



January 31, 2018

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Editor's Corner by Cathie Cichosz



Hello, the Indian Education Department sends out best wishes for you and your family this year. Our newsletter is sent out via email, so please make sure that your email address is correct at your child(ren) s school. If you are reading this as a community member or other member and would like to receive our newsletters, please [contact me](#) and I will place your name on our email contact list.

I am the Native American Specialist for Cold Springs Elementary, Jefferson Preschool, and the Read Aloud Program for Chief Charlo Elementary. Some of the books I have read for our Read Aloud Program so far this year:

⇒ *V j g " D w h h c n* by Kayo Bad Heart Bull *D q c v "*

⇒ *E q { q v g " c p f " v j g " U m { < " J q y " v* by Ernest Shkett *O q q p .*
Garcia

⇒ *D g c t f* by Will Hobbs

⇒ *V j t q w i j " v j g " C y* by George Perez *v j g " G c i n g "*

⇒ *F c p e g " K p " C* by Zikah Sa n q " *U m w n n "*

⇒ *G c i n g " H g c v j* by Ferguson *P l a i n q p q w t "*

In February, for the Read Aloud Program, I will show and explain videos of the different types of Native American dances and will teach the kids how to round dance. A flyer will be distributed to remind the kids to attend our Annual Powwow on March 17.

Be sure to check out our [webpage](#) and join our [Facebook](#) page. Both are great resources for information about our department, upcoming events, community activities and other news.

Our Title VII grant s name has been changed to Title VI. We are in the process of changing all our documents.

Please feel free to contact me anytime via email or phone

ccichosz@mcps.k12.mt.us

406-728-2400 ext. 164

Thank you for your continued support.

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Mission:
 Help Native American students achieve academically,
 culturally, and socially to graduate and become successful
 lifelong learners.

4 2 39: " U v c h h " E q p v c e v " K p h q t o c v k q

P c o g	V k v n g	R j q p 9 4-4 6 2 2	G o c k n	C u u k i p g f " U e j c q n u
Karen Allen	Executive Regional Director/Indian Education Department Supervisor	Ext. 1074	kallen@mcps.k12.mt.us	
Jake Arrowtop	Native American Specialist	Ext. 1049	jarrowtop@mcps.k12.mt.us	Big Sky High School, Lewis & Clark, Lowell, & Paxson Elementary Schools
Matt Bell	Native American Studies Teacher	Ext. 8634	mkbell@mcps.k12.mt.us	Big Sky High School and Willard Alternative High School
Cathie Cichosz	Native American Specialist	Ext. 1064	ccichosz@mcps.k12.mt.us	Jefferson Preschool, Cold Springs Elementary School, Chief Charlo Elementary Read Aloud Program, and Seeley-Swan High School
Melissa Hammett	Native American Studies Teacher/Native American Specialist	Ext. 1028	mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us	Hellgate High School, Sentinel High School, and Chief Charlo
Ray Kingfisher	Native American Specialist	Ext. 1047	rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us	CS Porter, Meadow Hill, & Washington Middle Schools, & Sentinel High School
Stacy Thacker	Native American Specialist	Ext. 1068	sthacker@mcps.k12.mt.us	Franklin, Hawthorne, Rattlesnake, and Russell Elementary Schools
Glenda Weasel	Title VI/Native American Specialist/Data Support Staff	Ext. 1063	gfwasel@mcps.k12.mt.us	Willard Alternative High School

The Teacher's Corner by Matt Bell



This is a good time to get back to the basics. If you haven't given making a tea from cedar a try now would be a great time.

I say this because we have cedar in the area. Perhaps more importantly it is a good opportunity to teach the younger generations about how we honor our food sources and say thanks before we harvest them.

All you need is the tips. Take some home and boil them. Strain and add a little maple syrup.

I give credit to Sioux Chef Sean Sherman for this idea. It was so simple yet really brings us back to our indigenous ways.

Chewing the Grass with Stacy by Stacy Thacker



Ya a teeh

My name is Stacy Thacker and I m the Native American Specialist for Rattlesnake, Hawthorne, Franklin and Russell elementary schools. I m a member of the Navajo tribe and I grew up on the Navajo Nation in New Mexico. I graduated from the University of Montana in 2014 with my BA in Journalism and worked at newspapers in Arizona and Idaho covering tribes in those areas before moving back to Missoula.

