

FEBRUARY 2022

# IVALUE



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

**Inclusion. Validation. Action. Learning. Understanding. Equity**



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Chinese Lunar New Year
- Black History Month
- MTREP Book Club
- ADL Resources
- IVALUE Anti-Bias Foundational Training Series

*We would love to include authentic voices in our newsletter and welcome contributors! If you would like to share your experience and expertise please contact Dacia Griego, [dgriego@mcpsmt.org](mailto:dgriego@mcpsmt.org).*



## WHAT IS IVALUE?

The IVALUE Anti-Bias Working Group is an initiative by Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) to move forward with creating a more inclusive workplace and school setting.

We recognize that our community needs to learn skills in order to be aware of and interrupt bias related to race, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, creed, citizenship status, ability, economic or social conditions, or marital or parental status.

# Chinese New Year

Dr. Xin Bu, Associate Professor at the University of Montana



## The Origin of Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, has a history of 3500 years. It is the most important traditional Chinese festivals. The exact date of new year differs depending on the lunar calendar. 2022 Chinese New Year will occur on February 1st, 2022.

A popular myth about the origin of Chinese New Year is the tale of Nian. Nian was a famous monster in ancient time. It was said that Nian would come down from mountain and eat human beings every night. Villagers were so afraid of the monster that they locked their doors every day before sunset. They stayed home praying for survival. A wise old man encouraged people to stand up to fight it. They figured out that Nian was afraid of red color, noise, and fire. In order to drive Nian away, they learned to decorate their houses with red, light up fireworks, and play drums loudly. They also prepared a big meal and prayed for protection from their ancestors. Later, those activities evolved to be Chinese New Year traditions.

## Chinese New Year Today

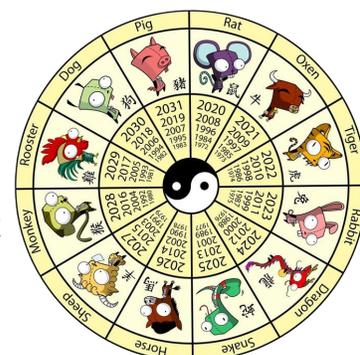
Chinese new year is a 15-day festival. Typically, people get seven consecutive days off during the Chinese New Year. The importance of this festival is comparable to Thanksgiving in Western cultures. It is a time for family gathering and relaxation after one year's hard work. People will take whatever cost to travel back home. Given the population of China, Chinese new year is a time each year when the most mass transportation happens on earth! In addition to the traditions from the tale of Nian, another tradition is the thorough cleaning of house to remove any bad luck. The last event of Chinese New Year is the fifteenth day, also called the Lantern Festival. People glow lanterns in temples or carry them during a nighttime parade. A dragon dance is also very popular, involving a couple of dancers carrying a long, colorful dragon through the streets.

## 12 Zodiac Signs

Chinese zodiac is represented by 12 animals, which are namely, Rat, Ox, Rabbit, Dragon, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. Chinese zodiac years begin/end at Chinese New Year. The 12 animals represent the repeating zodiac cycle of 12 years. 2022 is a year of the Tiger.

## Recommended classroom activities:

1. Paper-cutting. This is an easy to follow video cutting a snowflake:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO4mSqVCgTU>.
2. Making Chinese lantern: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gA0zE\\_7j2k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gA0zE_7j2k)



How to Say Happy New Year in Chinese

新年快乐

Xīn nián kuài lè!

## Classroom Resources for the Lunar New Year

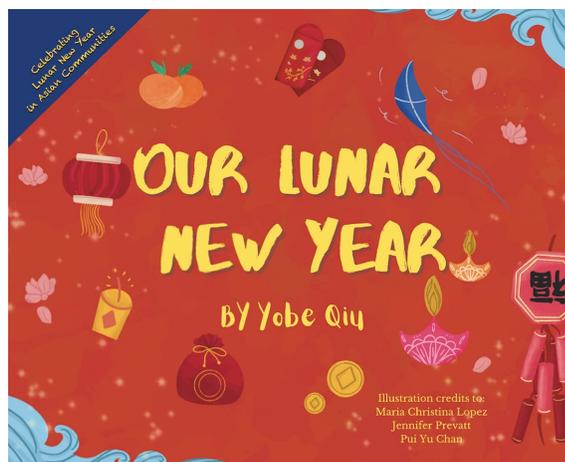
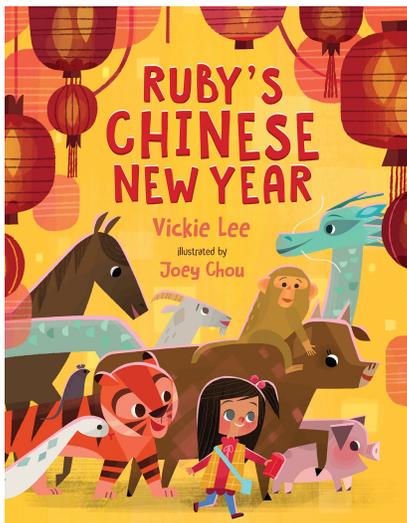
MCPS Alumni, Yolanda Mah shares this recipe by Chef Daddy Lau, [Cantonese Chow Mein](https://madewithlau.com/recipes/cantonese-chow-mein). Yolanda remembers cooking with her Dad as a young girl, and his techniques were similar to Chef Daddy Lau. Yolanda says this recipe is easy to make, affordable, and represents “long life”. This traditional recipe is common to make for Lunar New Year.

