

Issue Spotlight

The Third Annual Analysis of Media Coverage of the Great Work of Montana's Public Schools

January 23, 2017

Montana's Public Schools have long enjoyed a well-deserved reputation for excellence, a reputation that they earn every day of the year.

One of the most visible confirmations of this reputation can be found in analyzing media coverage of the great things happening in Montana's Public Schools each year.

In our Third Annual Analysis of the Media Coverage of the Great Work of Montana's Public Schools, we find strong evidence that Montana's Public Schools continue to excel.

As reflected in media coverage throughout the state over the last year, our public schools have earned a reputation for being places where:

1. Tradition is Treasured and Communities are Connected
2. Futures are Readied and Potentials are Realized
3. Children are Cherished and Kindness is Kindled
4. Students are Stimulated and Inspired
5. Excellence is Encouraged

Each headline is linked to an individual news article. On the publish date of this document, each article's links were active. Individual news sites have internal archiving procedures and that could possibly affect the accessibility to a link. Any fee to access an article is the responsibility of the reader. Items appearing in this publication do not imply a relationship between MT-PEC members and the media outlet or necessarily reflect the policies, positions, opinions or views of the directors or staff of the MT-PEC members.

Montana's Public Schools are where: Tradition is Treasured and Communities are Connected

Orchard Elementary reboots PTA, looking to improve parent-school relationships – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Parent teacher associations – PTAs – are usually hubs for school fundraising and activity planning. But Orchard Elementary has missed out the last couple years as its PTA lapsed.

Educator For a Day looks at big-picture and close-up views of education – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Sixth-grader Abel Paulsen was thinking he'd like to be a Lego Master Builder when he grows up. But he cooled on the idea after doing some research.

Bozeman High shows off successes and high test scores during School Board visit – BOZEMAN

Bozeman High School is getting bigger, yet in many ways, it's still getting better.

Frontier School Hears Positive Comments From Parents – WOLF POINT HERALD-NEWS

Comments from parents showed positive feelings toward Frontier Elementary School. Trustees reviewed the comments during their monthly meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Desmet School honors Salish tradition – KPAX-MISSOULA

Students at Desmet School erect a tipi they painted in honor of Salish traditions. It was part of a two-day celebration of the American Indian culture.

Browning kids thriving in Blackfoot language immersion program – MISSOULIAN

BROWNING — The kindergartners in Carolyn Zuback's Blackfoot language immersion program spill through the classroom door, buzzing off each other's contagious energy in a morning mob of childhood excitement.

Willard students' murals celebrate Missoula history – MISSOULIAN

The city's past, present and future hang on the walls at Missoula Job Service as of this week.

'Like anything is possible': Native American students celebrate upcoming graduation – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Hundreds of Billings students will receive high school diplomas next weekend.

Student powwow set for Saturday at Senior High – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Each batch of fry bread being made for the student-run powwow on Saturday at Senior High multiplies the ingredients in the recipe by seven. It's up to students that food supplies, and other logistics, go smoothly.

Teen exchange tour bridges the gap between urban, rural life – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

High school students from Great Falls and Twin Bridges had a chance to mingle and learn together Monday thanks to an annual exchange program through One Montana, a statewide program focused on building and sustaining connections between rural and urban Montanans.

Parent U classes starting up for Bozeman parents – BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Starting this month, the Bozeman School District's Parent University is offering free and low-cost classes for parents concerned about everything from 5-year-olds starting kindergarten to teenage sexting.

Martin Luther King, Jr. honored in Mineral County schools – CLARK FORK VALLEY PRESS

Mineral County students honored Martin Luther King, Jr. over the past couple of weeks with projects and reports. Not just to honor his memory, but also to honor the principles for which he was an advocate. January 18 was MLK Day, and Alberton and St. Regis schools took it as a holiday, although Superior held classes.

Crow Agency school builds language instruction from the ground up – BILLINGS GAZETTE

During lunch at Crow Agency Elementary School on a recent Thursday, students hunch over the table, eating oranges.

Florence-Carlton elementary, MT food bank now offering food backpacks – RAVALLI REPUBLIC

The Montana Food Bank Network celebrated its 100th Backpack school with the addition of Florence-Carlton Elementary School recently.

Ennis School looks to the future – MADISONIAN

On Nov. 1, members of the Ennis School Board, administration, faculty and a mix of community members gathered in the school library for a strategic planning meeting with the Montana School Board Association.

Volunteers raising Longfellow School's North Fort – BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Bozeman's old Fort Ellis is history, Livingston's Fort Parker only a faint memory, but Longfellow School's North Fort is coming back to life, being rebuilt this week by a cavalry of volunteers.

Sunset School grows to 9 students, gets first-ever school bus – MISSOULIAN

Here, it's strange to see a school bus pull up. "It's surreal," said Sunset School teacher Toni Hatten, "because we never thought we'd get a bus."

Fergus County's colony schools keep a rural Montana tradition – LEWISTOWN NEWS-ARGUS

Fergus County has a cache of records and stories to demonstrate its ties to Montana's past. However, it also has four Hutterite colonies that host a living part of the state's history and traditions: the one-room schoolhouse.

Students show off house they built – DAILY INTER LAKE

An open house is planned for the Flathead High School student-built house at 663 Corporate Drive, Kalispell, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10.

Montana's Public Schools are where: Futures are Readied and Potentials are Realized

Sheridan ag classes partner with local Forest Service to create feed bunk at Bear Creek trail head – MADISONIAN

Students in Sheridan High School's agricultural classes are nearly done with a class project in which they constructed a stock feed bunk to be placed at the Bear Creek trail head.

Malta second graders host 11th annual Dinosaur Museum – PHILLIPS COUNTY NEWS

How much do you know about a dilophosaurus? Maybe you would like to hear about the velociraptor or the pterodactylus.

Students recognized for local radon project – CLARK FORK VALLEY PRESS

Superior's Advanced Biology class recently competed at the 12th Annual Clean Air and Healthy Homes Program. On May 17, the students took their data regarding a remediation project they did at the school earlier this year.

St. Regis junior-senior high overhauls system, lets students move at own pace – MISSOULIAN

ST. REGIS – A major shift in learning is under way in St. Regis schools.

Transitional Kindergarten prepares young students for school – RAVALLI REPUBLIC

Transitional Kindergarten is a class at Washington Elementary School offering the opportunity for younger students to learn how school works and catch up socially, emotionally and academically.

New program will allow Custer High students to earn free college credits – MILES CITY STAR

Miles Community College will launch a free dual enrollment pilot program for Custer County District High School and Sidney High School.

New program brings writing mentors to Whitefish High School – WHITEFISH PILOT

Scientist and author Cristina Eisenberg still remembers the C she got in her college English class.

MCPS bringing more technology to the classroom – KPAX - MISSOULA

Cybersecurity is being taught in high school while first grade students are using chrome pads

Lewis and Clark Elementary named International Baccalaureate school – MISSOULIAN

Lewis and Clark Elementary is now the first public elementary school in the state to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

School reading program starts up in February – CLARK FORK VALLEY PRESS

"I Love to Read Month" is an event that usually takes place in February, where students will read to be the top reader of their class.

Montana "SMART Schools" recognize for improving energy – KTVO-BILLINGS

Three Billings schools are among 13 Montana public schools showing they have the "know how" when it comes to "Saving Money And Resources Today"

Kids show off robotics skills at Lego competition – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Let the car drive itself. That's a major goal of Lego robotics competitions. But it's also good advice to help the group address it's biggest need — finding parents to lead teams.

Riverside students work to build culture of service – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Students at Riverside Middle School found their work as satisfying as the food they prepared Wednesday afternoon.

Castle Rock focuses on leadership during ICU program reward day – BILLINGS GAZETTE

It can be hard for middle-schoolers to keep their eye on the ball, academically. It's a little easier if the ball is flying at them.

STEM initiative expanding across Billings schools – BILLINGS GAZETTE

When students in Billings schools build robots in class, it's not about trying to boost test scores.

Boat races offer sink-or-swim lesson in physics – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Boaz Laverman and Trevor Canty were rowing for their lives. Not really. They were just in the Montana State University Billings pool, guiding a cardboard boat.

Learning to lead: Hamilton students pay it forward with leadership training – RAVALLI REPUBLIC

A Hamilton Middle School partnership with Trapper Creek Job Corps held leadership training for seventh and eighth grade students on Monday.

Great Falls High teachers win 'big idea' \$100,000 grant – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

When the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation encouraged teachers to dream big to earn a \$100,000 grant, a team of teachers at Great Falls High began thinking "what if."

Student scientists share their research in Clancy – INDEPENDENT RECORD

Junior scientists were showing off their research Wednesday afternoon at Clancy School.

High School Senior Learning Job Skills – WOLF POINT HERALD-NEWS

The School to Work program or Cooperative Education Class at Wolf Point High School has been successful putting senior students into area businesses where they could learn about the "real world."

Montana's Public Schools are where: Children are Cherished and Kindness is Kindled

Home Visits: Welcoming students to school – INDEPENDENT RECORD

When Warren School teacher duo, Christean Ralph and Jena Anderson, pulled up in the Sommer family's driveway on a recent evening, kindergartner Carter and his older brother John were pressed against the picture window waiting.

Lockwood summer program aims to bolster students' school year growth – BILLINGS GAZETTE

To combat the summer slide, Lockwood Elementary School targeted its students who had already been able to climb up a slippery surface.

Class helps Native American students prepare for high school – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Starting high school can be intimidating for new students. It can be even more intimidating as a minority who, statistically, faces a deck stacked against educational success.

East Helena Summer School 'a positive place to be' – INDEPENDENT RECORD

Thursday was a great day to be a kid in the East Helena Summer P.A.L.S. program, the new name for their summer school.

Good vibes: Park High music assembly focuses on love, kindness and hope – LIVINGSTON INTERPRISE

Folksy drumming and the sounds of a harmonica echoed through the Park High School gymnasium Tuesday afternoon, as a cross-country musical duo introduced the students to their brand of peace and love through music.

LHS Link Crew participates in service – LAUREL OUTLOOK

Over an extended lunch hour on Monday, a group of LHS students spread out across the field and fence line surrounding Walmart, picking up litter and searching for "the most unique find" to win a prize.

Earth Day cleanup: Stevensville High School students collect trash around town – MISSOULIAN

Stevensville High School students in Terry Murphy's science classes rolled up their sleeves and went to work to clean up Stevensville Wednesday morning.

Lunch gatherings bring together Native students – MISSOULIAN

The FBI has a weekly meeting at C.S. Porter Middle School. That would be the Fry Bread Inspectors, a group of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders who head to Porter's Family Resource Center room for the Native American lunch gathering (formerly "lunch club") — though anyone is welcome.

Victor kindergarteners form food pantry brigade – MISSOULIAN

HAMILTON – When you're in kindergarten, the last thing you want to think about is living every day with an empty stomach.

Choteau kids spread kindness – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE
CHOTEAU — After Bellamy Beadle handed flowers to her in a nursing home dining room, resident Eleanor Peters had a single word for her: "Beautiful."

Loy celebrates military kids – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

Most of the students at Loy Elementary have parents in the military, and many have moved multiple times at a young age.

Sandstone Elementary students honor veterans with dance, drum – BILLINGS GAZETTE

About 25 veterans related to students at Sandstone Elementary were honored during a Veterans Day assembly at the school Friday.

Skyview counselor, business leaders connecting students with real world – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Celestia Hammond is pretty darn sure she wants to be a veterinarian. But even with extensive research into the topic, she's a bit leery.

West students walk to raise money for injured Montana vets – BILLINGS GAZETTE

A few months ago, 15-year-old Sam Hawkins and his older brother ordered signed copies of a book written by former U.S. Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell as a birthday gift.

In Bridger, students help other students – BILLINGS GAZETTE

BRIDGER — When the 205 students attending Bridger Public Schools lean into a service project, the entire community — even people as far away as Billings — benefit.

Project sends middle-school students out to impact the community – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Billings middle-schoolers Madi Keeley and Coryn Martinez wheeled their cookie cart up to Calvin Erhart's table in the Central Avenue McDonald's restaurant on Saturday afternoon.

Poplar students organize march to raise drug awareness – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

POPLAR – Kasey Walla, a junior at Poplar High School, said a lot of kids aren't safe on the Fort Peck Reservation due to the extensive use of drugs and alcohol.

