

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Contacts:**

Dr. Kimberly DeBruycker, Superintendent, Gallatin Gateway School  
406-763-4415, [debruycker@gallatingatewayschool.com](mailto:debruycker@gallatingatewayschool.com)  
Allyson Hagen, OPI, 406-444-3160, [ahagen2@mt.gov](mailto:ahagen2@mt.gov)

## **Gallatin Gateway School Celebrates Whole Child Healthy Living Day and Indian Education for All**

On Tuesday, May 13, Gallatin Gateway School (GGS) will host a “Whole Child Healthy Living Celebration” to highlight their efforts to implement Indian Education for All (IEFA) and promote health and wellness. GGS has a strong emphasis on the whole child, where healthy eating, physical activity, IEFA, academics and emotional health are cultivated through their exceptional programs and curriculum.

Gallatin Gateway School is a statewide leader in school wellness and IEFA. GGS provides a variety of engaging IEFA activities throughout the school year. Students participate in field trips, including visits to the Museum of the Rockies and the local Little Bear Schoolhouse Museum, the Buffalo Jump and Missouri Headwaters, Gallatin Valley Farm Fair, on-site river studies of the Gallatin and Madison, Yellowstone Park at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch, Earth Day Summit at the Flying D Ranch and even Washington D.C. All students in first through eighth grade participate in greenhouse lessons through hands-on science, health and art classes.

“I am looking forward to celebrating the efforts of Gallatin Gateway School to bring Indian Education for All to life in the classroom,” said Superintendent Denise Juneau. “Because of the hard work of the staff at Gallatin Gateway, the young people in their community will have a better understanding of all Montana's people as they shape the future of our state.”

Gallatin Gateway School (GGS) in Gallatin Gateway, Montana, has received an Indian Education for All (IEFA) Grant, awarded by the Office of Public Instruction, as recognition of their outstanding efforts to incorporate IEFA throughout their school on an on-going basis. The IEFA grant, designed by Ashley Davis, 4<sup>th</sup> grade GGS teacher, develops the cultural proficiency of students and enhances classroom lessons through increased teacher knowledge and inclusion of accurate IEFA enrichment materials.

Ashley Davis said, “The success of this grant rested on the collaborative efforts of the staff at GGS. We have been administratively supported by continued training as well as emerging resources and curriculum to enrich our instruction of IEFA. With the staff’s genuine passion for educating our students in the history specific to Montana, we appreciate the opportunity this grant allowed our staff to share an accurate picture of the lives and experiences of all Montanans.”

The \$4,200 grant has allowed teachers to attend workshops to examine and design instruction based on best practices in teaching IEFA and to participate in professional development opportunities hosted by renowned experts in the field. With the efforts of this grant, GGS staff taught 20 new IEFA lessons in kindergarten through eighth grade classes. The goal of their grant work is to have 100 percent of the teaching staff including IEFA in weekly lesson plans.

Dr. DeBruycker said, “I am extremely proud of the Gallatin Gateway School staff for their creative ideas, dedication, and commitment to their own IEFA education as they prepare themselves to provide these tremendous opportunities to develop the whole child.” Our students are very fortunate!”

During the morning of May 13, the middle school students will be building a wickiup on the playground. Beginning at 11:25am, students will lead tours of the greenhouse and the newly planned Three Sisters Garden. A traditional Native American meal, including bison stew, will be served to students and guests and while in the lunchroom, the mural by artist Erin Jones Graf will be revealed. This mural incorporates the Native story of the Three Sisters, My Plate and the gardening practices at Gallatin Gateway School. A community assembly follows lunch with students performing skits, guests sharing Native stories, and awards and recognition given for extraordinary efforts to promote the whole child.

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Kitchen staff will be recognized for their promotion of healthy meals and snacks through scratch cooking. The librarian, Kacee Krob, students, and staff will be recognized for winning the Montana Library Program of the Year; Elizabeth Matthews, sixth grade teacher, will be acknowledged for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; Michael Herdina, eighth-grade teacher, will be awarded a RURAL TRUST Global Teacher Fellowship to travel and study the First World War in Belgium and France; and recognition will be given to fourth grade teacher Ashley Davis for being selected to receive a Veggie U Classroom Garden Kit.

**The celebration for guests will begin at 11:00 am with students sharing the third-grade classroom's tribal murals, followed by a traditional Native American lunch at 11:45 am. At 12:40 pm there will be a special community assembly with State Superintendent Denise Juneau as the keynote speaker along with special guests. The celebration will wrap up from 2:15 – 3:00 pm with time for guests to visit with students at different locations around the school. Parents and community members are invited to enjoy the assembly.**

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