

THE WEDNESDAY READER
May 10, 2023

Please note, I will be out of the office beginning Friday afternoon, May 12, and returning Monday, May 22; therefore, there will not be a *Wednesday Reader* next week, May 17. The last *Wednesday Reader* of the 2022-2023 school year will be Wednesday, May 24.

Save the Date—MCEE Summer Seminar, July 24-25 at Montana State University

The [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) is pleased to offer Montana educators a no-cost professional development seminar to be held July 24-25, 2023, on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman.

This is an opportunity to improve teaching economics and personal finance led by leading researchers and instructors at MSU. MCEE and its sponsors will cover lodging, meals, materials, and mileage to Bozeman to remove any barriers to participation. This sponsorship is thanks to lead sponsors Reach Higher Montana, Bank of the Rockies, and First Security Bank.

With the newly adopted graduation requirement of a half-credit in economics or personal finance, this is a great program to support teachers' confidence and provide resources for classroom success.

The program will be structured in alignment of economics and personal finance standards with the opportunity to earn 14 renewal unit credit hours. MCEE and its board of directors will host its celebration of teachers' dinner the evening of July 24.

Registration will open this month. For questions, please contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

Code.org CS Fundamentals Training in Belgrade in June

[CSTA Montana](#) is pleased to announce AVID, [Code.org](#), CSTA Montana, and the Belgrade School District have collaborated to offer a three-day Computer Science Fundamentals training for K-5 teachers at Saddle Peak Elementary in Belgrade June 12-14.

This professional learning (PL) opportunity is designed for educators with little to no prior experience or knowledge pertaining to computer science. In short, this is "computer science for the non-computer science teacher."

Days #1 and #2 of the PL establish computational thinking as a foundational problem-solving framework with exposure to examples of open-source computer science curricula; day #3 dives more deeply into Code.org's specific K-5 training.

This PL provides a basic introduction to block-based coding ([Code.org](#), [Scratch](#), [MakeCode](#)), with an emphasis on establishing the educator's comfort, capacity, and confidence in integrating computational thinking and computer science in core content areas.

The learning experience will illustrate how computational thinking serves as a universal problem-solving framework that can be integrated across subject areas, with specific classroom activity examples for ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Art.

The outcome of this PL will help shift mindsets from 'learning to code' to 'coding to learn' by demonstrating how computational thinking skills improve student learning across all content areas.

For teachers not in the Gallatin Valley, a block of rooms are available at the La Quinta Inn in Belgrade at \$109/night.

If you have questions, please reach out to Ty Stevenson at tstevenson@AVID.org or Doug Ferguson at dferguson@AVID.org.

Preparing for Perkins 2023-2024 Grants

E-Grants is currently scheduled to open May 15 for Perkins grant applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Applications are scheduled to be due June 30, 2023.

As you prepare for the upcoming grant, the following items are the main components to prepare for the 23-24 grant.

- A copy of Advisory Committee minutes
- Responses to the grant summary questions
- Complete the review of the Performance Measures and add comments, if needed
- Proposed expenditures and overall grant budget

For the Advisory Committee minutes, the minutes should be from a committee meeting held during this school/fiscal year. If needed, a meeting can be held this spring with a copy of draft/unofficial minutes submitted.

For Performance Measures 5S2 Attained Post-secondary Credits (Dual Enrollment) and Performance Measure 5S3: Received Work-based Learning Credits, school are not required to offer dual enrollment and/or credit-awarding work-based learning opportunities; however, it is encouraged if possible. Should these Performance Measures be marked as not met, the description of strategies and activities box can be used to share what the school/district is doing to support these measures.

For work-based learning credits, if students are not able to participate in a credit-earning workplace experience, please list activities going on related to work-based learning including CTSO activities and projects.

When planning budgets, funds can be used to support both teacher and student travel, including CTSO events, membership dues, and upgrades for classroom equipment. Keep in mind, Perkins funds cannot be used to pay for consumables and food.

Mark Your Calendars & Plan Your Budgets for 2023-2024 Professional Events

Below is a preview of some of the planned Career & Technical Education & Business Education professional development for the 2023-2024 school year.

