

December 2025

Library Newsletter

Merry Christmas



Lesson Spotlight

Mr. Askin's Law & Justice classes gained some valuable insight with bonus lessons connecting to the IEFA essential understandings. Mrs. Didriksen curated an informative collection, Treaties, Right, Laws of Montana Tribal Nations, to help students gain a more complete understanding of how laws and jurisdictions interconnect on reservations, local communities, states, and federal governments. The concepts were enhanced with a class close-reading activity of Jurisdiction, Justice System, and American Indians in Montana where students discovered the most about the Montana Indian Law. To follow that up, Kris Goss, Helena Community College Library director and former attorney presented a case study that students could examine and apply their knowledge of Montana Indian Law and Tribal laws. If you need assistance with IEFA connections to your lessons – ask a librarian.

Book Inventory

Our favorite time of year has arrived! No... not Christmas. Not even a three-day weekend. It's Book Inventory! 📚

In the spirit of knowing exactly what's living on our shelves, we kindly ask that you coordinate with the library to arrange any needed assistance so inventory can be completed accurately and efficiently. Please let us know your availability—or the best contact person—so we can get this show on the road.

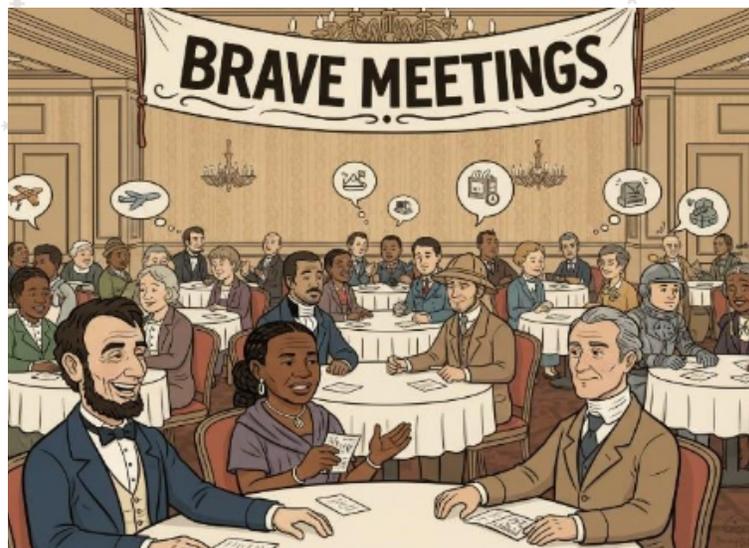
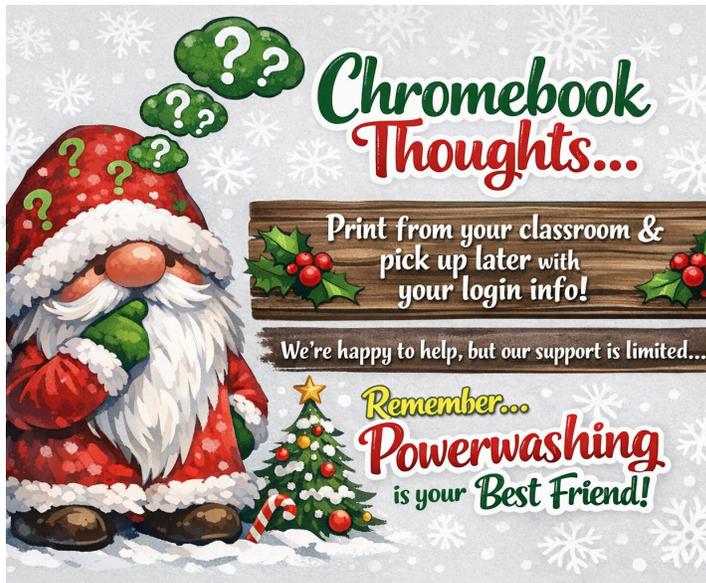
Thank you for your cooperation, your patience, and your enthusiasm for the sweet sound of scanners. Happy beeping! 😊

WHAT'S COOL ABOUT CHRISTMAS? (BESIDES EVERYTHING)



Andy Williams sings, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." Here's some things I bet you didn't know about this "wonderful time of the year":

- Christmas trees didn't come to America until the 1800's.
- Rudolph was born in 1939 by the Montgomery Ward department store as a book for kids.
- Jingle Bells was originally a Thanksgiving song.
- The tallest natural Christmas tree ever displayed was a 221-foot Douglas Fir in Seattle.
- Coca-Cola's 1930s advertisements played a major role in creating the Santa we see today.
- The first Christmas card was created by Sir Henry Cole in 1843.
- The Christmas wreath symbolizes eternity and hope.
- The earliest artificial Christmas trees were crafted from dyed goose feathers.



A FRIENDLY REMINDER

The Helena High School Collections hosts a wealth of organized resources for teachers and students. The knowledgeable and friendly Librarians are here to assist you every step of the way. You can reach out to Joanne and Tim to coordinate something that will work to your benefit and fit your curriculum.



Ahh... Christmas: the annual glitter-spllosion chaos where society collectively decides that eating cookies for breakfast is “festive,” wearing matching pajamas is socially acceptable, and spending three hours untangling lights is a spiritual journey worthy of its own documentary.

With that being said, Christmas Break is December 22, 2025–January 5, 2026



LIBRARY HOURS



MONDAY - THURSDAY: 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

FRIDAY: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

PRIOR TO ANY LONG WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAY,
DOORS CLOSE AT 3:30 P.M.

Students often struggle deciding who or what to research for their next project. In a collaborative effort with English II and the teacher-librarians, students participated in a speed-dating activity to allow them the opportunity to meet 66 potential candidates for their bravery research project. Students were provided a score sheet to take brief notes and rate each of the pre-screened brave people. Joanne and Tim created biographical cards with symbols for each of the 66 people and organized them into ten different categories. Eleven tables held six cards each. Students were given two minutes to review six perspective “dates” and then moved to the next table of six brave people. The process was completed in one class period which allowed students to rank their top four interesting brave people to research . . . now their research work begins.

<https://hhs.helenaschools.org/library>