

Indigenous Insider

February 2025

MCPS NASS Staff Shareouts



Oki! This month was busy! I was contacted by the University of Montana N7 committee to gather a group of MCPS native students to carry out MT tribal flags at the game.

Willard: We are doing group circle and also beading. Students are finishing up their projects and we will soon start beading earrings. After spring break, a parent is volunteering to come in and help with beading graduation caps

Sentinel: Students continue to attend RISE meetings every other Tuesday. We are getting more students to attend. I worked with Josh, the AD on the crosstown game against Hellgate. The department brainstormed on a title and we came up with "Two Rivals, One Heartbeat, United in the Game". At the game we sold frybread and the rest of the t-shirts designed by Brandon Omeasoo. Both boys and girls varsity from both Hellgate and Sentinel wore their t-shirts.

Washington: We finished up with our discussions on oral traditions. I had one student who came back and shared a creation story with the group. We also watched two documentaries about two former University of Montana students that talked about how they made it living in two worlds. We talked about the meaning of living in two worlds. We started another video, this one is with an Indian relay team. We also finally got a classroom to meet in. Next week is a pizza party!

**MCPS Native American Student
Services**

**909 South Ave W.
Building B, Rm 120
Missoula, MT 59802**



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

Hellgate: I have started to meet more students. They are stopping by to see me in the library. I also got a room secured here at Hellgate. We finally get to start some beading projects. The principal has also mentioned he wants to buy the students lunch. I also worked with the AD to get some shirts done for the crosstown game against Sentinel. I did make it to the freshman showcase and met some incoming students and parents for next year.

Lewis & Clark: We had our monthly meeting on Valentine's day so we had some treats for the students. I also got to come have lunch with a student, it was her incentive. We are also planning a frybread/Indian taco lunch in the near future.



Okii (Blackfeet / Piikani)

?e-?a (Salish / Séliš-Qlispé)

Hello - Hello!!!



Wowzers! The month of February is small but mighty! February has flown by and we are delighted with everything held within the month.

Just a few February highlights:

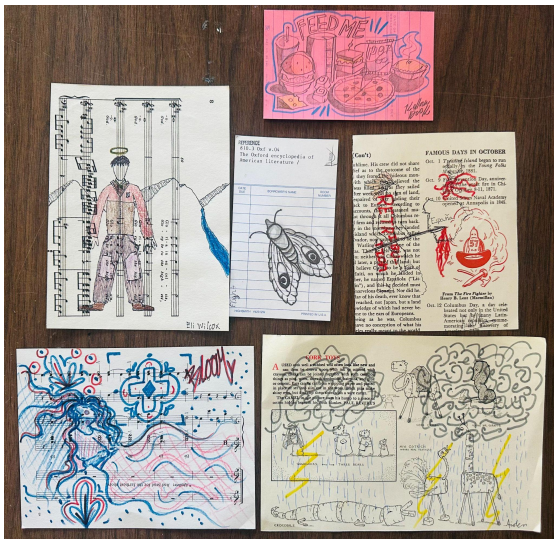
- Two amazing beaded-earring classes taught by the talented Mother-Daughter Duo, Val & Giselle Forrest. These classes were well attended & many are asking for more. Seeing people out & about, wearing their earrings is sparking joy!
- We presented IEFA Essential Understandings (EUs) to Middle School & High School teachers & engaged in meaningful dialogue. We also presented IEFA EUs at the MCPS Summit to k-12 teachers & made many connections.
- Our second book club "*Becoming Little Shell*" by Chris LaTray was a tremendous success. Chris LaTray launched the book club with an in person visit with MCPS book-clubbers. Chris is a passionate - dynamic speaker / storyteller and we are abundantly grateful for his visit. (Chris will be back in April with Anna East to connect with educators.) All participants are eager for the next book club, "*Braiding SweetGrass*" in May.
- We listened to Chris LaTray "story-telling" to the MCPS 7th graders at the Public Library.
- Our department participated in "Cultural Sensitivity Training" offered at the University of Montana Native American Center of Excellence.
- Paxson hosted their Annual Cultural Night. This event is a **major** highlight, watching families & communities come together to share their stories through art, culture, & food. (Everyone loves Ms Trena's frybread!) At the end of the evening, my face hurt from smiling so much! **We love watching our students shine brightly!!**
- We presented & created Ledger Art to both Hellgate High School for Diversity Week & Big Sky High School for (International) Cultural Week! This was an amazing experience & we are excited for more teaching / creating opportunities.
- We are busy bouncing around the district connecting with k-12 students & teachers. Charlie continues to offer teacher work sessions, facilitate Seeley RISE meetings & biweekly visits with JRE kiddos. Keila connects weekly with students/ families at Paxson & biweekly at Rattlesnake, as well as scheduled visits with students/ teachers at other schools. We are grateful for our time together & the ability to build relationships. YAY! Today, the sun is out in full glory and we can feel the promise of the earth's awakening that begins in March. We are excited for what's ahead. Until then, be well!

