November 2026

NEWSLETTER

News, celebrations, and important information from Arlee Schools

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It's hard to believe we have already completed the first quarter of the school year! It seems like we were just welcoming students back into our buildings, and now we're heading into November and preparing for the holiday season.

One of the things I have enjoyed most about these first few months at Arlee is getting to know our students, staff, and families. During Parent-Teacher Conferences, I had the opportunity to walk through our buildings, visit with families, and see the connections our teachers are building with their students. There is something pretty special about walking down the hallway and having students recognize you, wave, or stop to tell you something about their day. Those little moments remind me why I love working in education.

We have so much to celebrate at Arlee Schools! Congratulations to all of our junior high and high school cross country, football, and volleyball athletes on their fall seasons! We are proud of the hard work, dedication, and school spirit you have shown throughout the season. A special congratulations to Ava and Trevor Van Maanen, who both earned All-State honors and set new school records at the State Cross Country Meet.

Junior high basketball is already in full swing, and we are gearing up for the winter sports season! I am looking forward to seeing our students compete, supporting our athletes and coaches, and cheering on our Warriors and Scarlets throughout the coming months. The support our community shows for our student-athletes is something special, and I can't wait to be part of it!

I am also excited about some of the opportunities coming our students' way. We recently held our first Community and Family Engagement Committee meeting, and three of our high school teachers have volunteered to organize a districtwide K–12 Talent Show! I love seeing our staff bring ideas forward and take the initiative to make them happen. These are the kinds of experiences that help build connections between our schools and give students opportunities to share their talents.

We Want to Hear From You!

One of our upcoming projects is a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), which will help us better understand what is working well in our schools and where we have opportunities to grow. As part of our elementary school improvement efforts, we will be asking families, students, staff, and other school community members to share their perspectives through a survey.

Your input matters! We want to hear what you value about Arlee Schools, what you believe we are doing well, and where you think we can improve. The information gathered will help guide our planning and ensure that the decisions we make reflect the needs of the students and families we serve.

We anticipate sharing the surveys in December, and I encourage you to take a few minutes to participate when they become available. Strong schools are built through strong partnerships, and your voice is an important part of that process.

We are also continuing to look for ways to strengthen opportunities for our students beyond the classroom. I recently attended a meeting at Salish Kootenai College and had the opportunity to connect with educators

about ways we can build stronger partnerships. I am hopeful these relationships will lead to additional educational experiences, college and career opportunities, and new pathways for our students.

As we move into November, I want to thank our staff for the incredible work they do every day. So much of what makes a school successful happens quietly, behind the scenes, and often without recognition. From the classrooms to the hallways, offices, kitchens, buses, and athletic facilities, it takes an entire team to make our schools work.

I am grateful to be part of that team and excited about the direction we are heading. There is a lot of good happening at Arlee Schools, and I look forward to continuing to build on that momentum together.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools.

Go Warriors & Scarlets! 🖤 ♡

Kendal Baldwin | Superintendent

SCHOOL BOARD

Arlee School Board of Trustees Elections

Arlee School Board will have one (1) Trustee position for a three (3) year term beginning May 2027. If you are interested in serving, filing will open on Monday, December 10, 2026 through Monday February 8, 2027. A Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy can be found on the Arlee School District website at www.arleeschools.org, under Menu/School Board/Elections. If you have questions please contact Lonnie Morin, District Clerk, at 406-726-3216 ext. 4.

SCHOOL NEWS

K–8 NEWS

ANNE TANNER, K-8 PRINCIPAL and K-12 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Student Testing and Academic Success

Benchmark 1 academic testing has been completed districtwide. Teachers will participate in a scheduled Data Deep Dive Day on November 20 to review and analyze student assessment results. This collaborative process will allow teachers to identify areas of strength and need, evaluate student progress, and make informed instructional decisions to better individualize instruction and meet the needs of all learners. Additionally, MAST state-mandated testing will be completed this month for students in grades 3–8.

Parent Engagement

We had an excellent turnout for Parent-Teacher Conferences! As always, our K–5 teachers were rocking and rolling, with strong parent participation and engagement. At the Junior High level, staff implemented a more student-centered conference format, shifting the focus toward student involvement, ownership, and communication about academic progress. We are pleased to report that this approach was a success, with a significant increase in parent engagement and participation. It was encouraging to see families and staff working together to support student success!

After-School Plans:
For the safety of all students, all after-school plans must be phoned into the office by 2:00 p.m. Please do not rely on notes sent with students or last-minute changes. Thank you for helping us keep dismissal running smoothly.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

JACOB BOSLEY

PRINCIPAL/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

We've completed our Fall MAPS testing in the high school, and our students have done very well. Forty-three students showed significant improvement on two or more tests compared to their spring scores. We are currently planning a rewards trip for the half of our student body that showed improved marks. Our teachers are doing a fantastic job providing quality instruction and motivating students to work diligently towards improving their academic performance.

Our students are currently collecting donated food items for the CDC's food pantry. Our goal is to raise at least 184 pounds of donated food. If our students meet that mark, I've agreed to let students shave my head. Students are excited about the possibility and are working toward that goal to help provide food security to struggling families and individuals in our community. NHS, FCCLA, and the Eagles Club are also collecting items for our annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets that will help 16 struggling families in Arlee.

