



Beachlines

A safety newsletter for
our employees and
friends

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Greg and Scott Beach, sons of Bob and grandsons of company founder Ray Beach.

From the Driver's Seat

BY GREG BEACH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Whatever you are, be a good one."

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Whatever you are... Be a good one." Old-fashioned, solid advice from such a wise man should not be ignored. Abe's quote serves to remind me of the awesome responsibility that we have here at Beach Transportation and how important it is that each and every one of us performs to the best of our ability.

The Cub scout motto follows a similar vein; "Do Your Best". I think that both Abe and the scouting program embrace what's best about America. When each individual strives to be the best he or she can be, Americans have created the most dynamic, prosperous country on earth.

Our job at Beach is more than just transportation. I overheard someone in the driver's lounge as he laughed that the job of school bus driver is like a lion tamer, "and we have to keep our back to the lions." Yes, we may be lion tamers but remember, whatever you are, be a good one! You are the first face of the school district that a student sees and you set the tone for the day. Recording a friendly "Hi, how are you doing?" sets the right tone and helps keep a bus full of young, energetic riders (lions) safe and under control. It doesn't matter if you work at McDonalds, drive a school bus, teach, or you're a world famous heart surgeon. Every job is important. We transport America's most precious cargo and you literally hold the hopes

and dreams of the nation in the palm of your hands. You can take great pride in the fact that you're bettering our society and our world by your efforts in doing your best every day.

Public service often goes unnoticed; especially the many hours of time and effort required. We are however, keenly aware of your dedication and commitment and you can take great satisfaction in the fact that you serve the greater good. As Beach Transportation, we realize that without your individual efforts and your care and concern for the children that we transport, our organization could not succeed. From our school bus drivers who start their day at 5:00 a.m. transporting the Blackfoot and Beavertail Hill kids to the bus attendant helping a wheelchair student get to class to the motorcoach driver bringing the team home safely from Billings at 3:00 in the morning, you get the job done, day in and day out.

Thank you for bringing your special gifts to our organization and thank you, in advance, for providing safe, reliable transportation to our young people. Scott and I appreciate each and every one of you for the fine job that you do. You play an important role and you make a difference.

Reminders:

- Make sure all areas around the front, back and sides of the bus, the "Danger Zone", are clear before moving your bus.
- Please remember to check your bus after every run for sleeping children and items left behind.
- Go over the safety rules with your students the first week of school. Let them know the rules are to keep them safe and they are expected to follow them.
- Please use your radio for bus business only. Please keep your radio turned up and keep as many problems off the air as possible
- Please follow your routes as scheduled.

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From the GM:

I would like to welcome back all employees and also a big welcome to all of our new employees. Another new school year is upon us. It is an exciting time of the year. It is that time of year where we must set the tone for safety. Student riders need to understand safety rules starting from the first day of school.

I would like to start the year by addressing the importance of making sure that all riders are seated properly while the bus is in motion. Remember that each school bus seat is a safety compartment. In order to maximize rider safety, students must be seated properly within this safety compartment. The Montana Office of Public Instruction is the agency that determines our school bus standards. One of the school bus standards that is found in the **“Montana Pupil Transportation Handbook”** reads:

“School buses provide the safest form of Pupil transportation. An integral part of providing “safe” transportation in a school bus is that the passengers must be properly seated. From a safety perspective, a person who is either standing or improperly seated in a school bus is not afforded the benefits of the safety protection designed into the vehicle and is in the increased jeopardy of injury in the event of a crash or extreme sudden driving maneuver.”

It is the school bus driver’s responsibility to make sure that students are seated properly. Over the years, I have heard many times that certain drivers are allowing students to stand or move around the bus while it is motion. Drivers, this standard does not give you a choice. You do not have the authority to allow students to stand or move around the bus. Students **must** be seated while the bus is in motion. If you are having difficulty getting students to sit, come into the office for some advice. We have an endless amount of experience and may be able to help you. If all else fails, you may have to write a **School Bus Discipline Report** which will notify the school and the parents that we need some help in getting the student to ride the bus a bit safer.

