



CJI Newsletter

April 2026

HOW
ARE
YOU?

How was your day?

- The "Seed" Question: "What is one thing you learned today that you want to keep growing in your brain?"
- The "Butterfly" Question: "How did you 'spread your wings' or try something brave today?"
- The "Garden" Question: "Who did you help today, or who helped you 'bloom'?"
- The "Sunshine" Question: "What made you smile so big it felt like literal sunshine?"
- The "Umbrella" Question: "Was there anything today that felt a bit rainy, and how did you stay dry (handle it)?"

CJI SportsYou

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



CODE: LWUT-ANXF



After School Activities

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

Upcoming April Events

- 6th - No School
- 10th - SCHOOL
- 7th-15th - Explore America
- 16th - Mid Quarter
- 23rd - Early Childhood Screening
9am-1pm with Bear Paw Coop
- 24th - Prom



Spring Sports Schedule Links

Tennis

JV Tennis

Track

JH Track



Board Action

- Approved 26-27 contracts to operate Sage Creek and Hi-Line Colony schools. As a reminder, the district does not lose any funds by operating these schools.
- Approved a decrease in permissive levies for building reserve funds (\$2,500) and an increase of \$10,000 in the tuition fund. Please contact Luke Haggerty or Lacey Lalum with questions regarding levies.
- Approved professional development requests for Mr. Diede, Mr. Budomo and Mr. Forbes.
- Hired the following teachers for the 26-27 school year: Ms. Behm, Ms. Fowler, Mrs. Munson, Mr. Budomo, Mrs. Fulbright, Ms. Petersen, Mrs. Case, Mrs. Ghekiene, Mrs. Romain, Mr. Diede, Ms. Maloney, and Mr. Stanley. Non-tenured teachers will be on the April Board Meeting.
- If you have any questions regarding board action, contact a board member or Superintendent Luke Haggerty.

Family Activity Ideas

- **DIY Bird Feeders:** Use pinecones, peanut butter (or a seed butter), and birdseed to welcome migrating birds back to your yard.
- **Sidewalk Chalk Murals:** Turn your driveway into a "gallery" for World Art Day on April 15th.
- **National Poetry Month:** Celebrate National Haiku Day on April 17th by writing simple 3-line poems about the spring weather.
- **Earth Day (April 22nd):** Join a local park cleanup or start a small family composting bin to "go green."



Visit our School Website

www.cji.k12.mt.us



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Staff Spotlight

Criselda Budomo

I grew up in Central Luzon, in the Philippines, where my childhood was filled with love, family, and beautiful memories that I will always treasure.

My favorite hobby or way to relax is cooking, especially Adobo, lumpia, noodles, dumplings, and many other dishes. Cooking is something I truly look forward to at the end of the day. It is my love language and my way of showing care to the people around me.

Fun fact: I have always loved performing. I sing, I dance, and I act. My childhood dream was to become a theater actress. But life had a better plan—I became a teacher. Now, I dance with my Kindergarten class every morning to start our day, I sing to introduce phonics lessons, and I act whenever we read Big Books. And I think that is even more beautiful.

My favorite school event or tradition is Homecoming! I love the parade and how the whole town comes together to celebrate. My family and I enjoy picking up candy and chocolates along the way—it's such a joyful, fun tradition for us.

Staff Spotlight

Shy Case

I grew up and graduated from Chester.

My favorite hobby or way to relax is having a cup of coffee and a good book, or playing music. Fun fact, I hate Hamilton. I have never been able to watch more than 5-10 minutes of it. I do not enjoy Broadway musicals, to be honest. My favorite school event or tradition is Homecoming! I have always loved the parade, dress-up days, the school spirit, and community pride.

Staff Spotlight

Jennifer Mansfield

I grew up in the "Biggest Little Town on Earth", Joplin. My hobbies include shopping, decorating, going to movies, and reading. Watching Reality TV shows, antique collecting on YouTube, and spending time with my cats, friends, and family are all ways I try to relax. Fun fact. I have been teaching for 31 years and enjoy learning new things. I also collect many things like Coca-Cola, Disney, and Star Wars. Some of my favorite school events or traditions are that K-6 students used to have "End-of-Quarter Activities". The teachers would come up with a theme and plan activities for all the mixed K-6 students. The end of the day included a movie based on the theme. I enjoy the dress-up days for spirit week and Christmas. I am a fan of Big Hawk and Little Hawk days, too.