With Gratitude,

Charlie Struna & Keila Cross

IEFA Instructional Coaches





Community and Department Events



Paxson Culture Night

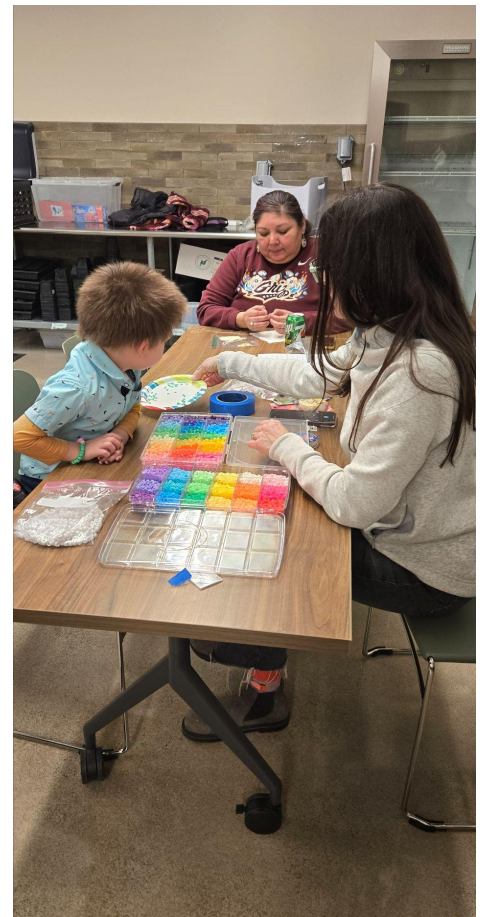


Leigh working on tanning the buffalo hide

Sentinel students selling fry bread and shirts



Beading with a student





Students and families at the rope wrap earring class.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senior parent meeting March 26th at 5pm at Admin B Learning Lab (909 South Ave West)

If you would like to share your knowledge and become a cultural consultant for our department, please reach out to Charlie Struna at cstruna@mcpsmt.org for more information. Please include your name and area of expertise.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Missoula Butterfly House
Gisele and Valerie Forrest
UM N7 Committee
Nick Laatch, Josh Jannusch
Shawn White Grass, Britney Hunter
Juanita Tall Man
Brandon Omeasoo
Melanie Matelich



MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES



> > 2024-2025 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR < <

EVENT NAME	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Back to School BBQ	Monday, Aug. 26	5-6:30 pm	Sentinel High School
American Indian Heritage Day Round Dance	Friday, Sept. 27	6 - 9 pm	C.S. Porter Middle School
SEPTEMBER 27: AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY (MONTANA)			
SEPTEMBER 30: ORANGE SHIRT DAY - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (US/CANADA)			
OCTOBER 14: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY (US)			
Supaman	Friday, Oct. 25	7 - 8 pm	Sentinel High School Auditorium
Halloween Carnival	Tuesday, Oct. 29	6 - 8 pm	Franklin Elementary School
NOVEMBER: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH			
Pemmican Making Class	Monday, Nov. 4 Monday, Nov. 11 Monday, Nov. 25	5:30-8 pm	Balsamroot Room at the Insectarium & Butterfly House
Bingo Night	Friday, Dec. 6	6 - 8 pm	UM : ALI
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Rope Wrap Earrings	Monday, Feb. 3 Monday, Feb. 10	5:30 - 8 pm	Balsamroot Room at the Insectarium & Butterfly House
Native Youth Powwow	April 26	12 - 10 pm	Sentinel High School
MAY 5: NATIONAL MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS' AWARENESS DAY (US)			
Native Graduates Senior Dinner	Tuesday, May 20	6 - 8 pm	Fairgrounds
End of Year Celebration	Tuesday, June 10	5 - 6:30 pm	Sentinel High School

MCPS Native American Student Services

SUNDAY FUNDAY



SPORTS – CULTURE – MOVEMENT

Join our FREE Sunday activities to get your body moving and spend time with your friends! For MCPS Native American students ages 8 and up!

PARENTS/FAMILY WELCOME!

Activities:

- Open gym
- Dancing
- Stick Game
- Basketball
- Beading
- Drumming/Singing
- Back-up singing

Big Sky High School
10 am – 2 pm
Every Sunday starting Sept. 1

Information Contact:

Leigh Malatare (406)728-2400 ext. 1047
Shawn White Grass (406) 728-2400 ext. 1050



NASS Dept would like to invite you to our

MONTHLY PAC MEETING

First Wednesday of
the Month
March 5, 2025
6-8pm

Admin Building B
909 South Ave W

We hope you can make it. Potluck style dinner. Bring
your favorite dish to share. If you have any questions,
please don't hesitate to reach out.

Contact Person: Billie Jo



||Bjuneau@mcpsmt.org || 406.728.2400. ext 1063

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WELCOMING OUR FUTURE

Time: FOR NEW PARENTS, EXPECTING PARENTS,
FAMILIES, AND RELATIVES

5:30 PM – 8:00 PM



Location:

Payne Family Native American Center
32 Campus Dr

Dates:



March 10th

- INDIGENOUS PARENTING PROTECTIONS & PLANNING

March 24th

- WELCOMING OF BABY

March 31st

- DECOLONIZING PARENTHOOD

April 7th

- WELCOMING OUR FUTURE BABY SHOWER

MOSS BAG MAKING
MEAL SERVED
YOUTH ACTIVITIES

BABY MOCCASIN MAKING
GUEST SPEAKERS
WELLNESS KITS



Native Youth Powwow



April 26, 2025
Sentinel High School



Contest Categories:

- Tiny Tots (5 and under, must be in regalia)
- Juniors (6-12 years)
- Teens (13-18 years)
- Adult Women and Men (19-59 years)
- Golden Age (60+)

Grand Entries: Noon and 6 pm

Supper Break 4-6 PM

Vendors Welcome

Contact Billie Jo Juneau
bjuneau@mcpsmt.org
(406) 728-2400 ext. 1063

2025 NYP Princess Contest

Contact Trena Old Person
toldperson@mcpsmt.org
(406) 728-2400 ext. 1028

Head Male Dancer: Dane Fisher
Head Female Dancer: Kyreah Kicking Woman
Youth Host Drum: DB Express

MC: Benji Headswift
Arena Director: Shawn Whitegrass
Outgoing NYP Princess: Maya Griego