This is my second school year with the district as a Native American Specialist in the Indian Education Department and I m excited to be back working with the students. This year students have worked on a Blackfeet language book about animals. They learned how to say animal names in English and Blackfeet. They ve also started working on ledger art and really enjoy learning about the history of ledger art as well as creating their own.

At Hawthorne I m able to work with the journalism program where fourth and fifth graders are encouraged to tell stories about their school and their community. Once they are assigned a story they get it done quick and with care. It s amazing to see how quickly they put out stories and how well they cover their school events.

In addition to lunch visits, I also do the read aloud program with grades K-2nd. I ll go into the classroom and read a variety of Native American stories and afterward students will have an opportunity to discuss the book and ask questions.

The Indian Education Department also holds many events throughout the school year and we hope to see you all there. I look forward to meeting you and working with the students.

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Be sure to check out our friends Facebook page for more events:

[Missoula Urban Indian Health Center](#)

Title VI Parent Advisory Committee

by Rebecca BearCub

Hau mitakuyepi! This school year has already been off to a fast start, with a lot of positive students, supportive families, and supportive school staff and faculty. We kicked off the year with Terrance Little Tent as our guest for Native American Week for Missoula County Public Schools, and in October had our Spooky Halloween round dance and spaghetti feed at Porter Middle School.

At our Halloween round dance we had our Parent Advisory Committee elections for new parent representatives and our student representative for the committee. As a community you voted in Lisa Coon and Crystal White Shield for your parents, and Vegas Longtree, a freshman from Big Sky High School, as your student representative. Myself, Rebecca BearCub, and Moses Yellow Robe are your returning parents for the committee. We are looking forward to serving you, your students, and the Indian Education Department! We will see you at our events. The list of upcoming meetings is shown on Page 6.

If you haven't already, find our [MCPS Facebook page](#), as it has information concerning our tribal communities, upcoming events, and things that happen in our schools with our Native American Specialists. We look forward to seeing & talking with you all!



Crystal White Shield



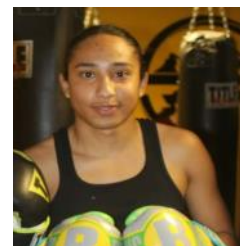
Matt Bell



Mariah Maxwell-Hawley



Moses Yellow Robe III



Vegas Longtree

2017-2018 Title VI **Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee**

Name	Title	Email
Rebecca BearCub	President	rebecca_bearcub_goddard@yahoo.com
Crystal White Shield	Vice President	crystalwhiteshield@gmail.com
Matt Bell	Teacher Rep. and Secretary	mattbell23@gmail.com
Lisa Coon	Parent Rep. and Treasurer	coonlisa@gmail.com
Mariah Maxwell-Hawley	Parent Representative	mmaxwell-hawley@mcps.k12.mt.us
Moses Yellow Robe III	Parent Representative	moses.yellow.robe.3@gmail.com
Vegas Longtree	Student Representative	

TSA NII TA PII WA (What's happening) by Ray Kingfisher

Ok! Niiksookoowaaksii,

The weather is colder now, so make sure your students have the proper gear to keep warm. We will be looking for coat, sweater, hat and glove donations to try to help during this time.

With that, there are so many good things going on at this time. Dana Kingfisher, Missoula Urban Indian Health Center (MUIHC) Alcohol/Tobacco prevention specialist, and myself are collaborating on a new project, The Missoula Native Youth Council (MNYC). So far, we held nominations and an election establishing some bright young minds to hold office and school representative positions. We will begin to getting this off the ground shortly. The Council is a student-run organization to establish a collaborative voice for Native American students that live and attend the Missoula schools. There will be meetings scheduled throughout the upcoming months. The youth council students will be deciding what to do in the near future. They will be looking for volunteer and fundraising opportunities in the community. All are welcome to attend the MNYC meetings.



At CS Porter Middle School, we finished the Student Trauma and Resiliency (STAR) curriculum with MUIHC. This was good education about how students can deal with emotions, anger, fear, and anxieties. Students learned to make good choices, talk to someone about problems, and change their outlook on a situation. They also learned about breathing techniques and useful practices to help cope with life's difficulties. We are now learning about Montana Tribes and reservations. This is an important lesson, as most of the students do not know how many tribes and reservations (location) are in Montana. I hope what I have introduced and the map that the students worked on will give them a sense of tribal awareness. We will continue with treaties and how the reservations were established.

