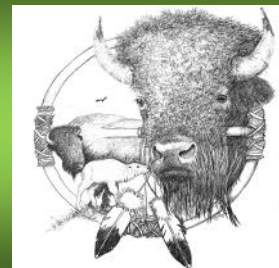




# MSSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



## Editor's Corner

-Cathie Cichosz

Here we are at the end of another school year. As I reflect back on the Indian Education for All Department's (IEFA) events and daily activities, I am grateful to have served Missoula County Public School's students, staff and families. I have witnessed many positive things from our students throughout the school year including increases in attendance and grades, increases in cultural knowledge, and increases in social interactions. In addition, Ahka (Kate Beals) reported that she served 1,065 students this year in her Read-Aloud program, up from 900 last year.

I am honored to be a part of IEFA and the Missoula County Public Schools. Thank you for your continued support!

June 11, 2015

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## Looking for Youth

### Gathering of Native American Youth Camp

#### *Respecting the Tobacco Way*

**WHAT is GONA?:**

An event that provides a forum for individual and community affirmation and ritual in a Native-specific way following the values of Belonging, Mastery, Interdependence and Generosity.

**WHEN is GONA**

June 15-19, 2015 for up to 10 Teens Ages 13-18

**WHERE is GONA?**

Northern Cheyenne Tribal School, Busby, Montana

**WHO to CONTACT?**

Dana Kingfisher, Missoula Urban Indian Health Center 829-9515 x109

**IS THERE A COST?**

10 hours of Community Service hours by the participant

Friends, Nature, Laughing, Learning, Culture, Hiking



## TSA NII TA PII WA (What's happening)

*-Ray Kingfisher*

Oki Nisokowaiks:

My time working for the Indian Education for All Department has been fulfilling. As we round the stretch for home (end of school year), I am already looking forward to the 2015-16 school year.

The schools and students that I see each week have given me the enthusiasm to continue to help Native American students succeed in our urban environment. I can see something good in all students. I will continue to encourage them to use these good assets to their advantage. The IEFA department is making huge strides in helping students. I only ask that the parents get more involved. The Native community can all achieve great things as a whole when working together. Encourage your students to be the best they can be, teach your tribal way of life, learn your language, and most of all, smile, be good to someone, be good to your family.

Have a great summer! I will be around; come, shake my hand, and say "Oki."

## Jake's Place

*-Jake Arrowtop*

Okii! My name is Jake Arrowtop. I am a member of the Blackfeet nation and a Native American Specialist for Missoula County Public Schools. There are four schools within the District I am assigned to: Paxson Elementary, Lewis and Clark Elementary, Lowell Elementary, and Big Sky High School.

This year has gone by so fast! As the lunch clubs wind down, I wanted to express how grateful I am to be able to work so closely with the Native American community. I have been fortunate to develop positive and meaningful relationships with many students across the District. Consistently supporting Native American students in any way I can is extremely important to me and I look forward to returning in the fall. Have a great summer!

### SENIOR PRESENTATIONS:

On May 13th, the Big Sky High School seniors presented to groups of students, staff, and community members. The projects were varied and tailored to each student's specific interests. The Native American students did an excellent job on their senior projects. Here is a sample of the presentations:

**Marlena Jones** is passionate about dance but is also interested in how her passion could be applied to another interest of hers, psychology. Marlena researched methods of dance therapy when dealing with trauma and gained a deeper understanding of how bodies and minds are connected. Marlena explored how dance therapy when coupled with traditional counseling, provides an effective method of trauma recovery. She then decided to learn how to fancy dance with the goal of participating in the Kyi-Yo Powwow. Marlena managed to merge cultural traditions with a viable field of science to produce an engaging senior project.

**Elijah Gladue** developed an interest in cooking over the course of his senior year. He decided to base his project on cooking, specifically, focusing on Native American foods. He researched traditional native ingredients and gained an understanding of how wild plants were used and he also explored the origin of frybread. Elijah eventually wanted to test out his new found cooking skills and he provided a homemade meal of chili and frybread to a group of residents at the Village Health Center.

