



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 17, 2023



The Sage Annual Family Camping trip, sponsored by the PTO, will take place **May 19th - 21st** at Elks Flat Campground near the town of Pine, Idaho. This fun weekend is for all Sage families and is a great way to build community and have FUN! Mark your calendars, and more information and registration will be coming soon!



The Re-enrollment window for the 2023-24 school year has now passed. If you did not complete it for your student(s), please reach out to our Registrar Gloria at gloria.merriam@sageintl.org. If your plans change for your family between now and when school starts and your student will not attend next year, we ask that you please [complete this form here](#). This is required in order to release your child(ren) records to another school upon request.



Our lottery for NEW families will close on February 27th, and be held on March 2nd! We appreciate your help spreading the word with families you think could thrive here at Sage. You can find more information [here](#).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 20 - 24 - Winter Break, no school
March 2 - New Family Lottery for 2023-24 School Year
March 16 - End of 3rd Quarter
April 10 - 14 - Spring Break, no school
May 23 - Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony
June 1 - Last Day of school

STAY IN TOUCH

Other than this newsletter, our website is the best resource for general info about Sage. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



OUR MISSION

“ Sage International School engages students within an inclusive IB learning community, challenging all members to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry. ”

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON:



Dear Parents and Staff of Sage International Schools,

We appreciate your support and confidence in our schools. This is an important time of the year for public charter schools in Idaho. We are in the middle of encouraging new families to apply to our lottery for admission to our schools and at the same time, we are encouraging all of our current families to re-enroll their children.

We have had very strong interest in our schools - record numbers of people are visiting our open houses in Middleton and in Boise. At every open house, prospective parents tell me that they are interested in finding a school where their children are safe and are challenged to learn in a supportive environment. We do both at our campuses in Middleton and Boise.

In the fall, we asked our Boise campus parents, as part of our school regularly scheduled re-accreditation process, how they would describe Sage. Overwhelmingly parents described Sage as welcoming, safe, warm and inspiring. Our students and faculty also described it similarly. We are grateful to each of you for contributing to feelings of warmth, safety and inspiration on our campuses, in our classrooms and on our playgrounds. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to check out our schools. For information on our lotteries and application process, [click here](#).

All the best,
Andy

PARENT ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

This week you received an email with a link to our annual Parent Engagement Survey, which is required by the state and open through March 31, 2023. This survey asks for your input on satisfaction, communication, and engagement and will help the State and our leadership team measure how we are doing in meeting your needs and supporting our Sage students.

The survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete, and your responses are anonymous. To access the survey, [click here](#) and choose Sage International School from the drop-down menu. We would love to hear from all of our Sage parents and guardians. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dani Zwolfer, IB Assessment and Curriculum Director, at dani.zwolfer@sageintl.org. Thank you!



A MESSAGE FROM DANNY SOLOMON, DEAN OF STUDENTS AND CAMPUS OPERATIONS



We have been working hard to improve safety on campus in the event of an emergency and we want to be sure to communicate those details with you. You can take a few moments to [read them here](#).

Thank you for your confidence in Sage and for trusting us with your children's education and safety while here at school. We know how frightening and disconcerting school violence and other emergencies can be. We appreciate our families and know that a strong school-parent partnership helps keep us all safe!

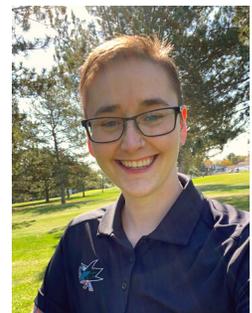
FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

National School Counseling Week is held the first week of February and focuses on advocating the unique contributions school counselors have within the school community. This highlights school counselors' tremendous impact in helping students achieve school success, supporting their mental health, and assisting them with college and career readiness.

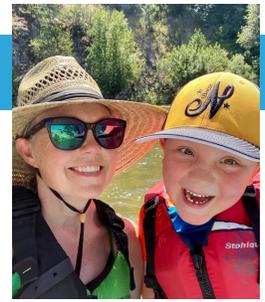
As mental health professionals, we provide students the opportunity to participate in brief individual check-in counseling sessions and group counseling. We also provide emergent responsive services for students who are struggling with their mental health or are in a mental health crisis. As education professionals, we participate in the intervention process and collaborate with teachers, support staff, directors, and parents in order to help students succeed to their fullest potential. Additionally, school counselors at Sage are the 504 coordinators for their respective grade levels, provide classroom social-emotional learning lessons, ensure students are fulfilling Idaho requirements for graduation, and provide college and career guidance. You can frequently find us on the playground or in the lunchroom, supporting administration, and working 1:1 with students on campus.

