



Beachlines

Volume 29

Issue 1

Fall 2020

A safety newsletter
for our employees
and friends



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

From the Driver's Seat

GREG BEACH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Greetings drivers and attendants!

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 knowing that you serve the greater good.

As Beach Transportation starts our 79th year, we realize that without your individual efforts and your care and concern for the children that we transport, our organization could not succeed. In years past we have asked our school bus drivers to start their day at 5:00 a.m. transporting from the Blackfoot and Beavertail Hill, bus attendants helping a wheelchair student get to class, and motor coach driver bringing the teams home safely from Billings at 3:00 a.m. Now we are asking you once again to help bring hope into our students lives with safe transportation to school this year. We understand these trying times

we are living in, but we thank you for your continued support and dedication to your community.

I'm reminded at the start of a new school year as I see the many friendly faces, both new and old, that pass through our doors, that each one of us has unique gifts, given by our Creator, to help make this world a better place. God has given everyone a special gift and it doesn't work without each of us giving our gift to others and the world we're creating. Our nation has often been termed a "melting pot" and has long encouraged the immigration of new people that bring their special gifts and talents to what has been seen over the decades as a land of opportunity. This process has not been without its pains, its struggles; yet, overall has created a most dynamic, innovative and powerful country, as a result of the pooling of the many temperaments, talents, and convictions of so many valiant people. Thank you for bringing your special gifts to our organization and thank you, in advance, for your efforts in providing safe, reliable transportation to our young people.

Have a great school year!

With all the new COVID procedures don't forget the basics!

- **Danger Zone-** Make sure all areas around the front, back and sides of the bus, the "Danger Zone", are clear before moving your bus.
- **Sleeping Children-** Please remember to check your bus after every run for sleeping children and items left behind.
- **Expectations-** 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.
- **Radio-** Please use your radio for bus business only. Please keep your radio turned up. Especially this year the radio will be an important source of information. Please keep personal information regarding students off the air.
- **Routes -** Please follow your routes as scheduled.

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From the GM:

Welcome back to all! We would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new employees. We look forward to having you on the Beach Transportation team. I, personally, have never been so happy to begin a new school year even if it will be filled with questions and uncertainty. I trust that everyone has had adequate time off and are ready to get back to transporting children safely to and from school.

The COVID 19 virus has caused each of us to alter our lives in a great number of ways. I do not want to get political but I, frankly, am sick of listening to people that question how serious this virus is. Many of us have had friends and family members directly impacted by the virus itself. We have seen the impact on businesses across our country. It is a serious time and should be taken seriously by all.

I would like to spend some time discussing why it is so important to follow the directives that have been put into place by our federal, state, local governments and Beach Transportation.

Since mid-March, we all have been bombarded by messages that are intended to prevent the spread of the virus. Take your temperature, if you have any symptoms stay home, wash your hands constantly, wear a mask, disinfect and practice social distancing. We have been bombarded because these messages work. Five months ago, this seemed a bit overwhelming but today it is common practice. As we prepare for the reopening of school, all of these measures are still key to preventing the spread of the virus. Yet, I constantly see that people are not taking these simple steps to protect themselves or to protect others.

I would like to spend some time and have all of us give serious thought into why these safety measures are especially important as we gather at Beach Transportation to start the school year. I have had many folks

in the past few months ask me; "What will happen if an employee at Beach Transportation tests positive for the virus?" We at Beach Transportation should be ready if this day comes. If a person should test positive, our first action would be to contact the MCHD investigator, our business can be expected to shut down long enough for the investigator to do their job. They will want to know who at Beach Transportation has been in "close contact"

of the person that tested positive. "Close contact" is defined as any person that has been within 6 feet of the infected person for longer than 15 minutes. Folks, if we follow the protocols that are currently in place, in theory, we would not have anyone considered to be in "close contact." Remember, there is no reason to be standing closer than 6 feet from a fellow employee or from anyone else for that matter. Of course, Beach Transportation would be busy disinfecting everything. If employees are following all of the protocols that have been implemented,



it would be our hope that the MCHD would reopen Beach Transportation for business in just a short time. If we should have a number of employees that do not understand the protocols or simply refused to follow the protocols, they will put themselves, other employees, and our business at risk.

