MCPS Native American Student Services

Indigenous Insighter

November 2025

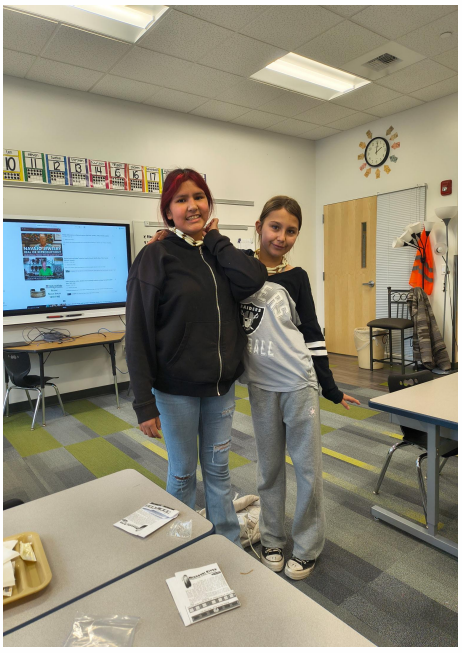
MCPS Staff Shareouts



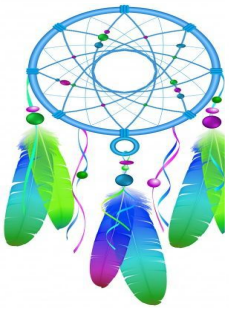
Oki, in my elementary schools we were working on chokers. We are almost done with this project. I just love to see the faces of our students when they finish their chokers. We are starting to break the drum out at the middle schools to get them started with intro to drumming, also we started working on dream catchers. At Big Sky I checked in with our seniors to make sure they were on track to graduate. We also had the University of Montana come in and talk with the RISE students about their programs and how to apply. We will be starting after school drumming practice at Big Sky, due to student interest..













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.

Xest Sxlxalt!
(Good Day)



The month of November has been full of fun times and a lot of learning! At Lowell, Paxson, Hawthorne, Russell and Chief Charlo, we started out the month with beading chokers. The students had a lot of fun with this activity, and were excited to bring it home to finish. Some of the students did not finish their chokers yet. I plan on having a crafting day before Winter Break to allow students to do so. At Lowell, Paxson, Russell, and Chief Charlo, we also learned about the different tribes in Montana. During that activity, we played a guessing game where I would describe a flag, and students would try to guess which one I was referring to. My Hawthorne students were not in school the full day that I was scheduled for that week. That said, I plan on teaching a lesson to them later on! The following week, we talked about some of the traditional foods that Montana tribes ate and still eat today. At Lowell and Paxson in the last week of November, we played a fun game called “Powwow Highway.” It was a great way to end our month together.



I have a lot of fun lessons for the coming months, but especially in December! For the first week of December I will be talking to my students about Dry Meat. During that lesson, I will also have Dry Meat available for sampling if students want to try it. I want to give a special shout out to my friend, Lauren Clairmont. She gave a bag of Dry Meat to me so that I would be able to share it with my students. Lemlmts (Thank you), Lauren! I also plan on talking about creation stories amongst Montana Tribes. I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving break and I am excited for the month of December!





This month was Native American Heritage month. Three of the four high schools had presenters from various Native American programs at the University of Montana share information about their programs as well as the Business Office discussed financial aid.

Willard: We got a new room and moved the beads and all of our belongings into the new classroom. Students are still working on their beading projects. We also made frybread and the principal got toppings for Indian tacos.

Sentinel: The RISE group got their student council going. The historian will be getting a picture of the group as well as a yearbook student.

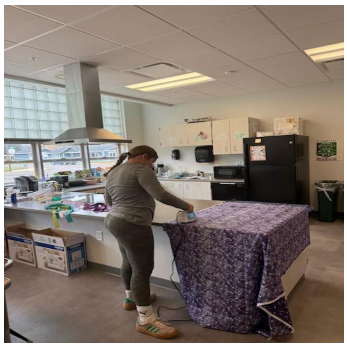


Washington MS: The principal has come up with a schedule where I would have more time with the students. The girls are currently working on ribbon skirts and the boys are working on dream catchers.

Hellgate: I have been meeting with students regularly. I had the opportunity to help the students re-start the Native club. They chose the name Indigenous Student Union. The student council historian is going to get a picture of the student council and the club.



Lewis & Clark: I have been talking with two teachers about coming in and doing a presentation. I made it to one, the EL class. I brought in my niece's regalia and explained each part. They got to touch a few items. In addition I have been teaching them a few Blackfeet words. While meeting with the All Nations group, we talked about the different dance styles, listened and watched dance/powwow videos and colored. One student demonstrated fancy dance moves. After the break we will start a choker project.









