

NEWS FROM: *Montana Small Schools Alliance*

UPDATE: February 2024

Message from the Director:

Happy Valentine's Day! 

I hope you all made it safely through the very cold spell we had in January and are ready for what looks like the snowy month of February. I had the pleasure of spending a few weeks in Arizona and missed the -40 in Butte, but I did get the unexpected week of rain in Arizona. Not complaining though as it was still 60 degrees.

I am home now and ready to tackle the rest of winter and looking forward to the coming of Spring (sometime around June). This time of year always seemed the hardest to me when I was in the school setting. Everyone gets a little restless, a little cabin fever! Your students, and you are ready for some better weather, the holidays are over, and you all know it is a long haul until Spring.

Our February workshop topics were on brain development, the effects of stress on the brain, building resistance tools for yourself and your students, and happiness tools and techniques. It was very interesting, and informative. One of the take-aways for me was that we each have our unique levels of stress, resilience, and tools to help us deal with life. But, we all also have a level we can get to that is unhealthy, and that can impact our ability to do our jobs and deal with our day to day lives. And, we all have the ability to learn new skills and techniques to deal with what life throws at us. When we get stresses beyond our normal or "I can deal with this" level, we need to ask for help. Do not be afraid to seek out help from co-workers, medical professionals, your faith community, your family, or whomever in your life is your person. If you need help connecting with professionals or finding resources, please reach out. MSSA, myself, and our network can help. Just ask.

Wishing you a happy and healthy February! 

Thank you for all you do for our students!

Janelle

"Can February march? No, but April may." Unknown

MSSA Instructor and School Scholarship Awardees

The MSSA Board of Directors awarded the 2024 Instructor and School Scholarships at their January 24, 2024 meeting.

Congratulations to:

Instructor Scholarship Winner

Jason Mitchell, Woodman School

School Scholarship Winners

Wibaux Public Schools, Annie Berger

Woodman School District #18, Jon Martin

April Workshops

It is time to start thinking about the last of our PD workshops for the year.

April workshops are in person at four locations around the State.

Featuring:

Engagement Strategies for Your Classroom- 2 hours

How to Use NWEA Data- 2 hours

Aligning Unit and Lesson Plans to State Standards (Art, Writing, Social Studies)- 2 hours

Friday, April 12, 2024 in Billings Hotel and Convention Center

Monday, April 15, 2024 in Lewistown- Yogo Inn

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 in Butte- Best Western Plaza Inn

Friday, April 19, 2024 in Kalispell- Red Lion Hotel

Register on the MSSA Website.

2024-2025 Standards and Workshop Schedule

Attached to this email is the 24-25 Standards and PD schedule.

Please remember that the Standards Workshops are mandatory.

Plan your August vacations accordingly. These are in person trainings only!

Standards Dates and Locations

August 5, Miles City

August 7, Big Timber

August 9, Helena

August 12, Kalispell

Grant Opportunities

There are several grant opportunities for MSSA members.

No cost to MSSA members

Montana Cares- mental health and classroom resources for students, parents and staff. Contact myself or Cindy Fouhy for more information.

Rural Mental Health Project- information attached.

Montana PAX- information attached.

Newsletter Attachments

Attached to this newsletter are the following documents and information.

MSSA 2024-2025 Workshop Schedule

Library Newsletter

Counseling Newsletter

Rural Mental Health Sway

Montana PAX Sway

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