To summarize, Beach Transportation has always been a wonderful place to socialize with friends. We greatly look forward to that day when we can once again gather in our driver's lounge. That may take a little while longer. Until then, please understand the importance of following all the safety protocols that are currently in place. Beach Transportation has produced two videos that you can find on YouTube that explain the current protocols that are in place in both our offices and on the school bus. They are great resources. We dwell so much on the COVID 19 virus but do not let that take your attention away from your daily duties of keeping children safe. We will be very busy on the radio with the various messages. Keep your radio up and please pay close attention to each message. I hope that you understand the importance of each. Wishing all a happy and safe school year. Stay well.

Happy Birthday

September

Keith
Guschausk
Pete Hasquet
Mike Rolfes
Betty Schmitz
Dave Holcomb
Jerry
Seidensticker
Tony Hummel
Della Duane
Judith Church
Kim Deschamps

October

John Ekstrand
Wily Williams
Josh Spaid
Laila Mascarena
Glen Moyer
Michael Larson
Jack Ballas
Cindy Hinricher

November

Jessica Browder
Michael Riel
Hank Jennings

Bev Solum
Joe Boland
Cindy Marcum
Fred Kelly
David Scott
Tracie Hoffman
Michael
Rossmiller
John Petrou
Frank Hegel
Alex Childs
Jason Spaid
Callie Cavill

Clarence Veal
Jan Deschamps

December

Bill Hoffman
Hudson Norman
Jay Raser
Marv Kahler
Paul Willett
Peter Nimlos
Marilyn Griffin
Scott Amons
Dusty Thomas
Larry G Allen
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Don't Mask the Need for Safety



By TRACIE STAHL
Safety Director

Beach Transportation has always tried to be pro-active with its operations. We continually watch the industry and quickly adapt innovations and standards that help make our business safer and more effective. With the current problems the pandemic has created, we continue to look for ways to help keep our employees and our buses as safe as possible. While these changes may be bothersome to some, they are designed to keep us safe as we start a new school year. We are optimistic that these changes are only temporary and that life as we knew it will return. Until then let's all work to keep each other safe. We have implemented many changes starting with our check-in for work. One of the best parts of this job for me, has been the social interaction with each of you. It's the feel of friends and family at work. Many of us come into the office or wait for our bus at the Flannigan building and enjoy visiting with the other drivers and attendants. That will have to be put on hold for a bit. For the present, we will be checking in exclusively over the radio. Attendants should go directly to their buses. The driver should check in both themselves and their attendant, over the radio, to limit who touches the radio.

The Main office and the Flannigan's building will be open for use of the bathrooms only. Standby substitutes should be the only drivers and attendants sitting inside the office lounge. There will be no coffee or newspapers available during this time, be sure to prepare your insulated cup at home. The shop and small room by Carlin's office will also be unavailable for social visiting. If you congregate outside to visit, social distance yourselves, keep it short and please wear your masks. Share waves, quick stories, and smiles with your eyes, but don't share the virus. There may be times you have to come into the main office on business or to check your mailbox, there are some changes there as well. To limit close contact, the office is set up for 1-way traffic, just like the aisles in the grocery store. The front door, on the southside of the building, will be the entrance. The back door, on the north will be the exit. Since we've instituted the one-way building traffic flow, I have added many steps to my pedometer because I keep forgetting the back door is locked!

If you need to talk to one of the staff, please respect their space by staying behind the yellow tape either at their office entryway or just inside their office. We would prefer that you let us know over the bus radio that you would like to visit with one of us and we will call you on the phone after your bus run. We consider what you have to say im-

"We are optimistic that these changes are only temporary"

portant, unless you are touting the victory of the opposing sports team, so don't just keep your questions and comments to yourself because it too cumbersome to set up a phone call. For the short term, we are trying to limit the number of bodies in the office. Please use your bus radio to set up a phone call.

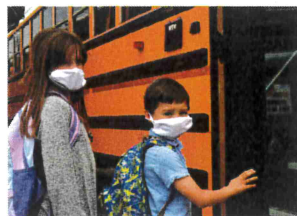
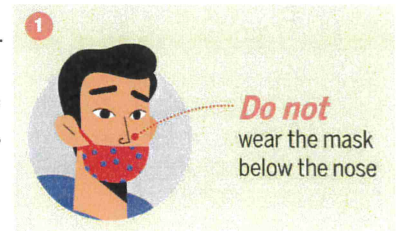
Masks will be required for both drivers and attendants. Because of our current restrictions in public, most of us are acquainted with this change. Wear one that fits. A mask does no good if it is continually sliding off your nose, fogs your glasses or is too thin to stop a cough or a sneeze.