Montana ACTE/MBEA Fall Institute: October 19-20, Fairmont Hot Springs
ACTE's CareerTech VISION conference: November 29-December 2, Phoenix
Western Business Education Association 2024 Conference: February 15-18, Eugene
National Business Education Association 2024 Convention:
ACTE Region v Conference: April 9-12, Honolulu

[Computer Science Teachers Association \(CSTA\) 2023 Annual Conference](#)

-July 11-13, Virtual

[Adobe MAX 2023](#)

-October 10-12; Los Angeles, California

New CTE Professionals Workshop 2023

--Virtual Sessions (September and October, TBD) & In-person session October 18; Fairmont Hot Springs

[Montana ACTE Institute 2023](#)

--October 19-20; Fairmont Hot Springs

[Jumpstart National Educator Conference 2023](#)

--November 4-6; Chandler, Arizona

--See information below for the conference scholarship program

--Scholarships to attend the conference are due August 18, 2023

ACTE's [CareerTech VISION 2023](#)

--November 29-December 2; Phoenix, Arizona

[NICE K12 Cybersecurity Education 2023 Conference](#)

--December 4-5; Phoenix, Arizona

[Montana DECA 2024 State Career Development Conference](#)

--February 4-6; Missoula, Montana

[Northwest Council for Computer Education \(NCCE\) 2023 Conference](#)

--February 14-16; Seattle, Washington

Western Business Education Association [2024 Conference](#)

--February 15-18; Eugene, Oregon

[Montana BPA 2024 State Leadership Conference](#)

--March 10-12; Billings, Montana

[National Business Education Association 2024 Convention](#)

-- March 26-29; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

[ACTE Region 5 Leadership 2024 Conference](#)

--April 9-12; Honolulu, Hawaii

DECA 2024 [International Career Development Conference](#)

--April 27-30; Anaheim, California

Business Professionals of America 2024 [National Leadership Conference](#)

--May 10-14; Chicago, Illinois

International Society for Technology in Education's [ISTELive](#) 2024

--June 23-26; Denver, Colorado

[Highlands College is Hosting the 2023 Dual Enrollment Summit in June in Butte](#)

The [2023 Dual Enrollment Summit](#) will be held in Butte at Highlands College, Monday-Tuesday, June 12-13, 2023. [Registration](#) for the 2023 Dual Enrollment Summit is now open and can be completed online. The registration fee is \$100.

Visit the [2023 Dual Enrollment Summit](#) page for a tentative schedule of events and to register. For questions, please contact Bernie Phelps at bphelps@mtech.edu.

Opportunity for FREE Virtual Certiport Training and Testing—Pick 1 of the 3 Dates Available

Certiport and Montana OPI are pleased to offer multiple days of FREE [virtual training](#) and certification testing.

There will be [three \(3\) training sessions](#) that coincide with three (3) testing sessions. Each session, the trainings and testing, will be one (1) hour. Please do not sign up for multiple dates. Registrations for multiple dates will be canceled entirely.

--Option 1: Training May 15 @ 11 am (MDT); testing May 19, time TBD.

--Option 2: Training June 5 @ 11 am (MDT); testing June 9, time TBD.

--Option 3: Training June 12 @ 11 am (MDT); testing June 16, time TBD.

In each [training session](#), Janette Sayer with Certiport will provide an overview of all Certiport products and will provide an in-depth training of LearnKey and GMetrix from the perspective of both the teacher and the student.

You will have until Friday of the same week as your training date to study and practice on your own. You will then be able to test using Certiport's Exams from Home Solution. All exams are administered and proctored online.

[Register now](#) to reserve your spot in the session of your choice and receive your free LearnKey and GMetrix materials before your scheduled training. Seating is limited to 25 per training session and will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

Below is a [list of certification programs](#) offered through Certiport.

- Adobe Certified Professional
- Autodesk Certified User
- CISCO
- Communication Skills for Business
- EC-Council Associate Certifications
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business
- IC3 Digital Literacy Certification
- Information Technology Specialist
- Intuit
- Microsoft
- Project Management Institute
- Swift
- Unity Certifications

Summer Computer Science Professional Development for Middle School Teachers

The University of Montana is hosting a one-week long, in-person professional development session on Python modules this summer. This professional development is intended for middle school teachers and will be held the second or third week of July on the University of Montana campus in Missoula.

A \$600 stipend will be provided. Participants are responsible for the own travel and related expenses for food and lodging. A minimum of eight (8) participants are needed for the professional development to happen; no background in Python needed.

This professional development will be presented by Dr. Yolanda Reimer from the Computer Science department at UM. For more information contact Yolanda at yolanda.reimer@mso.umt.edu.

Business & Marketing Montana Career Pathways Sent Out for Review and Approval

Following the review of the Business & Marketing Participation Reports from 2022-2023 school year, Pathway Approval Form(s) for Montana's Business & Marketing Education programs' Montana Career Pathways were sent out via email the week of April 10.

