



Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday November 22, 2016

- 1. Happy Thanksgiving!** I keep a little sign on my desk that simply says, "GRATITUDE." *Research confirms, "*Adults who frequently feel grateful have more energy, more optimism, more social connections and more happiness than those who do not. They're also less likely to be depressed, envious, greedy, or alcoholics. They earn more money, sleep more soundly, exercise more regularly, and have greater resistance to viral infections.*" Being grateful is a simple prescription for happiness and fulfilment, and I truly believe that it works! As for me, I am grateful for my work, family, friends and community!
- 2. Thanksgiving Break.** There will be no school for GFPS students and teachers Wednesday, November 23 through Friday, November 25 for Thanksgiving. District offices will be open on Wednesday, but closed on Thursday and Friday. I will take this opportunity to be thankful for living in a community that cares so much for its children. Thank you!
- 3. It's Holiday Entertainment Time!** First up is the CMR Drama Department's presentation of *It's a Wonderful Life* on December 1, 2 & 3 at 7:30 pm in CMR's Bill Williamson Hall. The classic Christmas tale comes to life in the most unique & interesting way. Tickets are \$6 for students/seniors & \$8 for adults and they are available at the door.
- 4. It's Holiday Concert Time Too!** Proving once again that Great Falls is one of the top 100 communities in the nation for music education, we have another great holiday concert season on tap.
 - The GFHS concerts are on December 5 & 6 with the same outstanding show both nights. It starts at 7 pm in the auditorium and is free to the public. Get there early to get a good seat.
 - Check out the entire concert schedule at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/>. There are 38 concerts in all to choose from!
- 5. Facility Update.** Ten different professional firms were selected by GFPS to provide services for a variety of projects associated with the bond work. They were selected in the areas of engineering, geotechnical analysis, hazardous material inspections and abatement, and architectural design. Be on the lookout for advertisements for the phone replacement project, the Roosevelt Elementary replacement project, the Little Russell/Building & Grounds upgrade, and the Memorial Stadium project. For more information, be sure to check out the new website entitled "Facility Action" right here: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/facility-action>.
- 6. Rotary Provides Dictionaries for 3rd Graders.** The Rotary Club of Great Falls distributes dictionaries to 3rd graders in area schools throughout the north central region. Thank you, Rotarians, for this and many other projects that support our students.
- 7. Give to Kids on "Giving Tuesday" November 29.** United Way and GFPS plan to raise \$6,000 to give 150 low-income preschoolers a book every month for an entire year as part of Graduation Matters. Literacy efforts like this will increase the number of students who enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. In Montana, 61% of low-income families do not have children's books in their homes. Through the Ferst Foundation, for \$40, you can sponsor one child for a year, and for \$200 you can sponsor a newborn until they enter school. We already have a terrific head start, as Scheels has agreed to match the first \$1,500 in donations! People can give online through this website at: www.uwccmt.org. Just click the "GIVE" button.
- 8. Homeless Families to Get Help at the Cameron Center.** As of November 1, GFPS has served 165 homeless students. These students and their families will soon have a place where they can receive support as they get back on their feet. This place is possible because of many, many generous Great Falls residents. Thank you for your support, and congratulations to the Rescue Mission!

- 9. 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/.
- 10. Board Meetings.** The next regular Board meeting is on Monday, November 28 at 5:30 at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted this Wednesday, November 23 at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas>. The posting is one day early due to the holiday.

I hope you enjoyed my Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for December 6, 2016.

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

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* Reference for this statement: Melinda Beck, "Thank You. No, Thank You," The Wall Street Journal, November 23, 2010.