Some of our Special Needs students, for medical reasons, can't wear masks. To help with the safety of our attendants, face shields will be issued. Face shields protect you from droplets spread through coughs

and sneezes. It does not protect the people around you from your germs so you will need to wear a mask with the shield. Drivers may choose to wear a shield while the students are loading or unloading at the school. It must however, be removed to drive because it obstructs your vision. On the bus things will look different. Students will be wearing masks and we will be instructing the students to load from back to front to limit close contact passing in the aisle. We will be leaving the front seat and the one directly behind the driver open, to give you a buffer zone. And we want only drivers and attendants to open and close the windows to help cut down on touching.

We will also be thoroughly disinfecting our buses on a daily basis. Don't skip this part! We are requiring you to liberally spray down the high touch areas of your bus at the end of the afternoon route. Tops of seats, seatbelts, window frames, handrails and the driver's area should be part of your everyday sanitation. If you have time, we also encourage you to spray down high touch areas between routes. This will kill even more unwanted germs.

Drivers and Attendants, I am, with all of you, looking forward to the days that we can relax our vigilance and get back to a not so cautious way of association and I am confident that time will come. For now, however, we need to keep ourselves and those around us as safe as possible as we endeavor to get Missoula's Children back to school. You have risen to and exceeded our expectations in the past and I would expect no difference now. Mask up, bring your great attitudes and welcome back to another great year on the bus!



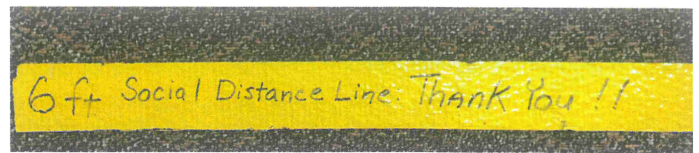
Indoor COVID changes

In our effort to adhere to social distancing and minimizing touch points Beach will look a little different this year.

Office

The office will be open for necessary business only.

- ◇ It is now set up for one way traffic only. You will need to enter thru the front door and exit thru the back door.
- ◇ The drivers lounge will be for stand by drivers and attendants who are not on a routes only
- ◇ The office will no longer be able to provide coffee or the newspaper.
- ◇ Please check in on the radio instead of coming into the office.
- ◇ Please note the yellow lines on the floor to help us maintain social distancing.
- ◇ If you have questions and concerns please call on the phone whenever possible.



Washbay/Carlins office

Unfortunately this will no longer be a place to socialize .

Flannigans

The Flannigan's building will be open for limited use .

- ◇ Please do not congregate or wait for your route inside the building.
- ◇ The bathroom will be open
- ◇ If you do not have internet access there will be socially distanced viewings of Tracie's YouTube training recordings.



Shop

Lets keep the shop guys healthy by staying completely out of the shop.

- ◇ Please use the bus defect form in the office
- ◇ If you need the shop please radio them or call Carlin when you are not in your bus.



Thank you for your patients during this trying time and please remember
This Is Only Temporary

Look'n up the road

Please check your email or the Drivers Board for changes to this calendar.

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

August

- 25 DeSmet first day
- 26 MCPS (K, 6th , &9th)& Lolo- First Day

September

- 1 Target Range, MCPS EK & Pre-K First Day
- 3 Woodman – First Day
- 7 **Labor Day—No school**
- 8 Flu Shots– 9-10:30 am
- 25 Lolo& Woodman –No School

October

- 14 DeSmet No School
- 15-16 All districts—No school. MEA
- 19-23 School Bus Safety Week
- 22 MCPS Preschool– no School
- 23 MCPS Preschool & Woodman– No School

November

- 3 Target Range– No School
- 6 Woodman– No School
- 12 MCPS (P-8) Lolo, & DeSmet- 1/2 Day



- 13 MCPS (Pre-12) & DeSmet Lolo, No School

25-27 Thanksgiving Break—No school

December

Winter Vacation

- MCPS, Target Range & Woodman**
- Dec. 21-Jan. 1
- DeSmet, Lolo,**
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1

In addition to these calendar dates please remember that the different school districts will be altering their schedules as needed while COVID cases are still a concern.

Missoula County Public Schools Current Plan

Phase 1

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Date	Students	Date	Students
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Week 1	Aug 27	A-K	Aug 28	L-Z
Week 2	Sept 1 & 2	A-K	Sept 3 & 4	L-Z
Week 3	Sept 8 & 9	A-K	Sept 10 & 11	L-Z
Week 4	Sept 15 & 16	A-K	Sept 17 & 18	L-Z

Starting on Sept 21, Phase 2, Every Day, Every Student based on guidance from the county health department

K-5 students	8:30am-2:10pm
6-8 students	8:00am-1:30pm
9-12 students	10am-3:30pm

Phase 2

When we welcome all students back to school every day, we will still need to stagger the arrival times of students to ensure that we can manage group sizes on the buses and to keep from having large groups of staff and students in one place all at the same time.

