



Beachlines

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Winter 2023

A safety
newsletter for our
employees and
friends



GREG BEACH | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Team-

As we approach the winter season, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your dedication and unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, even in the face of challenging weather conditions, are truly commendable.

Winter poses unique challenges, but your hard work and vigilance ensure that our school bus services continue to run safely and efficiently. Here are a few key aspects of our winter school bus safety:

- 1. Preventative Maintenance:** Our dedicated maintenance teams have been working tirelessly to prepare our buses for the winter season. Your proactive approach to maintenance significantly reduces the risks associated with colder temperatures and inclement weather.
- 2. Winter Training:** Our drivers are well-trained, but it's crucial to acknowledge the significance of winter-specific training. Your commitment to ongoing education and training is vital in navigating winter's unique challenges.
- 3. Communication:** Timely communication is essential to adapt to changing weather conditions. Your collaboration with our dispatch team ensures that decisions are made with the most up-to-date information.
- 4. Emergency Procedures:** Your professionalism and preparedness in following our emergency procedures are instrumental in safeguarding the lives of

our passengers. Your quick thinking and prompt actions during unforeseen situations make a significant difference.

5. Passenger Safety: Your care and attention to the safety and comfort of our students are evident in every journey. Ensuring that students are informed and comfortable during winter rides is no small feat, and your dedication shines through.

6. Awareness of Surroundings: Your vigilance in assessing bus stops, road conditions, and the surroundings ensures that students are safe during pick-up and drop-off. Your sharp eyes help us avoid potential obstacles.

Your commitment to safety, your professionalism, and your unyielding dedication to our mission is what makes our school bus services a cornerstone of our community. You are not just drivers, attendants, mechanics and staff; you are the protectors of our students, the ambassadors of our values, and the backbone of our success. We appreciate the sacrifices you make to ensure that education continues uninterrupted, even during challenging weather conditions.



Your hard work and commitment are at the heart of what we do, and I am grateful for the exceptional team that makes our mission a reality. Thank you for your dedication, and for being the shining examples of professionalism and compassion. Together, we will navigate the challenges of winter, and together, we will continue to provide our community with safe and reliable transportation.

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From the GM:

Happy Holidays to everyone, and welcome back. I shouldn't be surprised but quite frankly, I am. Surprised by how fast time has flown already, that we are into another calendar year, and by the amazing staff we have. I shouldn't be shocked by our workers, but everyday each and every one of you continue to surprise me in your dedication. Let's make 2024 just as amazing.

Although time seems to have sped up, remember to take some time to slow down. This goes for your personal lives as well as work. We are now deep into the winter months, and Montana typically continues its icy cold tradition for a few more. Watch out for icy pathways, engage in proactive



safe walking, and drive slowly to accommodate slick roads. Make sure to take personal time to breathe, stay warm, and concentrate on enjoying the season however that may be.

When I think about the past year, I am reminded of all the hard work that has gone into making Beach what it is today. Sometimes those surprises that make a year special, end up being remarkable many years



later. Who would have guessed that in 1941 a family rancher/box boy and a grocery store worker would come together to found the company as it is today. It shows that anyone can become anything with consistent hard work, vision, and supporting hands.

Keeping in the theme of time, 50-years is truly a landmark occasion as well. Thank you Mike Keyser for your service, love, and passion to Beach Transportation. Sometimes life is full of surprises, but the constant commitment of everyone here makes us truly something remarkable.

-Carlin



Montana Trivia Corner

Q1: How many telephone area codes are there in Montana, the 4th largest state in the union?

Q2: What is the meaning of the state moto 'oro y plata'?

Q3: What is the only North American gem to be included in the Crown Jewels of England?

Answers

A1: One: 406

A2: Gold and Silver

A3: Montana Yogo Sapphire



New Year Traditions

Watch the ball drop at Times Square

Watch and light off fireworks.

Make a toast at Midnight

Play & sign "Auld Lang Syne"

Watch the sunrise

Take a midnight hike

Call your favorite person to wish them continued friendship

Eat, drink and have a party!

Toss a coin for good fortune

Set your new year goals

Spend time with family & friends



During a Montana Winter, being a school bus driver or attendant can mean slippery sidewalks, cold seats and a freezing nose, toes and fingers. But before you run and burrow back into your nice

warm beds, let's look at some ways we can "bring the heat" into our lives and enjoy the beautiful Winter season as comfortably as possible.

To "bring the heat" to our bodies, on those days when you can see your breath in the air, you need to be aware of your clothing, activity and food. Your clothing should be layered. Three layers working together provide the maximum warmth: Base layer: to keep your skin as dry as possible. Middle layer: to trap as much body heat as possible. Outer layer: to protect you from rain and wind.



One of the quickest ways to warm up and also stay warm is to keep moving. Even small continuous movements help with circulation and body heat. Before leaving your home, after a few stretches, try some toe and heel raises, then add some seated leg and arm lifts. Start with a count of 10 and work up. Focused movements will burn energy and help heat up your body before you step out the door.

