



Beachlines



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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.

by **Greg Beach, Vice President**

Happy New Year to all!

Serving others is one of the finest things that a person can do and I salute each and everyone of you for your continued exceptional performance in serving others, despite the adversity that we have all faced these past few years. Beach Team members proved, once again, that we possess that special combination of grit and determination, a trait that I refer to as "Montana Tuff". I also commend our team members for your countless individual acts of kindness and volunteerism to serve our school children and those in need throughout this past year. My challenge to everyone is to continue to give of your time and talents throughout the new year to make our schools, our communities and our country the best that they can be, and to give the school kids that we serve the opportunity at a better life by providing outstanding transportation services. Paraphrased below are a few pearls of wisdom from the late Bob Beach on how best to serve others.

The 12 Keys to Success and Happiness

1. Make a difference every day. Get up; look yourself in the mirror, and choose to make a difference in the lives of the people you serve.
2. Be fair to all concerned and use your profession as an avenue of service to others.
3. Keep your chin up and don't be a belly-acher. Life

isn't fair but it's still good.

4. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
5. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
6. Take the long-awaited trip or do something you've always wanted to do--now. Life is short. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
7. Believe in miracles.
8. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
9. Time heals almost everything. Give time.
10. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
11. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
12. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

Happy New Year to all and thanks for being a part of the BEACH TEAM!

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

Welcome back to all and a very Happy New Year! We hope that everyone enjoyed their time away from work and had a very Merry Christmas. As we return from the Holiday Break, we can reflect back on how busy and quickly the school year is flying by. We can expect the rest of the school year to move just as quickly. As we continue to move at a rapid pace, I would like to discuss some of the “same old” issues and a few very exciting things that are going to happen in 2023. Before we move along, I would like to thank those folks that were new employees at Beach Transportation when the school year began. We were so excited to get such a great group of folks on board and you have all done such a tremendous job these past months. It is so much appreciated. “Same old, Same old”. Right? In the school bus industry, we hear the same safety messages many times throughout a school year. These safety messages are so important for everyone; you, your student riders and for Beach Transportation. We realize that some messages are redundant yet, you see drivers not considering these messages in their daily duties.

1. **Please remember to not back up in a school zone.**

Yet, we see drivers backing up in school zones and many times without a spotter.

2. **2. We ask that drivers not move their bus if they have students walking within the “Danger Zone.”**

but we watch drivers each day drop their students at the schools and pull away with kids standing just a few feet from their bus.

3. **3. Please remember to Check for Sleeping Children after your route.**

Yet, you can walk around our bus lot and see that drivers have not put their signs down in their back windows after their route.

This would indicate that they have not walked through the bus to check for sleeping children.



These are a few of the “same old things”. I could continue but I think that you get the message. Remember that safety messages pertain to everyone and yes, that does mean you, right? In each of these cases, just a few seconds of patience could prevent drivers from performing these acts and assuring that the students they service are safe at all times. If you are a long-time veteran driver, please be an example of how to do things correctly each day.

I would like to touch quickly on another topic that we constantly discuss during our school year. That is: **Space management**. Folks, with the snow on the road and the snow in our school bus loading zones, adequate space

can diminish in a hurry. Please do not put yourself in a situation where you are moving around other vehicles with just inches on both sides of you. Rather, wait the amount of time it takes for space to open up to you. Stop your vehicle in an area where a vehicle can have adequate space to move around you or be patient that the person in front of you will move their vehicle out of the way which will give you more space to maneuver. The consequences of not giving yourself enough room to maneuver can in most cases be expensive. Please be patient and give yourself adequate space at all times.