High school grads inspire new Native American scholars – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

As high school seniors prepare for graduation across Montana, it is common to reflect and praise their many accomplishments. Yet somehow students on reservation schools are often overlooked.

It takes a village: Resilient, resourceful homeless students make it work – MONTANA STANDARD

As couch surfers, a pair of homeless students who attend Butte High School seemingly make it work.

Students help build new pens for fairgrounds – RAVALLI REPUBLIC

A collaborative project between two valley schools and the community will go a long ways in reducing the number of escapees from the fair's sheep barn this year. Welders at Florence-Carlton and Hamilton high schools were busy making sheep pens for the Ravalli County Fairgrounds this past week.

Montana's Public Schools are where: Students are Stimulated and Inspired

Lots of votes needed to help Red Lodge teacher dream big – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Red Lodge High teacher Kate Belinda and her students are counting on Montanans to help them generate some green-backs for their green project.

Surprise honor: 52 educators recognized by their 'distinguished students' – INDEPENDENT RECORD

Fifty-two Helena-area educators were recently surprised with the news that they have been named distinguished educators by the same number of graduating seniors identified as distinguished students.

Hellgate science teacher honored, hopes his students learn to wonder at their world – MISSOULIAN

Rob Jensen has studied rare monkeys in Morocco, observed seals in Antarctica, contracted malaria while serving the Peace Corps in Cameroon and taught teachers about science-based inquiry in China. And that's just a few of the highlights of his resume.

Malta teacher named Montana's music teacher of the year – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

Larry Swingen called being named Montana's music teacher of the year a "great honor."

Frenchtown High seniors walk halls to inspire youngsters – MISSOULIAN

FRENCHTOWN – The younger students here saw their future walking the hallways Wednesday morning.

Missoula teacher honored with Presidential Award for science teaching – MISSOULIAN

This isn't a bad way for a teacher to start the school year: recognition from the president for your work.

Teacher uses Beatles music to inspire students – DALY INTER LAKE

If it wasn't for a Beatles performance on the Ed Sullivan Show, Peterson Elementary School music teacher Paul Lovett may not have picked up a guitar as a second-grader in 1967. He also wouldn't be teaching Beatles hits to second- through fifth-graders today.

Elementary schools earn healthy student award – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Washington and McKinley Elementary schools celebrated winning a national healthy school award Thursday.

Skyview, West to launch advanced track similar to Senior High's – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Skyview and West high schools are planning to offer an advanced student program for the 2017-2018 school year, similar to Senior High's Platinum Program.

STEM Stars program aims to teach young girls the joys of science – BILLINGS GAZETTE

What happens to your heart rate, your respiratory rate and your blood pressure when you exercise?

'He will figure out a way to help': Standout students honored for leadership – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Outstanding elementary and middle school students received due recognition Wednesday during the 27th annual Principals' Leadership Award Luncheon at the Billings YMCA.

Laurel High School students offer NASA ideas to ease life in zero gravity – BILLINGS GAZETTE

LAUREL — A dozen years into a partnership that provides useful training and experimental gadgets for NASA and the International Space Station, Laurel High School students are still loading their ideas onto the launching pad.

Passion projects teach Bozeman students creative thinking – BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Ashtyn Ellerton's dad was just 40 when he passed away from heart problems, and now the 12-year-old Bozeman girl is raising money for the American Heart Association as her seventh-grade "passion project."

Teens learn business lessons at Mystery Ranch – BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

If your dream is to stay in Montana but you need to find some way to make a living, a great way to do it is to start your own business, says Mystery Ranch backpack maker Dana Gleason.

Competition spurs Lewistown kids to fix creek bed – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

LEWISTOWN — A group of Lewistown Middle School students are standing in front of a small crowd of homeowners, conservationists and government officials fielding questions about stream flow, back channels, and riprap along one section of Big Spring Creek.

AFJROTC coming to Great Falls High – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

It's been years in the making, but Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, or AFJROTC, is coming to Great Falls High this fall.

Great Falls students explore STEAM fields at expo – GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

Kelly Lynch considers herself a science nerd. She's 10, and the same goes for her friends Adam and Ian Arthur. The brothers are 10 and 7, respectively.

Seeley Lake Elementary students create 'perfect' hiking backpacks – MISSOULIAN

SEELEY LAKE – "Someone call Vogue, am I right?" eighth-grader Maddie Mocko said as she slid into the hiking backpack she designed and sewed with Taylor Dillree.

Bozeman City Hall turned into classroom for first-graders – BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

At Bozeman's City Hall, the voices reciting the Pledge of Allegiance on Wednesday morning didn't belong to the usual collection of city planners, neighbors and other adults.

Montana's Public Schools are where: Excellence is Encouraged

Troy school board honors students, staff with awards – WESTERN NEWS

The Troy School District has seen many changes in the last year, and most of which were improvements to the district, Troy School Board members said Monday.

Golden Apple awards are a secret, but the winners are no surprise – BILLINGS GAZETTE

The surprise is part of the fun with Golden Apple awards, which are given to six Billings educators each year. Winners aren't given any advance warning about the awards. But once they're announced, no one else seems surprised at who was picked.

Nerd Teacher: Real world approach helps keep students engaged – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Lily Apedaile has a piece of masking tape on her laptop emblazoned "Nerd Teacher." Her students at the Career Center wouldn't have it any other way.

Retiring educator connects with 'kids who don't necessarily fit in the box' – BILLINGS GAZETTE

Peyson Melber, a sophomore in School District 2's Transitions program, started to pull a chair over to a table in the program office at the Lincoln Center on Wednesday morning, then stopped.

Teachers prep for Project Lead the Way expansion – BILLINGS GAZETTE

When students are building robots, they learn mostly through their own exploration. But that doesn't mean teachers just give kids materials and say "good luck."

Senior high teacher wins CTE award – BILLINGS GAZETTE

A Senior High family and consumer sciences teacher was named 2016 Montana Career and Technical Education New Teacher of the Year.

Hamilton School District gets AdvancED accreditation – BITTERROOT STAR

After a two-year review of its system by a local review team, the Hamilton School District recently received certification by the AdvancED program in Montana.

Whitewater School's breakfast programs cracks top 20 in Montana – PHILLIPS COUNTY NEWS

It's Wednesday morning in Whitewater and the smell of sausage cooking floats through the halls of the school.

Brorson wins \$1K for recycling – SIDNEY HERALD

Five elementary kids make up the population of students at Brorson School, but their mighty hand in preserving the earth has paid dividends.

Local school bus drivers win service awards – MONTANA STANDARD

For nearly 40 years, Kathy Nugent has monitored elementary students in a tricky venue: a school bus in the Butte school district and its ever-changing routes.

Arrowhead School: Educator wins rural teacher of the year – LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE

An Arrowhead School educator won a statewide award Tuesday. Supervising Teacher Leah Shannon was honored as its 2015 Rural Teacher of the Year by the Montana Association of County Superintendent of Schools at an awards dinner held in Great Falls last night.

Monforton educator tapped for national recognition – BELGRADE NEWS

Deanna Collins has been a bus driver and a custodian, a physical education teacher and an assistant principal at Monforton School throughout her nearly three decades of service there. Now, she's an award winning fourth grade teacher.

Montana teachers add thoughts to national program – VALLEY JOURNAL

Arlee High School English Teacher Anna Baldwin was chosen to represent the State of Montana as the 2016 U.S. Department of Education Classroom Teaching Ambassador Fellow.

Gardiner to have Montana's first LEED certified public school – BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

The Montana Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council has announced it selected Gardiner Public School to utilize its LEED for Schools EB O+M pilot program to become Montana's first K-12 LEED certified public school.

Hellgate High named 'Green Ribbon' school – MISSOULIAN

Hellgate High School was named as one of the 2016 "Green Ribbon Schools" by the U.S. Department of Education. The award recognizes efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and recognizes schools that use sustainability education as part of the curriculum.