Food fuels us and increases the body's production of heat. Eating foods that take longer to digest will provide more and longer heat for your body. Good choices are root vegetables, whole grains, nuts, fruit and eggs. Warm drinks will also warm your body's core and those that are not caffeinated will help with your hydration.

It's hard to put your warm body in a cold bus, so "bring the heat" to your bus as quickly as possible. If it's parked outside, make sure your bus is plugged in when not in use. Make sure your front cover-up is on. If you are in a big bus, you can warm up your bus faster by increasing the RPMs. You do this by turning on the cruise control button, then easing the resume/ accelerate button up to about 1200 RPM's. If you don't have that option, drive your bus around town in 2nd gear so the engine has to work harder and warms up faster. (please remember, we don't idle our buses at the school)

Lastly, in cold, icy weather it's time to "bring the heat" to your driving. Don't take that to mean drive fast or power through the snow like an off-road vehicle. But rather, drive with: an increased intensity or add power to your focus, in other words, step up your game. Leave your home prepared for winter driving. As you drive be alert, slow down and give yourself space.

When the garden city is covered in early morning frosty jewels or in the afternoon when the sun spotlights the ring of snow-covered mountains surrounding the valley, Missoula can be a beautiful place. But, on those dark days when the roads are iced over and the cold is trapped in the valley, let's be intently focused on personal health and comfort, bus warm ups and especially on our winter driving skills so we can forge through the challenges of winter with confidence, comfort and safety. Drivers and Attendants, "bring the heat!"

A Safety Poem from Beach Transportation

*"The wheels on the bus go
round and round. The flag goes
up and the flag goes down.
When the flag is up the kids are
onboard. The flag goes down
when there are no kids
around."*

Remember to check for sleeping children after your trip.



LOOKING UP THE ROAD

SCHOOL CALENDAR EVENTS

Please check your email and the Drivers Board for changes to the calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day- No School
- 1-2 DeSmet - No School
- Target Range- No School
- 15 Martin Luther King- No School
- 22 High School- No School
- Willard- No School
- 25 DeSmet- Half Day



March

- 14 MCPS K-5- Half Day
- Early K, Preschool- No School
- 15 MCPS K-5- No School
- Early K, Preschool- No School
- Lolo- No School
- 18-22 Spring Break- No School
- 29 Woodman- No School



February

- 8 DeSmet- Half Day
- 9 Woodman- No School
- DeSmet- No School
- 12 MCPS- No School
- Willard - No School
- 15 DeSmet- Half Day
- 16 Target Range- No School
- 19 President's Day- No School



April

- 1 DeSmet-No School
- Woodman- No School
- 8 Willard- No School
- 15 Preschool- No School
- Woodman- No School
- 19 Highschool- No School
- Target Range- No School
- 22 DeSmet- No School



2023 FOOD DRIVE

DONATION NUMBERS



- 2023: 1,804 lbs
- 2022: 1,716 lbs
- 2021: 1,553 lbs
- 2019: 1,602 lbs
- 2018: 1,135 lbs
- 2017: 1,108 lbs
- 2016: 1,131 lbs
- 2015: 844 lbs



missoulafoodbank.org

Welcome New Hires



- Brent DeGarmo
- Paula Sloan
- Jana Monser
- JR Lester
- Alaina Cummins
- Debra Funk
- Debra Shafer
- Vickie White
- Dayton Scott
- Kersti Whitney
- Julie Scott
- Coty Wilson
- Maureen Statelen
- Larry McDonald
- Sierra Meredith

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January

- Irene Nelson
- Daniel LaRose
- Meagan Scruggs
- Kevin Verlanic
- Deloris Johnson
- Dotty Marceau
- Mo Memoli
- Phil Leiritz
- Paul Anderson
- Dorrie Beach
- Makena Howard
- Becky Pamin
- Kelly Courage
- Brent DeGarmo
- John Turman
- Adam Vylasek
- Lynne Jensen
- Jim Dreger
- Ashley Duane
- Liz Dobbs

February

- Ken Stone
- JR Lester
- Pansy Vylasek
- Debbie Chism
- Jacob Hofeldt
- Ruth Jones
- Mark Peterson
- Heather Halford
- Wayne Wade
- Terry Sullivan
- Cameron Bartell
- Michelle Ellen
- Denise Rohan-Smith
- Kirk Johnson
- Cathy Kaudy
- Scott Rohan-Smith
- Jeff Haberman



March

- Pedro Leiva
- Karra Gillingham
- Julie Scott
- Paul Haviland
- Sierra Meredith
- Sue Alley
- Scott Beach
- Donna Kolar
- Greg Miller
- Thomas Hawkins
- Chris Jones
- Susan Webster
- Sharon Wieder
- Deb Flankey
- Gabe Katzenstein
- Martina Rowley
- Vickie White
- James Boone
- Bob Palmer
- Paul Bohan
- Troy Lawrence
- Ralph Casebolt
- Bob Mitchell
- Scott Whitmore
- Cliff Laub