I am extremely excited for 2023. It appears that Missoula County Public Schools is going to invest in a number of advancements in technology. These advancements are overdue and will help Beach Transportation in many ways. The first advancement will come in the dispatch area. We are in the process of learning a new program that will allow us to keep track of all routes and activities. This program will be automated and we can begin to wean off all of the paper that we have used over the years. In theory, drivers will be able to keep track of their schedules with their smart phones or tablets. I have always stated that I am a professional paper pusher and the thought that we can eliminate reams of paper per day is very exciting. Secondly, it appears that the district is going to invest in a “student tracking system”. Students will have to flash their card to get on and off the bus. This will be a tremendous safety upgrade. We will know automatically where a student got on the bus and where they got off. Also, we can eliminate those students that should not be on your bus at all. With a student tracking system, comes GPS tracking for all vehicles. Dispatchers can track buses within five seconds of their routes. I love it. When a parent calls to say the bus never came or ran early, dispatch can check the time that the bus was at that stop and in a great majority of the time, the bus was right where it was supposed to be at that time. I can tell you that in my 38 years advancements in technology can be a bit intimidating. Remember, I got off the last train from Butte. Again, let's be patient and grasp these advancements with some enthusiasm. I can see where each will simplify our lives. We do not have all of the answers for all of the questions that you might have. None of the programs are in place yet but go ahead and ask the questions. We will do our best to answer and each question will get us a bit closer to our start date.

I could write a book on the importance of our jobs each day. We never know what is coming each day. Let's be prepared by being the professional and let's be prepared by being patient. Welcome back and let's have a safe 2023. Thank you.

Missoula Roads



By TILACIE HOFFMAN
Safety Director

To Quote Destination Missoula: “There’s this place where solitude, wilderness and adventure are only minutes from gourmet restau-

rants, funky local shops and a killer music scene. It’s a place surrounded by mountains where trails start at your front door. This place is Missoula, Montana and it has the unparalleled natural beauty and cultural vibrancy to make your experience unforgettable.” Because of its beauty, outdoor access and its services, Missoula is increasing in population by about 73% annually, which translates to around 860 new residents. To School bus drivers and attendants, that means around a thousand more vehicles on the Missoula streets every year. Our jobs as professional drivers requires us to respond safely to the conditions and hazards of the road including more traffic and road congestion.

A study of intersection accidents in the state of Montana, reports that out of 163 dangerous intersections, Missoula has the top five. Four of those five are on Reserve Street. In 2018 the intersection of Reserve and Mullan Road had 121 accidents with 34 injuries reported. Many of our buses travel on Reserve Street and several of our buses use that particular intersection.

How can we adapt to increased traffic and what keeps us safe while driving on some of the most dangerous roads? A few things we have asked you to do that help you be safe are:

On a four-lane road, including Reserve

Street, Stephens/Orange Street, Brooks Street and Highway 93 South, please travel in the outside lane as long as possible to allow you an escape if an accident occurs ahead of you. This necessitates that the driver stays aware of traffic movement and when it starts to thicken, purposefully changes lanes. Use a nearby traffic light to cross or turn left on a four-laned road. Examples include Brooks Street, Stephens/Orange Street and Reserve Street. This asks the driver to turn right and go around the block to access a light instead of cutting across multiple lanes or using the turn lane as a merge lane.

At intersections, please use the outside turn lane for your turns to allow your big vehicle more space. This would include many intersections, two of the most troublesome are from Broadway onto Madison and from Reserve Street onto Mullan Road. Patience is required at this Intersection which is very busy and has a short turn light. Understandably, each of these actions will probably take you longer. Driving

behind a slow vehicle is frustrating, having to go around the block to get onto a road seems trivial and having to wait through 2 or 3 lights is a burden on anyone’s patience. However, the purpose of each of these actions is valid as we strive to keep our people and vehicles safe on some of the most dangerous streets in Montana.

We live in the beautiful valley of Missoula, it’s where we call home. As our city grows and traffic increases, we as school bus drivers and attendants need to tap into our skills of attentiveness and

especially patience as we maneuver our very busy streets. As we begin a new year, choose to take the safest route onto busy roads, be courteous in heavy traffic and be will-

ing to take a little more time at busy, hazardous intersections. Our goal is to transport people safely regardless of the many hazards we may encounter. Prepare yourself to react SAFELY to the increase of traffic on Missoula roadways.



