Global Competence Summer Academy assists Missoula educators

The second Global Competence Summer Academy (GCSA), an intensive cross-cultural and global-competence skill-building seminar program, attracted more than thirty K-12 teachers, counselors and administrators from Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) and surrounding school districts, August 10 and 11 on the UM campus. The trainings helped participants to better understand, address and manage cultural similarities and differences, common in classrooms with learners from diverse cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, the GCSA focused on areas of pedagogy and curriculum and aids instructors in developing teaching strategies that support the changing demographic in today’s classroom. The GCSA also assists educators interested in infusing their curriculum with cross-cultural and global perspectives.

The academy was developed and taught by Dr. Udo Fluck, father of a 4th grader at Chief Charlo Elementary School and director of the Global Gateway Program with the Office of International Programs at the University of Montana.

The GCSA is a joint partnership between the UM Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences and MCPS, as part of the SHAPE P-20 Initiative.

Big Sky High School Health Science Academy receives generous donation

Montana Governor Steve Bullock visited Big Sky High School on Wednesday, September 2 as part of his “College and Career Readiness” Back to School Tour. During the visit Jeff Fee, CEO of Providence St. Patrick Hospital, formally announced the donation of $110,000 to Big Sky High School’s Health Science Academy (HSA). HSA will receive $50,000 the first year, with an additional $30,000 for the next two years.

The generous donation will provide an opportunity for students enrolled in the Health Science Academy to receive industry certifications. Health Science Academy graduates may receive either a phlebotomist, emergency medical technician or certified nursing assistant certification. The certifications will help graduates secure beneficial employment while moving onto post-secondary schooling.

Big Sky High School HSA teachers will also benefit from the Providence St. Patrick Hospital donation. Teachers will have the opportunity to participate in medical field externships and fund additional planning sessions further enhancing the college-preparatory curriculum.

For more information about Big Sky High School’s Health Science Academy click here.
Pedal Power

When the weather is decent around Missoula many residents use a bicycle for transportation. Same can be said for our children transporting themselves to school, home, and around the neighborhood. Most of my time as a child was spent on a bike and what a great time it was. Fortunately, I lived in the country and did not have to contend with much traffic. As most of you would agree, traffic in Missoula can be a nightmare at times. Bicyclists and motorists have to co-exist in the vast network of bike paths and roadways. To increase safety for our bicyclists, especially our children we need to be aware of a few tips and laws that exist.

Click here to visit the City of Missoula website explaining the Missoula Municipal Code as well as Montana Code Annotated 61-8-6 covering bicycle laws.

- Bicycles on the road are considered vehicles and must follow the same laws as cars. That includes traveling on the right side of the road, obeying all traffic rules and signaling when turning – left arm extended straight for left turns or upwards when turning right. Cyclists may also signal a right turn by extending their right arm.
- Cyclists must yield to other vehicles at four-way stops and uncontrolled intersections.
- Bicycle lanes are painted on the road for cyclists to ride while following the same laws as motorists.
- Sharrows are double-arrowed bicycle symbols painted on roads where speed limits are low and there isn’t room for a designated bike lane. It allows cyclists to “take the lane.”
- Drivers may pass a cyclist if they can do it without putting the biker in danger. They must yield to a cyclist riding in a designated bicycle lane or on a road with sharrows.
- Cars should treat cyclists in a bike lane as if they are vehicles in a right lane. They may not cut the cyclist off by turning right in front of them. They also cannot park in the bike lane or obstruct it.
- Cyclists riding on sidewalks, multi-use paths or in crosswalks are treated as pedestrians. They must stop before crossing roads. Cyclists must also give pedestrians the right of way and give an audible signal before passing.
- Cyclists riding at night must have appropriate lights and reflectors, including wheel and pedal reflectors.
- You cannot get arrested for driving under the influence while riding a bicycle, “but common sense will dictate that it’s not a good idea to ride a bicycle while intoxicated,” McManis said.
- You can, however, be cited for texting or talking on the phone without a hands-free device while riding a bicycle and finally, if you remember nothing else, remember the lug nut rule when riding a bike. He who is driving the vehicle with the most lug nuts wins.

