



Superintendent's Letter

Our K-8 students received supplemental reading and musical instruction that culminated with a concert performed for students and staff on December 13th. Hal-laday and Rob Quist provided the musical education and Mariah Gladstone taught Plains Indian sign language to the students. The instruction was based on the *Indian Reading Series* that was developed in 1972. This program uses community based tribal stories that originated from 12 Northwest Tribes including the Salish and Kootenai. The curriculum is the product of 140 culturally relevant stories written by local Indian authors and illustrated by Indian artists and is designed for both native and non-native students.

December Board actions approved: Ellen Fjeseth and Andrew Heavy Runner as junior high girls' basketball coaches; hiring Gary Drye as a testing coordinator; placed the custodial staff on the district's salary schedule; and discussed future considerations for the Oxford house. The January Board meeting will be moved from Tuesday, January 10 to Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30pm in the 3-6 Building, due to the high school basketball games in Mission. Those games are scheduled for 2:30, 4:00, 5:30 and 7:00pm on a GBGB rotation.

The New Year brings a sense of renewal and rejuvenation. Resolutions abound. I think it would be a great idea for Arlee Schools to have a few of its own. After reflecting on our successes, achievements, and room for growth and improvement, I came up with three for our district:

Attendance matters (adapted from http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/AAMMessages_2014.pdf). **Let's have less absenteeism.**

Studies show that there is a direct link between attendance and grades. Good attendance equals good grades and the opposite can be shown as well. Remember, students are at risk academically if they miss 10 percent of the school year, or about 15 days. Once too many absences have occurred, they can affect learning, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. Sporadic, not just consecutive, absences also matter. Just one or two days a month can add up to nearly 10 percent of the school year.

Of course, some absences are unavoidable. Occasionally, children get sick and need to stay home. What is important is getting children to school as often as possible. Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show many children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade. By middle and high school, chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out. Too many absent students can affect the whole classroom, creating churn and slowing down instruction.

Bullying (adapted from http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/bullying/bullyingGuide_Parents.pdf): **We need to understand what bullying is before we can stop bullying.**
What is Bullying:

"A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself." Bullying is Not Teasing. It might be hard to tell the difference between playful teasing and bullying. Teasing usually involves two or more friends who act together in a way that seems fun to all the people involved. Often they tease each other equally, but it never involves physical or emotional abuse.

Why Students Bully:

Information about bullying suggests that there are three interrelated reasons why students bully.

- Students who bully have strong needs for power and (negative) dominance.
- Students who bully find satisfaction in causing injury and suffering to other students.
- Students who bully are often rewarded in some way for their behavior with material or psychological rewards.

What You Can Do:

Educate your child about bullying. · Foster empathy by encouraging your child to look at his/her actions from the victim's perspective. · Remind your child that bullying can have legal consequences. · Remember you are a model for your children. · Kids learn from adults' aggressive and mean-spirited behavior as well as from acts of kindness and empathy. · Establish consistent rules of behavior. Make sure your child understands your rules and the consequences for breaking them. · Set limits with technology. ·

ARLEE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Close Up

The Close Up group at Arlee High School is working hard to raise funds for a trip to Washington DC. We are sponsoring a Silent Auction during the home basketball games on Friday, Jan. 20. We would love donations of gently used or new items or baked goodies. (Anything except clothing) If you'd like to donate toward this worthy cause, please bring your donations in to the HS office by Thursday, Jan. 19.

We are also running the basketball concessions and we can always use helpers! Call Val at 726-3216, ext. 2301, if you feel you'd like an exciting evening helping out in the stand!

For more information on the Close Up group, call Val or Sue Carney anytime. All students are welcome to join, they just have to raise the necessary funds by their Senior year and be academically eligible.