Have you chained up today?

Remember :

Tires are not the only thing that needs chains in the winter. Springs, coils, and spikes all work to help with extra traction on the snow and ice.



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: Dan Yochim, Brittany Flemmer, Carole Dennis, Patrick Fawley, Paul McCarthy

Attendants: Mary Akey, Robert Hoffman, Francis Worden, Dana Wagner, Larry Branson, Michelle Howell, Matthew Simkins, Bonnie Dotz, Todd Torrez, Whitney Reves, Tonya Fussell, Thomas Hawkins

Griz for Kids

We would like to send out a big Thank You to everyone who donated time and toys to Griz for Kids. Toys were donated at each entrance of the football stadium and on Beach Transportation's shuttle buses. The toys will be matched up with children's wish lists.



Cell Phone Policy

Thank you to all drivers and attendants for staying off your cell phones. Just a reminder please do not talk or text on your cell phone or smart watch while operating or attending on a bus. **Safety** demands your full attention!



January

Irene Nelson
Meagan Scruggs
Kevin Verlanic
Jan Jasperson
Deloris Johnson
Dana Wagner
Dotty Marceau
Mo Memoli
Phil Leiritz
Paul Anderson
Dorrie Beach
Becky Pamin
Kelly Courage
Robert Chaney

Patrick Fawley
Brad Tschida
Dianne Courage
Diana Heinrichs
Scott Roland
John Turman
Adam Vylasek
Lynne Jensen
Ashley Duane
Sarah Trueax

February

Ken Stone
Mike Officer
Pansy Vylasek

Jacob Hofeldt
Pansy Vylasek
Ruth Jones
Mark Peterson
Heather Hallford
Wayne Wade
Terry Sullivan
Michelle Ellen
Kirk Johnson
Cathy Kaudy
Jeff Haberman

March

Robyn Goss
Karra Gillingham

Paul Haviland
Dan Yochim
Sue Alley
Scott Beach
Donna Kolar
Greg L. Miller
Thomas Hawkins
Chris Jones
Susan Webster
Sharon Wieder
Larry Branson
Deb Flankey
Amber Shively
Bob Palmer
Paul Bohan
Troy Lawrence

Bob Mitchell
Doris Conley
Scott Whitmore
Cliff Laub

April

Bill Roduner
Brad Zander
Shannon Beach
Wayne Harwood
Lisa Wilson
Miki Howell
John Shively

May

Larry Taylor

Rick Caron
Kevin Cregg
Lynda Drouillard
Michelle Boland
Patrick Andrus
Lyndsey Langley
Leon Houston
Gerry Sauter
Carlin Cavill
Sarah Bissett
Colby Pickering
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 Transportation's YouTube Channel.

January

16 No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day
23 MCSP High School Only No School

February

2 DeSmet Early Release

3 DeSmet No School
6 MCPS (Pre-12) No School
10 Woodman No School
17 Target Range 1/2 Day
20 No School All Presidents Day
24 DeSmet Spring Break

March

16 No MCPS Pre & EK
1/2 Day MCPS K-5
17 Lolo MCPS (Pre-5)
No School
Spring Break — No school
Lolo March 17-March 24
DeSmet, MCPS, Target
Range March 20-March 24
Woodman March 18-March 27
DeSmet three, three day week-ends

April

7 Woodman No School
10 DeSmet, Lolo & Woodman No School
14 MCPS High School Only No School
21 Root Beer Floats!
28 Target Range No School

May

5 DeSmet No School
12 Lolo & Woodman No School
19 DeSmet Last Day
26 Lolo Last Day
29 No School All Memorial Day

June

2 Woodman and MCPS Pre & EK Last Day
9 DeSmet, MCPS K-11 & Target Range Last Day

9th Beach Transportation Year End BBQ

Daylight Savings March 13



EMPLOYEE PROFILE: Lisa Wilson

Lisa was born in Napa California to a large blended family. When her parents married her mom had five kids and dad had two. She was the first of four more totaling eleven. They lived in the country, away from cable, but she was never short on things to do.

