



Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday November 20, 2018

- 1. Happy Thanksgiving!** Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because it's about reflecting on the past as we appreciate the good times of the previous year and it's also a time that is full of anticipation of the future as the magical holiday season follows immediately on its heels. As I reflect on the past, I am grateful for my career, my family, my friends and my community. As I look to the future, I hope your public schools can continue to count on your support. Thank you and please know that 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 21 through Friday, November 23 for Thanksgiving. District offices will be open on Wednesday, but closed on Thursday and Friday.
- 3. Community Survey for Superintendent Search.** A survey is being administered by the Montana School Boards Association on behalf of the Great Falls Board of Trustees to assist in the hiring of a new Superintendent. The results will help the Board as they review the applications for the Superintendent position. SURVEY DEADLINE: Friday, November 30, 2018, 5:00 PM. MST. The link to the survey is here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GF_Supt_Search2019.
- 4. CMR Musical.** The CMR Performing Arts Department proudly presents Roger's and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* on November 29 – December 1 and December 6 – 8, in CMR's Bill Williamson Auditorium at 7:30 pm. *The Sound of Music* is the story of Maria, who is dispatched from a convent to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval captain. Maria and Captain von Trapp fall in love and marry. Upon returning from their honeymoon, they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis, who demand the captain's immediate service in their navy. The von Trapp's narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in the theatre. Tickets are \$10 general admission. For ticket information please call 268-6117. At each show, the students will be collecting unwrapped toys for *Toys for Tots*, money donations for *Shop-with-a-Cop*, and non-perishable food items for the CMR Food Pantry.
- 5. Business Goes to School!** The Chamber and the GFPS Foundation are co-sponsoring a special opportunity for Great Falls business leaders to spend a morning with GFPS administrators on Tuesday, November 27. Principals are excited to welcome these folks into their buildings. Business leaders are excited to walk in the shoes of a principal for a few hours! The morning will be capped off with a luncheon where participants will debrief their experiences. We are looking forward to this collaborative opportunity!
- 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. It will kick off right away with the always outstanding GFHS Holiday Concerts. There are two of them: December 3 and 4th. Both start at 7 pm and are held in the GFHS Auditorium. 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.** The process for the building of the new Longfellow Elementary School is well underway. LPW Architecture has been busy working with staff and others in designing the layout of the new school. They have been joined in the planning by Sletten Construction as the Board approved the firm as the General Contractor/Construction Manager. Having the architects and the construction company work together this early in the process saves time and money. Also regarding Longfellow, the students and staff will be moving to Roosevelt Elementary over the holiday break. Doing this in December will allow for earlier asbestos abatement and demolition of the current building. Both will

allow for taking full advantage of the summer construction season. The new Longfellow is slated to open August, 2020.

- 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 starting November 30. 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 late 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 26 at 5:30 at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted this Wednesday, November 21 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 4, 2018.

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

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