CJI Newsletter

November 2026

Tips on having better conversations with your child(ren) after school

- Share about your day first: Model sharing by telling them one interesting, funny, or challenging thing that happened to you. Kids often reciprocate when they hear you share first.
- Give them transition time: Kids are often mentally drained right after school or activities. Let them unwind with a snack or some downtime before diving into questions.
- Keep it conversational, not an interrogation: Ask just one or two questions at a time rather than firing off a list.

Board Action

- Approved bid language for repairs to the old locker rooms, including ceiling replacement, lighting improvements, and ventilation.
- Accepted the Booster Club's donation of a 50-foot flagpole for the football field.
- Approved hiring Grayson Waters as the Sage Creek Colony teacher.
- Approved a HOSA student chapter to expand opportunities for students interested in healthcare careers.

Where To Find Information

SportsYou CODE: LWUT-ANXF

Class Dojo

Chester Joplin Inverness Schools

www.cji.k12.mt.us

After School Activities

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

Beyond the Bell Paperwork

Upcoming November Events

1st- Daylight Savings (Fall Back!)

11th- Veterans Day Program 10:30 am

17th- School Board Meeting 7pm

25th- 1:00 Release

26th- No School Happy Thanksgiving!

Veterans Day Program

CJI will hold a Veterans Day Program on November 11th at 10:30 am. All are welcome to enjoy the 4K-12 program in the auditorium.

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Family Activity Ideas

- Family Turkey Trot: Host your own informal 1-mile walk, jog, or run with the family before Thanksgiving dinner.
- Gratitude Pumpkin or Tree: Have family members write one thing they are thankful for each day on a porch pumpkin using a permanent marker, or glue paper leaves onto a branch in a vase.
- DIY Table Placemats: Let kids color, decorate, or weave paper placemats for your Thanksgiving dinner table.
- Mini Pie/Baking Contest: Let everyone decorate or make their own personal mini pie or fall-themed cupcakes, then vote on categories like "most creative" or "most festive".
- Food Pantry Donation: Go through the pantry together or pick out non-perishable canned goods at the store to donate to a local food drive.
- Cozy Movie Marathon: Make a batch of popcorn or hot cider and curl up for a family-friendly holiday movie or festive special.

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Kindergarten has been busy learning!
They have been learning to write sentences while improving their handwriting. In math, they are learning how to count, understand, and show numbers 1-10

In some pictures, they used Cuisenaire rods, colorful math tools that help children learn counting and numbers through hands-on play! The kids had so much fun discovering that each color represents a number: green = 1, blue = 2, red = 3, purple = 4, pink = 5, and so on.

They are also using dominoes in one of the pictures.









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Updates from Mr. Haggerty

- The end of the 1st quarter was October 14th. Report cards were mailed out the week of October 19th
- The school-based mental health clinic continues to run smoothly, and we are seeing the number of students serviced increasing. We are working with the Montana Healthcare Foundation on a $75,000 grant over two years to help improve our mental health services.
- Bids for the old locker room repairs are scheduled to be opened on November 4th. Please contact me if you are interested in bidding or want to see the scope of work.
- The CJI Operations Portal continues to work smoothly. You can now purchase and pay for yearbooks through the portal. Please reach out with any suggestions you have to improve the portal.
- We have approved a Co-Op with Big Sandy to give our students access to a HOSA chapter. This program will help expose students to job opportunities in the healthcare field.
- We had a successful Hawk Card assembly at the end of the 1st quarter.
- Continuing working on the accreditation process. New process centers around yearly licensure checks (staff having appropriate teaching/administrative licenses), as well as a three-year submission showing that schools are following state laws (Have a strategic action plan, offer appropriate classes, follow state standards, use appropriate curriculum, etc.). We have been in regular status for the past 4 years (which is the best level you can achieve), and anticipate remaining there after this year.

Updates from Mrs. Grammar

- *We have completed a fire drill and a lockdown drill.*
- *We have also done our route bus and activity bus safety and evacuation drill. Thank you to Jim Ghekiere and Dustin Miller.*
- *Thank you to the Chester Volunteer Fire Department for coming to the school to teach our elementary students about fire safety. Students were able to look through all the fire trucks and check out the gear, along with valuable information about fires and what to do in case of a fire.*
- *Parent/Teacher conferences went well. Thank you to everyone who attended!*
- *We will be trick-or-treating on October 29th at 1:00 pm. We are going to the nursing home, Wheat Country, and the Lodge.*
- *The Veterans Day Program will be held on November 11th at 10:00 am. All are welcome! If you plan on having lunch, please let the school know by October 28th.*
- *We are still looking for subs. If you're interested, you can find the application on the school website. Everyone who volunteers or subs must have a background check.*
- *October is Mental Health Awareness Month. Freshmen are taking YAM (Youth Aware of Mental Health), Sophomores are taking Mental Health First Aid, and Seniors are taking QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer).*
- *FCCLA will run Big Hawk Little Hawk on October 22nd.*
- *Red Ribbon Week will be held October 26-29.*

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Updates from Mrs. Dailey

- Seniors- don't forget to fill out your FAFSA! The priority deadline for MT was October 1st.
- The scholarship list for seniors will be available in early December.
- MAST Window 1 Opened on October 19th. It will close on December 10th. If you would like to be added to the parent portal to access your child's scores, please email me at ldailey@cji.k12.mt.us
- FCCLA and National Honor Society will be teaming up to put on the Cat/Griz food drive the week of November 16th-19th
- Elementary students will be focusing on empathy, gratitude, and kindness this month in guidance.



Manpreet, Ella, Kacey, Paisley, Maci, Kaylee, and Emilee attened theMilk River District Fall CDEs.



Parker, Kacey and Diem attended District FCCLA in Power.

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Red Ribbon Week

- Students celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 26–29 with a variety of activities organized by FCCLA members! Throughout the week, students participated in Big Hawk/Little Hawk activities, themed dress-up days, a schoolwide assembly, and classroom guidance lessons focused on drug prevention, healthy habits, and making positive choices. Special thanks to Stephane Moog, Officer Hicks, and Officer Zuccala for putting on the assembly! FCCLA members worked hard to plan and lead these activities, encouraging students in grades PK–12 to work together and make healthy, responsible decisions. Thank you to our FCCLA members and community partners for helping make Red Ribbon Week a success!