“When you’re a kid, all you really care about are Slurpees and Slip N Slide and riding your bike, and that’s what I did.” - Pauly Shore

Staff Opportunities

⇒ **Nutrition Education in the Classroom and Beyond: Tips for Educators:** On Wednesday, September 16 from 3 p.m.—4 p.m. (EST) the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Team Nutrition Initiative will host a free webinar. This webinar will discuss innovative ways elementary and middle school educators can integrate nutrition education into core subjects like math, language arts and science. To participate in the webinar, please click here. For questions, please contact Maya Maroto, USDA/FNS, at (703)605-3120 or maya.maroto@fnas.usda.gov.

Human Resources and Benefits Corner

⇒ **Wellness Clinics Scheduled**: Upcoming wellness/blood draw clinics have been scheduled. These clinics are free of charge to those that participate in the MCPS Health Insurance Plan and include a follow-up with a CostCare provider to review your results at no additional charge. Registration is available approximately two-weeks before the clinic date but must be completed one week prior to the clinic date. Additional clinics will be scheduled to accommodate all staff. To register login to www.costcare.com and select the wellness tab to schedule your appointment. Flu shots are included with schools hosting Wellness Clinics after October 1. Schools not receiving flu shots will be scheduled for first week of November. For questions, please contact Kacy Brady, Benefits Technician, kbrady@mcps.k12.mt.us or ext. 1044.

⇒ **Staff ID Badges**: MCPS staff who do not have a 2015-2016 ID badge are encouraged to come to the Administration Building, 215 South 6th Street West, on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Lifetouch has been scheduled to take staff pictures and print ID badges during this time and will be set up in Room 14. Questions? Please call Tracy Long (406)728-2400, ext. 1026 or email talong@mcps.k12.mt.us.

⇒ **Sick Leave Donations**: Staff seeking donations of sick leave from fellow District employees due to extended illness or medical emergency must complete an official sick leave donation request form. Official posting notices will be issued via email from Human Resources, MMCEO, or MEA-MFT to building secretaries for posting on established employee information bulletin boards and announcement in the MCPS Newsletter. Staff members currently in need of donated sick leave: Terrie Shaw, Margaret Been and Starla Last Star.

Bulletin Board

⇒ **School’s Out Day Camp at Travelers’ Rest:** Students in grades K-5 are welcome to take part in the Autumn Explorers Day Camp at Travelers’ Rest State Park on Monday, September 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Campers will look forward to a full day of indoor and outdoor activities including storytelling, autumn themed games, nature hikes and playing with food. The cost is $30 per student or $25 for members of the Travelers’ Rest Preservation and Heritage Association. Snacks will be provided but students will need to provide a lunch and dress appropriately for the weather. Register online at www.travelersrest.org or call (406)273-4253.

⇒ **Montana Meth Project, “Paint the State” contest**: In a report released by the Montana Office of Public Instruction, surveys indicate that Meth use among teens has consistently dropped since 2011. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) measures these risk behaviors and indicators show that the Montana Meth Project message “Not Even Once” is working. As part of the Montana Meth Project, people from across Montana took part in the “Paint the State” art contest promoting the message. There were three categories: 1) Video, 2) Outdoor/ Monument/Sculpture or 3) Artwork/Photography. The contest artwork has been shared via social media and votes will be accepted until September 15. Winners will receive a $2,500 People’s Choice Award and celebrity panelists J.K. Simmons, Tyler Barham, Larry Pine and Mark Menenko will award a $7,500 Celebrity Artists Award. Click here to view the projects and vote.

Staff looking to publish items for sale should not use Outlook. Click here to view the board, designed as a way for staff to publish items for sale or notice events. The link is also on the staff website, under “staff Links”. Please email your posts for the Online Bulletin Board to talong@mcps.k12.mt.us.