



Beachlines



Volume 29, Issue 2

Winter, 2021



Celebrating 80 Years!



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.

Gifts

by Greg Beach, Vice President

As many of you are aware, public service often goes unnoticed; especially the many hours of time and effort required. We are however, keenly aware of your dedication and commitment. Know that you make a difference and play an important role, and that you can be proud of your contribution to the success of countless young people. Scott and I appreciate each and every one of you for the fine job that you do.

Scouting's founder, Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell, said in 1922, "There is what is known as a "gift" of some sort hidden away in almost everyone. Why is it called a "gift"? Well, because it is a natural quality - a gift from God. That being so the possessor of it ought to make use of it - for God. He can do this by giving out again of that gift to others. Let him give of his talents for the benefit of others rather than of himself, and you will be doing God's work and will be finding what true happiness means".

I am reminded from Baden Powell's comments that, at Beach Transportation, each of us is given unique gifts by our Creator to make this world better for our families, our schools, our state, our nation and our world, and that each one of us is given a special gift that only

truly manifests itself in service to others. Know that you make a difference and play an important role, and thank you for bringing your special gifts in to our organization and to our world.

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a joyous and happy Christmas and New Year, and remember that not only at Christmas, but throughout the year, the joy and love that you give to others is the joy and love that comes back to you.

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 and
...GO S-L-O-W-L-Y!!!!!!
- * Take short steps or shuffle for stability



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.

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From the GM:

By Bob Mitchell
General Manager

Happy New Year to all. It has been another peculiar school year to say the least. We have had to be persistent with our COVID protocols and adapt to our new school bell times. Both have brought their own challenges but of course our biggest challenge has been the driver shortage. We all know that each day has been extremely challenging just to cover school bus routes. Other communities in Montana have had to cut routes and cancel school activities due to driver shortages but we at Beach Transportation are proud to say the we have transported all of our scheduled students to school and to all activities. It has been a herculean effort. With that, we are blessed to say that we have transported all of our passengers safely. Our recruiting efforts have really slowed down and we are still in need of a number of good folks to become school bus drivers or attendants. If you know of a possible person, let myself or Wayne Wade know. We would be very happy to contact that person and get the training process started. Over the years we have often times referred to ourselves as the "Beach Family". We are all responsible for the safe transportation of children. We all share a responsibility to be trained professional drivers or attendants. We all get up early in the morning to fire up a school bus and prepare for the challenges that the day will bring. The friendships that are made at Beach Transportation last a life time. It all meshes into a close comradery and certainly has a family atmosphere feel. We would like to make sure that our new employees have that opportunity to mesh like we as veterans have had over the years. The pandemic has restricted opportunities for get togethers like we have been used to doing over the years. Our buildings have not been filled like the old days as it is still vital that we keep that social distance from each other. With that said, we would like to make sure that we recognize everyone. It is so important. If you do not know someone, reach out to them, introduce yourself and make that person feel that they too are part of the Beach Family. Let's make that a new year's resolution for each of us.

I would like to share a story that happened just before the holiday break with myself and one of our new drivers who shall remain anonymous. With our first snowfall, our driver was hesitant to travel the interstate over the icy roads. I recommended that they take the frontage road to allow for the vehicle to travel at a slower speed. At the time, I wondered how that driver would fair as we got more into the winter months. We all can remember the icy day during the first week of December. Everyone was doing there best to cope with the road conditions. I saw the driver when they returned from their route that day and I asked how things went. The driver stated that the roads were pretty bad but they handled things pretty well. I couldn't help but smirk at



the driver because I could see that they had built a level of confidence to accept the challenge of the day. At our holiday party, this driver told me how much they loved their students and job at Beach. Welcome to the Beach Family. We have had some time off and we hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays. Let's get our game faces on as we still have a few months of winter ahead of us. We have done an outstanding job so far. Let's remember to get going a few minutes early on those challenging days. This means that you need to communicate with your attendant to make sure that they know what time to be at work. Use the safe walking paths as much as possible and drop you attendant off at their vehicle following your routes. Also, we know that on challenging days you may fall behind on your schedule. 5 to 10 minutes is acceptable. Remember the old adage, we want all students to arrive safely and not necessarily promptly on those challenging days.

Please remember that we are still following COVID protocols. This includes masks and making sure that we have windows cracked. We know that if we have four windows down a few inches on both sides of the bus that we will have adequate air flow. If we have our heaters on, students will stay warm.

Let's take a minute to discuss masks. We are not going to argue with students that don't have masks when they arrive at the bus. Hand those students a mask and please do not confront the student unnecessarily. If you have students that are not wearing masks while on the bus, turn a Conduct Report into Wayne. In all, students have done a good job following this protocol on the buses. Remember, it is mandatory that we get out of our seats in the PM and remind students that they need to buckle up and wear their masks. I have driven a lot of different routes this school year and students have done a pretty good job following these directions. After you have made this announcement, you can now concentrate on driving the bus safely. Now, with a bit of effort we can get all k-5 students in their assigned seats and into their seatbelts each afternoon. Meet your students at the door and before allowing them to board the bus, ask them if they have their seat partner and are ready to sit in their assigned seat. When you allow them to board the bus, walk down the aisle to make sure that each student is in their correct seat. Do not allow any student behind you. Once you have all students seated properly, walk back up the aisle to see that they are buckled. At that time, you are ready to drive.

Folks, January and February are extremely busy. We have a full schedule of winter activities as well. We have just had 15 days off and we are going to need everyone here at work to keep things moving efficiently. Please schedule days off around the school calendar and follow those COVID health protocols to keep yourself healthy. Here's hoping that the New Year keeps us all healthy, happy and safe.

We appreciate all that you do.

Maintaining a Good Attitude



By TRACIE HOFFMAN
Safety Director

We often talk about the importance of coming to work with a good attitude. We ask you to leave your personal concerns and problems behind for the few hours you are on the bus and tackle the challenges of your job in a positive, productive manner. You have many responsibilities in your job that require your

attention. Sometimes having and maintaining a good attitude can be difficult.

A positive attitude isn't always how we feel. Daily choices come up and problems occur in a normal life. With the added stress of isolations, masks and the unknown of a pandemic, many of us have had some pretty stressful times and our good attitudes have been stretched and challenged as we maneuver our personal situations.

Stress is a natural response to extreme mental or physical demands. It is often caused by situations out of your control such as finances, family issues or excessive workloads. And while some amount of stress is normal, too much stress can cause health issues, damage relationships and certainly impact the way you do your job as a school bus driver or even as an attendant.



Driving is a serious endeavor. Safe driving requires you to remain alert, manage multiple tasks and avoid dangerous situations. When we allow strong emotions of any kind to distract us from our driving focus, we may not be able to pay attention to potential hazards, or make good driving decisions. When our driving skills suffer, we become an unsafe driver.

Think about the last time you drove when you were angry. Did you make good choices or decisions? When we are angry, our driving is usually aggressive and our adherence to the rules is often disregarded. When we are worried, or stressed it's also hard for us to focus on safe driving because our mind is focused on our problems and struggles. To be safe while we drive, we need to find ways to manage our emotions and focus on the immediate responsibilities of our job.

We all handle stress differently, but below are a few proven

ways that people cope with or reduce stress:

Exercise has been proven to help with stress and anxiety. Regular exercise can improve sleep and positive mental perception. Taking even a short walk releases endorphins which are natural chemicals that improve moods. I love walks in the woods or by a moving body of water.

Slow it down a bit and take a quiet break by yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to re-boot and handle everything you need to do. This break might include deep-breathing exercise, meditation or yoga.

Reducing caffeine and nicotine and alcohol can help reduce anxiety. Often thought of as stress reducing, these three chemicals actually constrict blood flow and increase the effort it takes to control anxiety and stress.

Laugh. Humor can lift your mood and give you a different perspective on life's hurdles. Spending time with fun people can brighten your attitude.

Give service. We sometimes become too self-focused. It's hard to focus on your own problems when you are helping someone else with theirs.

Be grateful. It's easy to focus on the negative things because they seem heavy and insurmountable. When you genuinely look for the good things, your mindset changes and you are better able to cope with the obstacles.

I have to admit that there have been a few days this Fall that I came to work with a positive outlook and by the middle of the afternoon I was desperately searching for a glimpse of positivity. In the job of transporting passengers, we have to be able to set aside our personal attitudes and problems and focus on the important job of transporting students safely. On that note, Welcome back to a new month and a New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and were able to rest and enjoy time with friends and family.

We are very grateful that you are a part of the Beach Family and are looking forward to a wonderful second half of the year. Bring your good attitudes!



Driving Tips for bad weather:

1. Increase your following distance.— do not tailgate
2. Leave early for your first stop.
3. Slow down—as bus drivers we are not in a hurry.
4. Always look ahead.
5. Dress for the conditions



New Team Members!

Please take some time to talk with and welcome these folks to the Beach Transportation family, and check the bulletin board in the lounge for updates and photos.

Drivers: Sonya Yardley, Jeffery Haberman, Cody Brown Fitzgerald, Gregory Bessette, Sandy Thornton, Bryan Porch, Chris Jones, and Taylor Calenberg

Attendants: Christina Hofeldt, Robyn Strauch Goss, David Lewis, Wayne Harwood



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.**

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.**



January

Irene Nelson
Meagan Scruggs
Kevin Verlanic
Jan Jasperson
Deloris Johnson
Dotty Marceau
Mo Memoli
Paul Anderson
Dorrie Beach
Becky Pamin
Kelly Courage
Taylor Calenberg

Robert Chaney
Dianne Courage
Jeanna Dunlap
Diana Heinrichs
John Turman
Adam Vylasek
Lynne Jensen
Ashley Duane
Sarah Trueax

February

Ken Stone
Mike Officer
Jacob Hofeldt

Pansy Vylasek

Ruth Jones
Clay Burtsfield
Wayne Wade
David Beach
Terry Sullivan
Cameron Bartell
Randy Hetz
Cathy Kaudy
Jeff Haberman

March

Robyn Goss
Karra Gillingham

Paul Haviland

Sue Alley
Scott Beach
Greg L. Miller
Chris Jones
Susan Webster
Deb Flankey
Amber Riel
Bob Palmer
Paul Bohan
Troy Lawrence
Bob Mitchell
Doris Conley
Scott Whitmore
Cliff Laub

April

Bill Roduner
Christian Magee
Andrew McDonnell
Brad Zander
Shannon Beach
Wayne Harwood
Kevin Cregg
Julie Petrou
Lisa Wilson
John Shively

May

Charles Peterson
Larry Taylor
RickCaron

Kevin Cregg

Lynda Drouillard
Michelle Boland
Patrick Andrus
Marianne Fehr
Lyndsey Langley
Sonja Yardley
Leon Houston
Gerry Sautler
Howard Roose
Carlin Cavill
Nancy Allred
Cindy Dollinger
Tom Yelton
Bob Luceno

Look'n up the road?

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.

January

17 No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day
21 Woodman No School
24 No MCSP High School Only

February

3 DeSmet 1/2 Day
4 DeSmet & Woodman No School
18 No School Woodman & 1/2 Day Target Range
21 No School All Presidents Day

March

4 No School Woodman
17 No MCPS Pre & EK 1/2 Day MCPS K-8 & DeSmet
18 No School DeSmet, Lolo MCPS (Pre-8) & Woodman

Yes High School

Spring Break — No school
All districts March 21-March 25

April

8 Root Beer Floats!

Daylight Savings March 13



15 No School DeSet & Woodman
18 No School DeSmet, Lolo, Target Range, Woodman, and MCPS Pre & EK Only
22 No School MCPS High School Only
29 No School Target Range Only

May

13 No School Lolo Only
27 No School Woodman
30 No School All Memorial Day

June

2 Lolo Last Day
3 Woodman and MCPS Pre & EK Last Day
9 Target Range Last Day
10 DeSmet & MCPS K-12 Last Day
10th Beach Transportation Year End BBQ

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: Kerin Young

KeRin was born in Seattle Washington where her mother raised her and two older siblings. Her dad and his parents lived in Polson MT. She came to visit her dad for the first time when she was two years old. She says somewhere in her "little mind Montana was home."