<https://madewithlau.com/recipes/cantonese-chow-mein>

"This classic Cantonese chow mein is known as "鼓油王炒面", which translates roughly to supreme soy sauce pan fried noodles. (Also, chow mein = pan fried noodles.)"



- Book Link: [Ruby's Chinese New Year by Vickie Lee, Illustrated by Joey Chou](#)
- Book Link: [Our Lunar New Year by Yobe Qiu](#) (Learning Chinese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese and Indian Lunar New Year traditions.)
- Clip: [New Year Lion Dance](#)



# Our Favorite Lunar New Year Traditions

by Marcus, Kimber, and Mason.

This year, lunar new year lands on the 1st of February and it's the year of the Tiger! We wear red for good luck. We eat long noodles for longevity and oranges for good luck and happiness.

## Our Favorite Lunar New Year Traditions

Kimber, age 7: My favorite Lunar New Year tradition is eating long noodles.

Marcus, age 7: My favorite Lunar New Year tradition is getting the ang pow (red envelope with money inside)

Mason, age 10: My favorite Lunar New Year tradition is the ang pow and wearing red for good luck.



Marcus - age 7, Kimber - age 7, Mason - age 10 with their red envelopes.



## Montana Racial Equity Project Book Club at MPL

*from the Missoula Public Library*

The Missoula Public Library and The Montana Racial Equity Project hosts a monthly Book Club! This new discussion group is facilitated by Chris Young-Greer, Education Initiative Lead for the Montana Racial Equity Project. Reading selections include mainly nonfiction titles about social justice, equity, and issues affecting historically marginalized, disenfranchised, and oppressed individuals or communities. The Book Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

This discussion group is facilitated by Chris Young-Greer, Education Initiative Lead for the Montana Racial Equity Project. Reading selections include mainly nonfiction titles about social justice, equity, and issues affecting historically marginalized, disenfranchised, and oppressed individuals or communities. For more information on this lively and inspiring Book Club visit the Montana Racial Equity Project's website.

# MONTANA RACIAL EQUITY PROJECT

— BOOK CLUB —



**4th Wed at 6pm  
Cooper Room A**



## Black History Month Resources

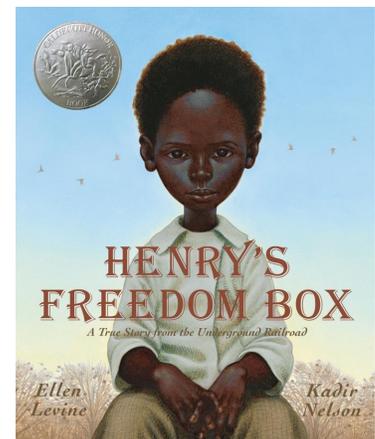
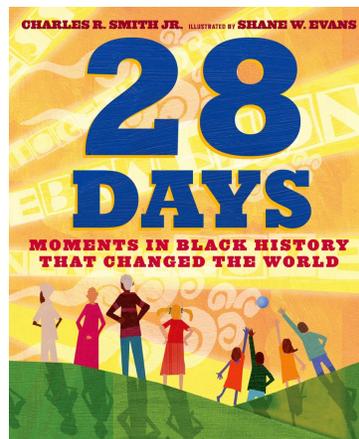
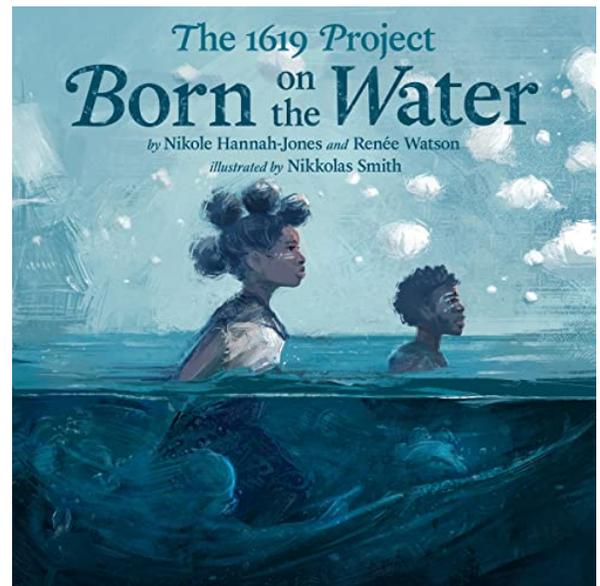
### Read Alouds and Books:

*Born on the Water* by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renee Watson, Illustrated by Nikkolos Smith

*Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Levine, Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

*28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World* by Charles R. Smith Jr.

*March (Book One - Three)* by John Lewis



**BLACK HISTORY:  
MUCH MORE THAN SLAVERY  
AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

### Articles:

[When You're The Only Black Kid In Class During Black History Month](#)

[Black History: More Than Slavery And Civil Rights](#)

[120 Amazing Contributions by Black Inventors](#)

## In Case You Missed It:



Poet, Amanda Gorman, recites 2022 New Day's Lyric.

Amanda Gorman was named the first National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States. In 2021 she read her original poem, "The Hill We Climb" during President Biden's Inauguration.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA PRESENTS A  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY EVENT**

# SONGS OF FREEDOM

A Celebration of the Words and Voices  
of the Black Women's Freedom Struggle

## Michelle Armster

Spoken word performer, activist, and musician Michelle Armster will present the voices and music of black freedom struggle participants Amanda Berry Smith, Ruby Sales, Alice Walker, and Sojourner Truth. In her presentation, she will build on the words of Ella Baker who said in the aftermath of the murder of Medgar Evers, "We who believe in Freedom cannot rest."

4 - 5:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Jan. 26 | Zoom

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA ZOOM REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: [bit.ly/3o3e3a9](https://bit.ly/3o3e3a9)

The University of Montana presents at Martin Luther King Jr Day Event. Songs of Freedom: A Celebration of the Words and Voices of the Black Women's Freedom Struggle with activist, musician and spoken word artist, Michelle Armster.

## Black History is Montana History



### BLACK STUDENT UNION

Attend UM Black Student Union's 2022, 5th Annual Black Solidarity Summit (virtually), February 18th-20th. You can find updates regarding this event on the group's website: [www.umt.edu/black-student-union](http://www.umt.edu/black-student-union)

### MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.*

Montana Historical Society special digital issue on Black History in Montana.  
"African Americans in Montana and the West"

**Document Detectives**  
*Hiding in Plain Sight*  
*Researching Black History in Montana & Missoula*  
Tues, May 25th @ 1:00pm  
Zoom Webinar

Document Detectives Researching Black History in Montana & Missoula

## MCPS IVALUE Anti-Bias Training Series



**IVALUE**  
ANTI-BIAS TRAINING SERIES  
**APRIL 7TH, 14TH, 21ST, & 28TH**



MISSOULA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

We are so excited to announce another round of trainings has been scheduled. The foundational training series will include four sessions with topics including Individual Identity and Perspectives, Creating Culturally Safe Community, Interrupting Oppression, and Making a Plan.

### MCPS IVALUE Anti-Bias Training Series April 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, 2022

Training sessions will take place virtually.

More information including registration will follow.



THE MONTANA  
RACIAL EQUITY  
PROJECT

### Our Trainers

It was important for the IVALUE team to work with trainers who are experts in the fields of equity and inclusion, but also have a deep understanding of Missoula and the MCPS community. For that reason we focused on collaborating with local trainers or those with a close connection to our community.



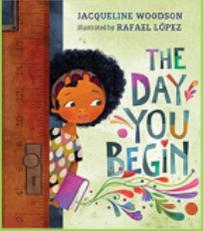
We are so fortunate to partner with the following organizations to implement the IVALUE Anti-Bias Training Series. Each of these organizations and its staff are doing incredible work in our communities.



<https://www.themtrep.org>  
<https://www.empowermt.org>  
<https://www.indigenoussc.org>

## Additional Resources from the ADL

There are several terrific resources through the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) including lesson plans and learning opportunities. Here are a few that we'd like to highlight.



