



The
indigenous
insight-er



MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



June 8, 2016

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Editor's Corner

Cathie Cichosz

Is it already the end of the school year? It went by fast, as it always does. I hope you have some excitement planned for the summer or that you get that well-deserved rest.

I serve Jefferson Pre-School, Hawthorne Elementary, and Cold Springs Elementary. If you would like to speak to me about what I do or if you have suggestions for me or concerns about your children, please call 406-728-2400, ext. 1064 or email me at ccichosz@mcps.k12.mt.us.



Please note that our staff's last day of work this academic year is Friday, June 10 and our first day of work next academic year is Monday, August 29. We look forward to seeing you at our events next year. An event calendar is included in this newsletter.

At Jefferson, I have been reading books by Lorraine Adams, such as *Everett Rides His Horse*, *The Water Slides*, *Wilson's Canoe Ride*, *The New Boats*, and *Skipping Rocks*. Ms. Adams writes stories for pre-school and kindergarten kids. These are stories about everyday events, however, the pictures (actual photographs) are of Native American children. When we read the story, we often stop and talk about the book. I also have Native American coloring pages for the kids in case they want to color and listen to a story. I was able to show our Missoula Native Youth Powwow videos to two of the three classrooms this year. Then, I taught the kids to rounddance, if they wanted to join. I very much enjoyed this, as it gave all ethnic groups a chance to see Native American culture.

At Hawthorne Elementary and Cold Springs Elementary Native American Lunch Clubs, we have continued reading the Eagle Book Series by Georgia Perez. As explained in the previous newsletter, this 4-part series is about Native Americans and health. For the 5th grade kids, we are now reading *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* by Joseph Marshall III.

Cold Springs 4th Grade students in one classroom have an event each year entitled "Wax Museum." Students pick a famous person and "become" that person in a classroom wax museum. They talk about the person they have chosen. I was so glad to assist our Native American students to select a famous Native American person from their tribe. I was so proud of our kids! They did a wonderful job. One student chose Joseph Medicine Crow and another chose Earl Old Person.

For questions regarding the newsletter or to be placed on our mailing list, please email me at ccichosz@mcps.k12.mt.us. Please note that due to budget constraints, our newsletter will be electronic only. I will place it on our website, on our Facebook page, and email it through our Connect 5 message software to parents/guardians.



Kyiyo Powwow — Thank You!

Thanks to Amber Shaffer, Kyiyo President, and to the Kyiyo Native American Student Association for donating free one-session tickets to all MCPS Native American students and to all 4th Grade students. We hope you were able to enjoy the powwow.

Pictures to the left from [The Missoulian](http://www.missoulian.com).

REMINDER! PASS THE WORD AROUND!

Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2016

Kindergarten registration took place from March 7 to April 15. Kindergarten roundups at each elementary school also took place in April and May. If you have *NOT* signed your child up for kindergarten, please do so as soon as possible.

Children must be age 5 on or before September 10, 2016. You are encouraged to visit your neighborhood school to enroll. Paperwork you need: a current immunization record, copy of the child's birth certificate and two forms of address verification such as a phone bill, utility bill, lease agreement, etc. at the time of registration.

For more information on Kindergarten registration, call your school or [click here](#) to register online.



2016 GRADUATING SENIORS FROM MAY 26TH HONORING OUR SENIORS DINNER

[Click here](#) for
Memory Book

SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS



Beginning Monday, June 13, summer meals are available at four Missoula locations to children ages 18 and younger at no cost. No sign up required, students just need to stop by.

Both breakfast (8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.) and lunch (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) will be served at these locations:

Quaker Meeting House, 1861 S. 12th Street West

Head Start, 1001 Worden Street

Russell Elementary, 3216 Russell Street

The following school provides only lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

Chief Charlo Elementary, 5600 Longview

Summer meals will be served through Aug. 12. For details, please call Stacey Rossmiller at 728-2400, ext. 3023.

MELISSA'S SMOKE SIGNALS

Melissa Hammett

My name is Melissa Hammett and I am the newest member to the Indian Education Department as one of the Native American Specialists. I am an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation from Browning Montana. I am assigned to four schools; Hellgate High School, Willard Alternative High School Program, Rattlesnake Elementary, and Chief Charlo Elementary.