To start the school year, each driver will

introduce themselves to their passengers using the **“Mandatory Greeting”** card which will be found in your company mailbox. Each driver will need to introduce themselves to their passengers and follow the guidelines that are printed on the card. Your riders will hear the expectations that you have of yourself to start the school year which will establish respect from your riders. Then, you will be able to go over the **School Bus Rules** with each student and explain that students will be expected to follow those rules. With this process, you will have introduced yourself to your riders, given each rider the expectations that you have of yourself and the expectations that you have of them. At this point, we will be able to start the discipline process for the school year. It is consistent for all drivers and will be consistent for the school administrators that will help us with discipline issues. Remember, to be nice when we deliver this message and also remember that confrontation with students throughout the school year just doesn’t work

When we load and unload passengers, it is regarded as the “Moment of Truth.” Of the ten bus rules, you will see that 6 of those rules pertain to passengers that are either departing the school bus or are outside the school bus. Inside the school bus, children are riding on the safest form of transportation there is. Outside the school bus, children are at risk. Drivers need to count the students that depart their bus at each stop. Drivers then need to account for each student before the bus departs. Students that need to cross the road need to cross in front of the bus and wait for the driver’s signal to let them know

*All Students Must Cross
In Front of the bus*

that it is safe to cross. Regardless of your rider’s grade level, **all** students must cross in front of the bus. As you can see, this is an area that will require your total focus. Do not get into a habit of disciplining students or conversing with other riders during the loading and unloading process.

As we all know, the first few weeks of school are at times very confusing. Parents, students, school staff and drivers are

learning the nuances of the bus. Children often times are confused about where there bus stops are. At times, children actually get on the wrong bus which confuses everyone! In order to lessen the confusion surrounding the first few weeks of school, Beach Transportation



has put together great information to help parents, schools and bus drivers understand what each of our expectations might be. This information is entitled:

Elementary School Bus Information for Parents & Students.

This information is being disseminated throughout the school district. In turn, each school is going to make sure that parents receive this information prior to the start of school. Each employee will receive this information in their company mail box. The one point that I would like to stress regarding this information to all drivers and attendance is: we need to begin knowing our bus riders on the first day of school and on the first day that Kindergarten students ride. We do not have the luxury of taking too long to know these students. Remembering student’s names can be tough but we should begin to remember faces and where those faces are getting on and off the bus each day. We cannot possibly know all of our students on the first day of school but within a week or two we should be able to identify who is getting off at each stop each day. Please understand that you are expected to be able to identify each of your riders within the first few weeks of school. Let’s embrace this task wholeheartedly on the very first day of school. One area that I haven’t discussed is the area of fun. Enjoy your school year. Most of all, enjoy your riders. Let the kids know when they are doing things right. Don’t get caught looking for students misbehaving. Rather, praise kids for good behavior. You will gain respect and your year will run so much better with a respectful group of kids. Our doors are always open. If you have any questions or need a little advice, drop in anytime. Thank you for being a part of the best school bus team in the world.

EVERYDAY HEROES



When you hear the word hero, do you think of someone with super-human strength or someone who bravely saves another from a great tragedy? The police force, fire department, the military and medical personnel are often referred to as heroes.



But, there's another kind of hero. The kind of hero who, day after day, influences our lives with a kind gesture, encouraging words, dedicated service and their examples of integrity and hard work. We have these types of heroes at Beach Transportation. Their job descriptions name them as "Bus driver" and "Bus attendant" but they are oh, so much more than that! They get up at o' dark thirty to run a high school route armed with a cup of coffee and a smile. They drive rural routes of long distances and are ever protectively watchful for fast traffic and wild animals at the bus stops. They transport students in wheelchairs, ever vigilant that the student is safe and secure and happy on the bus. They put on Band-Aids, find dropped treasures, wipe away tears and learn the names of dozen of students so they can let them know they care. These heroes laugh at knock, knock jokes and listen to stories about the victories and losses on the ballfield. They exemplify true humanity in their concern for others. They are ordinary people who make themselves extraordinary through the positive influence they have on the young people they transport. These heroes are you, our drivers and attendants, and you do make a difference.

I've heard it said that we have a thankless job. I don't believe that statement to be true. It's just that the

"Thank You" comes in the form of a picture drawn with crayons, or a home-made treat presented with a grin and a sticky hand. It comes in the form of a shy high school student who sits up front because she feel safe sitting up by the bus driver. It comes from little gifts during the holidays and the wave of a trusting parent. Rest assured, the students know who you are and if you are indeed a hero in their lives.

