



CJI Newsletter

May 2026

HOW
ARE
YOU?

How was your day?

- What made you laugh the hardest today?
- If you could send a robot to school to take over one of your classes, which one would it be?
- If school were a ride at the fair, which one would it be and why?
- What was the coolest or weirdest thing you learned today?"
- "If you were the teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?"
- "Who did you sit with at lunch?"
- "Tell me about a time you were brave today."

Teacher Appreciation May 4-7

We're excited to celebrate our amazing CJI staff all week long! If you'd like to join in and help show your appreciation, we'd love to have you. Please reach out to Mrs. Grammar at 759-6303 or kgrammar@cjk12mt.us for more information. Thank you for supporting our staff!



After School Activities

Beyond the Bell 4:00pm-5:00pm.
Beyond the Bell Paperwork

Upcoming May Events

6th Kindergarten Graduation, Eighth-Grade Recognition, and Spring Concert @ 130
11th Big Hawk/ Little Hawk
11th Junior Senior Banquette
14th Awards Assembly and NHS Induction
17th Graduation 2:00pm
22nd Last Day of School 1:00 pm release



CJI SportsYou

CJI Now has a SportsYou page to help keep everyone up-to-date on school happenings.
CODE: LWUT-ANXF

Visit our School Website
www.cji.k12.mt.us



Spring Sports Schedule Links

Tennis

JV Tennis

Track

JH Track



Board Action



- Approved a senior class trip to Silverwood
- Approved an out-of-district agreement
- Approved exploring different avenues to fund our mental health services.
- Approved the hiring of Mr. Forbes as driver's education instructor and Amber Tempel as an elementary teacher.
- Approved renewing the non-tenured teacher contracts of Jennifer Mansfield, Sarah Thies, Laura Dailey, Sarah Van Dyke, Don Forbes, Braeden Tempel, Sadie Tempel, and Criselda Budomo
- Approved Hiring Jim Vinson, Willie Miller, Tanner Diede as HS football coaches, and Darin Stanley and Chris Mattson as JH football coaches.
- Approved Hiring Jordan Miller and Marissa Stanley as HS volleyball coaches, and Brittany Anderson as JH Volleyball coach and Rhonda Petersen as Speech and Drama coach.

Family Activity Ideas

- "May Day" Baskets: Have families create small baskets of flowers or treats to leave on a neighbor's doorstep, spreading kindness.
- Backyard Scavenger Hunt: Encourage kids to search for specific colors, shapes, or spring items, such as budding leaves and early insects, to build observation skills.
- Seed Planting: Since many May curricula focus on life cycles, suggest families plant seeds (like beans or marigolds) in clear cups to watch the roots and stems grow together.
- Book Picnic: Suggest families take their favorite books to a local park or even their own backyard for a change of scenery while reading.



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Staff Spotlight

Courtney Romain

I grew up in Cut Bank, MT. When I'm not teaching, you can find me gardening, whitewater kayaking, hiking, or reading a good book! I also love spending time with my nephews, nieces, and my sweet daughter, Hazel. A fun fact about me is that I have traveled to over 20 different countries. My favorite school tradition is the ski trip. I love watching kids discover a love for a new, lifelong sport! I love teaching at CJI!



Staff Spotlight

Shania Maloney

I grew up in the tiny town of Turner, home of the Tornadoes. My graduating class consisted of 5 people-3 of whom were exchange students! Some of my favorite hobbies growing up were playing basketball and riding horse. Now, I enjoy drawing and working outside while listening to an audiobook or podcast. One of my favorite school traditions is celebrating Homecoming. Fun fact, since my high school didn't offer football or volleyball, we celebrated homecoming during basketball season! Our "parade" consisted of decorating wagons and pulling them around the gym. I love watching our Hawk teams compete, especially on the basketball court. You'll find me on in the stands or at the scorer's table most of the school year!