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

GREETINGS~
A *few* November highlights:

- Moccasin classes with Guest Elders Scotty Gardipe & Sharon Briggs.
- Visiting MMAC with passionate - curious - dedicated MCPS teachers, exploring Indigenous narratives utilizing VTS.
- Creating clay Iniskim (Buffalo Stones) with Rattlesnake 2nd graders.
- Love connecting with the Hellgate RISE students!
- Let's Cook: Traditional Foods & Herbs (So fun! Deep Gratitude to Special Guest Presenter, Cherith Smith & my hard-working teaching partner, Charlie Struna.)
- Ground Bison Burger was delivered to all elementary & middle schools. Thank-you to the Community Liaisons for coordinating delivery.
- We put up a tipi in the HHS library! BIG Thanks to Librarian Ashley Wineman & Junior Johanna Myo .
- Exploring Stella Nall's artwork with Lori Grant's 5th graders! An amazing day of FUN & CREATIVITY with awesome young humans!

With Abundant Gratitude, keila cross.













The best part about November, for me, was the Let's Cook PIR class we had for teachers on the 19th. We had 19 teachers attend this class. The teachers had a chance to learn from Cherith Smith about Indigenous food sovereignty and traditional foods. The recipes prepared were: bison short ribs, bison stew, three sisters mash, Potawatomi rice, wojape, plum pudding, bannock bread, and cedar tea. The feedback from this class was great and we would like to do it again, or something similar, next year. I continue to be grateful to do this work and wish everyone a fabulous Winter season.



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

Scotty Gardipe
Sharon Briggs
Cherith Smith
Michelle Guzman
Karla Bird
Laura Bird
Soazig Lebihan
Cameron Johnson
Lauren Clairmont
Katie Dubosque
Britt Hanford

MCPS NASS Parent Advisory Committee

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

2025-26 PAC

Parent Representatives:

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

Student Representative

- ★ Seth Martin
- ★ Lance Comes at Night
- ★ Joshua Na

Teacher Representative

- ★ Alyssa Johnson



PAC meeting
12/3/2025
6 pm
MCPS Admin B
909 South Ave
West

Taco Salad

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

MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

Earring WORKSHOPS

JOIN ONE OR BOTH OF OUR HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS TO UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY. SUITABLE FORALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS.

AGES 12 AND UP ONLY



- ~~DECEMBER 8 2025~~ FULL
- DECEMBER 15 2025

ADMINISTRATION BLDG B

5:30-7:30 PM

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR EACH SESSION, LIMITED SUPPLIES
EMAIL BJUNEAU@MCPSMT.ORG TO SIGN UP

Missoula County Public Schools
Native American Student Services



WE ARE LOOKING FOR HELPERS:

Join our team! Work with our Native Youth to keep culture alive through singing, drumming, and dancing. We are forming a troupe

Do you have the knowledge to teach?

DRUMMING/SINGING
DANCE STYLES
HOW TO MAKE REGALIA





Responsibilities:

- Teach songs to our musicians
- Help students make outfits and pieces
- Provide mentoring/support to students
- Teach powwow ettiquette
- Teach dance steps and styles

Qualifications:

- Experience participating in powwows
- Willing to work with students after school and/or weekends
- Reliable and punctual
- Willingness to be part of a team

Interested?

email Billie Jo Juneau
bjuneau@mcpsmt.org

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Forward Thinking, High Achieving

ALL NATIONS HEALTH CENTER

WINTER GATHERING POWWOW

December 5, 2025 | 5:30pm–11pm

Meadow Hill Gym - 4210 S Reserve, Missoula

MC: Raymond Kingfisher
AD: Jason Heavy Runner

Head Young Man Dancer:
Novi Lahr
Head Young Woman Dancer:
Arianny Lahr



Contests & Activities:

- Ugly Sweater Contest
- Ribbon Skirt Contest
- Owl Dance Contest
- Potato Dance
- Round Dance
- Door Prizes & Raffles
- Picture with Santa

Schedule of Events

- **5:30pm-6:30pm**: Annual Meeting of the Members
  - Community Dinner
  - ANHC Updates & Board Election

- **7pm-11pm:** Winter Gathering Powwow
  - ***Grand Entry at 7pm***
  - Men's & Women's Golden Age (60+) Paid
  - Combined Categories: 1st, 2nd, 3rd
    - Men's, Women's
    - Teen Boys, Teen Girls
    - Jr Boys, Jr Girls
  - All Tiny Tots Paid
  - First 6 Drums Paid (Must have 4+ singers)



Contact: Dana, dkingfisher@allnations.health, 406.829-9515 ext 109

MISSOULA COUNTY
Parent Leadership
Training Institute



APPLICATIONS OPEN!

FREE 20-WEEK CIVICS, ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP TRAINING



TURN YOUR PASSION INTO ACTION!

NEXT COHORT BEGINS
JANUARY 2026

UNITED WAY
Missoula County

ZERO
TO FIVE
MISSOULA
COUNTY

NATIONAL
PARENT
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE