Our Mission: In partnership with our community, our mission is to educate individuals of all ages to become caring, competent, and contributing members of the community and the world.

WATER FORUM

MSU-Billings Urban Institute and World Water Network will present the Water Forum September 25-26 at MSU-Billings main campus, 1500 University Drive. With the Yellowstone River running through the heart of Billings, there is a constant, flowing reminder of the importance of water in our daily lives. That daily importance, on a local and global, scale will be the focus of this two-day conference.

This event is an occasion for people of Billings and the region, to not only become more aware of local and global water issues, but to find out what they can do about those issues. The Urban Institute is bringing together some of the best minds to tackle such water issues facing our city, state, region and world. This Forum will allow our community to explore new ways to address the challenges that we face.

The Water Forum will include speakers, exhibits, demonstrations, books and a keynote address by Maude Barlow, author of Blue Gold, a 2002 bestseller about the growing international water crisis, and most recently of Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Fight for the Right to Water. A panel discussion with Maude Barlow will follow her talk.

The forum will also include a Billings premier screening of Glow – For Love of Water, a Sundance Film Festival award-winning documentary about current water world conditions and what we can do to help. A student panel composed of high school and college students will follow the Thursday evening showing. See www.flowthefilm.com.

For more information or to get involved, contact Chuck Tooley at the MSU-B Urban Institute at 896-5862 or by email at ctooley@msubillings.edu or contact Christine Pierce, World Water Network, at 672-3636 or by email at matija@earthlink.net.

SATURDAY LIVE

Saturday Live is Saturday, September 27! Come support the schools and have a great day in Pioneer Park from 10 to 4. The largest school carnival in the region returns this fall with exciting new games, healthy food options, a treasure hunt, and great entertainment.

The Fun Run/Walk starts at 9 a.m. at Daylis Stadium. The two mile event will circle Pioneer Park twice. It’s a great way to get a Saturday Live t-shirt and kick off the day. There will be lots of free give-aways. Registration is $5 and t-shirts are an additional $7. Find registration forms at www.efbps.org.

Don’t worry about parking. A free shuttle bus will run every 15 minutes from 9th Avenue and 30th Street (by the Riverstone Billings Inn) every 15 minutes, thanks to First Student.

We need volunteers to help! Call Anne at the Education Foundation at 245-4133.
THE VIETNAM WAR: AT HOME AND ABROAD
Dr. Keith Edgerton, MSU-Billings History Department, links the Vietnam War era and the development of a counter-culture to the emergence of the American Indian Movement (AIM). AIM, an American Indian civil rights movement, initially based in Minneapolis, looked to protect the rights of American Indians and declare Indian People as a sovereign people. Several members of the movement came from the Northern Plains, with tribal members participating at the occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1969 and Wounded Knee in 1973. Edgerton will contextualize the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement, and demonstrate that the emergence of AIM in Eastern Montana/Northern Plains was one of the most visible, dramatic, and important responses coming from the 1960s.

This presentation is funded in part by Humanities Montana and the Montana Cultural Trust.

For more information, visit the Western Heritage Center website events calendar at www.ywhc.org, or contact Lisa Olmsted at 256-6809, ext. 121 or email at lisa@ywhc.org.

DEADLINES TO SUBMIT FLEX CLAIMS
IRS regulations allow a 2 ½ month grace period after the end of the plan year in which to incur expenses. If you had unused money remaining in your medical flex account on June 30, 2008, you have until September 15, 2008 to incur expenses that could then be claimed for the 07/08 plan year. You have 60 days after the grace period to submit the flex claims for reimbursement. That means that your flex claims must be submitted to EBMS by November 14, 2008 in order to be paid with your 07/08 flex money.

INSURANCE PLAN CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008
1. Dependent children ages 19 and older:
In order to comply with Montana Senate Bill 419, our plan has been changed to allow coverage for any unmarried dependent child under age 25, so long as he/she has no other coverage. The child does NOT have to be a full-time student or reliant upon the parent for principle support.

Since the new language is a modification of our eligibility requirements, this constitutes an allowable change in family status. Therefore, plan participants may add newly eligible children ages 19-24 to the insurance coverage. (Please be aware that our plan does not cover dependent pregnancies.)

PLEASE NOTE: If an otherwise eligible dependent is not the covered participant’s true tax dependent as defined by the IRS, benefits for that dependent will NOT be provided on a tax-free basis. The dependent’s portion of the insurance premium will be deducted from the employee’s paycheck on an after-tax basis, and the dependent’s claims cannot be reimbursed through the Section 125 flex plan.

Once each year, each plan participant with a covered child ages 19-24 must complete a Dependent Child Certification Form. This will enable payroll to correctly deduct pre-tax and after-tax premiums from the participants’ paychecks.

2. Well-Child Care:
In order to comply with Montana House Bill 687, the plan language has been changed to extend the well-child care benefit for covered dependents through age 7. The plan will allow a maximum number of 10 visits during the 7-year period. This includes office visits and immunizations.

New insurance plan booklets will be sent out as soon as the language is finalized. If you have any questions about these plan changes, please contact the Insurance Office.
GRANTS

Do you have an idea that just hasn’t taken flight because you don’t have the money? Writing a grant just might be one way of securing that special project. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Talk to your principal about your idea.
2. If your principal approves your idea and the project is $2,000 or less, go ahead and submit your proposal directly to the potential funding source.
3. If your principal approves of your idea and the project is over $2,000, please complete an abstract form. You can receive this form by contacting Susan Plath via email at plaths@billings.k12.mt.us or calling her at 247-3849 (8-12 Monday-Friday). This abstract is for internal purposes only and should not be submitted to the funding source.
4. Complete your abstract, ask your principal to sign the form OR the principal can send Susan a confirmation email indicating that it has their support.
5. Email, fax (247-3773), or send the completed abstract to Susan Plath (Lincoln Center). Please send the abstract to Susan by Tuesday noon for review by the Office of Development and Advancement each Wednesday. You will receive notification by Thursday.
6. When you receive your grant, please notify the grant writer. The Superintendent would like to send a personal thank you to all foundations/companies making contributions to our schools. You should also send a thank you on your school letterhead.

September Deadlines


Kids in Need Foundation. Deadline: 9/30/08. Award: $100-$500. Purpose: To provide funds for classroom teachers who have innovative, meritorious ideas. Innovation and merit account for 40 percent of the evaluation. Web site: http://www.kidsinneed.net/grants/guidelines.php

October Deadlines

Toshiba America Foundation, K-6 Science and Math Education. Deadline: 10/1/08. Award: $1,000. Purpose: To support science and mathematics education in the U.S. by investing in projects designed by classroom teachers to enhance instruction for students in grades K-6. Web site: http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp

Best Buy Teach Award. Deadline: 10/12/08. Award: $1,000-$5,000 (most of the awards made last year were in the amount of $2,000); special funding available for 9th grade programs. See web site. Purpose: Best Buy believes technology can excite and engage students, creating a more valuable educational experience. This grant awards gift cards to schools so they can purchase technology for their students. Web site: http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/teach_awards.htm

Learning and Leadership Grants, NEA's National Foundation for the Improvement of Education. Deadline: 10/15, 2/1, 6/1. Award: Up to $3,000. Purpose: Grants to individuals ($2,000) fund participation in high quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research. Grants to groups ($5,000) fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment. All professional development must improve practice, curriculum, and student achievement. This will NOT fund conferences. It is intended to fund collegial study. More: (202) 822-7840 or http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/Learning&Leadership_Guidelines.htm

Student Achievement Grants, NEA's National Foundation. Deadline: 10/15, 2/1, 6/1. Award: Up to $5,000. Purpose: To engage students in critical thinking and problem solving that deepens their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students’ habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. Proposal for work resulting in low-income and minority student success with honors, advanced placement, or other challenging curricula are particularly encouraged. Uses of funds include purchase of: resource materials, equipment, transportation, software, or scholars-in-residence. Although some funds may support professional development, the majority must be spent on materials or educational experiences for students. More: http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm

PPL Environmental Education Grants, Project Earth. Deadline: 10/15/08 (early submittals encouraged). Award: $500-$5,000. Purpose: To enhance established classroom curricula and academic standards, or support extracurricular activities of school organizations and clubs. This year’s focus is on renewable energy projects and energy conservation projects. Web site: http://www.pplweb.com/community/partners/our+education+programs/environmental+education+grants.htm

Lowe's Toolbox for Education. Deadline: 10/17/08 (once they receive 1,500 applications, they will close the competition). Award: Up to $5,000. Purpose: To support parent-teacher organizations with projects benefiting their school. Preference for funding is given to projects that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (indoor and outdoor) as well as landscaping/clean-up projects, projects encouraging parental involvement, and building community spirit. The web site offers a sample of a successful application. Web site: http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/

November Deadlines

Target Field Trip Grants. Deadline: 11/1/08. Award: $800/award; 5,000 awarded nationwide. Purpose: This program provides educators and students with the opportunity to participate in field trip activities that range from visits to art museums and environmental projects to cultural events and civic experiences. The applicant must be an education professional employed by an accredited K-12 public school. Note: application and guidelines become available 9/2/08. Web site: http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001838

A “NEW” LOVE & LOGIC COURSE
Short Session (2 nights, 2 days, 2 credits)
A “Discipline With Love & Logic” course for K-12 educators

“Effective Discipline for Problem Students” ED 9890B

2 semester graded, graduate credits, from accredited Chapman University, Thursday and Friday evenings, October 23 and 24, 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Class will be held at War Bonnet Inn, I-90 and 27th Street South, Billings. Richard Gunter, Ph.D., instructor.

Cost: $294 for 2 semester credits or $175 for audit/attendance, inc. OPI renewal unit certificate.

Reservation required. Contact Dr. Rick Gunter at (406) 846-3014.

FOR SALE

Keilworth Saxophones Ex90 Series II: excellent condition. Checked by Eckroth Music, ready to play. Asking $1,000. Armstrong Saxophone Beginner Model: asking $300 or make offer. Checked by Eckroth Music and ready to play. Call Linda or Bob at 252-9192 or 670-7821.


2 piece Wambolt Medium Oak Hutch. Glass shelves and doors on the top with wood shelves and doors on the bottom. Beautiful piece, a must see. $800. Call after 5 p.m. 652-7765.

AUTOMOTIVE

1978 GMC 4-wheel drive ½ ton pickup. Recent new motor, good tires, body in fair condition. $1,800 or best offer. Please call 855-3924.