and That Native Thomas. It's a good piece of fiction that ties in the stories of characters from a variety of tribes making their way to an ominous powwow.

We have also completed our lessons looking at the Wampanoag tribe in history and are on our way to learning more about the tribes in the Southwest as well as the Shawnee in the Midwest.

We are always looking for community members to join us and teach us more hands on lessons!

Have a good day from Matt Bell!

mkbell@mcps.k12.mt.us
728-2400 X4771

Cultural Competency in the Classroom: Support Native American Students

The MCPS Indian Education Department is collaborating with the University of Montana Psychology Department to support Native American students, faculty, and staff in the classroom. Anisa Goforth, PhD, and Ashton Smith, B.A., will give a two part presentation to interested faculty and staff who want to learn about Native student experiences, their own background when working with students, and using culturally responsive practices in the classroom.

The 2-hour session will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2019, in the MCPS Administration Building, Room 14 from 4-6 p.m. Participants will earn 2.0 MCPS PIR and 2.0 OPI credits. Register at the MCSP Professional Development Portal with the Course ID #13509.
Welcome back to the new school year!

I will be working at both Hawthorne and Jeannette Rankin Elementary schools. The books that I will reading to the schools are:

- Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie
- The Story of the Milky Way by Joseph Bruchac & Gayle Ross
- The Lost Children by Paul Goble

During Lunch groups at HES and JRES, we will be learning about our family names, and learning about “Indian Names”. If your child has their name, please tell them. Sometimes, our kids will forget what their “Indian Names” are. If possible, begin calling them by their given names. If your child has not been given their own name, that’s okay too.

We will go over family names.

I have also been given Washington Middle School this year! I will start the Native Lunch Group again, where we will be going over Powwow Etiquette.

At Big Sky High School, students have started off strong and are off to a good start! Please keep up that motivation and stay dedicated to your work, BSHS Students! The more you complete assignments on time, come to school on time, and stay at school for ALL of your classes, the better off your school year will be! Indian Club will be in room 104 during lunch time every Tuesday!

Ray and I will be getting more information about Dual Enrollment for SKC and Missoula College, for those students who are interested in starting college during their senior year.

I look forward to working with all the students and families this year!

Néá’eše. Haho! Thank you.

Crystal White Shield
Native American Community Specialist
(406)728-2400 x 1064
cwhiteshield@mcps.k12.mt.us
Tansi. Hello.

I would like to welcome everyone in the Missoula community back to the start of the school year 2019-2020. This year will be another exciting school year with lots of fun filled activities for our Native American families to attend.

Please keep checking your e-mails and texts as I am learning how to navigate our Connect 5 Blackboard system. Have patience with me while I learn this process.

Our MCPS Indian Education Department has started with a successful Welcome Back Native American families at C.S. Porter Middle School. Our celebration of Native American Heritage Day extends for one week with our Missoula County Public Schools District. Native American Specialist Dacia Griego will give a more in-depth report on this subject.

Next newsletter I will have a more accurate count of our Native American students in the MCPS District. September is always forever changing in data right up until the end of the month.

I would like to also welcome our new Title VI Parent Advisory Committee members of 2019-2020.

**Glenda Weasel**
Title VI Native American Specialist/Data Support Staff
(406)728-2400 ext. 1063
gfweasel@mcps.k12.mt.us

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**Lewis’ Place by Lewis YellowRobe**
I’m Lewis YellowRobe, Native American Specialist. This is my second year in the Indian Education Program. I’m looking forward to the coming school year of classroom room work in four schools. I work in Lewis & Clark, Paxson, Lowell, and Jefferson Schools. I read Native American written children’s book to all Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classes in these schools.

**Class Reading: Story of the Seasons**
In September 2019, I read Story of the Seasons by Verbena Green (Warm Springs Tribes) in Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, and Lowell Schools. The students heard how the tribe explains how the weather and planets organized the seasons and agreed to work together to help humans.

I have an exciting read aloud program designed for the school year that includes Native Hawaiian, Kootenai, Tamaya Pueblo, Yurok, Cree Nation stories.

**Lewis YellowRobe**
lyellowrobe@mcps.k12.mt.us
(406) 728-2400 Ext. 1049
Smoke Signals by Melissa Hammett

Oki Nisto Niida Niko (hello my name is) Melissa Hammett. I am an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe from Browning, MT. My family and I love living in Missoula. My husband Diego teaches Physical Education for Chief Charlo and coaches the Sentinel Cross Country team. We have seven children with three in school still.

I am the Native American Specialist for Seeley Swan high school and plan on doing site visits once a month plus remote visits with my Native American students there. I have been working closely with the English Language Learner Program (ELL) and will continue throughout the year. My focus will be on the Native American students associated with the ELL program mainly in Elementary and Middle School.

Blackfeet Words:

- Month: September  “I to wa Pi Pi ts ski”  “When The Leaves Turn Color”
- Shape: Square  “A-tak-saa-kssin”
- Number: One  “Nii-Tok-Ska”
- Day of the Week: Sunday  “Natoyi-Ksistsiko”  “Holy Day”

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

Tansi Nitotem! by Dacia Griego

Tansi! Hello! I hope everyone’s school year is off to a great start! I am the Native American Specialist at Chief Charlo, Franklin, Rattlesnake, and Russell Elementary Schools this year. I will be spending one day each week at each of my schools and am looking forward to getting to know all of the students.