The End of the year is here!

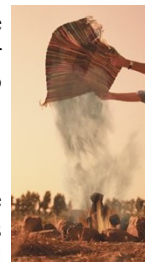
In April, the Indian Education Department took a group of high school students to the Montana Native Youth Conference in Great Falls. The conference was put on by the Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA) and the Great Falls Intertribal Strong youth group. The conference was for all Native American students of Montana, both urban and reservation. The MCPS Indian Education Department took six students from Hellgate, Sentinel and Big Sky High Schools. It was a great experience for both our department and our Native students.

Two of our seniors received \$500 scholarships for college from the conference and one of our Freshman from Big Sky won the individual Graduation Matters video contest. Plans are being made to have a youth conference here in Missoula with MIEA and U of M collaborations. The conference is planned for April 2017.

The MCPS Native American Senior Dinner was held May 26, 2016 at the Doubletree Inn with students, families, MCPS Board of Trustees, MCPS Administration, and the Indian Education Department in attendance. The emcee was Mike Jetty of OPI Indian Education and our two speakers were Lilly Gladstone and Charles Archambault. The honor songs were sung by Sentinel's senior graduate Matthew Sheka Jr. and our prayer was given by Kate "Ahka" Beals. The Senior dinner was a huge success and all seniors in attendance received beautiful gifts of beaded keychains and metalwork eagle feathers.

We had a highest GPA award from all the high schools combined, awarded to Patricia Johnsen of Hellgate High School who won an HP notebook. Thank you to all who have helped fundraise for this event and to all the people who volunteered their time to make this event a success.

Each of the Native American Specialists brings something different and special to our program but our ultimate goals are basically the same, we want our Native students in the Missoula County Public Schools to be successful academically and incorporate Native culture.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sport's Physicals

Tuesday & Wednesday

August 2 & 3rd, 2016 8am to 4pm

Missoula Urban Indian Health Center

FREE Sports Physicals !

Open to Native American Teens/Youth.

**Please register anytime this summer by July 29, 2016
for the event by calling**

Starlite Night Gun @ 406-829-9515 ext: 102



SAVE THE DATE!

**Being In Connection
Family Camp**

Building Resiliency Through Awareness

June 21-23, 2016

Ekstrom's Stage Station, Rock Creek Road

Open to Native American Teens/Youth & Families

**Please register by June 3, 2016 for the event
by calling**

Dana Kingfisher @ 406-829-9515 ext: 109

**-Family Campout for the Missoula
Indian Community**

**-Must be 11 years and older to camp
without parent/guardians**

From Ahka's Corner

Kate Beals

This is my last contribution to the newsletter from the Indian Education Department. For the past four months, I have been cleaning, culling, and sending my remaining household items to Anchorage, Alaska, where I shall live after retiring from the department. My departure date is June 8, 2016.

The Read Aloud program has been my life since its inception in 2009. I have enjoyed working with the teachers and their students in seven out of nine elementary schools. I also enjoyed working with the District Library staff. They made my job easier with their assistance in finding books for the program.

I hope to volunteer at a charter school, working with Alaska Native students and teachers. I especially enjoy working with kindergarten children, because they are just beginning to learn how to read, how to tie their shoe laces, and how to hop, skip, and jump.

Special thanks to the Hawthorne Elementary and Lewis & Clark Elementary teachers, who initially requested to be included in the bi-weekly reading schedule. Word of mouth helped expand the program in both of these schools and in six other schools.

2016 BOOKS:

My Kokum Called Today

The Legend of the Blue Bonnet

Makiawisug: The Gift of the Little People

Whale Snow

Shin-Chi's Canoe

Red Parka Mary

The First Strawberries

Giving Thanks

What Do You See?

Whaling Story

The Story of the Milky Way

The Star Maiden

Cheyenne Again

Beaver Steals Fire

Buffalo Box



The Native American Studies Teacher's Corner

Matt Bell

Lavender Short Bread Cookies: Since Lavender is blooming all over town

1 1/2 cups soft butter

2/3 cup sugar

1/4 cup powdered sugar

2 T lavender

1 t lemon zest

2 1/2 cups flour

1/2 cup cornstarch

pinch salt

1: Whip butter and sugar together until combined. Mix in lavender and lemon.