Farm-to-school program push gets new addition with Belgrade Schools – BELGRADE NEWS

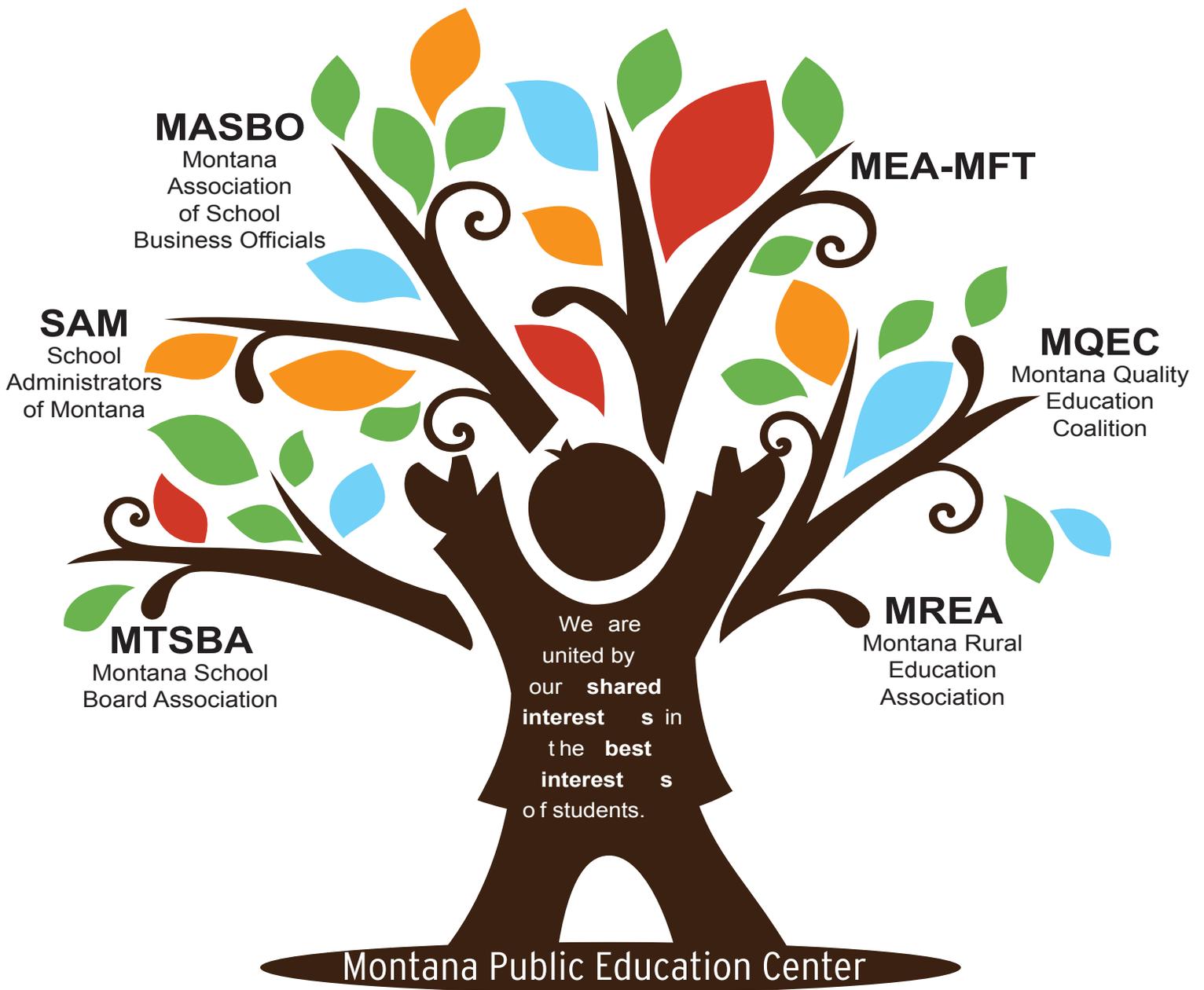
At the regular Belgrade School Board meeting Monday, Belgrade School District Food Services Director Dana Brandt addressed trustees about meal payments, as well as developments in the farm to school program.

LMS receives Spotlight School recognition – LAUREL OUTLOOK

Laurel Middle School was recently recognized as a Power of ICU Spotlight School by Power of ICU author and nationally known school consultant Danny Hill.

Fairfield School Breakfast Program Recognized By Governor, First Lady – FAIRFIELD SUN-TIMES

Fairfield Public Schools Food Service Director Wanda Sands accepted an award last week on the recognition of the Fairfield School District's "long-standing tradition of excellence in serving school breakfast."



MASBO
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of School
Business Officials

MEA-MFT

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Administrators
of Montana

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Coalition

MTSBA
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