I have started Read Alouds in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classes beginning September 30th. The first book I’m reading is “Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock” by Dallas Hunter, member of the Wapiswesipi (Swan River) First Nation. It’s a cute story that introduces Cree vocabulary words including “Awâsis” (child), “Kohkum” (grandmother), and the greeting “Tansi nitotem!” (Hello Friend!).

I will be starting lunch groups at my schools in just a few weeks. We’ll start out with some fun activities to get to know each other and then I’ll be bringing crafts, games, and simple language lessons throughout the year.

Dacia Griego
Native American Education Specialist
(406)728-2400 x 1068
dgriego@mcps.k12.mt.us
**Title VI Parent Advisory Committee**

The Title VI Parent Advisory Committee is off to a great start with our first Frybread Friday fundraiser kicking off on Friday, October 4th. We will have several more throughout the year to raise funds for the Graduating Senior Dinner. Watch the Indian Ed. Dept. Facebook page for upcoming dates.

We are also planning a Cat/Griz-themed fundraiser and other fundraising activities at the Indian Ed. Department’s Halloween Carnival on October 25th.

We have several new Parent Representatives on PAC this year. Parent/Guardian spots 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 descendent of an enrolled tribal member. We will feature each PAC member in newsletters throughout the year.

There is a current vacancy for a Teacher Representative on the committee. The Teacher Rep. does not have to be an enrolled tribal member, but they do have to be a teacher within the MCPS school district. Please send nominations for Teacher Rep to PAC President, Crystal White Shield at cwhiteshield@mcps.k12.mt.us

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**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>Stephven 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>

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**Do you smell that? Mmmmmmm...**

**It smells like Friday!**

**“FRYBREAD FRYDAY!!”**

Come on down and support the MCPS Native American Students for the FIRST FRYBREAD FRIDAY of the school year!

**When:** Friday, October 4, 2019

**Where:** 215 S. 6th St. West, Admin. Bldg.—East Parking Lot

- $8 Large Indian Taco
- $5 Small Indian Taco
- $3 Frybread
- $1 Soda/Water

Time: 11—1:30pm or until supply runs out

*Proceeds will be used to help with the cost of the MCPS Native Senior Dinner

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**TITLE VI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

Administration Building is located at 215 S. 6th Street W., B2 entrance is on eastside of building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>December 4, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 8, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3, 2020</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
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</tbody>
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**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: gfwesel@mcps.k12.mt.us or mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us
Your voice is very important to us! Thank you!
### 2019-2020 EVENT CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native American Heritage Week Welcome Back</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 25, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Event</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Contact: Dacia Griego)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halloween Carnival</td>
<td>Friday, October 25, 2019</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 PM</td>
<td>Franklin Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>(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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Contact: Lewis YellowRobe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Youth Powwow</td>
<td>Saturday, March 28, 2020</td>
<td>Grand Entry</td>
<td>Sentinel High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 and 6:00 PM</td>
<td>(Contact: Glenda Weasel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title VI Public Hearing</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 6, 2020</td>
<td>5:30—7 pm</td>
<td>MCPS Admin Building—Rm 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(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</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Edgewater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100 Madison St, Missoula, MT 59802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(406)728-3100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Contact: Dacia Griego)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Volunteers Wanted!**

A lot of hard work goes in to pulling off our monthly events. We are always happy to accept help from students, parents, relatives, and community members. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out at any of our upcoming events!

Volunteering with a group (student groups, families, Girl Scouts, church groups, etc.) is welcome!

Please call Dacia at 728-2400 ext 1068 to register as a volunteer!
The last Friday in September is recognized as American Indian Heritage Day in the state of Montana. Every year MCPS celebrates the week leading up to the holiday with guest performers. This year we hosted the University of Montana Pacific Islanders Club (UMPIC). The UMPIC performed traditional and modern Hawaiian dance at school assemblies and at a performance for the community. During the week the group performed at Lowell Elementary, Rattlesnake Elementary, Chief Charlo Elementary, and Hawthorne Elementary. Students at these schools had the opportunity to learn a few Hawaiian words like “Aloha” (Hello) and “Mahalo” (Thank you). They were so excited to see their teachers join in on a Hula lesson!

Chief Charlo Elementary hosted a Tribal Flag Ceremony at their school assembly and the Indian Ed. Dept. gifted the school with flags from each of the tribes of Montana.

We were also fortunate to collaborate with SPARK! who brought Supaman to MCPS for American Indian Heritage Day. Supaman performed for Big Sky High School, each of the middle schools and for participants of SPARK!’s Cultural Mosaic conference the following day.

Finally, the Indian Ed. Dept. rounded out the week with another collaboration with the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center (MUIHC). Together we hosted former Griz and NFL football player, Levi Horn. Levi shared his inspirational story with students at Sentinel High School and with the community at an event on Friday evening.

The week was busy and so much fun as we celebrated and shared our culture with students and the community. It was a great way to start off the year! We are looking forward to our other upcoming events and hope to see you all at our next event - the Halloween Carnival on October 25th!
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

GAMES, PRIZES, CAKE WALKS, RAFFLES, & MORE!

OCTOBER 25, 2019
5PM - 8PM

Spaghetti feed & potluck dinner
5PM - 6PM
Carnival Games & Activites
6PM - 8PM

Contact:
Crystal White Shield
Native American Specialist
(406) 728-2400 x 1064