Venison Stew

- 2 tbs cooking oil
- 2 lbs venison stew meat
- 3 large onions (coarsely chopped)
- 2 garlic cloves (crushed)
- 1 tbs Worcestershire sauce
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tbs salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 3 cups water
- 7 potatoes (peeled and quartered)
- 1 lbs carrots (cut in small pieces)
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup cold water
- bottled browning sauce (optional)



Heat oil in a Dutch oven, brown meat, add onion, water, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, bay leaf, oregano, salt and pepper. Simmer covered 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until meat is tender. Add potatoes and carrots. Continue to cook until vegetables are tender, about 30-45 minutes. Mix flour and cold water together and stir into stew. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Add browning sauce if desired. Remove bay leaf. Yields 8-10 servings.

Employee Profile: Ashley Duane

Meet Ashley! Ashley currently works as a bus attendant and together with her aunt Chris they carry on the family tradition of working for Beach Transportation. Ashley's mom and grandma also worked for many years at the company, helping get kids safely to school. Ashley and her mom have always had a passion for working with kids. She started her career at Beach Transportation in October 2014, and wanted to get more involved.



She got a second job for a time at Lewis & Clark Elementary school for about 4-years while still working as a bus attendant. When asked about working with kids, Ashley shared "I remember in the 4th grade taking a fun survey on *what do you want*

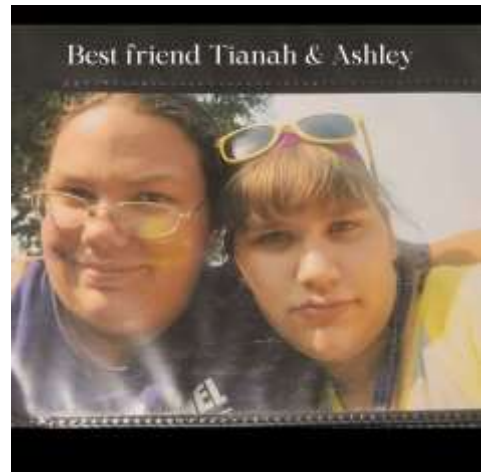
to be when you grow up? and even then, I always wanted to be a Kindergarten teacher". Since school wasn't really her personal favorite pastime, Ashley continued her passion by joining Beach.

She was born in Baltimore, MD and moved to Missoula in 2001. Her father, being from Missoula, brought his family back to his hometown while her grandfather was passing away. Ashley likes spending time with her family and friends and in her spare time, Ashley and her dad watch wrestling matches on TV while eating dinner together. Pizza being the preference- as long as there are no mushrooms. "My current dad was my biological father's best friend. After he passed away 9 years ago, he really stepped up into the role of my father and has been there for me and has been a huge support". Growing up with a dog named Daisy and a cat named Lucky, she decided to adopt one of her own. Her cat Ginger came all the way from Pennsylvania and is very independent. "My favorite things that I love about her the most, is her baby blue eyes and her fur creates a striped necklace".

Ashley attended high school at Sentinel like her father but expressed, "I wanted to go to Hellgate like my two aunts! However, I did have an amazing teacher my senior year that helped me push myself academically and I ended up getting an amazing GPA and graduated in the top 20 percent". She initially loved math, but then veered towards English and Science later in high

school. School impacted Ashley's life in more ways than one.

More wonderful things continued to stem from Ashley's experiences in the 4th grade besides the career survey. Ashley met her lifelong friend in the 4th grade and have continued strong ever since. Her best friend, Tianah, also headed for the teaching route in Child Education. She frequently hangs out with Tianah and their goal is to watch as many horror films as possible. Their collective favorite movie being *In-sidious*. "When my mom was still here in Montana before she moved home to Pennsylvania, that was our thing. She got me hooked on movies like *Friday the 13th*, *Halloween*, and *Scream*." One of her hobbies includes collecting TV series. She has three tall movie cases full of TV series on DVD with her favorite being the 1993 show *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*.



Here's a fun fact, Ashley holds a special spot for theme parks! Her favorite memories were back when she was still in high school, and her family took her to Silverwood three summers in-a-row. Ashley recalls the time when they rode the Panic Plunge Tower and, "The entire time we were going up, my stepmom had her eyes closed and was screaming. However, she didn't even realize the ride was over and we had already dropped down!" One of her favorite sections of the park is actually the tidal wave and waterpark, since she loves being in the water. With her love of theme parks, water, and rides, Ashley hopes to one day visit Disneyland or Six Flags. Another bucket list destination is Hawaii. "Hawaii would also be an amazing place that I would love to visit. One of my favorite animals is a dolphin, so I would love to go there". It was amazing to hear all about Ashley's childhood growing up in Missoula and her goals. Her next goal is to obtain her driver's license and continue working with kids in the future.



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