The courses within the Pathway Approval Form are those most closely related to those in the OPI's Montana Career Pathways' [Secondary Programs of Study](#). In reviewing the CTE Participation Reports and adding courses to/updating the Pathway Approval Forms, I have tried to ensure all courses taught are listed in at least one pathway.

If your program has more than one pathway, the Excel sent in the email will have a sheet for each pathway. All pathways require at least one (1) credit/two (2) semesters of foundational coursework and at least one (1) credit/two (2) semesters of elective, or advanced, coursework.

If you would like to view all the courses within your CTE Participation Report, please let me know. Keep in mind the data in this year's CTE Participation Reports cannot be changed, but the data can be updated when information is entered into TEAMS for the 2023-2024 school year next fall.

To finalize the Pathway Approval Form(s), please complete the following steps.

1. Review the courses and related information listed in the form and note any necessary updates/corrections.
2. List any additional courses not offered this year, but may be offered on an alternating/rotating schedule basis.
3. Include any Work-Based Learning experiences provided by the program &/or the school (a [Work-Based Learning Manual](#) can be downloaded from the OPI website).
4. Identify any Dual Enrollment course offerings and/or Industry Recognized Credentials available within the program area.

When completed, please key your name, or the name of the individual who approved the data within the form, and the date.

Save a copy for your records and email the Excel file/form(s) back to me at eswenson@mt.gov by Saturday, May 30.

With Perkins V, CTE concentrators for Perkins reporting are identified by Montana Career Pathway instead of CTE program area. Therefore, please share your approved pathway(s) with those who work with your school/district Perkins data as these will be the available pathways for next year's reporting. Schools will identify their approved pathways from the 2022-2022 school year when completing the Perkins E-grant application for the 2023-2024 school year.

Thank you for your time to review and complete the Pathway Approval Form(s) and please let me know if there are any questions or if any additional information is needed.

Save the Date for Scratch Conference, and More

Save the date for the Scratch Conference, July 20. Join [Scratch](#) virtually on July 20 for their annual [Scratch Conference](#). This international gathering of educators, researchers, and developers is an opportunity to share and learn ideas and strategies for supporting Scratch and ScratchJr. [Learn more](#) and stay tuned: tickets will be on sale soon.

A new tutorial is available--[Scratching the Surface](#). Scratch is excited to introduce a new tutorial series where Scratch Team members cover intermediate coding concepts in a bite-sized one-minute format. Check out the [first installment](#), where Scratch explore the wonderful world of grids.

[Apply Today to Attend Jump\\$tart National Educator Conference for Free in November](#)

Teachers, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and other supporters of financial education are gathering November 4-6 for the 14th annual [Jump\\$tart National Educator Conference](#) at the Gila River Resort and Casino in Chandler, Arizona, to expand the actionable impact of effective financial education in the classroom.

For teachers, the Jump\$tart National Educator Conference remains an all-[scholarship](#) event. This year, Jump\$tart and its generous scholarship providers and donors will be providing 375 classroom educators with scholarships covering full conference registration, two hotel nights, and six conference meals. Participants are responsible for travel.

All teachers who will attend the conference are recipients of a scholarship from Jump\$tart or one of our scholarship partners. [Scholarship applications](#) are now open and are due August 18.

[Funding the Future's Fall 2023 Financial Literacy Tour will be coming to Montana in September](#)

[Funding the Future](#) is a 501c(3) organization that teaches students vital financial principles by organizing live musical performances at schools across the country and creating a dialogue around financial literacy between students and musicians. Funding the Future believes by teaching financial literacy to the next generation of leaders, these young adults will make smarter financial decisions, leading to increased professional and personal success.

There is NO COST to schools. [Funding the Future](#) uses sponsorships, donations, and various grant programs to fund our shows.

Using the power of a live music performance and their own personal stories, their musicians inspire students to take control of their financial future. The assembly-style show is 60-75 minutes and is intended for 6th-12th grade students. Topics covered include credit scores, avoiding unnecessary debt, avoiding high risk lenders online and elsewhere, pitfalls of predatory lending and payday loans, creating a financial savings and investment game plan, and setting goals and following your dreams.

To learn more about Funding the Future and to [book a show](#), please visit the [Funding the Future](#) website.

