

# Indigenous Insider

January 2025

## MCPS NASS staff shareouts



January was filled with a lot of learning and activities. Seeley Swan High School students started beading projects and I started working with the Jeanette Rankin students. I will meet with them twice per month, during their lunch times. The first meeting of the month is spent having lunch together, talking about Montana's tribal people, along with sharing stories and information. The second monthly meeting is an active hour of crafts, activity, games, or learning. For January, we made dream catchers. Please reach out if you would like to help me out by teaching any crafts, activities, or learning topics.

I continue to meet with teachers, at their convenience, to see how they can incorporate IEFA in their classrooms. An introduction to IEFA was offered as an after school professional development opportunity, and while it was a small group, the teachers who came are very dedicated to learning about Montana's tribal people and teaching what they learn to our students. Our department also collaborated with SPARK! Arts to bring in Aspen and Cameron Decker for a professional development on the topic of ledger art.



**MCPS Native American Student Services**

**909 South Ave W.  
Building B, Rm 120  
Missoula, MT 59802**



Willard: This month I only got to make it to the school twice, due to no school on a couple of Mondays. I'm working with counselors to make sure each of our graduates have caps and gowns ordered. We are finishing up our little beading project to move on to the next, which is beading graduation caps. We also have a parent who would like to come and volunteer to help with demonstrating how to bead your cap. I have been recruiting students to attend the RISE meeting on Tuesdays, and I was glad to see there were more in attendance at the last meeting. I will work with them on introducing themselves.



Sentinel: We have been meeting regularly for our RISE meetings every other Tuesday. I had a student enter the RISE youth conference logo contest, unfortunately he wasn't selected. The RISE committee is still however sending him an honorarium. I have been meeting with counselors more often, due to some bullying that has been going on. The admin and counselors have addressed it. I am also in contact with the senior counselor to check the status of graduation for our Native students. Sentinel AD would like to have the crosstown game with Hellgate to be similar to the one with Big Sky in which our Native Sentinel shirts were worn. We also well be selling our native Sentinel shirts soon. Waiting to meet with Sentinel AD to get things going.

Washington MS: The last couple meetings were small. I did talk about the N7 games that were held and showed the video of the late Malia Kipp. There were some students who got to participate in the event carrying out the Montana tribal flags. I am trying to work with the principal to get a set room for us to meet. We have been bouncing around and it's confusing my students when they can't find me.

Hellgate: I am meeting more of the staff. They are reaching out to me for more adult support for the students they work with. Also, I got to talk with Principal Miller and he is supporting me with getting a room so we can start beading during lunch and maybe get ready for beading graduation caps.

Lewis and Clark: In my monthly meeting with my All Nations students I brought over our department's buffalo box and got to share pictures and talk about MCPS first ever buffalo harvest. They enjoyed it! I also did get asked by staff to come and visit with a few students.

**Okii** (Blackfeet / Piikani)

**?e-?a** (Salish / Séliš-Qlispé)

**Hello - Hello!!!**



January has been a hectic month, full of meaningful connections & opportunities!

There are many January happenings to highlight:

- The crosstown N7 Game between Big Sky & Hellgate was amazing. Seeing students sell shirts & fry bread, participate in the flag ceremony, honor & elevate each other was soul-filling. I am looking forward to a crosstown game between Hellgate & Sentinel, hopefully in the near future.
- Our department took a field trip to Jeanette Rankin Elementary for Principal Stevens' presentation on her life & "King Kuka's Art."
- I LOVED working with ALL the Russell 5th graders, studying historical & contemporary ledger art & then creating their own ledger art! *WHAT A JOY!*
- Our department partnered with UM to provide a full day of activities at the University of Montana for the Lady Griz N7 game. I absolutely loved seeing our MCPS students carry out the flags for the anthem & dancing during half time. Our department is looking forward to the N7 game on February 1st.
- Our department also participated in "The Mocassin Project: Cultivating a Sense of Place Through Indigenous Art & Stories" by Co Carew PhD at the University of Montana. I am excited to share this (art) lesson with MCPS.
- Usually, I am with elementary students. I was delighted to join the Big Sky students for a RISE meeting! I am looking forward to building relationships with these students.
- I continue to connect with students at Paxson weekly & now see students at Rattlesnake twice a month. *YAY!* I am grateful for our time together & the ability to build rapport.
- Charlie & I are busy meeting & collaborating with teachers & schools across the district. We offered dynamic professional development to teachers in January. We partnered with SPARK! Arts presenting "History through Ledger Art" with Aspen & Cameron Decker. The Deckers will return in May with "Making the Future." February is filled with rigorous & fantastic Professional Development opportunities for teachers, including a visit with Chris LaTray & his book "Becoming Little Shell" book-study.
- Our department is offering "Earring Making" with Gisele & Valerie Forrest on February 3rd & 10th. So far, there is a lot of interest and this is really exciting!



I can't believe February is here!