She started her working career in the garment industry. Her first job was printing the content labels for coats. She moved into sewing coats for the Vietnam War until she got married and had kids

In 1976 her dad was living in Arlee and she was going thru a divorce and needed a change of scenery. She packed up her four kids and officially moved to Montana and never looked back. It was pretty rough at the time being a single mother of four kids, but in the long run she said it was the best thing that that ever happened to her.

When she moved to Missoula she went to the Vo Tech then started working for a local trucking company working on the fuel and mileage logs. She laughed recalling how many times they truckers log would say they were in one location and receipts would put them in a completely different place. Working behind a desk did not work very well so she decided to move on. She later worked for Community Hospital working in housekeeping and laundry. She would pick up a second job from time to time at Sun Mountain Sports and later at the Village Red Lion until she retired.

Her family grew when she met Gary. They married and he came with four kids of his own. They lived happily until he passed away nine years ago.

Two of her daughters and her son entered the legal industry and her third daughter has special needs and is doing very well learning how to live on her own. Her oldest granddaughter was a professional nanny working in Connecticut until she met her husband and had her first baby and moved to New Jersey. When the great grandbaby was born, her oldest daughter bought a bed and breakfast and moved east to be closer to her grandbaby. Kerin was very excited to be a great grandma, she always wanted to be a GG. Unfortunately her daughter whom she had named Gayla beat her to the GG for Grandma Gaylen. Being retired Kerin got tired of not doing anything. She knew Mable Weis, whom worked at Beach at the time. She asked Mable if we were hiring and she sent her to Beach. She started out as a substitute aid and the temporary PM bus with Bernie (223) turned into a permanent position. She is still a sub in the AM's so she gets to meet all sorts of kids. She says "I love it, I love the kids," especially the grade school kids and special needs kids. She loves the fun things the little kids say and the things they



Kerin with her four kids

get excited about and fixated on. She says "she would have had ten of them if they would stay under five."

When she isn't hanging out with kids on school buses Kerin enjoys making and selling her crafts. She does a lot of crocheting, making infinity scarfs and towels that you can hang on your stove or refrigerator. She also makes an assortment of NFL teams fleece hats, and she recently started making bowl cozies. She stays pretty busy during the holidays selling her crafts at holiday craft fairs. She also travels to three larger annual fairs in St Regis Memorial Day weekend, Lincoln the third weekend in July and Wallace Idaho Labor Day weekend.

Her mother was always strong, independent, and her mentor. She was "an amazing women" she didn't learn to water ski until she was 50 years old. It's been 27 years and she is still her mentor. "If I go to sew something that won't go together I go outside and say mom what am I doing wrong, I sit for a minute go back in the house and it goes together perfectly."

Kerin's mother had always been very stable however her dad moved around

a lot and she spent her summers visiting him wherever he lived at the time. Her dad lived in California for a time and he took her to the race track scene watching the horse races and dog races. She learned at an early age to stay away from the horse races, she liked all of them. The last summer he was in Californian he didn't have the money to get her back home so they share cropped their way back to Seattle. Her favorite parts were the orchards where she would pick plums for drying or picking apples and getting into wars with her siblings tossing the rotten fruit at each other. They were so late her mom almost called the police and she missed the start of school. When he was in Portland she would help with raising Parakeets and Toy Fox Terriers. When he moved back to Montana they would go camping, visit old ghost towns, and search for the remnants of old camps to small to call ghost towns. Kerin has loved to road trip since she was a child. Her mother used to call her, her little Gypsy after she visited her dad. She has spent a lot of time down west coast and has been as far as North Dakota, but wants to see more. This summer she plans on driving cross county to go see her grandbaby's with her dog and maybe her sister.



Kerin with her mom, oldest daughter and two grandbabies

Side Note: KeRin is named after a Scottish county her ancestors are from Erin. Her mom added the K to make Kerin. When most people read her name they call her Kevin so she capitalizes the R in the spelling to emphasize it is not a v.



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We Deliver!

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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.

