MCPS Native American Student Services

Indigenous Insighter

October 2025

MCPS Staff Shareouts



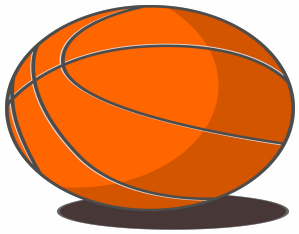
Okii, during October I started doing Native chokers at Jeanette Rankin, Rattlesnake and Franklin. Students were able to take the chokers home when finished. They were so proud of what they created and put them on right away. In my Middle Schools we tried to make dream catchers but only my Porter Students were interested. Meadow Hill Students like to eat lunch, then head outside to play basketball with the recent nice weather. At Big Sky-High School, we had the 2nd annual Bison Harvest. Students were so happy to be a part of that event.











MCPS Native American Student Services
909 South Ave W.
Building B, Rm 120
Missoula, MT 59802

Missoula County Public Schools
Native American Student Services

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

H

Xest Sxlxalt

(Good Day)

The month of October has been very fun! We were finally able to use the berry paint that we made in September and paint with it. The students seemed to really enjoy that activity. Most of the students painted a berry bush. Other students explored the texture of the paint with their paint brush and paper. We also talked about the Blackfeet, Salish, and Pend'd oreille words for huckleberry and berry. Another lesson that we focused on this month was the Powwow and the different dance categories. I also showed most of my students a video of the local Kyi Yo powwow. Last week, we practiced weaving with paper cups to prepare us for weaving with cattails the following week. The final week of October each school collaborated on a single cattail mat. Our students were very proud and excited to know that their work will be displayed! If you are at Lowell, Paxson, Russell, Hawthorne, or Chief Charlo make sure to check it out. I plan on having them displayed the first week in November at each school.

I have also had the privilege to work individually with some students in addition to lunch groups. We have been focusing mostly on beading bracelets, but I have also been teaching some of the students Blackfeet and Salish words.

I look forward to the month of November!













Oki! This month seemed to fly by fast! Our department had some good events all month long, 2nd Annual Buffalo Harvest and Halloween Carnival. We also got to help with the SupaMan concert. I sure enjoyed the time spent with students and their families.

I am working on beading projects at Willard, Lewis and Clark and Washington. A few students have also opted to make ribbon skirts at Washington. At both Sentinel and Hellgate, the RISE programs are off to a great start. Sentinel was able to host the last RISE meeting. Hellgate has around 18 students involved with RISE this year. A few of them were even able to sing an honor song for Japanese students from Kumamoto, Japan. I was also able to help organize the set up of a tipi with Willard staff and students.











HAPPY FALL-ing

Okii (Blackfeet / Piikani)
?e-?a (Salish / Séliš-Qlispé)
Kahée (Crow / Apsáalooke)
Pevehe e'seeve'e (Northern Cheyenne / Tsis tsis'tas)

GREETINGS~

Wow! October was a good & very full month! A few highlights:

- Multiple professional development opportunities for teachers which included Brothers on Three book club, Indigenous narratives utilizing VTS @ the MAM, including my ability to participate in Art Heals & a State Leadership Conference.
- Being invited to & participating in the Four Sisters Harvest @ the Peas farm with Billie Jo & Charlie.
- Attending the Beartracks Powwow as a department and then watching Leigh drum & sing as well as Novi Lahr and other kiddos dance. Beautiful!
- Special Memories: a quiet moment with the Bison before the 2nd annual Harvest began & coming together in hearts & hands as we offered tobacco & pure intentions to begin the ceremony.
- Going through the Bison Box with elementary students.
- Putting up school tipis.
- Presenting to schools & connecting with teachers on IEFA.
- Supaman⚡
- Halloween Carnival
- Travelling to NinePipe's Museum & Cultural Center with Sentinel Jewelry Students & Heather Fortner.
- Spending time with our fabulous Hellgate RISE students. Watching RISE students (Ronny, Athon, Connon with guests Cyrel, Benji, & Leigh) sing & drum the Honor song & round dance for the Japanese visitors from Missoula's sister city, Kumamoto.

October was spilling over with amazing opportunities & moments of deep connection! I can already tell November will be great!
With Abundant Gratitude, keila cross.

"Let us put our hearts & minds together & see what life we can make for our Children." - Sitting Bull

Things are in full swing over here at NASS. What a great start to the year! We've been helping to train teachers in tipi set up and working with them as they create their lessons about tribal people. We are always doing what we can to help teachers find good materials and create meaningful lessons for the students. There have been some wonderful events that we got to participate in: The Beartracks Powwow on Indigenous People's Day, The 2nd annual Bison Harvest at the Ag Center, Supaman, and the Halloween Carnival that we hosted at Franklin. All of these things make for a busy, yet meaningful job. All the work is worth it when we see the smiles and pride on the faces of our students.



Thank You to these supporters. We would not be able to do the work that we do without you!

Larry and Lee Ground
Dugan Coburn
Harlow Ranch Bison Company
C & C Meats
Gisele and Valerie Forrest
MCPS Administration: Micah Hill and Amy Shattuck
Jennifer Courtney
Dana Young, Sarah Smith, Anneke Hilvert, Jen Parsons
Matt Keenan
MEF
Paxson PAC
School House Meats: Scott Courtney, Jeff Erickson
Hellgate Art Club, BIg Sky Key Club, SHS Key Club, SHS Culture Club, WMS ambassadors, Porter Ambassadors, MH Ambassadors, SHS Student Government

MCPS NASS 2nd Annual Bison Harvest









NASS Halloween Carnival







MCPS NASS Parent Advisory Committee

All parents and guardians of Native American MCPS students are encouraged to attend PAC meetings on the first of each month.

2025-26 PAC

Parent Representatives:

- ★ Matt Bell
- ★ Julie Cahoon
- ★ KaylaBeth Charlo
- ★ Lyman Ferguson
- ★ Chad Villegas

Student Representative

- ★ Jenny Olney
- ★ Lance Comes at Night
- ★ Joshua Na

Teacher Representative

- ★ Alyssa Johnson



PAC meeting
11/5/2025
6 pm
MCPS Admin B
909 South Ave
West

Taco soup will be served.
Bring a dish to share!

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

> > 2025-2026 NASS School Assignments and Contact Info< <

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	ASSIGNED SCHOOL
KEILA CROSS	1049	KCROSS@MCPSMT.ORG	ALL ELEMENTARY
CHARLIE STRUNA	1068	CSTRUNA@MCPSMT.ORG	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS Seeley Lake High School
LEIGH MALATARE	1047	LMALATARE@MCPSMT.ORG	Franklin Elementary School, Big Sky High School Jeanette Rankin Elementary Rattlesnake Elementary Meadowhill Middle School CS Porter Middle School
ALI NORTH	1050	ANORTH@MCPSMT.ORG	Paxson Elementary Lowell Elementary Chief Charlo Hawthorne Elementary Russell Elementary
TRENA OLD PERSON	1028	TOLDPERSON@MCPSMT.ORG	Willard Alternative School Hellgate High School Sentinel High School Washington Middle School Lewis and Clark Elementary
BILLIE JO JUNEAU	1063	BJUNEAU@MCPSMT.ORG	

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

> > 2025-2026 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR < <

EVENT NAME	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Back to School BBQ	Monday, Aug. 25	5-6:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
American Indian Heritage Day Round Dance	Friday, Sept. 26	6 - 9 pm	C.S. Porter Middle School
SEPTEMBER 26: AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY (MONTANA)			
SEPTEMBER 30: ORANGE SHIRT DAY - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (US/CANADA)			
OCTOBER 13 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY (US)			
Halloween Carnival	Tuesday, Oct. 28	6 - 8 pm	Franklin Elementary School
NOVEMBER: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH			
Moccasin Making Workshop	Monday, Nov. 3 Monday, Nov. 10	5:30-8 pm	MCPS Admin B
Earring Making Workshop	Monday, Dec 8 Monday, Dec 15	5:30 -7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
Bingo	Wednesday, Jan. 14	5:30-7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
YaYa Dolls Workshop	Monday, Feb.12	5:30 - 7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
Pouch making Workshop	March 19	5:30 - 7:30 pm	MCPS Admin B
Native Youth Powwow	April 25	12 - 10 pm	Sentinel High School
MAY 5: NATIONAL MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS' AWARENESS DAY (US)			
Native Graduates Senior Dinner	Tuesday, May 19	6 - 8 pm	TBA
End of Year Celebration	Tuesday, June 2	5 - 6:30 pm	Sentinel High School

ELOUISE COBELL DAY CELEBRATION

On November 5, 2015 Governor Steve Bullock proclaimed November 5th as Elouise Cobell Day. Elouise led a class action lawsuit against the United States Government for mismanagement of funds across Indian Country. Elouise was persistent and determined to fight for justice. After the 15 years of litigation, a settlement was made in the amount of $3.4 Billion Dollars. Like a Blackfeet woman warrior, Elouise Cobell is the Great Granddaughter of Mountain Chief. She was an activist, banker, philanthropist, community developer, rancher, and worked as treasurer for the Blackfeet Nation.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

3:00 P.M. **PAYNE CENTER**
Opening Prayer & Honor Song

3:15 - 4:15 P.M. **PAYNE CENTER**
Special Guest Speaker: Keith Harper (CLE Pending)
Reception to Follow





Featuring:

Keith Harper

Represented Plaintiffs in Cobell v. Salazar
Former U.S. Ambassador

AMERICAN INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND POLICY INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
MONTANA COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES
MONTANA OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MONTANA
AAUW
NACDE

ELOUISE COBELL DAY CELEBRATION

AMERICA REFRAMED

100 YEARS

ONE WOMAN'S FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

A Film by Melinda Janko



Movie Screening

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
FROM 12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.
SOCIAL SCIENCES 352