



## Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday December 4, 2018

- 1. Holiday music is in the air!** You can get in the holiday spirit by attending one or more of the remaining 35 concerts performed by K-12 students across GFPS. A full schedule of concert dates, times and places can be found here: [www.gfps.k12.mt.us](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us). High school highlights include:
  - The last of two GFHS Holiday Concerts is tonight. It starts at 7 pm in the GFHS auditorium and is free to the public. Get there early to get a good seat. It was packed last night!
  - CMR's special night is Monday, December 17 at 7 pm at the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts at the Civic Center.
- 2. CMR musical.** The final performances of CMR's presentation of Roger's and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* are this Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Bill Williamson Auditorium at 7:30 pm each night. I guarantee you will be humming "Doe, a deer, a female deer..." and "These are a few of my favorite things..." for a week or so after being highly entertained! Tickets are \$10. 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.
- 3. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas!** Thanks to the Early Childhood Coalition, Embark Credit Union and Central Montana Radio's KMON 560 AM, you can listen to this traditional holiday classic every evening at 6:55. 35 community members, including me, are reading and financially sponsoring a time slot with all funds going toward enrolling more children in our "First Books for Preschoolers" program. Children receive one book every month from birth until their 5th birthday. To donate to the project, please contact my office at 268-6001.
- 4. Facility update.** The cold weather that comes with winter has arrived in Great Falls. That means it's time to turn up the heat and we can do just that thanks to the bond levy passage in October, 2016. \$2,544,238 in levy proceeds have been used to install new boilers and do other mechanical upgrades at North and East middle schools, at Loy, Meadow Lark, Whittier, Valley View, Sunnyside, and Lincoln elementary schools, and at the GFHS South Campus. Our students and staff have been understanding as the calibration between the new boilers and the old controls and distribution systems have been taking place at these schools. Cold weather is needed to begin the tune-up process and while that can create challenges, most have been mitigated and the schools are being efficiently heated. New boilers and mechanical upgrades will be installed at Riverview and Sacajawea elementary schools, and at Paris Gibson Education Center this coming summer for an estimated use of \$1,600,000 of bond proceeds.

Former students of GFHS can attest to the fact that heating and ventilation have been problems for years. Some rooms are too warm while others can be a bit chilly on Monday mornings or because the heat has turned down over longer breaks to conserve precious budget dollars. The Facility Plan on which the bond levy was based, addressed these long-time issues. The bond proceeds are paying for a new centralized boiler plant and mechanical distribution system currently being constructed within the new Hub addition. The new system will serve as the core of the comprehensive mechanical renovation to the existing Main Campus building and the addition. Once the Hub is completed, the renovation of the Main Campus will begin and the new system will be connected during remodeling.

Plans are also being made to replace the boilers at CMR as they are original to the building and now over 50 years old. All of these HVAC upgrades will provide efficient heating in our schools for years to come.

5. **Longfellow will be moving to Roosevelt!** Starting January 2, 2019, all Longfellow Elementary students will be bused to Roosevelt Elementary to attend school. This will allow for an early start to the demolition of Longfellow and the construction of the new school to be built on the same site. The new Longfellow is scheduled to be opened in August, 2020. Roosevelt is currently vacant with the building of the new Giant Springs Elementary that opened this past August. School times at Roosevelt will be adjusted to accommodate busing schedules. Regular school days will be 8:55 am–3:50 pm; Wednesdays will be 8:55 am–3:10 pm; and End of Quarter, Early Release days will be 8:55 am–12:50 pm. GFPS and Sletten staff members will be spending two Saturdays and the holiday break to move materials and furniture from Longfellow to Roosevelt. Thanks to the helpers and to the Longfellow parents and students for their support in making this happen.
6. **Lots of buses in town on December 14 and 15.** GFPS will be hosting two major events on Friday and Saturday, December 14-15: the Holiday Classic Wrestling Tournament at CMR and a Relay Swim Meet at GFHS. 50 teams will compete in wrestling at CMR. Teams from across the state, including CMR and GFHS, will be swimming at GFHS. That's a lot of wrestlers, swimmers and their families in our city eating at our restaurants, staying in our hotels and shopping in our stores! Be prepared for some extra traffic in town this weekend! Good luck to our CMR and GFHS competitors.
7. **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/](http://www.gfpsfoundation.org/support-us/gold-star-recognition-awards/).
8. **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.
9. **Special Board Meeting for Superintendent Search.** There will be a special Board meeting on Wednesday, December 19 at 5:30 pm to review and consider the applications that were due last Friday, November 30. The public is invited to attend and there will be a time for public comment.
10. **Regular Board Meeting.** The next regular Board meeting is on Monday, December 17 at 5:30 at the District Office Building, 1100 4<sup>th</sup> St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on Thursday, December 13 at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas>. There is only one regular Board meeting in December.

I hope you enjoyed my Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for December 18, 2018.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

Tammy L. Lacey  
Superintendent

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**More GFPS news:**

We post a lot of GFPS news on the district's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsPublicSchools>), on Twitter (@TammyLLacey) and on our webpage ([www.gfps.k12.mt.us](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us)). Please check-in often.