



Beachlines



Volume 29, Issue 2

Winter, 2020

A Safety Training Letter for the Employees and Friends of Beach Transportation



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

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON by Greg Beach, Vice President

Without question, these are difficult times. Who would have thought that at the start of the year, we would be experiencing a worldwide pandemic with staggering health and economic consequences-- potentially for years to come.

During the Blitz, as Hitler was continually bombing London night after night in 1940 and 1941, the British people were reminded TO KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON. I too, encourage you to KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON during the COVID-19 crisis! Remember, that as a nation, we have been through tough times and faced many devastating events before. In the last century alone, we experienced World War I, the Spanish Influenza that wiped out more than 500,000 in the U.S. and over 50 million people world-wide, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War and the communist threat, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the 911 terrorist attacks as well and dozens and dozens of ruinous natural disasters including earthquakes, floods and wildfires, to name just a few events. However, no matter how bad it seems, because of our American spirit, we were able to collectively push on and get through it all. Therefore, know that together, we will also get through this and defeat COVID-19.

The present season is one that reminds me again and again that each and every one of us has been given special gifts from our Creator to help make this world a better place for our families, our schools, our state and

our nation. I therefore encourage you to use this time to volunteer for your community, to help out at your place of worship or to simply do a good turn for a neighbor.

Thank you for being a part of our transportation family and thank you for providing safe, reliable transportation for our young people. On behalf of Scott and the rest of our staff, have a wonderful holiday season. Despite all the we are going through, we all have much to be thankful for.

Please take care of yourselves, enjoy the Christmas holidays with loved ones and God Bless America!



Reminders:

- Please use the safe walking paths, do not cut across streets, walk slowly, and wear appropriate shoes.
- Please keep your route current by drawing an erasable line through those stops that are not used.
- Always double check the danger zone before moving your bus.
- Please keep the steps clean. Snow and Ice can cause students and employees to slip and fall.

Walk Like a Penguin

- * Walk flat-footed with your center of gravity directly over the feet as much as possible.
- * Extend your arms out to your sides to maintain balance
- * Keep your hands out of your pockets
- * Watch where you are stepping andGO S-L-O-W-L-Y!!!!!!
- * Take short steps or shuffle for stability



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From the GM:

By Bob Mitchell
General Manager

I would like to begin by wishing every person out there a wonderful holiday season. With all of the uncertainty in the world today, let's all be certain to make a great effort to enjoy the holidays. OK? Heaven knows how hard we have worked to keep our riders, fellow employees and ourselves safe at this time. Yes, we have had a few issues with the virus this school year but I believe that society as a whole has not been able to control the effects of the virus with one hundred percent success. For all of us, it is our first pandemic and hopefully our last. With all of the frustrations that have come with the pandemic, I have viewed a number of necessary protocols that have been put into place as very successful and I would go as far as to say we should consider staying with these protocols even after the pandemic has long passed. Let's discuss a few of these ideas.

In a normal school year, we would be in the middle of our cold and flu season. On a typical day, we would have anywhere from 5-10 people out sick. We are not seeing that this school year. Yes, we have had employees out with COVID 19 related issues, but we are not seeing many other employees requiring time off. It is obvious that all of the precautions that we are taking to avoid the spread of COVID 19 have definitely helped keep us healthy from all of the other annoying sicknesses that we see at this time of the year. The pandemic will not last forever and I personally believe that we will see the end of the tunnel by March. Let's all remember how successful these precautions have been when we get into the cold and flu season in future years. Why not wear a mask when you are on the bus, leave the windows cracked to keep good airflow, maintain social distance to the best of your abilities while on the bus, disinfect all high use areas as often as possible and keep a full bottle of hand sanitizer on your bus at all times. I really believe that we should not ever forget how well these important measures work. It just might have to be the new normal whenever we hit the cold and flu season. In a normal school year, Wayne has already dealt with hundreds of "School Bus Discipline Reports". So far this school year, Wayne has had virtually no discipline issues on buses. Yes, a few minor issues here and there but no big issues and certainly no tough groups of students. Why is that? Of course, one big reason is that under the current hybrid schedule our school buses are not full. That is not the only reason. I believe that having assigned seating is a great tool to keep students under



