

Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday December 18, 2018



- 1. A Holiday Thank You.** I wrote this to the GFPS staff this week to thank them for their work: *Over the last four months, you have given your expertise and energy to our students and to public education. Over the last few weeks, you have stepped up and leaned in to make Christmas a little nicer for students and their families. Angel trees, food drives, adopt-a-family campaigns, food baskets, and the anonymous giving of gift cards are all common activities that take place behind the scenes in our schools during this time of year.* I also added a special thank you to GFPS staff members who also shared their hard earned money to help others through the GFPS Annual Giving Campaign where we set a new record of \$62,933. The agencies and causes supported by United Way and Montana Shares will be the benefactors of this generosity. Within GFPS and within the Great Falls community there are so many that do for others, that give to those in need, and believe in the power of positivity. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- 2. Holiday Break:** There will be no school for GFPS students and teachers December 24-January 1. School will resume as usual on Wednesday, January 2. District offices will be open as usual except for the afternoons of Monday, December 24 and Monday, December 31. They will be closed all day on December 25 and January 1.
- 3. Special Board Meeting for Superintendent Search on Wednesday.** There will be a special Board meeting on Wednesday, December 19 at 5:30 pm to review and consider the applications that were due on November 30. The public is invited to attend and there will be a time for public comment.
- 4. Speech Meet Needs Volunteers.** This year, CMR is hosting the Electric City Optimists Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament on January 11th and 12th. Please consider taking part in this excellent opportunity to come see some of the best and brightest students from across Montana demonstrate their ability in public speaking and knowledge of current affairs.
 - Friday, January 11th:
 - Speech Rounds at CMR: 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, and 8:00 PM
 - Debate Rounds at CMR unless otherwise announced: 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, and 8:00 PM
 - Saturday, January 12th:
 - Speech Rounds at CMR: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM
 - Debate Rounds at CMR unless otherwise announced: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, and 4:00 PM

If you are interested in judging for the tournament, you may register in these ways:

1. Click on this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/rbsFEJkVo4cZDDvw2>
2. E-mail cmrjudgerecruiting@gmail.com or steven_hurin@gfps.k12.mt.us
3. Call (406) 616-2695 and leave a message that details day, time, & event preferences you may have.

5. **Trustee Filing Window Now Open.** The three-year terms of Trustees Jeff Gray, Ann Janikula and Laura Vukasin are expiring and are therefore open for election on May 7, 2019. 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 28, 2019. Candidates must report campaign expenditures to the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices.
6. **Facility Update.** The weather has been very favorable for the construction taking place at GFHS. Be sure to check out all the progress at the live feed camera site: <http://www.sletten-inc.com/images/Live/Live.jpg>. You can see the steel that is going vertical and the concrete that has been poured. Also, Longfellow Elementary is officially closing this Friday. Longfellow students will start attending school at Roosevelt Elementary starting on January 2 until their new school is completed in the summer of 2020.
7. **Hurry! Time's Almost Up for Gold Star Holiday Giving!** Instead of another coffee mug for your favorite GFPS employee, 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/. What a neat way to give and give back! By the way, Gold Star Awards are available all year long.
8. **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!
9. **Save the Dates for the 2019-2020 Budget Setting Process.** Please join me and the Trustees for some great conversation around next school year's budget! Mark your calendars today. More details later.
 - Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 5:30 pm: Community Meeting for Legislative Update on School Funding Bills
 - Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 5:30 pm: Community Town Hall (Revenue and Expense Projections, Asked/Answered responses, and Community Input)In preparation for budget discussions, you can check out the following on our website: [School Budgeting 101](#), [This is Great Falls Public Schools](#) and [2017 Legislative Session Changes](#).
10. **Board Meetings.** The next regular Board meeting is on Monday, January 14 at 5:30 pm at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on Thursday, January 10 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 8, 2019.

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

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