Our Homecoming Week in October was very successful. Students participated in class competitions throughout the week. These activities included a hall decorating contest, a car push, and hay bale decorating on the football field. Our student body really showed up during the Fall Sports Season and provided tremendous support to our athletic teams. In my tenure here, this fall was the loudest and most entertaining student section I've seen so far. We hope to continue the outpouring of support for our winter sports teams, which will begin practicing on November 19th. Our high school sports seasons will begin on December 4th and 5th, with our basketball teams traveling to Great Falls for the annual Native American Classic tournament. Our wrestling teams will travel to Polson the same weekend for the Owen Invitational. Please come out and support our outstanding student-athletes as they pursue their goals this winter.

Day	Group	Date	Home/Away	Event/Opponent	Event Time
Monday	**JH Boys Basketball**	**November 9**	**Home**	**Mission**	**4:30/5:30/7:30**
Friday	**JH Boys Basketball**	**November 13**	**Home**	**Missoula Mambas**	**5:00/6:00/7:00**
Saturday	JH Boys Basketball	November 14	Away	Jamboree @ Superior	9:00 AM
Wednesday	9th Grade	November 18	Away	Montana Tech	8:00-3:30
Thursday	**JH Boys Basketball**	**November 19**	**Home**	**Superior**	**4:30/5:30/6:30**
Saturday	**JH Boys Basketball**	**November 21**	**Home**	**Jamboree**	**9:00 AM**
Tuesday	JH Boys Basketball	December 1	Away	Mission	4:00/5:00
Friday/Saturday	HS Basketball	December 4-5	Away	Great Falls NAC	TBA
Friday/Saturday	HS Wrestling	December 4-5	Away	Polson (Owen Invite)	TBA

Make sure to check the website for schedule updates!



STUDENTS AND STAFF

MMIW AWARENESS

Every November, AISA brings awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. There are bulletin boards in the junior high and high school with information about the issue. AISA asks all students to wear red or traditional regalia (ribbon skirts or shirts, etc.) each Thursday during the month of November to acknowledge and bring awareness to this issue. Here are some important statistics to know about MMIW.

- Indigenous women have a **homicide** rate **10 times** the average American woman (2017 study by MIP task force)
- **84.3%** experience **violence** in their lifetime (2016 National Institute of Justice report)
- **More than half** have experienced **sexual violence** at some point in life - (2016 U.S. Department of Justice)
- **Federal Reports:** The FBI reports 10,248 missing indigenous persons in recent tracking data (5,614 women and 4,626 men)
- **Murder is the leading cause** of death for Native women aged 10-34 (The Center for Disease Control & Prevention)

Arlee High School National Honor Society Trunk or Treat

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Arlee Trunk or Treat this year! It was so much fun to see the community and staff come together for the kids. Please reach out to congratulate Karma Tibbetts on her NHS project on running a wonderful Trunk or Treat event this year.







Counselor's Corner: Mindful Moments

Happy Fall Y'all!

I always say this, but gosh time sure does fly! I cannot believe we are in the month November. I'd like to share one of the skills I've been teaching your kiddos this year. We are very intentionally practicing more mindful moments as a way to recognize, integrate, and regulate our emotions. Ask your kiddo about the mindful moments they have been practicing during Ms. T's visits. How do they feel when they slow down and breathe deeply? What is it like to label their emotion without judgement or justification? The month of November is a great time to practice mindfulness because we can pair it with gratitude. As we focus on our breath, we can also think about what we are grateful for. The best part is that science shows us when we practice gratitude we are more emotionally resilient, happier, and actually live longer! How cool is that?! So, the next time you notice your child experiencing a big emotion allow them to feel it. Remind them that the best way to process a feeling is to focus on our breath, label the feeling, and lean into the feeling. As always, please get in touch with me if you ever have any questions or need extra support. That's what I'm here for!

Stay cozy!

Ms. T

P.S. If you'd like to learn more about parenting for your child's emotional health, the book *Brave Parenting* by Krissy Pozatek is amazing (I've listened to it 3 times myself!)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REQUIRED NOTICES

Title I Schoolwide Planning Meeting

Dear Parent or Guardian:

You are invited to a meeting to discuss the review and revision of our Title I Schoolwide plan. Title I eligibility is based on the number of students in our school from low-income families. In a Title I Schoolwide School, school staff members work with input from parents and the community to develop a Schoolwide plan. The purpose of this plan is to improve our entire educational program. Title I Schoolwide plans are based on a comprehensive needs assessment and must include a description of the strategies that the school will be using to address school needs. This includes:

- provide opportunities for all children to meet the challenging State academic standards;
- use methods and instructional strategies that 1) strengthen the academic program in the school, 2) increase the amount and quality of learning time, and 3) help provide an expanded and more advanced curriculum; and
- address the needs of all children in the school with a focus on the needs of children at risk of failing.

Please join us to provide your comments and ideas to help us develop a strong and effective plan.

Meeting Date, Time, and Location: **November 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm** in the **Administration Building**

We look forward to working with you so that all students can succeed in school.

Sincerely,

Deanne Smith, Federal Programs Coordinator, dsmith@arleeschools.org 406-726-3216x2305