[Registration Now Open for Montana STEM Summer Institute—July 31-August 2 in Bozeman](#)

The [5th Annual Montana STEM Summer Institute—Spark Curiosity with STEM](#)—is a one-of-a-kind, Montana-made showcase for STEM integration across all grades and subject areas. The [5th Annual Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) will be held July 31-August 2 at MSU Bozeman. [Registration](#) is now open with an early bird rate of \$191.25 thru May 31 and a rate of \$180 for School Systems of Montana member schools.

You will enjoy exemplary K-12 STEM instruction and resources, inspiring national speakers, and the best of Bozeman and MSU. The interactive agenda is designed to spark curiosity about STEM practices and projects, not only for your students, but for educators, too. During the Institute you will discover how Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics complement one another and combine to

motivate powerful 21st century learning. Ignite your curiosity as you engage in purposeful networking, attend demonstration sessions and mini-workshops, and meet our inspirational keynote speakers.

Discounted lodging options are available for attendees. Please visit the [Montana STEM Summer Institute](#) website for details.

Free Cybersecurity Curriculum Opportunity from Teach Cyber

Is Your School Offering or Expanding a Cybersecurity Program in Fall 2023? The [Teach Cyber Schools](#) program will enable high schools that have high under-served and/or highly diverse populations and limited resources to establish and/or grow student interest in cybersecurity by providing resources and support to teachers and administrators. We plan to work with high schools that have existing cybersecurity course(s) or plan to offer a cybersecurity course Fall 2023.

What does the Teach Cyber High Schools program offer?

- No Cost Quality Curriculum
- Safe-Sandboxed Virtual Environment for Hands-On Learning
- Teacher Professional Development - Initial and Ongoing
- Best Practices in Cybersecurity Learning
- Support for Placement and Dual Credit
- A Community of Practice

How is this program possible? Thanks to generous donor support, this 3-year program is offered at no cost to high schools. The Teach Cyber Schools program is valued at \$45,000 for selected schools.

Do you want to learn more about the Teach Cyber High Schools program? Join the Teach Cyber High Schools program information session on April 27 at 6:30 pm (MDT). To register for this session, please email Jenny Daugherty at jenny.daugherty@darkenterprisesinc.com.

Is Your School Interested in becoming a [Teach Cyber High School](#)? To apply to be considered as a Teach Cyber High School, click [here](#). The deadline to apply is May 1, 2023.

500 Horatio Alger CTE Scholarships are now Available

Students, aged 18-35, can earn up to \$2,500 for a Certification or Technical program with the [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#). The funds can assist students with tuition, fees, supplies, uniforms, transportation, etc...

Scholarships are awarded up to \$2,500 to pursue a career certification or technical education at an accredited non-profit post-secondary institution in the United States.

For more details and to find a program, visit the [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#) page on the ACTE website.

Free & Virtual Summer Computer Science Course Offering from MSU

[CSCI 581 Computer Science in the Classroom: Computational Thinking for Teachers](#) is a two (2) credit course being offered this summer for FREE to Montana teachers.

This virtual (synchronous) course examines the computing field and how it impacts the human condition. Exciting ideas and influential people are introduced. A gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language is provided. The course also introduces participants to robotic platforms.

CSCI 581 will be offered virtually July 17-31, 2023, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm daily. The course will be taught by MSU Bozeman Computer Science Faculty, Hunter Lloyd.

Full tuition stipends are available for teachers in Montana who submit a letter of support from an administrator and a brief letter of intent.

Visit the MSU MSSE program website for registration, application and other information: montana.edu/msse or msse@montana.edu.

NOTE: you can take MSSE classes as a non-degree seeking student—you do not need to be admitted to the MSU Master of Science in Science Education (MSSE) program to take this course.

Registration is Now Open for Empowered's FREE RiseUp Professional Development

[RiseUp](#) events are the flagship of [Empowered's](#) in-person training and professional development program. These three-day, regional programs are designed to assemble 300+ educators (each) to share a truly unique professional development experience. Speakers, panels, sessions, and leave-to-learns are specifically designed to be hands-on and foster participation and exploration.

The western region [RiseUp](#) will be July 18-20, 2023, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tracks will be available for current teachers and teachers new to Empowered's curriculum, as well as joint sessions.

Thanks to the generous support of Empowered's donors and financial partners, registration for RiseUp events is free. Meals and snacks are included as part of the program and hotel scholarships are available for those traveling to participate. Professional Development Certificates will be issued to all participants. Teachers attending RiseUp are responsible for their transportation costs and incidentals.