At Meadow Hill Middle School, the students and I started with Montana Tribes, venturing into treaties and reservations. During this time, many stereotypes began to come up about Native Americans. One of the stereotypes was that Native Americans get a free check, a Rez Check, every month. I had to debunk this belief right away. The treaty lesson I talked about was good, but our library has acquired the new film, *Yearning*: Elouise Cobell, a Woman and Her Fight for Justice. This film was such a great tool to use the Rez Check belief. The students watched it intensely and had questions. The movie was sad, but ultimately the film was good. I asked, Do Native Americans get a free check every month? and the answer was a definitive NO.

At Sentinel High School, the students and I began looking at current events. At that time, the Las Vegas shooting occurred. I asked students what they heard about the tragedy and what they thought about it. I kept hearing that it was the largest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. I said, Well, let's look at a few things and we will decide by Christmas break if you still think that. We then studied the Pikunii and the Baker/Bear River Massacre where 200+ Piegan, mostly women and children, were killed on the banks of the Marias. Next, the Sand Creek Massacre, where 170 Cheyenne and Arapaho were killed as they waved the white (peace) and American flags. Stereotypes began to arise again, so we switched gears and viewed the Elouise Cobell film. A couple of teachers were curious about the things we were learning, so we invited them in to learn also.

At Washington Middle School, the students and I began a project making moccasins. MUIHC's Alcohol/Tobacco Prevention Specialist will be joining us for the next five weeks, bringing education to the students. I believe that, at this age, these students need awareness that tobacco and alcohol are dangerous and that they will be approached to try it. I will move on to Montana tribes and reservations soon.

Have a good time. Raymond Kingfisher



Jake's Place by Jake Arrowtop

The 2017 Halloween Round Dance at Chief Charlo elementary was a spooky good time! We had a record of 350 students, parents, staff, and community members in attendance.

It was great to see all the young people dressed up as zombies, ninjas, and princesses. They formed a line that curved out the door as they waited for the spaghetti feed. Thank you to all who brought numerous dishes to contribute to the pot luck. Not one were-wolf went hungry.

Student volunteers decorated and managed the haunted hallway. This hallway was the main source of screams and laughter all evening long. Informational tables lined the gym with numerous crafts and activities as singers sang some wicked roundy songs. There was the ever-popular cake walk that might have been a world record for length. The Missoula Urban Indian Health Center provided tobacco prevention information as well as flu shots.

Our event was incredibly successful. It is always good to visit with our students, families, and community members. Thank you to all the Title VI Parent Advisory Committee members, community members, and students that volunteered their time decorating, serving, and cleaning. Special thanks to Dana Kingfisher from the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center for all her hard work and support!

-Jake Arrowtop

**Missoula County Public Schools
Indian Education Department
PRESENTS:**

2018 NATIVE YOUTH POWWOW

SATURDAY MARCH 17, 2018
SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL, 901 S. Ave. West MISSOULA, MT
GRAND ENTRY: 12PM & 6PM
MC TBA AD TBA
HOST DRUM PICKED EACH SESSION

SAVE THE DATE

CONTACT: Glenda Weasel 728-2400 X1063 or gfwesael@mcps.k12.mt.us
 Melissa Hammett 728-2400 X1028 or mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us
 Jake Arrowtop 728-2400 X1049 or jcarrowtop@mcps.k12.mt.us

FIRST FIVE DRUMS PAID
CONTEST DANCING FOR JR'S AND TEENS
ADULTS WILL BE JACKPOT STYLE
GOLDEN AGE AND TINY-TOT HONORARIUM
VENDOR SPOTS AVAILABLE
YOUTH ACTIVITIES
COMMUNITY FEED

POSTER IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INJURY, THEFT OR ACCIDENTS

TITLE VI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Administration building is located at 21 S. 1st Street . 2 entrance is on eastside of building.

Business building is located at 1 South Avenue West next to Sentinel High School

Date	Time	Location & Type of Meeting
Wednesday February 7	5:00 PM	Administration building 2 Regular Meeting
Wednesday March 7	5:00 PM	Administration building 2 Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 0	5:00 PM	Administration building 2 Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 18	5:00 PM	Business building Conference Room Public hearing for Title VI Grant Part 1
Wednesday April 2	5:30 PM	Business building Conference Room Public hearing for Title VI Grant Part 2
Wednesday May 02	5:00 PM	Administration building 2 Regular Meeting
Wednesday June 0	5:00 PM	Administration building 2 Regular Meeting

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