**Mykah Kittson** focused on sports medicine and how it affects her sport of choice, cheerleading. She researched common injuries associated with the sport as well as potential prevention strategies. Mykah worked closely with a physical therapist to develop an exercise regimen that would strengthen injury-prone muscles in the sport of cheerleading. In addition, Mykah worked with Summit Cheering Athletics. She taught her exercise routine to aspiring cheerleaders, stressing proper form, as well as educating her peers on the potential hazards that accompany cheerleading.

**Angalia Fish** chose to focus on her Blackfeet heritage. Angalia's aim was to better understand her tribe. She researched Blackfeet traditions and the roles they play in contemporary Blackfeet life. Angalia decided that she wanted to make a traditional dress to better understand the work that went into creating traditional clothes. She beaded and fringed a beautiful traditional dress and hopes to hit the powwow trail.

# Needs Assessment Survey

We value your input into our departmental goals and Title VII Grant objectives!

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## 2015-2016 Needs Assessment Survey

Please let us know what you feel are the most important needs of the Native American students in Missoula County Public Schools. Select all that apply.

- Increase school readiness
- Integration of Native American specific content into curriculum
- Academic achievement
- Knowledge of cultural identity and awareness
- Enhance problem solving and cognitive skill development
- School attendance rate
- School dropout rate
- Graduation rate
- Career readiness skills
- College enrollment
- Substance abuse prevention
- Increase parent participation.

**Please deliver or mail to:**

Missoula County Public  
Schools  
Administration Building  
IEFA Dept. B2  
215 S. 6th Street West  
Missoula, MT 59801

Other suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rank the three most important needs:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the category(ies) that apply to your household. Check all that apply:

Native American Yes  No

- Parent/Guardian
- Community Member
- High School Student
- Middle School Student
- Elementary School Student
- Missoula County Public School Staff Member

What do you think is working in the Indian Education for All Department?

Are there areas that you would like to see addressed by MCPS or services you would like to see offered by the Indian Education for All Department?



# 2015 Graduating Seniors at the Senior Dinner on May 21





# 2015 Graduating Seniors at the Senior Dinner (Continued)



The star quilt in the background was donated by Glenda Weasel's family. The proceeds went towards the senior dinner. Winner of the star quilt was Karen Allen, Executive Regional Director for Missoula County Public Schools and Director of Indian Education.

Glenda's family is already working on a quilt for raffle next year!



### American Indian Alumni Group

Searching for Grizzly Football Tailgate sponsorships, if you are interested please contact AIAG coordinator Wilena Old Person ([wilena.oldperson@umontana.edu](mailto:wilena.oldperson@umontana.edu)).

### Scheduled Home Games:

8/29/15	NDSU
9/5/15	Cal Poly
9/26/15	Northern AZ
10/10/15	Weber State
10/24/15	North Dakota
11/14/15	Eastern WA

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual American Indian Alumni Homecoming Social to be held on September 25, 2015 in The Payne Family Native American Center. Watch for details this summer!

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/umnativealumni](http://www.facebook.com/umnativealumni)

Remember to update your information with UM Alumni Association to receive updates from the American Indian Alumni Group.  
<http://www.grizalum.org/>



Ray Kingfisher, MCPS Native American Specialist, at Kick Butts Day. Ray and Jake Arrowtop collaborated with the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center for these events.



# MISSOULA URBAN INDIAN HEALTH CENTER

406.829.9515  
830 West Central, Missoula MT 59801  
www.micmt.com

**Coffee Breaks**  
**Morning Walk**  
9 am  
UM Campus Foot Bridge  
June 9  
July 7  
July 21

**Athletic Development Academy**  
**3 Day Clinic & Day Camp**  
June 16—18  
10 am to 3 pm  
City Life Community Center  
For more information call Health Promotion at  
829-9515 Ext 120  
Sports Physicals August 3 at MUIHC by Appointment