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Counselor's Update

- Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines:
 - Triangle Communications- April 1st
 - Marias River Livestock-April 1st
 - Logan Health Healthier Futures- April 3rd
 - First Bank of Montana- April 15th
 - Dr. Richard Buker, Jr. Medical loan- April 15th
 - Live, Laugh, Love like Lauryn Goldhahn- April 17th
 - Shane Chadwick- April 17th
 - Green Scholarship- April 30th
- 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.
- There is a Job/Career Fair on April 15th in Shelby for Juniors and Seniors
- National Honor Society applications are due by April 16th.

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. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding this levy.
- The preliminary school budget for 26-27 shows a little over a one percent increase.
- The school audit was completed in late February, and no findings were identified.
- We have an opening at Sage Creek Colony School.
- We are interviewing 2 applicants for the open 1st-grade teaching position on April 1st.
- We replaced the outdated furnaces in our triplex.
- Completed the school accreditation process; we have been in regular status for the past three years and anticipate remaining there.
- Planning a senior trip to Silverwood the first week of May.
- We are wrapping up our emergency drills for the year. On March 9th we completed a fire drill.
- Huge thank you to all of our substitutes who have filled in this winter/ spring! If you or someone you know is interested in subbing, reach out to Luke or Kim at the school- we can always use more substitutes!

Updates From Mrs. Grammar

- We held the county spelling bee on February 24th. In 1st place was Johnathan Waters-Serrato, 2nd Nathan Ornesole, and 3rd Tiffany Colbry. Congratulations to all spellers!
- Johnathan competed at the State Spelling Bee in Bozeman and placed 2nd! Great job, Johnathan!
- Farmers Union came to the school on February 24th. They had a wonderful activity for the elementary students. Each combined class spent 45-60 minutes with the reps. Some of the activities included: farm web and bioplastic, microgreens, pollinators, and geography.
- Public Health taught Safe at Home to 4th- and 5th-graders on March 19th. This assembly helps students with emergencies at home, and how to keep their surroundings safe. On March 24th and 25th, Stephanie and Toole County Public Health taught Safe Sitter and CPR to 6th- and 7th-graders. Thank you, Public Health, for offering these classes to our students!
- We will **not** have school on Monday, **April 6th**, but will **have** school on Friday, **April 10th**, with a 3:00 pm release.
- Explore America will be gone April 7th-15th.
- Bear Paw will be here on April 23rd for Early Childhood Screening from 9 am-1 pm. Please call Emily in the elementary office at 759-5477 to schedule an appointment.
- Prom is scheduled for April 24th.
- Looking ahead, we are planning the Spring Concert for May 6th.



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April Math Game: "Umbrella Operations"

- Skills: Multiplication fluency or Place Value (adjustable for K-6).
- Supplies: Blue paper "raindrops," a paper "umbrella" cutout, and a marker.
- How to Play:
 - a. The Setup: Write a "Target Number" on the umbrella handle (e.g., 24).
 - b. The Raindrops: On several blue raindrops, write different math expressions (e.g., $\$6 \times 4$, $\$12 \times 2$, $\$8 \times 3$, or $\$20 \div 4$).
 - c. The Goal: Students must sort through the "storm" to find only the raindrops that equal the Target Number and place them under the umbrella to stay dry.
- Challenge Version:
 - The "Thunderstorm": Include "distractor" raindrops that are close to the target (like $\$7 \times 3$) to test accuracy.
 - Decimal Downpour: For older students, use decimals or fractions to reach the target sum.

April ELA Game: "The April Fool's Fiction Fixer"

- Skills: Vocabulary, context clues, and creative writing.
- The Goal: Write a 5-line story about spring, but replace key nouns and verbs with "April Fool's" words (e.g., "The spaghetti fell from the sky instead of rain").
- The Task: Give your story to a friend. Can they spot all the "fakes" and guess what the real words were supposed to be?
- Example: "I opened my hamburger because it started to rain. I put on my pancakes so my feet wouldn't get wet."

April Reading Goal Ideas

- The "Laugh Out Loud" Goal: Since it's National Humor Month, challenge them to read one joke book or a funny graphic novel and "perform" their favorite parts for the family.
- Earth Day Reads: Set a goal to read three books about nature or the environment leading up to Earth Day on April 22nd.
- Reading in the Wild: Encourage them to read for 15 minutes in a "spring-themed" spot—like under a blooming tree, on a picnic blanket, or even in a "fort" made of rain gear.
- "Read Your Shelf" Challenge: Instead of buying a new book this month, pick one from your "To Be Read" pile that has been sitting there the longest.
- A "Global" Goal: Read one book by an author from a different country to expand your perspective this spring.