

Missoula County

April 12, 2016

Media Release

Contact: Leah Fitch, Outreach Coordinator

Anna Semple, Healthy Start Coordinator

Missoula Forum for Children and Youth

Missoula County

Leah: leah@missoulaforum.org • (513) 280-3369

Anna: anna@missoulaforum.org • (406) 529-0887



STRESSED BRAINS CAN'T LEARN: PAPER TIGERS, A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY JAMES REDFORD ON TRAUMA-INFORMED EDUCATION, TO SCREEN AT DENNISON THEATER

The Missoula Forum for Children and Youth in conjunction with several partner agencies will host a screening of "Paper Tigers," a film that captures the pain, danger, beauty and hopes of struggling teens and teachers armed with new science and fresh approaches that are changing lives for the better.

The documentary film, directed by James Redford, will be screened on Thursday, April 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Dennison Theater on the University of Montana campus. The screening is free and open to the public, though advance registration is encouraged. Those interested can register online: www.missoulaforum.org.

"Paper Tigers" is a relevant and timely documentary that explores the impact of adverse childhood experiences on struggling teens. The film follows a year in the life of students at Lincoln High School, an alternative high school in Walla Walla, Washington that has radically changed its approach to disciplining students through the practice of ongoing trauma-informed educational strategies. In the process, they have become a promising model for how to break the cycles of poverty, violence, substance abuse and disease that affect families.

Told with intimate diary cam footage, "Paper Tigers" is a testament to what the latest research on childhood adversity is proving: that one caring adult can change the trajectory of a young person's life. The trailer is available online: <https://vimeo.com/110821029>.

"Paper Tigers" is a moving and profoundly important film that offers critical insights into one of the most widespread educational and health challenges in American society. It should be mandatory viewing for teachers and principals across the country, and anyone who works with vulnerable youth," said David Bornstein, New York Times author and co-founder of the Solutions Journalism Network. "We are encouraging anyone who works with youth in Missoula to attend. In fact, all Missoula County teachers and early childhood providers can receive training credits for doing attending the screening and the discussion held afterward."

Because of widespread excitement over this film, several organizations in Missoula have come together to bring "Paper Tigers" to Missoula. Sponsors for the screening include Missoula Forum for Children and Youth, Child Care Resources, Elevate Montana, Brightways Learning, The Parenting Place, United Way of Missoula County, SAMSHA, and The Department of Counselor Education at the University Of Montana. Please feel free to contact any of these local agencies for more information on the event.

###

**The
Forum**
Celebrating **20 Years** of Collaboration

The Missoula Forum for Children and Youth is an alliance of prevention workgroups united by a common mission to lead collaborative, proactive community efforts to prevent underage substance use and to foster the development of healthy and resilient children and youth.