



MSDB Happenings



Letter by Donna Sorensen, Superintendent

Dear Families,

As you noticed from our first MSDB Happenings, we have a new Principal – Paul Furthmyre! We are excited to have him join our team!! He comes to us with a multitude of leadership experiences and we look forward to learning with him.

Other staff changes – Kim Schwabe is now in Outreach in Billings, Scott Henry is in Outreach in Bozeman, Mo Aguon joined the Kitchen Staff, and Tabatha Soliz joined the Cottage Staff in Shoshone.

This year, we will be focusing our professional development in the Visually Impaired (VI) department to learn more about Expanded Core Curriculum and how to infuse that foundational learning into every class. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) department will continue learning about ASL-English Bilingual Education (Level 2) and about Listening and Spoken Language tools we can use in the classroom.

As Montana faces one of the harshest fire seasons, the state budget is experiencing more reductions. Luckily, we have been exempted from more current cuts at this point. We will be looking at our expenditures very closely. We will continue to provide a well-rounded and rigorous education for your children starting with our focus on safety! As always, thank you for sharing your children with us. Thank you for sharing your journey with us. If there are needs, comments, or questions, please contact us. We always want to partner with you!

Wishing you peace,
Donna E Sorensen, Superintendent
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Reminders

Jogging Jokers starts Sept 18th. Mon, Wed, Thurs, and Fridays

Flying Hooves starts Sept 12. Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 and Thursdays 6:30-7:30.

Deaf Enrichment Weekend – September 29-30

Hands and Voices Training – September 22-23

Board of Public Education Meeting – September 14-15



Upcoming Events for the September!

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat/Sun
		13	14 Board of Education Meeting Flying Hooves 6:60-7:30	15 Board of Education Meeting	16/17
18	19 Flying Hooves 3:30-4:30	20	21 Flying Hooves 6:60-7:30	22 Hands and voices Training	23/24 Hands and voices Training
25	26 Flying Hooves 3:30-4:30	27	28 Flying Hooves 6:60-7:30	29 Deaf Enrichment Weekend - DEW	30/1 Deaf Enrichment Weekend - DEW
2	3 Flying Hooves 3:30-4:30	4	5 Flying Hooves 6:60-7:30	6	7/8

Fuddruckers is fundraising with us the first Wednesday of the month. Please go to: <http://www.msdb.mt.gov/foundation.html#donate> to locaterequired ticket with your payment



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September 13th, 2017

Tips for Helping Children Learn The Three L's These can be applied to both in the Classroom and at Home! (Kathy Clunis, 2017)

The three L's are limits, laughter, and love which are designed to help students through tough situations. These are important both in the home and the classroom.

Limits (or "Rules")

Post the agreements where everyone can see them. Write them big so they are easy for young children to access. Add a picture next to each agreement. This will help young children remember what they are. For example, if one of your agreements is "have fun," then you could take a picture of your child doing something fun. .

Just because we set these understandings does not mean the children will always follow them. Children test boundaries. This is natural and should be expected. This is the work of growing up. Children test boundaries so they can feel safe. They want to know how far they can push adults so that they will gain a better understanding of them. By testing boundaries children are asking themselves, "Do you see me? What will you do?" In the classroom, when children test boundaries I can refer to the understandings as well. As adults, knowing what the boundaries are is just as important. Often when children struggle it is because we adults are not clear, even with ourselves, about what is and is not okay.

Laughter

Laughter is so important when it comes to building relationships with children. Helping children find the joy in life is essential work. Young children are not always able to move on from incidents with ease. Sometimes they hold on to things that eat away at them and demand their attention. Laughter helps ease their situations.

Young children sometimes believe others are out to get them. If a child pushes them by accident, sometimes they believe it was deliberate. They then bring this preconceived idea when trying to solve a conflict. They have a hard time seeing the world from another person's point of view. They believe that their idea is the right idea.

I have found laughter to be an excellent tool to help children let go. It distracts them, calms their bodies, and raises their spirits. If I use laughter with a child who is upset, when it is time to solve a conflict, they are more willing and able to accept the words of another child or adult. Laughter is meant to be kind and build the student up and make situations more comfortable not less comfortable. Laughter must be positive and with the student.

Laughter also helps children understand that we all make mistakes and that we do not have to take everything seriously. Sometimes when children have a hard time with conflict, it is because they are disappointed in themselves. If they are able to laugh at themselves, they can relax enough to be able to learn from the event.

Love

Love is forgiveness. Love is the nourishment that allows us to forgive. Love is important because we all make mistakes. We all have moments in which we wish we had done things differently. Children need to know they are loved. This may sound obvious, but I have worked with many children who are not sure they are loved. Love comes in many forms—in words, but also in actions. When we teach children to be accountable for their actions and how to take care of one another when they have not done the right thing, we teach empathy and understanding. Knowing that they are loved and they will be forgiven, in my experience, does not lead to children taking advantage of one another, but rather builds a connection to one another that leads to growth, empathy, and understanding.

