



Great Falls Public Schools
Ten “MOORE” things you need to know
January 7, 2021

Dear Community Member:

This is a special edition of *Ten Moore Things*.. to start the New Year 2021. First a look back at the top 5 things we were grateful for in 2020 at Great Falls Public Schools. Secondly, a look forward to the things we are hopeful for in the year to come, 2021!

1. **THANK YOU!** Thank you to all of our staff and patrons who supported our students and staff this past year. Whether it was through generous outpouring of donations, your time, your vote or your hard work and courage, we are very grateful to you for being a part of our community and the support you provide!
2. **COVID-19** - Beginning on March 15, 2020 and continuing through today, the GFPS Board of Trustees, GFPS leadership and staff have demonstrated incredible courage, dedication, commitment, and resourcefulness as they deal with the most challenging crisis in our lives to date, a global pandemic.
3. **Great Falls Public Schools Foundation** – Continues to be a shining star in the midst of some fairly dispiriting times. The staff and board of the GFPS Foundation continue to provide hope and encouragement to our school district staff and students by enhancing public education through the gifts and resources provided by individuals and corporations in this community. We are grateful for the ongoing efforts of this public-private partnership.
4. **Our Resilient Students and Parents** - The majority of students and their parents in Great Falls Public Schools, have shown tremendous courage, tenacity and perseverance through this historic and epic crisis. You have continued to adapt to the disappointments and changing environments in what was familiar, consistent and predictable for you regarding routines, activities, events, ceremonies, traditions and celebrations. We are proud of you and thank you!
5. **Community Partners Vote Yes on Levy** - The support of our community advocates, citizens, parents and businesses in 2020 was incredible. Voters passed an Elementary Operational Levy for 1.75 million dollars during the month of May while school buildings were closed and students worked remotely from home. Thousands of hours of work and thought went into providing information and answering the questions for our community on the necessity of public financial support for the general operations of our schools. Thank you to those who worked on this levy and especially to those who voted in support of funding for our schools! The General Fund Levy vote allowed us to maintain our current program and staffing status and increase salaries of support staff that needed to be adjusted to attract, hire and retain employees in these sectors.
6. **Vaccines are Coming** - With the New Year comes the first round of vaccines to combat the Coronavirus. In Cascade County and in Montana, over 25,000 initial doses have been administered to date. School staff is considered Frontline Essential Workers and will receive vaccines in Phase 1c. Hopefully, this will occur within the next month. Those individuals who are more vulnerable will receive the vaccine sooner than others. For more information;
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/publichealth/documents/HAN/2021/HANUD2021-1.pdf?ver=2021-01-06-094334-783>
7. **Winter Sports and Activities Resume This Week!** Girls’ and Boys’ Basketball, Wrestling and Swimming all kick off their seasons this week across the AA communities. For more information:
<https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=345>

8. **Almost at Half-Way Point- (Seniors last leg of the race to Graduation)** Our students and staff are approaching a milestone in the school year as the first semester comes to an end on January 22, 2021. There will be an early release on that day for all GFPS schools so that teachers can grade exams and enter grades. The spring semester begins on Monday, January 25, 2021.
9. **Hopeful for a Productive Legislative Session** - On Monday, January 4, 2021, the 67th Session of the Montana State Legislature convened in Helena. The session runs through April 30th. Educators are hopeful to maintain current funding levels. For daily information on this Legislative Session visit: <https://leg.mt.gov/session/>
10. **Hopeful for Economic Recovery at the Local Level** - Since March of 2020, local business and organizations, like our schools, have been adversely impacted by the effects of the Coronavirus. Despite the adversity, we are thankful for the perseverance and good work of our community and business leaders. Thank you to the Independent Business owners in Great Falls who have continued to remain open and are determined to endure this current hardship. Thank you to the Great Falls Development Authority, the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, the Great Falls Tourism Bureau, the Downtown Business organizations, local farmers, ranchers and related agriculture businesses, and our financial institutions for your spirit and tenacity in this difficult and uncertain economic climate. Our hopes and prayers are for a healthier, brighter and more productive year in 2021. Thank you for what you do!!!

I hope “Moore” information was helpful to you! The next release is scheduled for January 21, 2021. You are receiving this email as part of the District’s ongoing community communication efforts. If you do not wish to receive these emails, there is a place to unsubscribe at the very bottom.

Thanks for reading and thank you for supporting our staff and students!
Sincerely,
Tom Moore
Superintendent

More GFPS news:

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

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