With Gratitude,

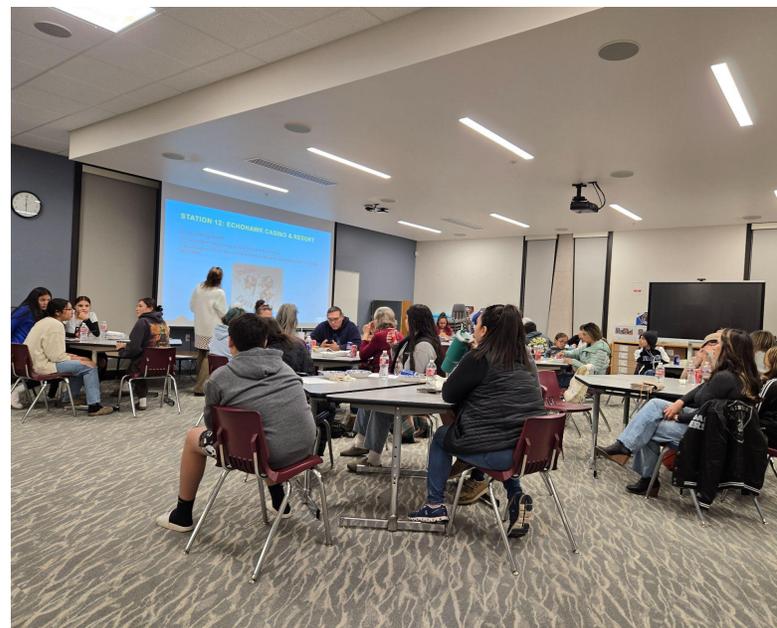
Keila Cross, IEFA Instructional Coach

# Community and Department Events



Big Sky and Sentinel RISE students at their cross-town basketball games. Big Sky Native students wanted the the tribal flags hung in the gym. Kayla Dix gave a Salish prayer. Arlan Edwards and Jake Lahr sang the Blackfeet flag song.

January 15th AISES financial literacy event. Many prizes were given away. The grand prize went to Oklen. NASS was also able to give away 2lbs of bison burger to those in attendance.





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MCPS NASS students and families spent the day attending events prior to the Lady Griz N 7 game. They were able to check out the ESports center, listen to a talk by Levi Horn and eat lunch at the new dining hall.



A few MCPS students were selected to carry the tribal flags at the game.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senior parent meeting February 12th at 5pm at Admin B Learning Lab (909 South Ave West)

**If you would like to share your knowledge and become a cultural consultant for our department, please reach out to Charlie Struna at [cstruna@mcpsmt.org](mailto:cstruna@mcpsmt.org) for more information. Please include your name and area of expertise.**

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**THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS**



MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES



## >> 2024-2025 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR <<

EVENT NAME	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Back to School BBQ	Monday, Aug. 26	5-6:30 pm	Sentinel High School
American Indian Heritage Day Round Dance	Friday, Sept. 27	6 - 9 pm	C.S. Porter Middle School
SEPTEMBER 27: AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY (MONTANA)			
SEPTEMBER 30: ORANGE SHIRT DAY - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (US/CANADA)			
OCTOBER 14: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY (US)			
Supaman	Friday, Oct. 25	7 - 8 pm	Sentinel High School Auditorium
Halloween Carnival	Tuesday, Oct. 29	6 - 8 pm	Franklin Elementary School
NOVEMBER: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH			
Pemmican Making Class	Monday, Nov. 4 Monday, Nov. 11 Monday, Nov. 25	5:30-8 pm	Balsamroot Room at the Insectarium & Butterfly House
Bingo Night	Friday, Dec. 6	6 - 8 pm	UM : ALI
AISES: financial cents	Wednesday, Jan. 15	5:30-7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
Rope Wrap Earrings	Monday, Feb. 3 Monday, Feb. 10	5:30 - 8 pm	Balsamroot Room at the Insectarium & Butterfly House
Native Youth Powwow	April 26	12 - 10 pm	Sentinel High School
MAY 5: NATIONAL MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS' AWARENESS DAY (US)			
Native Graduates Senior Dinner	Tuesday, May 20	6 - 8 pm	Fairgrounds
End of Year Celebration	Tuesday, June 10	5 - 6:30 pm	Sentinel High School

MCPS Native American Student Services

# SUNDAY FUNDAY



**SPORTS – CULTURE – MOVEMENT**

Join our FREE Sunday activities to get your body moving and spend time with your friends! For MCPS Native American students ages 8 and up!

**PARENTS/FAMILY WELCOME!**

## Activities:

- Open gym
- Dancing
- Stick Game
- Basketball
- Beading
- Drumming/Singing
- Back-up singing

Big Sky High School  
10 am – 2 pm  
Every Sunday starting Sept. 1

## Information Contact:

Leigh Malatare (406)728-2400 ext. 1047  
Shawn White Grass (406) 728-2400 ext. 1050





**MCPS Native American Services  
Presents:**

# **EARRING Making WORKSHOP**



Come and learn how to make rope wrapped earrings with Gisele and Valerie Forrest. Supplies are provided.



**Classes:  
2/3 and 2/10  
5:30-8 pm  
Missoula Butterfly  
House and  
Insectarium's  
Balsamroot Room**



# BINGO NIGHT

Potluck!

Prizes!

Friday, January 31

Doors Open: 6:00 PM | Bingo Starts: 7:00 PM

Location:

MCPS - 909 South Ave West, Building B Missoula MT 590801

Questions Please Email: [Kyiy@umontana.edu](mailto:Kyiy@umontana.edu)



Event Sponsored By:  
MCPS Native American Student Services & Kyiy



NASS Dept would like to invite you to our

# MONTHLY PAC MEETING

First Wednesday of  
the Month  
February 5, 2025  
6-8pm

Admin Building B  
909 South Ave W

We hope you can make it. Potluck style dinner. Bring your favorite dish to share. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Contact Person: Billie Jo



||Bjuneau@mcpsmt.org || 406.728.2400. ext 1063

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