



Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday November 21, 2017

- 1. Happy Thanksgiving!** Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because of what it is and what it isn't. It isn't about buying gifts or hustling and bustling about. It is about pausing and enjoying family, fellowship and of course, food! It's also about being grateful. As for me, I am grateful for my work, my family, my friends and my community. I'm particularly thankful for living in a community that cares so much for its children. Thank you! I wish you all the blessings this wonderful holiday can bring!
- 2. Thanksgiving Break.** There will be no school for GFPS students and teachers Wednesday, November 22 through Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving. District offices will be open on Wednesday, but closed on Thursday and Friday.
- 3. Curious About School Budgets?** What's ANB? How are budget caps established? What does the legislature have to do with school funding? How does GFPS determine its budget? These questions and many more will be answered during the 2018-2019 community budget process kick off meeting! Director of Business Operations Brian Patrick and I are excited to get the ball rolling. Come join us 5:30 – 6:30 pm on November 30. The public presentation will be held in the Aspen Room at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. You can see the entire budget setting schedule on the GFPS webpage: www.gfps.k12.mt.us.
- 4. Boundary Adjustment Community Meeting on December 12.** A planning team of 20 citizens has been studying all the ins and outs of adjusting some of the attendance boundaries within the school district. This has not been done in many, many years so it has prompted excellent conversations. The team will have some options they would like the community to ponder. To that end, come join the team in the cafeteria at Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Ave. at 5:30. You can check out all the information in advance at www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/boundary-adjustmentredistricting-information. You can provide feedback there as well.
- 5. Rest in Peace, Harold Wenaas.** I attended the funeral service for this former GFPS superintendent who led our district from 1966 (enrollment of 18,412 students) to 1984 (enrollment of 12,257 students). During his tenure, 13 schools were built and 5 schools were closed as the economy of Great Falls changed significantly. In my younger years, I knew him only by the signature on my CMR diploma. I'm happy to say that I got to know the great man that he was after I became superintendent, as Mr. Wenaas would stop by from time to time to have a cup of coffee and share his wisdom. At the service today, we were reminded about his penchant for kindness. His parting gift to all of us was a reminder to "Be kind and compassionate to one another; to forgive each other." He lived by these words. His legacy is a reminder to all of us to do the same.
- 6. It's Holiday Concert Time!** Proving once again that Great Falls is one of the top 100 communities in the nation for music education, we have another great holiday concert season on tap. Check out the entire concert schedule at this link: www.gfps.k12.mt.us. There are 36 concerts in all to choose from!
- 7. Facility Update.** Are you curious what the inside of Giant Springs Elementary School is going to look like? Thanks to LPW Architecture, you can take an animated 3-D tour of the school. Check it out right here: <http://gfps.k12.mt.us/content/roosevelt-replacement-giant-springs-elementary-school>.
- 8. Give a Gold Star for Christmas.** Looking for the perfect gift for a special teacher, administrator or GFPS staff member? Instead of another coffee mug, you can give a gift that makes a difference for GFPS students: a Gold Star Recognition Award. You can make a donation to the GFPS Foundation in their honor and the employee will receive a special Gold Star Award, hand delivered and presented by the Foundation's Executive Director. Click here for information and forms: www.gfpsfoundation.org/support-us/gold-star-recognition-awards/.

- 9. Winter Activities are Gearing Up.** Student athletes involved in swimming, basketball and wrestling have started practicing as their first competitions start the week of December 4. The cheer and dance teams continue to hone their routines to entertain and excite the crowds. Our Speech, Drama, and Debate competitors are also busy preparing for their final meets before State in January. Good luck to all of these students as they represent Great Falls across Montana.
- 10. Board Meetings.** The next regular Board meeting is on Monday, November 27 at 5:30 at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted this Wednesday, November 22 at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas>. The posting is one day early due to the holiday.

I hope you enjoyed my Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for December 5, 2017.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.
Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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