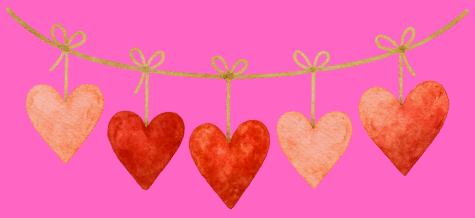
MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

IEFA BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2026



UPCOMING PIR/PD



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

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As we work to protect Indigenous sovereignty and heritage, we must also acknowledge the systemic barriers that our Black brothers, sisters, and kin continue to face. We believe that celebrating Black excellence isn't just a "February task," but a year-round commitment to true allyship and understanding.

-SUMMIT SESSION-
CULTURE IS PREVENTION



Michelle Mitchell
CSKT Tribal Education Department Head

What Are We Learning? We are moving beyond standard behavioral management and learning to implement a framework where cultural knowledge is the foundation of student well-being, resilience, and academic success. The "Why" is rooted in the mandate to support the whole child and close equity gaps by creating a school environment that is not just safe, but truly safe and affirming.
The way we measure learning must expand beyond traditional metrics to include measures of well-being, cultural connection, and identity development.

CHECK OUT THE LATEST UPDATE FROM OPI'S IEFA DEPARTMENT

HERE

-SUMMIT SESSION-
EXPANDING YOUR PERCEPTION: RECOGNIZING HIDDEN BIAS



Kqyn Kuka
Tribal Liaison
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
Great Falls, Montana, United

You will learn how our brain processes information; how our environmental conditioning and biases are formed; how good people have biases and how they affect some of the decisions we make. I give specific examples of how quickly our brains work and how easy it is to see biases once we see how they are made in our brains. I explain how Native Americans in Montana are viewed by non-natives, and ways to overcome these biases and become aware of how they may be disadvantaging or advantaging the group. I talk an honest approach of my own life and own experiences. You will find it interesting, funny, and an entertaining learning experience.

MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

IEFA BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2025

NATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TRAINING, HELD ON JANUARY 26TH



Speaker Panel: Susan Webber, James "Bing" Matt, Everett Armstrong, Shelly Fyant

MCPS high school students have formed their own Native council and are growing their leadershp skills by learning from Blackfeet and Salish tribal leaders, as well as participating in training from Common Good Missoula.

THE DAWES ACT WAS SIGNED FEBRUARY 8, 1887

[WHAT IS IT?]

[VIDEO: HOW DOES THE DAWES ACT RELATE TO SOCIAL JUSTICE TODAY]

[GRADES 3-5 LESSON]

[HIGH SCHOOL LESSON]







Paxson's Culture Night



Hawthorne students learn Grandfather teachings from the Anishinnabe tribe.

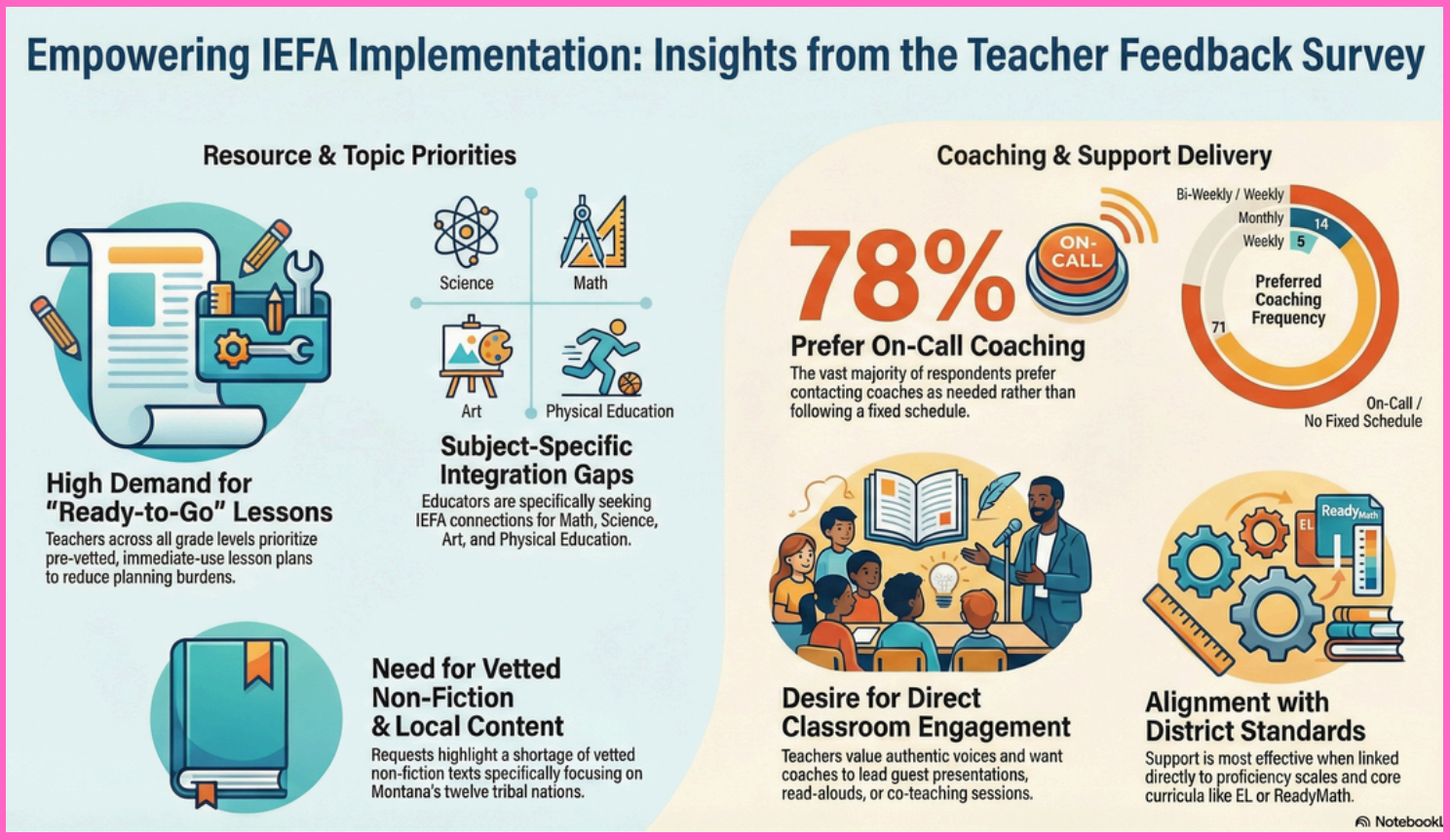
WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED

[HERE]

are all 135 responses to the anonymous survey we sent out in December. If you don't care to look at what everone said, check out the summary infographic, towards the end of the bulletin. We hear you and will plan accordingly.



SURVEY SUMMARY



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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Native American Resistance for Everyone ASYNCHRONOUS 8 week course by Anna East MORE INFO HERE

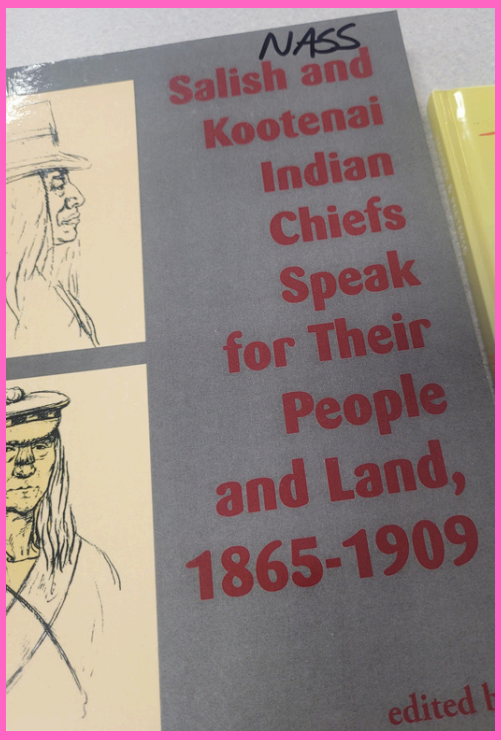
UPCOMING PIR 2026

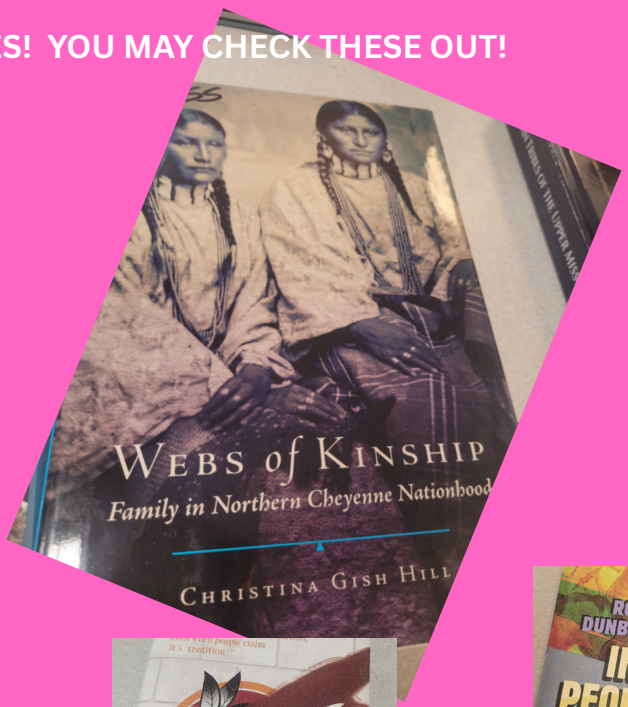
February 10-24	Identifying and Countering Indigenous Bias, asynchronous (4)
March/April Dates TBD	Understanding and Enjoying Powwows self-paced online + in-person at the MCPS Native Youth Powwow (4)
April 15 & 29	Book Club-*Fire Keeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley (6)

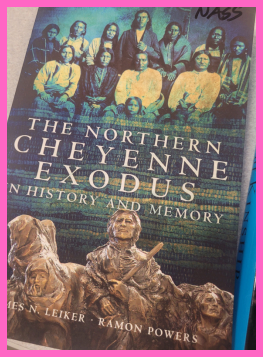


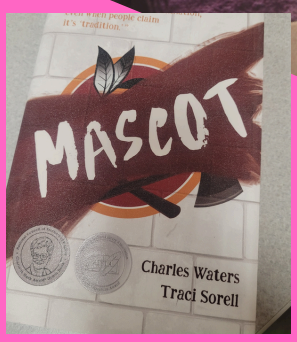
WE HAVE SOME NEW BOOKS!

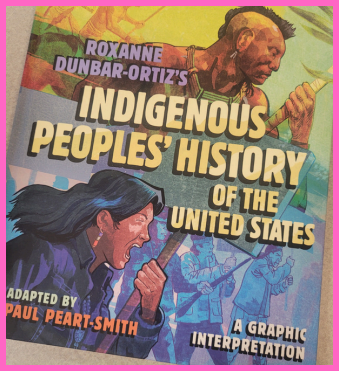
YES! YOU MAY CHECK THESE OUT!











TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY DAY

Open to ALL 11th & 12th Graders
Come to the UM Campus to Explore Tribal Sovereignty
Organized by the UM Pre-Law Program
Free lunch and snacks!

Government teachers should already know about this. Contact Charlie Struna With questions or for a clean copy of this flyer for students

Apply Now!

Friday, March 13, 2026
9:15 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
University of Montana, Missoula
Payne Family Native American Center
Room 202 and the Rotunda

MCPS RISE DATES

TIME: 2-3:30 pm



UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

February 11
February 25
March 11
March 25
April 22
May 6
May 20
June 3

2026 ANNUAL SUMMIT

~RISE & SHINE~

BOZEMAN, MT

APRIL 27-29, 2026

SIGN UP WITH YOUR SCHOOL'S RISE ADVISOR

NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE LECTURE SERIES

AN EVENING WITH

SEAN SHERMAN

THE SIOUX CHEF

(ENROLLED MEMBER OF THE OGLALA LAKOTA TRIBE)



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD,
7:30 PM
UNIVERSITY CENTER BALLROOM AND LIVESTREAM

Chef Sean Sherman, a proud member of the Oglala Lakota tribe from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, dedicates his efforts to rejuvenating Indigenous food systems across North America. His activism is aimed at reclaiming and celebrating the rich culinary heritage of Indigenous peoples. By founding the non-profit North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS) and its Indigenous Food Lab, he strives to enhance access to Indigenous foods while tackling economic and health challenges within Native communities.

- **Author of The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen**
- **Author of Turtle Island: Foods and Traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of North America**
- **Owner of Owamni by the Sioux Chef, Minnesota's first full-service Indigenous restaurant**

THIS FREE COMMUNITY EVENT IS THE 2026 BRENNAN GUTH MEMORIAL LECTURE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY AND IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA'S CAMPUS DINING DEPARTMENT, NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE, AND DAVIDSON HONORS COLLEGE. ASL INTERPRETATION WILL BE PROVIDED. A LIVESTREAM LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE CLOSER TO THE EVENT.

For futher information, please visit
https://www.umt.edu/president/events/lectures/2025-2026/sean-sherman.php
or contact NACOE at nacoeadmin@mso.umt.edu

Native American Student Services

YAYA DOLLS WORKSHOP

February 12th, 2026

5:30 - 7:30 PM

- Materials Provided
- Limited Spots Available

909 South Avenue W
Missoula, MT 59801
Admin Building B
Professional Learning Lab

To sign up, please email Billie Jo Juneau @ bjuneau@mcpsmt.org

learn how to make a Yaya Doll!

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

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Leigh Malatare	Native American Specialist Franklin, Jeanette Rankin, Rattlesnake, Porter, Meadow Hill, Big Sky	lmalatare@mcpsmt.org (406) 728-2400 ext. 1047
Ali North	Native American Specialist Chief Charlo, Hawthorne, Lowell, Paxson, Russell	anorth@mcpsmt.org (406) 728-2400 ext. 1050
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