**Changing the World One Word at a Time**  
**Read Aloud and Conversation with Jacqueline Woodson**

<https://www.adl.org/author-read-aloud-conversation-series>



### Read Aloud and Conversation with Jacqueline Woodson

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 @ 2:00 PM MST

Jacqueline Woodson has written over 30 books for children and adults. She is the recipient of several awards including most recently 2020 MacArthur Fellowship and the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award. Her New York Times best-selling memoir, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, won the National Book Award.

Each Kindness, *The Day You Begin* and *Harbor Me* were ADL Education's Book of the Month in August 2014, November 2018 and January 2020, which includes discussion guides for teachers and families.

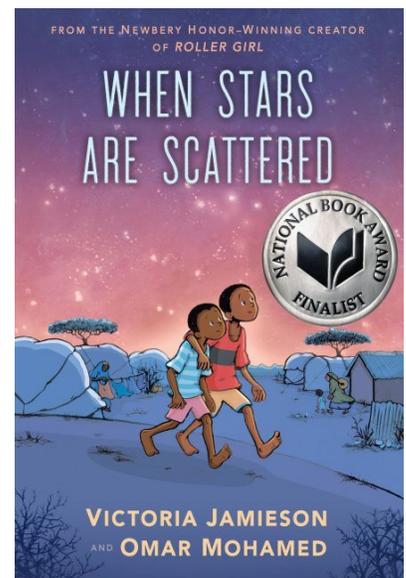
Register [HERE](#).



### When Stars Are Scattered

Find a study guide and lessons [HERE](#) for the book *When Stars are Scattered* (9-12 years) by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, illustrated by Iman Geddy. This book is available at several MCPS School Libraries. Here is a sneak peek, [Chapter One read by Omar Mohamed](#).

*Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. When Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future. It would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day. This graphic novel tells the story of a childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and home in the most difficult of settings.*

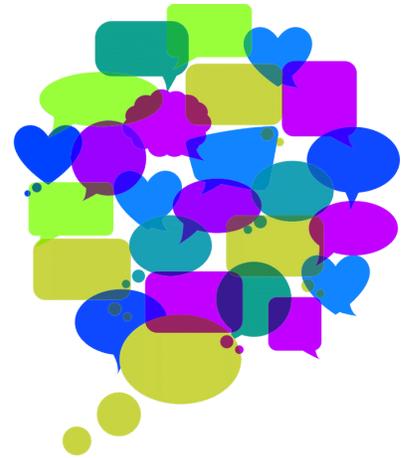


# What do you value?

The IVALUE team would like to thank you for taking the time to read through this newsletter. We hope that the content was informative, educational, and thought-provoking. Please feel free to connect with an IVALUE Leadership Team Member if you have questions or thoughts you'd like to share.

We also invite you to share topics and ideas for future newsletters. Our goal is for this newsletter to share updates and also become a resource. Let us know what you would like to learn more about.

You can find more information about IVALUE on our webpage at [www.mcpsmt.org/IVALUE](http://www.mcpsmt.org/IVALUE).



**IVALUE** \_\_\_\_\_.

## IVALUE Leadership Team

- Co-leaders:
  - Dacia Griego  
Native American Education Specialist/Social Worker, MCPS Parent  
dgriego@mcpsmt.org
  - Amy Shattuck  
Federal Programs Director, MCPS Parent  
avshattuck@mcpsmt.org
- Members:
  - Barbara Frank, Principal, Lowell Elementary School, MCPS Parent
  - BJ Ihde, Curriculum and Instruction
  - Chris Young-Greer, MT Racial Equity Project
  - Crystal Thompson, Counselor, Missoula Online Academy, MCPS Parent
  - Elise Guest, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
  - Hatton Littman, MFA, Community Member
  - Heidi Wallace, EmpowerMT, MCPS Parent
  - Jenny Molloy, Teacher, Russell Elementary
  - Jessica Weltman, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
  - Jamar Galbreath, Missoula County Equity Coordinator, MCPS Parent
  - Jonathan Neff, University of Montana, Elementary Parent
  - Judson Miller, Principal, Hellgate High School
  - Katy Ellison, Teacher, Rattlesnake Elementary
  - Laurie Franklin, Rabbi, Har Shalom
  - Natalie Jaeger, Principal, Meadow Hill Middle School, MCPS Parent
  - Rajiem Seabrooke, MFBCC Equity Coordinator
  - Sam Duncan, Community Organizer, NMCDC
  - Wilena Old Person, University of Montana, MCPS Board of Trustees, MCPS Parent