control. If students go directly to their assigned seat and buckle up, it prevents them from wandering through the bus with other students and getting into mischief. Assigned seating also cuts down immensely on vandalism. Right? Each student is responsible for the seat that they sit in. I would recommend that we do not forget how well behaved our students have been during the pandemic. I recommend that you keep your students in their assigned seats even after that pandemic is over. Then, you may want to assign seats on your bus as soon as the new school year begins. Many districts require assigned seating and I will address this with our school district prior to the start of school next year. Assigned seating is a win win for everyone.

Like everyone, I miss those days that we could all get together in our driver lounge and visit. Beach Transportation is such a wonderful place to socialize and catch up with all the gossip. I have always said that we know all the gossip in town because we start most of it from our drivers lounge! As much as we long for the good days, staying distanced has kept our company afloat. We have not had to deal with a large outbreak of the virus thus far. In most all cases, if we have had a positive COVID 19 case in our company, it has been isolated to one person. I do not believe that this is luck. Thank you all for your understanding that staying apart at this time is important. Let's remember that when we deal with the cold and flu season in the future that it may be prudent to limit our social time at Beach Transportation. However, if you have some good gossip, you can always call me.

I really have enjoyed the YouTube training that we have put together so far this school year. Tracie is a star for sure. It has been outstanding training and allows a person to view it on their own and when they have free time. It may be the wave of the future. Tracie is putting together a nice library of training material that we may be able to use in the future as well. Not only is the material thorough, it allows for issues that are specific to our company or community. Thank you to David Beach for introducing that technology to our company.

In conclusion, let's not forget those important protocols that we have been forced to implement at this time. Not only are they working for us during these challenging times but should continue to work for us in the future when this terrible pandemic is over. I hope that all of us are looking forward to our time off for the holidays. We have earned it. Take the time to stay safe but also to enjoy yourselves. There is a true spirit to Christmas and my wish is that all of us may be touched by that spirit some time over the holiday. Thank you to each and everyone for the incredible job you do every day. Merry Christmas to all and a truly Happy New Year.



Walking in the Dark

When a pedestrian crosses the street illegally they put themselves at risk. Pedestrians are to cross the street from corner to corner, not at an angle in the middle of the street. Drivers have a number of hazards to worry about in the dark please don't make yourself one of them. **Please use the safe walking paths.**



Winter is here and we need to be prepared! As bus drivers and attendants we need to be aware of the incoming weather. Extreme weather conditions make a difference in driving so plan to be early and give yourself enough time to get to your first stop on time. In the rare event school is delayed or closed that information will be on our Facebook and website. It will also be broadcast on radio and TV stations. ****If no closures are mentioned buses run at regular times.**



<p><u>January</u> Irene Nelson Kevin Verlanic Jan Jaspersen Dotty Marceau Mo Memoli Paul Anderson Dorrie Beach Becky Pamin Kelly Courage Robert Chaney Dianne Courage</p>	<p>Diana Heinrichs John Turman Adam Vylasek Lynne Jensen Ashley Duane Sarah Trueax</p> <p><u>February</u> Ken Stone Mike Officer Marie Waters</p>	<p>Pansy Vylasek Kris Stroup Charlie Haug Clay Burtsfield Wayne Wade David Beach Terry Sullivan Cameron Bartell Randy Hetz Cheryl Lingren Cathy Kaudy</p>	<p><u>March</u> Kathy Allen Susie Graham Karra Gillingham Paul Haviland Sue Alley Scott Beach Greg L. Miller Susan Webster Bob Palmer Troy Lawrence Bob Mitchell</p>	<p>Scott Whitmore Cliff Laub</p> <p><u>April</u> Bill Rodunet Kathy Yonce Brad Zander Shannon Beach Kevin Cregg Nate Dellinger Julie Petrou John Shively</p>
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Look'n up the road?



All schedules are subject to change! (and probably will)

This schedule does not reflect school reintroduction phases. Please check the drivers board on our web site, emailed Wednesday messages, and listen on the radio for changes to this calendar.

Safety Meetings to be announced in Wednesday messages when they are posted on Beach Transportations YouTube Channel.

*Winter Vacation—No school.
All districts Dec. 21-Jan. 1*

- January
15 Woodman No School
18 No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February
8 MCPS, No School
11 DeSmet 1/2 Day
12 DeSmet & Woodman No School
15 No School Presidents Day
26 Woodman No School

- March
11 No MCPS Preschool
MCPS (K-8) 11:05, Half day,
12 Lolo & MCPS (Pre-8) No School
Yes High School
- Spring Break —No school
All districts March 15-March 19*

Daylight Savings March 8



- April
2 Lolo No School
5 Lolo No School
9 MCPS High School Only No School
Woodman No School
16 Woodman Early Out
22 DeSmet No School
23 DeSmet & Target Range No School
30 Target Range No School
- May
7 Woodman No School
28 DeSmet, Lolo MCPS Pre-12, Woodman No School
Target Range is in session
31 No School Memorial Day

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: Dusty Thomas

Growing up in Ellensburg, WA Dusty learned to ski, skateboard, and most importantly at the time he learned to swim. As a child he dreamed of growing up and being an Olympic swimmer. As he grew up his priorities changed and he became more interested in the forest and its biology.

When Dusty was 15 he moved to Montana to live with his dad," Montana always just felt like home to me even when I was a kid." This didn't seem surprising considering his family history in Montana. When the west was being homesteaded over 150 years ago his great grandparents on both sides homesteaded in Montana. To make Montana even smaller when he bought his house in Missoula his dad came to visit and he found out it was across the street from the house his great grandfather had built and his grandfather grew up in. While living with his dad many learning opportunities opened up for Dusty-. His dad and grandpa owned several rentals. When repairs and maintenance were needed he helped with them. He learned several tricks of the trade including roofing, remodeling, and carpentry. His dad was also a truck driver so he spent his summers with his dad and learned to love the road. The best part of growing up in Montana was learning to enjoy the many outdoor wonders of Montana which was easy living in Big Fork at the base of the Jewel Basin Wilderness. After high school he went on a tour of South East Asia. He visited Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand, Indonesia. He did a lot of scuba diving and enjoyed the different culture "The culture was really eye opening for an 18 year old" he recalled. One of his favorite places was a small Indonesian island off of Lombok. It had no roads or vehicles just donkeys, donkey carts, and grass huts.

After he returned he wasn't sure what he wanted to do. For a time he moved back to Washington and then back to Montana. He spent two years in Big Sky putting his carpentry skills to work building cabins and spent some time truck driving.

When Dusty was 21 he started his most important, and based on the smile on his face mentioning it, his favorite job of being a dad. Anela was born in Missoula however her mom wanted to move to Billings so they met in middle and lived in Bozeman. While there he enrolled in Montana State and started working on his Forestry and Biology degree.

After three years in school his learning came to an abrupt halt while he battled Leukemia. Nobody was happy living in Bozeman so Dusty and his daughter moved to Missoula. This was where his family was and it was closer to the Seattle where he went for his treatments. He won his battle after a successful stem cell transplant at the Fred Hutchinson Center. When his health allowed he worked a wide variety of jobs. He was a chef, bartender, and he started putting his carpentry skills to use again. He started buying rundown houses, fixing them up, and selling or renting them. At one point he owned nine houses.

In 2010 he wanted to go back to school so he enrolled at the University of Montana and finished his Biology degree with honors. After graduation his daughter went to live with her mom for a year and he bought a ticket to Australia to work. "The biology and wildlife in Australia is so different," visiting

and seeing is was something he really wanted to do. While he was there he worked a few wildlife research jobs that were mostly volunteer. He studied frogs in the rainforest, microbes in the ocean, and crustaceans. With little money coming in he got resourceful with his living arrangements, buying an old postal service bus and converted into his home.