**3 ON 3 GARDEN CITY SHOOT OUT**  
June 13 & 14  
South Gate Mall  
Contact Dana Kingfisher for more information.

**June**  
3 Group Hikes MUIHC 8 am  
Group Fitness Bonner Park 7 pm  
17 GHikes MUIHC 8 am  
GFitness Bonner Park 7 pm  
**July**  
1 GHikes MUIHC 8 am  
GFitness Bonner Park 7 pm  
15 GHikes MUIHC 8 am  
GFitness Bonner Park 7 pm  
23 Water Aerobics at  
Splash Montana  
29 GHikes MUIHC 8 am  
GFitness Bonner Park 7 pm  
**August**  
5 GHikes MUIHC 8 am  
GFitness Bonner Park 7 pm

**Pink Bingo**  
Wednesday June 3, 2015  
5:30  
Home Arts Building  
Western Montana Fairgrounds

**Sobriety Camp Out**  
June 25-28, 2015  
Arlie Pow Wow Grounds  
Everyone Welcome!!

**Garden Series**  
**Medicinal Plant Walk**  
July 6 UM Campus Mall 11 am Russ Medora  
TBD UM Campus Mall 11 am Plant Walk  
**August**  
22 Caras Park 10 am Farmers Market  
27 MUIHC ASUSM Garden 10 am Berry Picking & Harvest

**Commod Bod Challenge Ends**  
July 27  
8 am to 5 pm

**Welcome Back BBQ**  
August 31 Location to be determined



Mike Jetty, Indian Education Specialist, Office of Public Instruction, at the Missoula Native Youth Conference in April 2015.



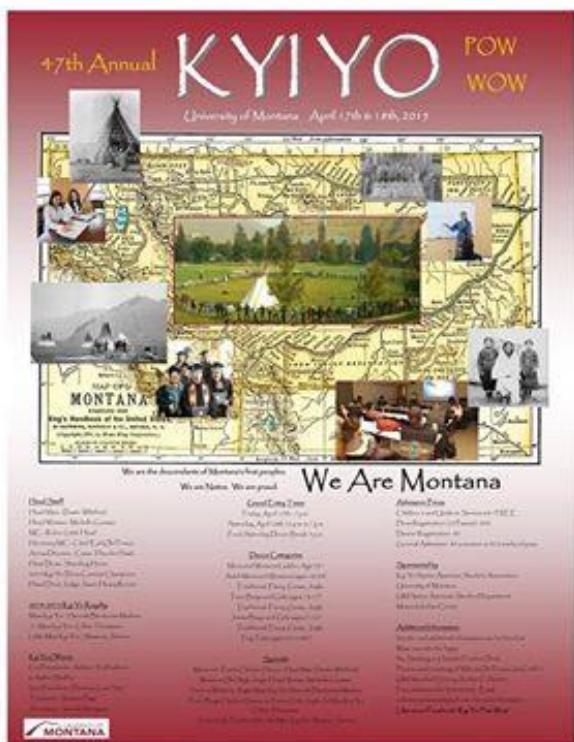
Flautist Jermaine White Elk visited our department and played his beautiful music. Staff who were honored to hear him where, left to right, Glenda Weasel, Ray Kingfisher, Kate Beals, Jermaine White Elk, Cecil B. Crawford, and Lisa Cadman.



Ray Kingfisher made a drum for the MCPS Native American students. His goal is to have a drum group of students. Contact Ray at 728-2400, ext. 1047. Although our staff does not work during the summer, please leave a message and you will be contacted in September 2015.



Big Sky High School graduate, Shania Hall showcased her photography in the Metropolitan Museum in New York City! Her photograph is 16 feet high, split into three sections, the longest more than 100 feet long. The IEFA Dept. is very proud of her!



Thank you to the Kyi-Yo Powwow for giving the Native American students one free session ticket to the powwow! It was very much appreciated.

In addition, Kyi-Yo gave one free session ticket to all Missoula County Public School 4th Graders. Susie Graham's class from Chief Charlo had the most students in attendance making it a total of 105 fourth graders. Congratulations! Pizza was served, compliments of Kyi-Yo, the last week of May.

Looking forward to the 2015-16 school year!



IEFA hosted "Frybread Fridays," this spring outside the office, with proceeds going to the Senior Dinner. IEFA even had someone drive-up and order! Thanks to the cook, Ray Kingfisher, for making some really fantastic frybread. "Frybread Fridays" will continue next school year. Watch the newsletter for dates and times!