One of her loves as a child was the Olympics. Her dad built her a gymnastics bar in the back yard she would practice on. The family also had a cement pad in the back yard, and every weekend she would be out there skating to Olivia Newton John or the Xanadu soundtrack with her Dorothy Hamell haircut.

Camping was another love of hers as a child. The family did a lot of camping and riding vacations. There would be a large group of friends all with dirt bikes and motorcycles. The kids would spend the day riding all over and the men would go on trail rides. When she couldn't camp her sister and her would head out to the cornfield in the garden and pretend they were on their own camping adventure.

Road trips were always a favorite. Grandma lived on the coast so they would go visit and play at the beach. On Sundays they would go to places like the Redwoods or Calistoga to watch the glider airplanes, and of course a stop for ice cream.

Her sister and her loved cruising so much from time to time they would get into a bit of trouble. Sometimes they would 'borrow' the car when their parents weren't home and get into trouble. Sometimes they would borrow the car to get 'ice cream' and "oh man we had so much fun," she laughed. Her parents didn't know but guys would chase them in their cars and they would lose them. One of her memories a paint can in the back of her dad's work truck spilled over and they left a white line down the cruise strip, laughed every time they saw it.

After school she tried a variety of jobs. She went to school for Phlebotomy and worked for Kaiser, spent some time as a medical assistant, earned her certification to be a 911 dispatcher which she never was able to use due to a pregnancy, and her favorite job in California was at UPS as an Office Management Specialist. She was responsible ensuring that all drivers and package handlers were getting the packages to the right places on time.

After her divorce in 2005 she needed a change so she moved to Missoula to be closer to her dad and raise her children.

In Missoula she worked at DHL, then billing at Direct TV until she started her own business. She is a licensed property manager and she owns her own cleaning business. She loves the cleaning, she can listen to her own music, make her own schedule, and she's always busy.

A few years ago she saw an ad for bus drivers and thought

it was something she could work into her schedule. She has driven special needs for Sentinel and full size routes for C. S. Porter, Franklin and currently Rattlesnake. She says she loves working for Beach "it's the happiest part of my day, I love love love it." "I never feel one ounce of stress I feel like I belong and I'm part of a family and being part of something important" and comradery and respect. Of course she also has fun with the kids. She says getting the kids to school brings back the happy warm feelings of when her own kids were young.

Parts of her life she found herself in constant trouble. She had a hard time focusing in school so her grades were never what her father expected. She was also talked to about walking or talking to fast, even finishing people's sentences. Her father told her stepmother she was the apple of his eye until she got older and then he didn't know what to do with her. Sitting still and focusing has never been a strength for her.

At the age of 56 she was just diagnosed with ADHD and DD. This is an inability

to focus, hyperactivity or excessive moment, and impulsivity or hasty acts without thought. The frontal lobe contains our impulse control.

Through life Lisa has managed to be very successful even before she was diagnosed. She runs

her own cleaning business and she raised four children who are successful in their own lives.

Her oldest lives in Bozeman working as hair stylist and owns her own cleaning business. Here in Missoula her second daughter is an engineer at onXmaps. Her

youngest daughter recently moved back to Missoula. She is going school taking 21 credits every semester and she made the Presidents List. Her son works in construction and is starting his own sheetrock company like her father.

She's loved dogs since she was a child. Her family attended dog shows regularly and they always had a dog in the family. They had a variety of dogs during her childhood Fritz a German Shepherd, Tiki the Afghan Ching the Chow and Blacky.

Today she has a eight month old named Josie.

She does manage to have some fun when she's not working. Living in Missoula she takes advantage of all the hiking available, especially the Rattlesnake. She does manage to stop long enough to watch movies like comedies and documentary's. She also spends time with her kids, grandbaby and her 90 year old dad.





Beach Transportation Co.

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.

