

Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday December 20, 2016



- 1. Holiday Break:** There will be no school for GFPS students and teachers December 22-January 2. School will resume as usual on Tuesday, January 3. District offices will be open as usual except for Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.
- 2. GFPS Makes Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll!** Our high schools offer several courses that are recognized by the College Board as AP. After completing an AP course, students may take a national assessment with the goal being to earn a 3, 4 or 5 score in order to have it count as a college course. As GFPS has not only increased the number of students taking AP courses, we also increased the percentage of students that reach that goal of a 3, 4 or 5 score. Congratulations to all the AP teachers and of course, students who benefit from this great opportunity! To learn more, click here: http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/score_reports_data/awards/232608.html.
- 3. GFPS Gives Back.** The ancient act of giving during the Christmas season is alive and well. Across GFPS there are numerous examples of students and staff generously giving to those in need. Staff and student conducting food and clothing drives; preparing food and gift baskets; ringing bells for the Salvation Army; providing gifts for giving trees; volunteering at service agencies...the list could go on and on. The GFPS Annual Giving Campaign is another example of how we give back. GFPS staff pledged \$53,919 for United Way and Montana Shares, setting a new giving record! Our community benefits greatly from this plentiful giving. I am proud that we model and pass these giving traditions on to the next generations.
- 4. Great American Smoke Out:** On November 17, the Great American Smoke Out was held in Great Falls and the nation to challenge and encourage smokers to go 24 hours without a cigarette, and to raise awareness about the deaths and chronic diseases caused by smoking. The GFPS CARE Program hosted the 16th annual poster contest for 4th and 5th grade students which netted 350 posters and 5 winners. The winning posters are featured on the Benefis electronic billboard by Marketplace this month! Thanks to our CARE Team for putting prevention at the top of the list! More about the CARE program can be found here: <http://gfps.k12.mt.us/departments/care>.
- 5. Superintendent's Evaluation:** The Board will be conducting my evaluation in January and is seeking community input. I believe in continuous improvement which can only happen with performance feedback from folks who witness my work. Community members are invited to comment on things I'm doing well and/or things on which I can improve. Comments are due January 3rd, 2017. You can write your comments on a piece of paper or use the form that can be found here: www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/Superintendent's%20Evaluation%202016-17_0.pdf. The address for mailing your comments is at the bottom of the form. We look forward to hearing from you!
- 6. Sletten Partners with Middle Schools:** Thanks to Sletten Construction for their heart and generosity in providing Christmas gifts for students at East and North Middle Schools. Sletten provided 56 students who were identified as our most at need with backpacks full of gifts for Christmas. Sletten accomplished this through the generosity of their employees and getting other local business who care about GFPS

kids to donate. Michelle Cohen of Sletten wrote, "We are so thankful and blessed in our lives to share these moments and gifts with students." Our students are the ones who are blessed! Thanks, Sletten!

7. **Winter Safety Tips:** GFPS provides a variety of safety information for our staff members and I'm happy to share it with you too. Check out this webpage: <http://gfpsweb.weebly.com/safety-information.html>. You can find information here about happy and healthy holidays, safe snow shoveling techniques, and avoiding slips, trips and falls. Good stuff!
8. **Facility Update:** The GFPS facility team has been very busy! Request for Qualification (RFQ) applications were due yesterday from design professionals for the Little Russell Upgrade and the RFQ application request for the Roosevelt Replacement Project will start to be advertised next week. On December 12, the Board set the first bond sale amounts at \$38M for the elementary and \$26M for the high school. That bond sale will be happening right after the holidays. Be sure to check out the website for up-to-date information: www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/facility-action.
9. **Trustee Filing Window Now Open:** The three-year terms of Trustees Jan Cahill, Jason Brantley and Don Ryan are expiring and are therefore open for election on May 2, 2017. Citizens wishing to be a candidate and named on the ballot, must file a Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy with the County Elections Office between now and March 23rd, 2017. Candidates must report campaign expenditures to the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices.
10. **Board Meetings.** The next regular Board meeting is on Monday, January 9 at 5:30 pm at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on Thursday, January 5 at this link: www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas.

I hope you enjoyed my Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for January 10, 2017.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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