

# **NEWS FROM: *Montana Small Schools Alliance***

**UPDATE: November 2023**

## Message from the Director:

As you are reading this I am getting ready to travel to the National Rural Education Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I have not been to this conference before so it will be a new experience for me and one that I am hoping will give me lots of information to share with you when I return.

The conference has six themes that follow the NREA Rural Research Agenda. They are health and wellness, partnerships and community relationships, teacher and leader preparation, recruitment and retention, college and career trajectory, policy and funding, and spatial and educational equity. With over 150 learning sessions, keynote speakers, and networking opportunities, it should be a great experience.

Alexis Nikirk from Spring Creek School received the NREA Scholarship and will be attending as well, along with several of our MSSA Board Members. We will all be sharing things we have learned upon our return.

I don't think there is ever a down time in your classrooms, but once November hits it seems like the holidays come faster and faster. I urge you to take care of yourself so that you can take care of your students. I know it is hard, but eat well, rest, find an activity that gives you enjoyment and do it- those Hallmark Movies are always happy endings (a little sappy, but always end well). Whatever your go to stress reliever is- make sure you are using it this time of year!

If MSSA can help you in any way please reach out. It may not be on our menu of "things we do", but it might be something we can help with, or find you the resource that can. We are here to make your lives easier, so let us.

**Thank you for all you do for our students!**

Happy Thanksgiving,

*Janelle*

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## **Newsletter Attachments**

Attached to this newsletter are the following documents and information. Please take the time to read them.

Library Newsletter

Counseling Newsletter

Montana Cares- survey, handouts on the Grant and opportunities for our schools.

OPI PD Zoom Link- for November 8 meeting.

### **November Workshops are happening NOW**

The November workshops are here.

#### **Zoom format on November 2, 3, and 6, 2023**

Discovery Education curriculum and materials in the morning, and Writing Across the Curriculum in the afternoon.

**Call Linda for last minute sign up** if you didn't get signed up on the website.

And remember, if you are an MSSA member we pay for your substitute.

### **OPI Accreditation PD Session**

OPI is having a Zoom PD session for small and rural schools on November 8, 2023 from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM.

Attached to this newsletter is the Zoom link and agenda.

### **MSSA Instructor and School Scholarship Applications**

### **February Workshops**

It is never too early to start planning for the February workshops.

We have three great presenters with very timely and helpful topics for you and your students.

Nancy Berg, Emily Sallee, and Tina Eblen with,

3 hours- Teacher Wellness, Stress Cycle and Resiliency.

and

3 hours- Brain Development, Trauma, Balance Strategies and Tools.

Get registered for:

February 5th, 7th, and 9th, 2024

All in Zoom format.

### **FYI**

\*MSSA currently has 147 schools who are members or use at least one of our services.

This is up from previous years, with \_\_\_ new members for the 2023-2024 school year!

*This October, may your treats be many and your tricks be few. Hope you have a sweet Halloween. May your candy supply last you well into the Christmas season. 🎃*