Two stanzas from Robert Nilsen poem, Everyday Heroes:

Let's talk about everyday heroes, People who go on every day ordinary people like you and I making a positive contribution to all people who do not always win doing their job as best they can but are always willing to try. Standing proud, straight and tall. It's said that everyone has a hero inside that is just waiting to be released. That hero is one that saves lives quietly by their everyday positive impact. I applaud you for your continuing efforts to do your best and welcome you back from the summer break.

Thank you for bringing your bullet proof smiles and wearing your capes of patience and understanding as we start this wonderful new school year.

Happy Birthday		
September	Mark Wiggins	Fred Kelly
Keith	Jon Ekstrand	David Scott
Guschausky	Lili Sanclair	Tracie Hoffman
Pete Hasquet	Mike Magone	Dawn Bennett
Betty Schmitz	Megan Beach	John Petrou
Loren Pinski	Emily Beach	Frank Hegel
Diane Skelton	Josh Spaid	Nick Littman
Dave Holcomb	Cindy Lawyer	Ray Robertson
Tony Hummel	LeGrande Harvey	Jason Spaid
Jonathan McRae	Glen Moyer	Vida Long
Rebecca Davis	Christina Ward	December
Della Duane	Jack Ballas	Bill Hoffman
Judith Church	Scott	Jay Raser
Bob Mock	Wittenberg	Mary
Pam Erickson	November	Belobraidic
Sharon Litte	Cody Brown-	Nicci Mielke
Plume	Fitzgerld	Sierra Brandt
Greg Guscio	Bev Solum	Marv Kahler
October	Cindy Marcum	Paul Willett
Mabel Weis		Peter Nimlos
		Marilyn Griffin
		Debbie Wedel
		Larry G Allen

Meet the New Team Members:

Drivers: Joe Stubb, Cody Brown-Fitzgerald, Nate Krause, Brad Zander, Gary Urquhart, Mike Magone, Jay Raser, , Russell Townsend, Sharon Little Plume, Sheryce Vincent, Ton Yelton

Attendants: Tianah Shaw, Connie Birdwell, Ginny Thormahlen, Vida Long, Paul Yelton

National School Bus Safety Week October 16-20, 2017

Schools around the country will recognize School Bus Safety Week, Schools and other groups can arrange for school bus safety presentations by calling the Beach Transportation office, 549-6121, or emailing



beachtrans@beachtrans.com . More safety materials are available at www.beachtrans.com

Montana DR.I.V.E.

Every summer Beach Transportation sends four drivers to the Montana DR.I.V.E. in Lewistown MT. They learn direction, motion control, evasive steering, controlled braking, skid control, off-road recovery, and cornering. This year John Greener, Jennifer Bergman, David Painter, Tammi Robinson were able to attend the class.



Look'n up the road



Please check the dry-erase board in the Lounge for changes to this calendar.

Early Out: DeSmet, Lolo, Target Range and MCPS run on Early Out schedules every Thursday. Early Out schedules for Woodman are as noted below and will be posted on the drivers board

There will be monthly Safety meetings held in the lounge. Please check your employee calendar for day Safety drawing will be in the wash bay .

MANDT Training & 1st Aid/CPR—
Date to be announced

August

- 28 DeSmet & MCPS (K-9)- First Day
- 29 MCPS (10-12)- First Day
- 30 Lolo & Target Range- First Day

September

- 4 Labor Day—No school
- 5 Woodman—First Day
- 11 MCPS Preschool- First Day
- 5-8 Safety Meetings
- 21 Attendants Mtg.
- 25 DeSmet, Lolo & MCPS (Pre-12), Woodman—No School

October

- 6 Target Range—1/2 Day
- 10-13 Safety Meetings
- 19-20 All districts—No school. MEA
- 31 Pizza Party

November

- 7 Daylight Savings
- 9 MCPS (K-8) & DeSmet- 1/2 Day
- 9 MCPS (Preschool) No School
- 10 MCPS (Pre-12) & DeSmet No School (Willard will have school)
- 14-17 Safety Meeting
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Break—No school
- 27 Willard No School

December

- 5-8 Safety Meeting
- 21 Woodman No School
- 21 Lolo No Early Out
- 21 Christmas Party

9 AM

- Dec. 22-Jan. 1
- Winter Vacation
- No school All districts.



