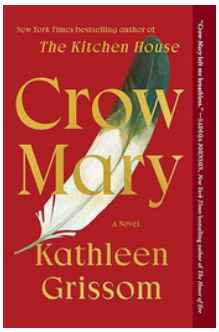
MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

IEFA BULLETIN

JANUARY 2026

UPCOMING PIR OPPORTUNITIES



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

Asynchronous Course: Identifying and Countering Anti-Indigenous Bias
Starts February 10th, complete by the 24th
PD Portal #17351
course description



PLEASE TAKE THIS EL-12 IEFA FEEDBACK SURVEY

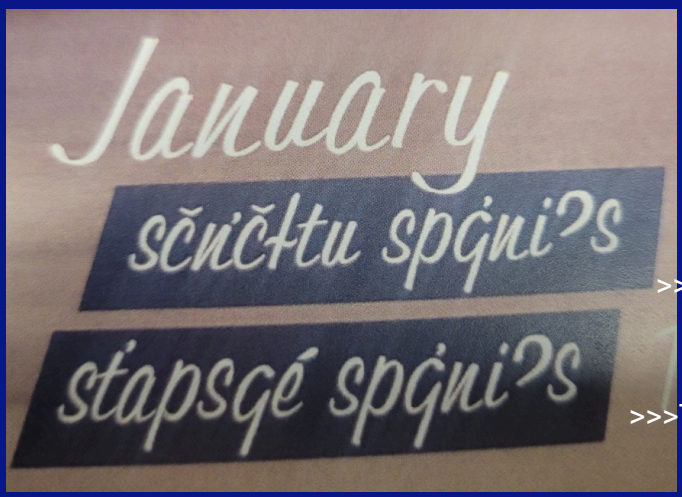
WINTER IS FOR STORYTELLING

This NPR interview with James Vukelich explains the significance of the season and importance of waiting for snow to be on the ground before telling stories. (9:20)

In the first 13 minutes of this video, Johnny Arlee tells the Salish Coyote story *Beaver Steals Fire*

WINTER COUNT LESSONS AND LINKS

Marking Time, Grades K-3
Lone Dog's Winter Count, Grades 4-8
SDPB K-12 Units and Lessons



Salish Translation-the second word, that is the same in both phrases, represents the word month and clock. It also has meaning as both the words sun and moon.

>>>The Shake Hands Month

>>>The Shooting Month



Salish people gather at the turn of the new year for Jump Dances. This is a sacred and happy time when the people sing, dance, and make their prayers for the new year. One of the songs that they sing is the Shake Hands Song. This month is also called the Shooting Month as people picked up the tradition of shooting rifles to herald the coming of the new year.

~Taken from Huckleberries, Buttercups, and Celebrations by Jennifer Greene

MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

IEFA BULLETIN-PAGE 2

JANUARY 2026

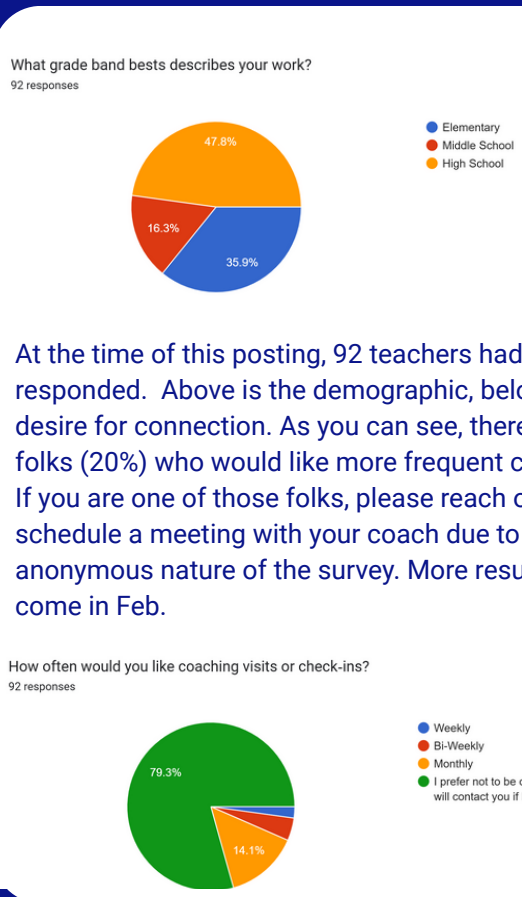
BENEFITS OF COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

Collaborative lesson planning has benefits across the school community – for teachers, leaders and students.

1. When leaders create space for developing understanding and for building confidence in concept delivery and structure, teachers' workload eases.
2. Teachers who feel supported with their subject knowledge, resources, and classroom management strategies, will have better self-efficacy and job satisfaction which will itself lead to better teaching.
3. With a focus on pedagogy rather than resource creation, collaborative planning positively impacts students transitioning from one grade to another as all teachers have a shared understanding of approaches and methods within classrooms. If, as teachers, we know how a concept has been delivered, it is easier to make links that are relevant to the student and to build on their prior learning.
4. Promoting a culture of collaboration boosts team ethos and promotes professional conversations.
5. Collaborative planning actively encourages teachers to focus on effective differentiation, anticipate misconceptions, and consider alternative approaches that students may bring to the lesson.
6. Leaders can be confident that every student is receiving the same high-quality delivery regardless of which class they are in.
7. Teachers feel valued, invested in and secure knowing what is being expected of them in class time.
8. Leaders can expect to see consistent high-quality explanations and discussion in lessons, with misconceptions anticipated and addressed.
9. Consistency rather than homogeneity is apparent from class to class in the approaches and mathematical language used. The lesson itself is still the responsibility of the teacher and one will still differ from another as is appropriate to the needs of the students in each class.
10. Effective teaching is responsive and tailored to the class' needs and how best to support student learning. Planning discussions based on conceptual understanding facilitates teachers' skills at doing this.

Ford, L. (2025, October 21). Collaborative Lesson Planning As An Effective Professional Development Tool In Mathematics: Develop Teachers And Improve Outcomes. Third Space Learning. https://thirdspacelearning.com/us/blog/collaborative-lesson-planning/

Please consider inviting an IEFA coach to your team or department planning meeting. We would love to brainstorm with you!



At the time of this posting, 92 teachers had responded. Above is the demographic, below is the desire for connection. As you can see, there are some folks (20%) who would like more frequent check-ins. If you are one of those folks, please reach out to schedule a meeting with your coach due to the anonymous nature of the survey. More results to come in Feb.



WMS



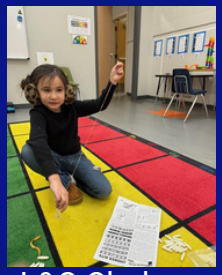
MHMS



Earrings class mother-daughter duo



Hawthorne 4th graders



L&C Chokers



Hellgate fry bread



earrings class

MCPS
Native American
Student Services

BINGO Night

Gather your family, friends, and fellow trivia enthusiasts for an evening of thrilling games, fabulous prizes, and unforgettable memories.

JANUARY 14TH
ADMINISTRATION BLDG B
909 S. AVE WEST

5:30-7:30 PM
Doors open at 5

Bring a Snack to share

All are welcome!
PRIZES
FOOD
FUN

Missoula County Public Schools
Native American Student Services

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Forward Thinking, High Achieving

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

