MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

IEFA BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2025

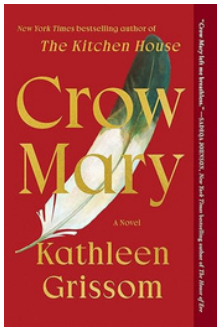
~NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH~



Sentinel Senior, Jenny Olney, introduces Supaman before his community performance on October 23rd. All MCPS 8th graders were treated to a daytime performance, brought in by SPARK! Arts

UPCOMING PIR OPPORTUNITIES

Let's Cook! Traditional Foods and Herbs
Wednesday, November 19th 4-7 pm
Sentinel High School Room 176
Click here for course description.
PD Portal Course # 17314



Winter Book Club: *Crow Mary*, by Kathleen Grissom
Tuesdays, January 13 & 27 4:00-5:30 pm
Administration Building B, PLL
PD Portal Course # 17315

ELOISE COBELL DAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

Click here to read a biography.

Look further along in the bulletin to see celebratory events happening at the University of Montana, November 5th and 7th.

HELPFUL LINKS

American Indian LIbrary Association Award winning Titles 2024 (PK-12)

Mariah Gladstone, Indigikitchen

Everyday Native-for teachers

RESOURCES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ABOUT THANKSGIVING

Native educators say Thanksgiving lessons can be accurate, respectful, and still fun—here's how

6 Things Every Non-Native Should Do on Thanksgiving

Teaching Thanksgiving the Culturally Responsive Way

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2nd Annual Bison Harvest

at the MCPS Ag Center

This special event took place on October 15th. Students from each MCPS high school were in attendance. Cultural leaders Larry and Lee from Browning, and Dugan from Great Falls, kicked the event off by having the participants smudge themselves in order to cleanse and set their intention for the day. Participants offered tobacco to the earth for the gifts provided by the bison. An honor song was sung. Tools for harvesting and skinning the animal were painted in the Blackfeet cultural tradition. Students took part in learning about the various parts of the animal and its traditional uses as well as getting in and having a chance to work with skinning the hide. The students really valued the time learning about the importance of the bison to Montana's tribal people.

There were three naming ceremonies as part of the event as well: Superintendent Micah Hill was given the name, *Holy Smudge Stick* and was honored for his work "juggling hot coals" as leader of the district. Big Sky student, Josh Dingman was given the name *Raven's Face*, and IEFA coach Charlie Struna was given the name *Tears That Heal*. They all felt very honored to have received a Blackfeet name during this year's harvest.

A big thank you to Superintendent Hill, Amy Shattuck, Jennifer Courtney, Matt Keenan, The AG Center Staff, and everyone else who helped make this event so successful.



SUPERINTENDENT MICAH HILL "HOLY SMUDGE STICK" IS PAINTED BY BLACKFEET ELDER, LARRY GROUND, AS PART OF THE CEREMONIAL BLESSING.



TINA FLAMMOND SHOWS OFF THE BISON PARTS AND EXPLAINS THE USES OF EACH, AS THE STUDENTS LOOK ON. TINA IS A BUTCHER IN BAAB, MONTANA, AND A MEMBER OF THE BLACKFEET TRIBE.



BIG SKY STUDENTS LANCE COMES AT NIGHT, JOSH DINGMAN, SETH MARTIN (SHS), IAN COMES AT NIGHT

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	Thursday, 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

MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL PIR OPPORTUNITIES

2025-2026 IEFA CALENDAR

DATES	LEARNING OPPORTUNITY (Credits offered)
August 28-Sept 16	*Outrage: Missing Murdered Indigenous People in Montana*-- Artist Brian Maguire at The Missoula Art Museum self-paced online-asynchronous (3)
September 17 September 23 October 30 & November 4	Introduction To Indian Education for All (2) Unpacking the Essential Understandings (2) Indigenous Narratives Through Art: IEFA MAM AND MMAC Museum Tour (4)
October 8 & 22	Book Club-*Brothers on Three* by Abe Streep (6)
November 19	Let's Cook! Traditional Foods and Herbs (3)
January 13 & 27	Book Club-*Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom (6)
February 10-24	Identifying and Countering Indigenous Bias, asynchronous (4)
March/April Dates TBD	Understanding and Enjoying Powwows self-paced online + in-person at the MCPS Native Youth Powwow (4)
April 14 & 28	Book Club-*Fire Keeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley (6)

Sign up in the PD Portal. More PIR opportunities and info in the monthly IEFA Bulletin.

MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

IEFA Coaching Cycle PIR-Earn 2-12 Flex Credits

WHAT is a coaching cycle PIR?	DATES-YOU PICK!
An IEFA coaching cycle is a structured approach where a coach and teacher collaboratively work to improve instruction and student learning through a series of steps: goal setting, planning, implementation, monitoring, and reflection. We can work on a topic or lesson of your choice or the coach can help you find a lesson to integrate into what you normally do.	**These cycles can be anywhere from 2-12 PIR hours, at your convenience. The coach and teacher will work together to create a schedule.**

More information available in the PD Portal and monthly IEFA Bulletin.

ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR PIR

Engage in cultural events or workshops to broaden your knowledge of Montana's tribal people and their customs. Take your knowledge back to your school or classroom by creating lessons from what you've learned. Talk to an IEFA coach to see how this can work for you.

POWWOWS AND CEREMONIES	MUSEUMS AND CENTERS	HISTORICAL SITES AND LOCAL LANDMARKS

NASS IEFA Instructional Coaches
EK-5: Keila Cross, kcross@mcpsmt.org, ext. 1049
6-12: Charlie Struna, cstruna@mcpsmt.org, ext. 1068



Missoula County Public Schools

Native American Student Services

Since 2000, Missoula County Public Schools has led efforts in Montana to implement "Indian Education for All." The District is committed to developing students' understanding of and respect for American and Montana Indian people and their histories and cultures. Because of the unique position and place in American history, the American Indian peoples' role in the development of the United States (with emphasis on the experience of the Montana Tribes) shall be included wherever appropriate in the instruction of MCPS students, in accordance with the state constitution and state standards.

Our mission is to help Native American students achieve academically, culturally, and socially in order to graduate and become successful lifelong learners.

Staff Contacts

Billie Jo Juneau	Department Coordinator	bjuneau@mcpsmt.org (406) 728-2400 ext. 1063
Trena Old Person	Native American Specialist Lewis and Clark, Washington, Hellgate, Sentinel, Willard	toldperson@mcpsmt.org (406) 728-2400 ext. 1028
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Keila Cross	IEFA Instructional Coach Grades EL-5	kcross@mcpsmt.org (406) 728-2400 ext. 1049
Charlie Struna	IEFA Instructional Coach Grades 6-12	cstruna@mcpsmt.org (406) 728-2400 ext. 1068

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 COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES
MONTANA COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES
MONTANA OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MONTANA
AAUW
NACCE

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