Missoula Marathon

Beach would like to thank our
3:30 AM hero's.

It's not easy saying yes to a 3:30 AM job and it's even more difficult finding 50 people to agree to do it. The morning of July 9th 50 Drivers helped with another year successfully transporting runners to either the Full or the Half Marathon. Thank you for your support and dedication to Beach Transportation and the Missoula Community!



Here to Help!

By Anne Buck

BEACHLINES WRITER

As Missoula continues to grow so does the number of kids, therefore the need for school transportation. This fact is more apparent every year as Beach Transportation continues to grow. With the extra work load that comes with growth we added Wayne Wade to our office staff last year and changed some of the office responsibilities.

So who do you go to when you need HELP?

Becky – Receptionist/ Secretary

Becky is the first smiling face to greet you when you walk in the door. She is also the voice on the phone when you call and on the radio.

When you start your shift always make sure to check in with Becky in person or on the radio so we know you are here. As much as we like having you stop by and visit, **PLEASE** remember it can be VERY hard to hear the radio with a lot of background noise so **PLEASE** do not hang out at her desk during busy times.



Wayne Wade- Driver Recruiter/ Discipline

If you are having issues with students behavior on a bus Wayne is here to help. He can give you some suggestions on working with the students, he receives the conduct reports, and he works with the school to resolve any student conflict.



Tracie Hoffman- Safety Director

Tracie is here for any safety questions of concerns you may have. Safety issues regarding stop concerns, lot safety, or any driving concerns you may have. Driver certifications such as fist aid, CPR, physicals, licensing, ect. would fall under her safety hat. She also has refills for your first aid or body fluid clean up kit, hopefully you never see her for that. She also is the person to see regarding accidents, including any nicks or dings that may occur. Remember, if you're a driver and you get a ticket out side of work, you still need to report it to Tracie as soon as possible.



Josh Spaid- Assistant Dispatcher

Josh takes care of a variety of dispatching duties. If you need some direction regarding your route or a field trip he is here to help. He also handles staffing for the routes, so if you're looking for a change he's the guy to tell. Remember we may not always be able to accommodate at the time but if you tell him he can make a note for when something opens up.



Anne Buck- Special Needs

Anne builds the ever changing special needs routes. If you have questions on a special needs student, stop or times please see her for help. She can also help with suggestions on working with these students, and she can call the teacher to get additional help and tools, however conduct reports still go to Wayne. Full size bus drivers, please note the goal is to mainstream special needs students, meaning when they are able you may see them on a full size bus with their peers.



Carlin Cavill- Director of Maintenance

He is here for any question you have regarding the functions of your bus. Remember to fill out a bus defect form rather than calling in on the radio so we can keep it open for emergencies. Please ask the small questions before they become big.



Robert Mitchell (Mitch)- General Manager

In the day to day, Mitch handles the employee scheduling when you need time off and for field trips. If you need time off, make sure to get the form from Becky but turn it in to Mitch. As the general manager he would be here for any personal problems or concerns you may have.



So remember check in with Becky, if it's safety its Tracie, students issues Wayne, Special Needs Anne, Field trips or route question Josh, mechanical Carlin and time off or the big issues Mitch.



Beach Transportation Co.

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We Deliver!

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School Bus Safety Tips

SCHOOL ZONE!

Here are some important bus safety reminders from your friends at BEACH TRANSPORTATION



Tips for Parents

1. Walk your children to and from the bus stop.
2. Stay with your children make sure they get to the bus stop on time, wait back from the curb and avoid rough play.
3. Teach your children to ask the driver for help if they drop something near the bus.
4. If you have safety concerns about the bus stop location, please contact your school.
5. Have a backup plan in case the bus is delayed.

Beach Transportation
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Tip for Kids

1. Be at the bus stop early
2. Wait for the bus in a safe place - away from the road.
3. Take your seat right away; stay seated at all times.
4. Keep the bus clean.
5. Keep all of your body inside the bus.
6. Listen to the driver; follow directions
7. Leave the bus carefully, using the handrails.
8. Take 10 giant steps away from the bus before crossing in front of it.
9. Look both ways before crossing the road.
10. If you drop or forget something, ask your driver for help; stay away from the bus.

SCHOOL BUS
SAFETY TIPS

Read Bus Schedules Online: www.beachtrans.com