



## HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT INDIAN EDUCATION



December, 2020

### **INDIGENOUS NEWS NOW**

As we are into December, we are approaching the winter solstice. It is a time for our Native people to partake in our winter ceremonies. Many different tribes among Turtle Island have their own ceremonies. Round dances come from the Cree Nation and are usually in full swing by now. People are usually traveling many, many miles to participate in a night or two of dancing. Songs from our people carry powerful healing. This year our people are hurting. Not because we can't gather to share our songs and prayers, but because the Covid-19 pandemic is attacking our people all over Turtle Island. I know in the past I spoke briefly about the Navajo Nation and how they were suffering. Now here in Montana, our own neighboring tribes are being attacked. So far this year the virus has almost taken out a whole generation of elders in all of our 7 reservations. With a total of over 600 deaths in Montana, well over 200 of them belong to Natives. This generation of elders hold a lot of knowledge that will either die with them or continue on through relations who they shared stories with. Many tears are being shed throughout the world and it isn't over yet.

Through these trying times we still try to heal, by praying, singing, and dancing. We may not be able to gather but that does not stop us from sharing through social media. Social media has allowed us to gather virtually, to powwow dance, play stickgames, sing for each other, and still feel some sort of connection. Although it is not the same, we can still feel the power that comes with the song and prayer.

I want to thank all Helena School District staff for all the effort you put forth through these trying times.

Amanda WalkingChild

Here is a link to updated information going on in Indian country:

<https://indiancountrytoday.com>

Native news in Montana:

<https://nativenews.jour.umt.edu/projects/>

For PE teachers or teachers who would like in incorporate a little physical activity:

<https://youtu.be/4iglWnspmTs>

Here is a short stickgame clip for enjoyment:

<https://youtu.be/LFNw-c-3bLg>

Here is a video of one of the last round dances held before we couldn't gather.

<https://youtu.be/IWF5er3wasY>



Thank you to the ones who joined to be liaisons this year. The dates for the meetings:

October 13, 2020 – first meeting  
November 10, 2020 – second meeting  
December 8 – third meeting  
January 12, 2021  
February 9, 2021  
March 9, 2021  
April 13, 2021  
May 11, 2021

### **Resources**

Interactive online game grades 3-5 with culture (can be used for upper grades for brush up work)

<https://www.7generationgames.com>

I would recommend this video for all to watch  
Living Life in a Circle- TEDTALKS- this is a good video for all students to watch. It is inspirational and gives insight to how the world around us is connected.

[https://youtu.be/niRs\\_VlqzYU](https://youtu.be/niRs_VlqzYU)

Blackfeet short story

<https://youtu.be/KOHeiQNBa0Y>

Cree short story about the stars

[https://youtu.be/\\_c32oPktzcw](https://youtu.be/_c32oPktzcw)

Yellowstone

<https://www.pbs.org/edens/yellowstone/teach2.html>

NIEA Many online teaching resources including reading, videos, lessons and more for all grade level k-12.

<https://www.niea.org/new-blog-2/virtual-resources>