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Counselor's Update

- Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines:
 - Ted Zorn Memorial-May 1st
 - Corinne Kolstad-Neill Scholarship- May 1st
 - Hi-Line Tavern Association- May 1st
 - Russ Wicks Ag- May 1st
- The last MAST Window opened on March 30th for grades 3-8. Be on the lookout for communications from your child's teacher about MAST Testing. MAST Testing will wrap up for the year the first week of May.
- The 7-12 awards ceremony and Nation Honor Society Induction will be on May 14th at 2:30 in the auditorium.
- A letter was mailed home to 7-12 parents regarding scheduling for next year. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding your child's schedule.



Updates From Mr. Haggerty

- There will be a mail ballot election this spring regarding our technology levy, with ballots due Tuesday, May 5th. The district is requesting \$35,000 for the elementary district and \$35,000 for the high school district. This levy was passed 5 years ago and must be re-voted on every 5 years. This funds our technology services, and helps us provide students with relevant technology services. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding this levy.
- We have a 7-12th grade math teaching opening.
- Our final enrollment count for the 26-27 school year is as follows:
 - 4K-6th grade: 122
 - 7-8th grade: 31
 - 9-12 grade: 59
 - Colonies: 31
 - Total Students: 243
- We are working on class schedule for next year, and have a view variations depending on staffing. We will be in contact with parents/ students when we are able to begin signing up for classes.
- We are looking into different avenues to increase access to mental health resources at the school.
- As we come to the end of the school year, we wanted to recognize all of the hard work that our staff and community has put in to ensure that all of our students receive a high quality educational experience. We are truly lucky to have such dedicated staff, and such a supportive community. It is a great time to be a HAWK!

Updates From Mrs. Grammar

- Public Health came to the school to teach First Aid and CPR certification for grades 9-12.
- We have several field trips coming up.
 - May 7th, 5th grade to Fresno
 - May 12th, K-1st grades to Rudyard
 - May 12-14 6th Grade Montana Trip
 - May 18th, 3rd-4th to Fort Benton
 - May 19th, 2nd to Chinook
- Graduation is on May 17th at 2:00 pm
- Sage Creek does not have an eighth grade this year.
- Teacher appreciation is May 4-7.
- Kindergarten graduation, Eighth-Grade Recognition, and the Spring Concert are on May 6th beginning at 1:30 pm. There will be a short break between each event.
- Academic Awards and National Honor Society Induction will be on May 14th at 2:30 pm.
- Field Day will be the last day of school this year! Mr. Dieder will be sending out more information regarding this event.
- I can't believe this is the final newsletter of the school year! Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a wonderful year. We truly appreciate the support from our parents and the community—your involvement plays a vital role in our success.



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May Math Games

Chalk Number Line Race

- Use sidewalk chalk to draw a number line to 20 on the driveway.
 - How to Play: Players draw a number card and hop that many spaces. On their next turn, they draw another card, add it to their current spot, and jump to the new sum.
 - Variation: Start at the end and subtract to race back to zero.

Roll to Win

- Set up 8-10 paper plates or pieces of construction paper with different numbers written on them.
 - How to Play: Players roll a ball three times. Whichever number cards the ball rolls over, the player keeps. At the end, add up the numbers to see who has the highest sum.

May ELA Games

The Story Spark

- One person starts a story with a single sentence (e.g., "Once there was a blue dragon who was afraid of heights.") The next person adds one sentence, and you keep going until the story reaches a wild conclusion.

Nature Journaling

- Encourage kids to take a notebook outside and spend 5 minutes writing only adjectives to describe what they see, hear, and smell. Later, they can turn those descriptive words into a poem.

May Reading Goal Ideas

Elementary

- Read for 20-30 minutes daily and track your progress
- Explore a new genre this month (mystery, fantasy, historical fiction, poetry, or graphic novels)
- Share a book recommendation with a friend or family member
- Visit your school or local library and check out a book you've never tried before

Middle School

- Complete at least one full book during May
- Practice active reading by taking notes, marking important passages, or creating a reading journal
- Join a peer book discussion group or start one with classmates
- Challenge yourself to read something outside your comfort zone

High School

- Set a personal reading goal (pages, books, or hours) and track your progress
- Analyze themes and character development in your reading
- Participate in a book club or online reading community
- Reflect on how reading connects to real-world issues and your own life