Need more information? Try the [FAQ](#) page or [contact Empowered](#). If attending, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units for Professional Development (RUPDs) events.

[Empowered](#), a non-profit organization, partners with and supports K-12 educators. The Empowered Community—with thousands of teachers nationwide—believes that every student deserves an education that helps them discover and develop their own, unique skills and truly prepares them for life ahead.

[Empowered](#) offers 140+ engaging learning activities, training and professional development (including [RiseUp](#) events), support, from our staff and teacher community, and a collection of tools and resources to help bring learning to life.

Free Summer Virtual Professional Development from CYBER.org

[CYBER.org](#) is offering three (3) professional development events during the summer for teachers wanting to learn more about teaching cyber education and cybersecurity. The weeklong, five days, events will be offered virtually with both asynchronous and synchronous learning methods.

[Cybersecurity Bootcamp](#) will be offered June 26-30 and, again, July 24-28. This event is a full five-day professional development (8-10 am and 12-2 pm MDT) that includes a mixture of both asynchronous and synchronous learning. Attendees will use the new CYBER.ORG Range that is free to all K-12 Educators within the United States and hear from the range developers some tips for best practices. Participants will meet each morning to learn new cybersecurity content and run through a class from the student's perspective.

Attendees will work through challenging and technical labs with the CYBER.ORG staff while running through less challenging labs on their own. Attendees will also review selected Case Studies on their own and then discuss as a whole group. New to 2023, there will be a beginner track for those still getting used to using a cyber range and an advanced track for participants who are comfortable using a cyber range.

[Intro to Cybersecurity Bootcamp](#) will be held July 17-21, from 8-10 am and 12-2 pm MDT. This is a new course for 2023 and is at both middle schools and high schools who are trying to implement a cybersecurity course that is not as technical as CYBER.ORG's technical Cybersecurity course.

This course was created by New Jersey's Garden State Cyber, piloted by New Jersey teachers in the 2022-2023 school year, and obtained by CYBER.ORG to be used in all classrooms across the country. Using a mixture of both asynchronous and synchronous learning, participants will meet each morning to learn new cybersecurity content and run through a class from the student's perspective. Attendees will work through labs with the CYBER.ORG staff as well as work through labs and activities on their own.

Attendees will use the new CYBER.ORG Range that is free to all K-12 Educators within the United States and hear some tips from the range developers for best practices.

[CYBER.org](#) also hosts a series of hour-long professional development sessions throughout the year on various topics related to their free curriculum and resources. Please visit the [CYBER.org Events](#) page for details regarding all their free, virtual events and professional development opportunities.

Foundation for Economics Education Conference in Las Vegas—Free Hotel & Registration

The [Foundation for Economics Education](#) (FEE) invites all teachers teaching, or interested in teaching, economics to Las Vegas, June 27-28. This two-day professional development event will equip you with the pedagogical tools and instructional resources to start you on the way to becoming a master Economics educator. This professional development includes a complimentary hotel stay the nights of June 27 and June 28 at [Red Rocks Resort & Spa](#).

A \$49 deposit is required when [registering](#) to hold your place and will be refunded in full upon your attendance at this professional development. If you must cancel your registration, please do so 7 days in advance of the event to receive a full refund.

Please visit the [FEE website](#) for more information and/or to create a free account to access [conference details](#) and FEE materials.

CYBER.ORG Offering Travel Grants for EdCon 2023 in Arizona

Do not let financial constraints keep you from [CYBER.ORG's EdCon 23](#) at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona, June 20-22, 2023.

CYBER.ORG has a limited number of \$500 travel grants available for eligible teachers. Recipients of travel grants will be able to use the funds to seek reimbursement for up to \$500 of registration, airfare, and/or hotel costs.

All applicants will receive a response to their application within 14 days with an award decision. Please note: (A) in order to *accept* the travel grant, you must (1) register for EdCon 23; (B) in order to *receive funds*, you must (1) attend EdCon 23 and (2) submit receipts for the total for which you are

seeking reimbursement. Complete instructions will be given to awardees in the email notifying them of the award decision.

[Apply today.](#)

CYBER.ORG Hosting CYBER.ORG EdCon 23 in June in Mesa

[CYBER.ORG](#) announces registration is now open for [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#). [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) (formerly CEDF) is a national conference designed to inspire and empower novice and expert K-12 cybersecurity educators alike.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn ready-to-implement lessons from CYBER.ORG curriculum developers.
- Explore at-no-cost resources from industry experts.
- Gain firsthand knowledge from K-12 educators teaching foundational and technical cybersecurity.

[CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) will be held June 20-23, 2023, at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona.

[Early bird registration](#) is \$50 for K-12 Educators & Government, \$100 for Higher Ed & Non-Profit, and \$150 for Industry member and ends April 30, 2023.

[Book Your Stay](#) at the Delta Hotels Phoenix Mesa for \$103 plus taxes per night. The rooming block ends May 19, 2023.

Applications Now Open in Montana for the Code.org Professional Learning Program

Applications are now open for Code.org's [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators. If you are interested in teaching computer science for the 2023-2024 academic year, this is your time to explore the computer science curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and teaching strategies.

What is the Professional Learning Program? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, our professional development workshops will prepare you to confidently bring CS to your students as well as connect with an online and in-person community of peers. Most workshops have scholarship funding available.

[Elementary teachers](#) can sign-up for a one-day workshop near you. Applications are not required for Computer Science Fundamentals workshops and take place throughout the country, year-round.

[Middle and High School teachers](#) will begin with a five-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries (CSD), Computer Science Principles (CSP), and/or Computer Science A (CSA) in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

- Option 1: Virtual, July 24-28, 2023
- Option 2: University of Idaho–Coeur d'Alene Harbor Center, July 31-August 4, 2023
- Option 3: Raisbeck Aviation High School, Tukwila, Washington, August 7-11, 2023

The cost of CSD, CSP, or CSA is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (nine total days of training). Any travel, lodging, or food costs for in-person trainings are separate. Scholarship opportunities are available to cover the costs of Code.org training tuition for qualified applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact [Code.org](#).

Fun Facts & Trivia

In the film *A Bug's Life*, a hungry hoard of grasshoppers, led by Hopper, annually extort food from a timid ant colony.

Flik, a klutzy but inventive worker ant, tries to increase production with a harvesting contraption, but his plans go awry, and he finds himself instead sent out of the colony to find a way to stop the grasshoppers.

Flik recruits a bunch of inept flea-circus performers to rally against Hopper's raid.

Working together, they plan for a climactic confrontation with the grasshoppers.

A Bug's Life was released in Los Angeles on November 20, 1998, and nationwide on November 25.

Voices include Dave Foley (Flik), Kevin Spacey (Hopper), Julia Louis-Dreyfus (Princess Atta), Hayden Panettiere (Princess Dot), Phyllis Diller (The Queen), Richard Kind (Molt), David Hyde Pierce (Slim), Joe Ranft (Heimlich), Denis Leary (Francis), Jonathan Harris (Manny), Madeline Kahn (Gypsy), Bonnie Hunt (Rosie), Michael McShane (Tuck & Roll), John Ratzenberger (P.T. Flea), Brad Garrett (Dim), and Roddy McDowall (Mr. Soil).

A Bug's Life was the second fully computer-animated film using *Toy Story's* 3-D animation style to tell a story about the world of insects.

Loosely based on Aesop's fable, "The Ants and the Grasshopper," the film was a collaboration of Disney and Pixar Animation Studios.

It's Tough to Be a Bug! is a nine-minute-long 3D film based on the 1998 Disney·Pixar film *A Bug's Life*, using theater lighting, 3-D filming techniques, audio-animatronics, and various special effects.

Flik, the lead character from the movie, hosts the show and educates the audience on why bugs should be considered friends.

It was the first Pixar attraction to open in a Disney park.

The attraction opened in Disney's Animal Kingdom at the Walt Disney World Resort on April 22, 1998, a full seven months before the actual feature debuted in theaters, and is housed within the theme park's icon, the "Tree of Life."

A second version of the attraction debuted at the opening of Disney California Adventure on February 8, 2001.

The version at California Adventure closed permanently on March 19, 2018, and was replaced by "Web Slingers: A Spider-Man Adventure", an interactive screen ride based on the Spider-Man films set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

A Bug's Life was the first Pixar film to contain outtakes at the end of the film; there were even featured in the theatrical release of the film.

Famous Actress Madeline Kahn, who played Gypsy, passed one year after the film was released, making *A Bug's Life* the last film she was ever involved in.

A Bug's Life had a footage rendering server that was seven times as large as the one used on *Toy Story*.

The movie also had 23 more animators, over 60 more shots, about 270 more models and shaders, and 1,055 more feet (literally, characters' feet) than *Toy Story*.

During the end credits, Flik goes to take flight and utters the famous words of a Pixar Space ranger—"To Infinity and Beyond!"

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh