

R.E.A.C.H. Wraps Up

REACH, our after school program for 3rd through 8th grade students, wraps up on Thursday, April 30th. The program, which is open Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays, runs from October through April. REACH offers students a place to finish any homework they might have, with available assistance, while they enjoy a snack and then various enrichment activities. Students have enjoyed a variety of activities this year. Among the favorites have been aeronautics, which had paper airplanes flying, craft projects, bringing out students creative side, and cooking, where they whipped up some very tasty treats. Currently, students are testing their green thumbs as they make the best use of our greenhouse. It is too early to know if they will "taste the fruits of their labors". But seeds and plants have been planted. Thank you Ms. Penny Hopkins, for coordinating REACH again this year!

Child Safety Event

The Thompson Falls Woman's Club will be hosting a FREE Child Safety Event, on **Saturday, May 16th**, 10AM – 3PM, at Ainsworth Park. Visit Safety Booths with information about Home Safety, Railroad Crossing Safety, Internet Safety, Water Safety, Hiking Safety & being bear aware, Fire Safety, Child Development, and Parenting and Education Information. Among that many offerings are:

- * FREE car seat inspections performed by licensed technicians.
- * Bike Rodeo with FREE Bicycle and Helmet inspections performed.
- * Bring your child to learn Safety's ABCs– Always Be Care & Meet Smokey the Bear, too!
- * There will be drawing for prizes from completed child passport. Passports will be given when you register.

2026-27 Calendar

The School Board approved the calendar for the 2026-27 school year at the April School Board Meeting. The calendar, showing starting and ending dates as well as all non school days can be found on our website at <http://thompsonfalls.net> Take a peek, it's not too early to plan those vacations.

Transportation Update

We have spoken to Mosher Transportation, and we all agree students needing to ride a bus after school to the high school to be on time for softball or baseball practice or games are allowed to do so. This courtesy does not extend to times when non-route riding students expect to go visit a friend after school or want to ride a bus for other occasions. Parents **MUST** inform Mosher Transportation if their student is needing to ride a bus after school for an event. That way bus drivers know who they can expect on their bus, and Mosher Transportation can assign the appropriate bus so all students are safely accounted for by everyone. Please communicate with your after school coaches and Mosher Transportation before telling your student to hop on a bus after school. Also, all students riding the bus to the high school as a courtesy must **WAIT UNTIL ALL BUSES HAVE LEFT THE PARKING LOT BEFORE WALKING ACROSS TO PRACTICES.** There are too many high school drivers and buses using the parking lot at one time for those younger students to remain safe.

Important Happenings

- 4/23 REACH(3rd-8th Gr)-3:30-5:00PM
- 4/24 Fun Friday– Crazy Sock & Sandals Day
- 4/24 PTO's Popcorn Friday– May's Stitch and Fix
- 4/24 3rd Elliott– Poetry Awards– 1:10PM– Cafeteria
- 4/24 Running Start Celebration– 1:30PM– Cafeteria
- 4/24 Final day to order Yearbooks
- 4/24 Early Dismissal– 2:05PM
- 4/27 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/29 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 4/30 REACH (after school program for 3rd-8th) 3:15-5:00PM
- 5/1 FUN FRIDAY– Sweats and Hoodies Day
- 5/1 Early Dismissal– 2:05PM
- 5/1-5/2 State Music Festival
- 5/4-5/8 PTO Staff Appreciation
- 5/4 School Board Meeting– 6:00PM-BR
- 5/5 6th Gr Field Trip– Fort Missoula
- 5/6 5-12 Band Concert– 6:30-HS
- 5/7 2nd Grade Tree Planting - Ainsworth Park
- 5/8 Fun Friday—80s Day
- 5/8 Kinder - Mother's Day Tea Party-1:20PM- lunchrm
- 5/8 Early Dismissal– 2:05PM
- 5/13 6th Gr Tdap Boosters given w/signed permission
- 5/13 4th Gr Field Trip– Fish Hatchery & Frog Pond
- 5/15 Fun Friday– Crazy Hats and Socks Day
- 5/15 1st Gr Field Trip– TF Airport
- 5/15 3rd Gr Field Trip– TF Dam & Power Park
- 5/15 Early Dismissal– 2:05PM
- 5/16 Child Safety Event– Ainsworth Field
- 5/20 3rd Gr Field Trip– Noxon Dam
- 5/20 K-6 Choir Concert– 6:30– JH Gym
- 5/22 Fun Friday– Sandals, Slides, and Crocs Day
- 5/22 Early Dismissal– 2:05PM

Thompson Falls Elementary

Mr. Len Dorscher,
Principal

School web site:
<https://tfes.thompsonfalls.net>



Is Gentle Parenting Enough to Raise Responsible Kids?

If you have been exploring gentle parenting, you're not alone. Many parents today are working hard to stay calm, build strong relationships, and raise emotionally healthy kids. That's a noble goal, and gentle parenting emphasizes the emotional part as the primary focus.

Can Empathy Alone Change Behavior?

It can feel frustrating and even confusing. You want to be kind and understanding. But you also don't want to fall into repeating yourself or feel like nothing is sticking, even though you're being empathetic. This is one of the pitfalls with the primary focus on empathy with gentle parenting.

Love and Logic's Balanced Approach

In contrast to gentle parenting, Love and Logic offers a helpful balance between genuine empathy and natural consequences.

- Empathy always comes first
- Followed by natural consequences that do the teaching

Instead of choosing between being "too strict" or "too permissive," Love and Logic helps you do both by building strong relationships that help you teach responsibility.

Kids Need Both: Empathy and Opportunities to Learn

It's a simple yet powerful combination:
"I understand how you feel—and I'll help you learn from this."

The Love and Logic approach works because kids don't just need to feel understood—they need opportunities to learn how their choices work in the real world.

If you're looking for practical tools to support that balance, our **Parenting Essentials Bundle** is a great place to start.

Take a closer look at where empathy helps and where kids need something more, read our blog:
[Love and Logic vs. Gentle Parenting: What's the Difference—and Why it Matters.](#)

Each week we share Love & Logic tips here. We also have many Love & Logic resources available for loan.

Contact our school counselor, Ms. Jessy Lewis, for more info.