Dear Community Member: 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.

Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday
January 24, 2017

1. **Repeat…Community Help Needed!** On behalf of the GFHS and CMR speech and debate coaches and competitors, we are requesting help in judging at the *National Qualifying Speech and Debate Tournament* to be held in Great Falls February 10-11. Each AA school in the state takes turns hosting the National Qualifying meet, and this is our year to host. We need 3 judges per round per event or 200 judges for each round up to semi-final and final rounds of competition! In order to make it happen, we need the support of our community (businesses and individuals alike). See www.gfps.k12.mt.us or www.bisongfps.weebly.com/speech for information and to sign up. It's a great way to hang out with some of the state's most talented orators!
2. **2017-2018 Budget Setting Process:** The Board of Trustees continues its efforts to make the budget setting process a transparent and community-based effort. To that end, the following community meetings have been scheduled. All are 5:30-6:30 pm and are at Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Ave. Last week's presentation can be found here: www.gfps.k12.mt.us/2015budget. The next meeting is on Monday, January 30, 2017 and the topic is: *How Salaries and Benefits Impact the Budget*
3. **Radium Girls:** The GFHS Drama Department will be presenting the play that tells the story of the young women that got cancer from the radium they ingested from brushes as they painted glow-in-the-dark instruments and watches in the 1920's. The shows are at 7:30 pm on January 26-28. Tickets are $7 available at the door. All performances are held in the GFHS Auditorium.
4. **Middle School Solo Festival:** This special event, organized by the GFPS Music Department, will be held this Saturday. It's a wonderful performance opportunity for middle school students of all skills and abilities. A huge thanks to the experienced adjudicators that will listen to the musicians and offer encouragement and performance suggestions! This kind of activity is why Great Falls has been named as one of the "Top 100 Best Communities for Music Education" for the 5th year in a row.
5. **Schools to Hold Graduation Matters Celebrations:** Groups of students have organized activities for their fellow students that emphasize the importance of earning a diploma that matters to the individual. The weeklong activities will emphasize spreading the Graduation Matters message, celebrating improvements and success, empowering students in their own learning, enhancing good relationships between teachers and students, and reducing barriers to student success. Be sure to check out this article for lots of information about the Graduation Matters initiative: http://gftrib.com/2jNaORt.
   - **CMR: January 30-February 3**
   - **GFHS: February 13-17**
   - **PGEC: February 6-10**
   - **NMS: February 27-March3**
   - **EMS: February 20-February 24**
6. **Facility Project Update:** Nelson Architects of Great Falls has been selected as the Little Russell remodel and grounds building designer. Four architect firms are slated to interview to be the designers of the Roosevelt replacement school on January 27. The District should receive its bond rating sometime this week by Standard and Poor's. The bond sale is slated for February 7. An advertisement about the sale should be in the January 29 Tribune. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the CMR

Multipurpose and STEM additions should be advertised soon. Several of the small projects are in process. You can check those out at this website: http://gfps.k12.mt.us/content/other-projects-underway.

7. **Crosstown Competitions:** Great Falls enjoys a healthy rivalry between our two high schools. They will be going head to head in these upcoming events:
   - Wrestling: Friday, January 27, CMR, 7:30
   - Swimming: Thursday, February 2, GFHS, 6:00
8. **Calumet Awards Mini Grants:** Calumet Refinery's Community Advisory Panel has awarded three $500 grants to GFPS teachers/students. 1) CMR Agriculture Teacher Jodi Koterba to purchase materials to enhance greenhouse and garden; 2) CMR Biology Teacher Jon Davis to purchase new hip waders to collect samples from Belt Creek and the Firehole River during their Yellowstone National Park three-day ecological field trip; and 3) NMS Grizz Biz Teacher Roger Spring to launch a wood conservation project utilizing waste wood from woodshop classes to produce marketable products such as coasters and hot pads.
9. **GF Hosts 66th Annual State Principals' Conference:** Elementary and middle school principals from across the state will be receiving staff development from national educational experts this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the Holiday Inn. The new Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen will address the group on Thursday as well. Sunnyside Principal Lance Boyd has organized the conference which will bring these educational leaders to town.
10. **Board Meetings:** The next Board meeting is on Monday, February 13 at 5:30 pm at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on the afternoon of Thursday, February 9 at this link: http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas. This is the only Board meeting in February.

I hope you enjoyed this week's Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for February 7, 2017.

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

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