

NO SCHOOL Monday, May 26th

Enjoy your Memorial Day weekend!

PTO CANDY PICK UP TOMORROW

If you collected freeze dried candy orders, during the recent PTO Fundraiser, those orders will be available for pick-up **tomorrow, Friday, May 23rd** beginning at **3:30PM**. PTO members will be here at the Elementary until 5:00PM tomorrow to facilitate.

CONSTRUCTION

We have been informed by Thompson Contracting, Inc, that paving has begun on Haley Avenue, the street below the Elementary. They believe the project will be finished by Wednesday, May 28th. Between now and then, there may be occasions we will be unable to use the Drop / Pick Up Zone on Haley. If this happens, please use the Drop / Pick Up Zone on Third Avenue, above the Elementary. Thank you for your caution and understanding!

EGG CART RACES

5th and 6th grade science classes conducted their annual egg cart races this past Friday. The students were given a set of parameters and just a few materials. They applied math and science skills as they created their egg carts to comply with the given measurements. Using just construction paper, hot glue, a straw, wheels, and axles, the 'carts' needed to successfully carry a raw egg safely down the racetrack, which began at the safety blocks, in the No Parking Zone on the hill above the Elementary Office and ran down the hill, ending on the playground. Mr. Dorscher was invited to compete, and took a fair amount of pride in the construction of his cart. It was a tough competition, and while his cart made a great showing and survived nearly to the end, he was beat out in the final rounds. Avery Olesen was the first place finisher in this year's race, followed by runners up Sylvia Fairbank, Mr. Dorscher, and Olivia Shear.

POETRY SLAM

On Thursday, May 15th, our 4th grade students completed their 12 week writing project with a Poetry Slam. Alicia Watkinson, with the Missoula Writing Collaborative, has traveled to Thompson Falls once a week, rain or shine, to work with 4th graders, especially in the area of poetry. Ms. Watkinson has worked with the students, teaching literary competence, enhancing their critical thinking skills, and bringing cultural awareness. Friday's poetry slam was an opportunity for students to experience a bit of public speaking as they shared their creative writing with others. Each student submitted two of their favorite works, which were then published in a collection, with each student receiving a copy.

Important Happenings

5/22	Variety Show Auditions by appt
5/22	4th-8th Gr Girls Spring Volleyball -3:30-5:15PM-HS Gym
5/23	Fun Friday - Beach Day
5/23	2nd Gr Field Trip - Harlow's Bison Ranch
5/23	PTO Candy Pickup - 3:30-5:00PM - Elementary
5/26	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
5/27	6th Gr Field Trip - Fort Missoula
5/27	3rd Gr (3E) Bioblitz - Mule Pasture—1:15-2:15PM
5/28	Graduation Walk - 10:30AM - Elementary
5/28	3rd Gr (3L) Bioblitz - Mule Pasture—1:15-2:15PM
5/29	4th Gr Field Trip - Clark Fork Fish Hatchery
5/29	5th Gr Field Trip - Conrad Mansion
5/30	Fun Friday - Blue Hawk Day
5/30	3rd Gr Virtual Field Trip - Butterfly House
5/31	High School Graduation - 3:00PM - Previs Field
6/2	2nd Gr Walking Field Trip - Old Jail Museum
6/3	8th Grade Promotion Parade— 1:30PM
6/4	K-8 Variety Show – 1:00PM - Elementary Gym
6/5	K-3 Track & Field Day – 8:30-11:00 – HS Track
6/5	4-6 Track & Field Day –12:00-2:50 – HS Track
6/6	End of 4th Quarter
6/6	11:00AM Dismissal
6/11	Final Report Cards mailed home
6/16-6/19	Summer Food - Breakfast-8-9AM Lunch 11:30-12:30PM
6/16-6/26	1st Session Summer School
6/23-6/26	Summer Food - Breakfast-8-9AM Lunch 11:30-12:30PM
7/14-7/17	Summer Food - Breakfast-8-9AM Lunch 11:30-12:30PM
7/14-7/17	Kinder Readiness Summer Session
7/14-7/24	2nd Session Summer School
7/21-7/24	Summer Food - Breakfast-8-9AM Lunch 11:30-12:30PM
8/21	Open House
8/25	First Day of 2025-26 School Year

Thompson Falls Elementary

Mr. Len Dorscher,
Principal

School web site:

<https://tfes.thompsonfalls.net>



ThompsonFallsSchools



Kids and Money: Four Steps to Financial Responsibility

Difficult times provide excellent learning opportunities for our kids. Kids who lived through the Great Depression learned many lessons about money that benefited them later in life. Now is no different, and we can take this opportunity to help our kids learn how to be financially responsible.

Kids shouldn't be overwhelmed with our adult problems. Nevertheless, it does them no favors to keep our financial struggles a secret. Have you ever noticed how kids seem to remember best what they think they are not supposed to hear? Modeling is the most powerful teaching tool! That's why it's smart to let our kids see how hard we must work to earn and to save money.

Love and Logic developed a technique called Four Steps to Responsibility, which is an excellent method for teaching financial responsibility to your kids. The four steps are listed below along with recommendations for applying them to financial management.

Step One: Give the child a task he or she can handle

When it comes to teaching kids responsible money management, the first step involves giving them some type of allowance or "practice money" each week. With younger children, an "allowance" of cookies works better than money.

Step Two: Hope and pray the child blows it.

Most folks agree that it's better for a child to learn money management by eating their cookies too fast at age three rather than spending their paycheck too fast at age thirty-three! As we like to say, the road to wisdom is paved with mistakes. Mistakes made earlier in life have the smallest price tags.

Avoid falling into the trap of reminding or lecturing your child at this point. Parents who do, rob their children of essential learning opportunities.

Step Three: Let empathy and logical consequences do the teaching.

After Toby ate all his crackers before "pay day," did his parents get angry? No! Did they lecture and say, "A graham cracker saved is a graham cracker earned"? No! Did they give in when he threw a fit? No!

With great sadness in their voices, they pointed to the large calendar on the refrigerator and said, "Oh Toby, this is so sad. We give more graham crackers on Wednesday. That's two more days." Because Toby was a normal child, he threw a major fit.

Step Four: Give the same task again.

The fourth step to responsibility involves avoiding the temptation to lecture, remind, or tell the child what he/she "should have" learned from the consequence.

Toby's parents just kept providing crackers on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the scheduled allowance days. Each week they noticed something interesting. Each week, his little stack of grahams lasted a bit longer.

The Most Valuable Gift

There are few gifts we can give our children that are more valuable than knowing how to handle money wisely. Adults who lack these skills live lives full of disappointment and stress. Money can't buy happiness but wasting it can sure create a life of sadness!

The [Four Steps to Responsibility](#) audio is a Love and Logic classic that has stood the test of time and can give you more insight into how to use this technique in different ways with your kids.

Each week we share Love & Logic tips here. We also have many Love & Logic resources available for loan.

Contact our school counselor, Ms. Taylour Freed, for more info.