Sept
21

Here To Help!

By Anne Buck
BEACHLINES WRITER

As the world finds there new “normal” here at Beach Transportation we are trying to make life as easy as we can. We keep asking you to call when ever possible but who do you need to talk to?

Becky Pamin – Secretary/ Receptionist

Becky is the first smiling face you see when you walk thru the door and the voice on the phone and radio. Please make sure to check in with Becky when you arrive for your shift so we know you’re here. Most years we would love to see you come thru the office to check in however this year drivers please check in on the radio and attendants please have your driver check you in on the radio.



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.

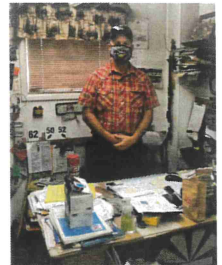
Anne Buck- Special Needs

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

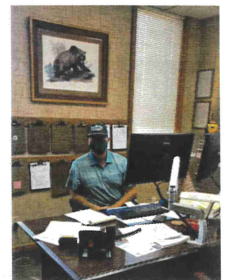
He is here for any question you have regarding the functions of your bus. Remember to fill out a bus defect form rather than calling in on the radio so we can keep it open for emergencies. Please ask the small questions before they become big.



Robert Mitchell (Mitch)- General Manager

As General Manager 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. 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.



Meet the New Team Members:

Drivers: Alix Childs, Jon Ekstrand, Carol Bartell, Michael Rossmiller, Paul Anderson, DeAndrea Grazier
Attendants: Jessica Browder, Deborah Joohnson, Kayetlin Alexander, Janice Deschamps, Michael Rolfes, Susie Graham, Toni Rentschler, Christine Crabb

Schools of Missoula Word Scramble

-Please unscramble the following words and use them for the word search

1. TENSENLI _____
2. ELAGTELH _____
3. BGI KYS _____
4. HASTGNIOWN _____
5. WAMDEO LHIL _____
6. S. C. REPROT _____
7. YOOALL _____
8. OLLO _____
9. DETSME _____
10. MDOAOWN _____
11. SWLEI DAN ARLKC _____

12. WORHAEHTN _____
13. TKTRELSAANE _____
14. EOLWLL _____
15. ARFKNINL _____
16. LDWALIR _____
17. ANXPOS _____
18. NSOJRFEFE _____
19. ENJANEETT KARNNI _____
20. LEALYV RATSIICHN _____
21. EFIHC AOLRHC _____
22. GAETTR GNERA _____

Montana Trivia

Q. Montana's (non-vanity) license plates are numbered between one and 56, with the numbers being each county's population rank in 1930. What are the first eight counties by license plate number? A. 1. Butte-Silver Bow (Butte), 2. Cascade (Great Falls), 3. Yellowstone (Billings), 4. Missoula 5. Lewis & Clark (Helena), 6. Gallatin (Bozeman), 7. Flathead (Kalispell), 8. Fergus (Lewistown)

Q. Which member of the Lewis and Clark party was mistaken for an elk by a near-sighted hunter in the party, and shot in the butt? A. Lewis

Q. Which Montana lake is the largest natural freshwater lake in the western United States? A. Flathead Lake.

Q. What year did the Griz-Cat football rivalry game, also known as "The Brawl of the Wild", begin? A. The Griz-Cat rivalry began Nov. 26, 1897, in Bozeman.

Q. What is the series record for the Griz-Cat football game," A. The Montana Grizzlies lead the series 73-39-5.

Q. What is the meaning of the stat motto oro y plata? A. "Gold and Silver"

Q, It's the only site on the Lewis and Clark Trail that has physical proof of the explorer's presence? A. Travelers Rest in Lolo.

Q. What does Tap-er Light mean? A. Tap 'er light is a phrase spoken primarily by natives of Butte meaning, "take it easy." The phrase dates back to the town's mining origins.

Q, What is the only North American gem to be included in the Crown Jewels of England. A. The Montana Yogo Sapphire.

Q. How many telephone area codes are there in Montana, the fourth largest state in the union? A. One: 406



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
825 Mount Ave., Missoula, MT 59801
(406)-549-6121 • www.beachtrans.com

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