When he returned home he found that jobs in Biology and Science take a long time to get established in a position that pays the bills so, he went back to his roots and started driving. He ended up running long haul and said it sounded wonderful "it's kind of romantic just seeing everything and driving cross county." Eventually being gone so much and sitting in the truck all day, every day, not knowing when you're going to be home wasn't for him anymore.

He kept trucking, saving as much money as he could so he could, to give his daughter a long amazing trip for her high school graduation. They spent a month exploring Sri Lanka and a small island around it. They did a lot of hiking, visiting National Parks, and seeing amazing wildlife such as elephants, crocodiles, and every kind of spider and lizard crawling everywhere.



Dusty with daughter Anela

The journey home was even an adventure. They wanted to fly around the world, so going to Sri Lanka they flew west over the Pacific and coming home they continued west over Europe with an overnight layover in England. During their layover they left the airport to see some sites and ended up extending their stay to five days. While taking the train back to the airport it broke down in a tunnel. Being an electrical

train they lost all power including light and sat in total darkness for four hours when they got the train running again. When they arrived at the airport they had missed their flight and couldn't book another till four days later. They took the opportunity to ride a double decker bus and visit sites such as 221 Baker Street (Sherlock Homes) and Platform 9 ¾ (Harry Potter).

When they returned home Dusty and was ready to reenter the work force he saw the Beach bus with the help wanted sign. Since he loves driving and thought why not. Now, he not only has his daily route but you can also find him in the wash bay, out on the lots working on odds and ends, and if you can recognize him in a tie you might catch him driving a Beachliner.

When he's not running around Beach he keeps himself pretty busy. His daughter is an Opera singer and helps with the International Choral Festival. He got more and more involved over the years and is now a board member. He is also involved with Soft Landings helping refugee families. Being stuck at home more recently he spends a lot of time hiking, running, and reading.

A longtime friend once told him he was the most unique person he had ever met. Dusty always remembered that. "I liked



Beach Transportation Co.

We Deliver!

825 Mount Avenue
Missoula, MT 59801

Ph# 406.549.6121

Fax# 406.549.5445

beachtrans@beachtrans.com

PARENTS, PLEASE:

- * Have your students dress in appropriate clothing.
- * Get your students safely to and from the bus stop. Students should be at the stop no fewer than five minutes and no more than 10 minutes before the scheduled time.
- * Be with your students at the stop to monitor behavior and assist with safety. Have your students wait for the bus at a safe spot off the road and always watch traffic.
- * Have a backup plan in case the bus is delayed. Drivers will run routes as scheduled. However, delays may occur if snowplows are unable to keep the roads clear or difficulties arise. Please do not let your students remain at a stop for more than 15 minutes after scheduled time.
- * Please submit concerns about suspicious activity, wild animals, bus stop locations and so on in writing to your school.

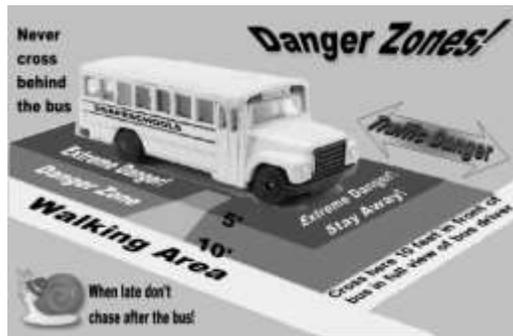


DANGER ZONE:

SCHOOL BUSES ARE THE SAFEST WAY TO GET TO SCHOOL.

School buses are nearly eight times safer than passenger vehicles, but children must take care when boarding or leaving the bus.

The Danger Zone is the space all around the school bus. It goes out 10 feet. The school bus driver cannot see students in this zone. It is very dangerous to be in this area.



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!!