2: In a separate bowl, mix flour, cornstarch and salt. Slowly add to the first mixture.

(It helps to wrap dough in plastic and refrigerate for an hour, but is not necessary)

3: Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Roll the dough on a lightly floured surface to about 1/4" thick. Cut out individual cookies with a cookie stamp or knife.

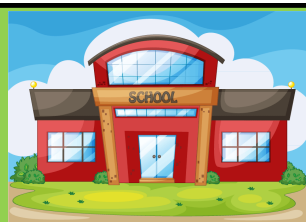
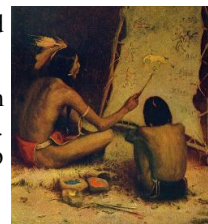
4: Bake for 15 minutes or slightly golden brown.

*decorate as desired or sprinkle with mint, lemon/lime zest, or powdered sugar

Enjoy and send some to your favorite Indian Education Department staff member! :)

Inspired by recipe @allrecipes.com

[Click here for recipe](#)



2016-17 SCHOOL CALENDARS

[Click here](#) for school calendars

2016-17 *TENTATIVE* EVENT CALENDAR

EVENT	TENTATIVE DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Native American Heritage Week	September 19-23, 2016	Various times during week	Various locations throughout district
Big Read Event	Wednesday, September 21, 2016	6:00-8:00 PM	Lewis & Clark Elementary
Halloween Rounddance	Friday, October 28, 2016	6:00-8:00 PM	Chief Charlo Elementary
Veterans Event Collaboration	To be announced		
Winter Gathering	Friday, December 9, 2016	6:00-8:00 PM	Russell Elementary
Open Gym/Drumming	Sundays, January 8-February 26, 2017	1:00-3:00 PM	CS Porter Middle School
Native Youth Powwow	Saturday, April 1, 2017	Grand Entry 1:00 and 7:00 PM	Sentinel High School
Missoula Native Youth Conference Collaboration with Msla Indian Ed. Assoc.	Thursday & Friday, April 20 & 21, 2017	To be announced	University of Montana UC Center
Senior Dinner	Wednesday, May 24, 2017	6:00-8:00 PM	DoubleTree Inn
End of the Year BBQ	Friday, June 2, 2017	3:00-6:00 PM	McCormick Park

TSA NII TA PII WA

What's
Happening

Ray Kingfisher

Oki Niiksokoowaaksi (Hello my relatives),

As the 2015-16 school year comes to an end, I can't help but reflect back on the memories. A good memory I have is of coaching some young ladies on a Kiwanis league basketball team. This endeavor came about quite interestingly. I stopped in to watch a few of these young ladies play at their respective schools. I noticed that the Native American girl played for a couple minutes. In those few minutes, the girls would do many great things. They played aggressive, smart and unselfish, but as soon as they fouled or turned the ball over, a substitute was brought in to replace her. I also noticed these girls were isolated from the team when they were on the bench. They were sitting at the end of the bench, away from teammates. I wondered why. I asked that question the next time I saw them and their answer was, "I dunno."

I played basketball while growing up on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. I have had many successes from learning the game of basketball. I like the concept that it is a team game. I thought about the knowledge I gained from basketball, so I went to each of the middle schools and asked these young ladies if they would like to put together a team of Native girls. They were excited and so was I.

The team consisted of ten 7th and 8th grade girls. I did not know what kind of team we would have when the time came for our first game of the season. I told the girls to pass the ball to the open person and play tough D, which was basic coaching instruction. It didn't take me long to be very impressed and surprised! These young ladies blew the other team away! After a few practice sessions and some defensive tactics, the team was unbeatable. This team of girls had an undefeated season and were awarded a Championship plaque in the Kiwanis league.

In the future, I look to build on helping these young athletes compete here in MCPS. There are a lot of good athletes that are coming up. The Native American community here in Missoula needs to help with a TEAM concept. We all need to work together in helping our young people succeed. Look around, we all have talent and knowledge that can be distributed in some way. Pass these things on to the up and coming youth.



Have a great summer, people. Make some good memories!