Arlee School Board Trustees will have two vacant seats on the Board in May 2017. Thank you Trustee Wendy Forgey and Trustee Lisa Koetter for serving your community and school the past three years in this important position. If you are interested in running as a Trustee Candidate, you can file a Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy with Election Administrator, Lonnie Morin, beginning December 10, 2016 and closing March 24, 2017. The Declaration and Oath can be found on our District website at www.arlee.k12.mt.us, under Departments: District Office: Forms or at the Administration Office on campus.

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Let your child know you'll be monitoring his or her use of computers, email, and text messaging. • Seek Support. • Talk to school personnel and mental health providers about how to address the issue.

There are also many good resources online. (Review the "Resources" tab on the Bully Free Montana page, found here: <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/TitlePrgms/SafeSchools/Bully.html>).

Reading. We need to become better readers.

Reading ability is the foundation for all other learning our children need to be successful in school and after. As with attendance, how frequently your child attends and how well your child reads do have direct effect on how well your child will do in school. Your commitment to model reading reinforces what we are doing in the classroom. You don't need a Ph.D. to teach your child to read. You can help by modeling reading to your child by finding interesting things to read that you both can enjoy. Talk to your child about what they are reading in school but more importantly, find interesting things to read together, including comic books, magazines, and internet sites. If you have questions, please talk to your child's teacher or principal.

Finally, I hope you have a Happy New Year and all your resolutions come true.

If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 726-3216, ext. 2100; 830-6563; or by email at

dwhitesell@arleeschools.org.

Dave Whitesell, Superintendent

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to "2017" from the Junior High

The JHS staff hopes everyone had a safe & warm winter break. Now that we are on a downhill toward spring, here are some reminders. We will have school Friday, January 6th, for restarting school on a Tuesday. We will have NO SCHOOL on Mon, Jan 16th for MLK Jr. Day which will mean we will have another Friday, January 20th, day of school.

We will have a ski trip to Discovery on Thursday, January 5th for all students in junior high. Students have been given permission slips with ski information and they are due no later than Wednesday, January 4th.

We would like to give a huge shout-out to Coach Andrew HeavyRunner, Coach Camas McClure & our remarkable talented boys' basketball team on such an impressive season.

JH girls' basketball practice started on Tues., January 3rd from 4:00PM - 5:30PM, Monday - Thursday. No practice on Fridays unless scheduled by coach. Remember ALL students planning to participate in grades 6-8 are required to have their complete sports physical, concussion, participation & release forms along with purchasing the Activity Pass (\$30.00) BEFORE they are allowed to start practice. If you are having difficulty paying for the pass, please contact Mandy at 726-3216 ext 2404; scholarships are available. Sports pictures are scheduled for Tues., Jan 19th, at 4:15 and money is due at time of pictures. Information will be handed out prior to that day.

Weather! It is that time of the year when freezing temperatures and snowy roads are present so here are some quick tips: Mass automated phone messages will be sent out informing families of school closures and delayed starts. Please make sure your phone number is up to date. If you are not sure if you have updated numbers, please call the school secretaries at 726-3216, Shara (K-2) ext 2200, Wendy (3-6) ext 2203, Mandy (7-8) ext 2404 or Val (9-12) ext 2301. You can also tune in to Eagle-93, KYSS, KERR, KQ-92, KECI and KPAX. Also remember to send your kids to school properly dressed for the weather and as a reminder to students and community, each school building entrances have the tendency to get messy with our tile flooring. Please wipe your shoes and be careful walking down the halls.

Happy 2017 from the Junior High staff: Callie DiFulgentis, Michael Richardson, Brett Sproull, Lorri O'Neill, Ken Hill, Winona Azure, Karen McCullough, Katie Parson, Aaron Brien, Misty Brien, Theresa LaHaye, Wendy Bauer, Mandy Hunter, and Jim Taylor, Principal.



Upcoming Events

Friday, January 6: Regular school day

Mon., - Thur., January 9-12: End of semester (finals in high school)

Monday, January 16: NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Tuesday, January 17: Semester 2 begins

Friday, January 20: Regular school day

Friday, January 20: Close Up Silent Auction (basketball games)