This is just a glimpse into the services that a school counselor provides daily. The role of a school counselor varies school by school and by grade level. If you have any questions for your school counselors or if your child is struggling with anything, please reach out! We would love to collaborate with you in order to help your child succeed and achieve their fullest potential at Sage!

Sincerely, Ashley Rivers & Brittany Meduna



THE PYP WITH KATE HUNTER



Classroom Spotlight, Fourth Grade:

Students recently wrapped up their inquiry unit on the PYP theme “How We Organize Ourselves”, focusing on the central idea that the choices communities and organizations make influence each other. Students learned about economics and the use of bartering systems prior to the emergence of monetary systems. For Bartering Day, students brought in items they felt were important, but that they were willing to trade for an even better item. They worked to try and convince each other why their item was valuable and why someone should trade them. After the activity, students wrote reflections about what went well, if they were happy with their trade, and why they think we moved away from a bartering system into a monetary one.



Recently, **3rd graders** dissected owl pellets, with the assistance of Mr. Mercer’s 11th grade science students! They removed any bones they



found and then classified what animal they came from and what part of the body. Skulls were especially exciting. As one student said, "it may sound gross, but it's FUN!"



2nd grade students had a wonderful time visiting The James Castle House last week. This fits into their unit’s driving question of “How do humans use creativity to express themselves?” They’ve been busy creating works in the style of James Castle!

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



This month we highlight our 8th-grade class! Cari Woodruff, our 8th-grade Physical and Health Educator, brought in two guest speakers over the past four class periods. First, a member of 4-H engaged our students in the study of animal adaptation in the winter, identifying animal tracks and understanding migration as well as introducing students to the use of maps and compasses. Second, a Hydrologist from the Boise Watershed worked with students to understand the various aspects of snow and the importance of snowpack (the accumulation of snow) in our surrounding mountains.

The culmination of these past two weeks resulted in 8th-grade students having the opportunity to snowshoe at Bogus Basin Ski Lodge. Students were broken into small groups and traversed the mountainside looking for animal tracks, sliding into igloos, digging snow pits, and measuring various temperatures to analyze the insulating factors that snow can provide.

This is the third year Mrs. Woodruff has provided this great experience.



Congratulations to some talented 8th-grade Sage writers! In November, Rosalie Harris, Maecy Page, and Brooke Reese completed NaNoWriMo, a national novel writing challenge to complete an original novel of 50,000 words in one month. These students may now edit and publish their finished novels! Equally impressive, two students entered



their creative writing into Idaho's Scholastic Writing competition. Both Ishi Bolleddu and Elizabeth Wiegley earned a Gold Key award, which is the highest honor. They are automatically entered into the national competition to take place in March.

Pictured L-R: Brooke Reese, Rosalie Harris, Ishi Bolleddu, and Maecy Page (Elizabeth Wiegley not pictured)

HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT



We are thrilled to announce the graduating class of 2023's **Valedictorian is Olivia Griffin!** Olivia has been a student at Sage since 4th grade. She has maintained a perfect GPA throughout her high school career and is involved in several extracurricular activities including Green Club, Student Council, Model UN and Beta Club. In her free time, she enjoys playing guitar and hiking in the foothills. Olivia is a full IB Diploma Programme candidate and following graduation, she plans to study Sociology. She is most interested in attending Boston University, Boston College, and the University of Michigan.

Additionally, we would like to recognize senior **Daly Marvel as Salutatorian!** Daly has also maintained a perfect GPA throughout high school and they are a full Diploma Programme candidate. They have been at Sage since the 7th grade and they are currently a member of the Sage Book Club and Beta Club. Daly is a risk-taker and is learning to play hockey! They also enjoy taking Barre classes in their free time. Daly is considering studying Geophysics at Western Washington University.



FAMILY FILM SCREENING

We are excited to welcome 6-12th grade families and students to our campus for a screening of two short films, **LIKE & Upstanders**. These films are brought to you by the Idaho Resilience Project, Children's Home Society of Idaho, and the Speedy Foundation.

When? Thursday, March 2nd from 6:15-8:15. Off the Grid will be here with their wood-fired pizza truck and ready to serve starting at 5:15.

Who? Students and families of 6th-12th graders. Younger children are welcome to attend but these films are better suited for students ages 12-18. There will not be childcare provided so please plan accordingly.

What? Attendees will view the two films back to back with a short break in between. LIKE is 51 minutes and Upstanders is 35 minutes. Please plan to arrive around 5:15 if you would like to purchase dinner from Off the Grid Pizza.

What is the content of these films? Please read about **LIKE here** and **The Upstanders here**.

If you are interested in screening these films at home, these films can be accessed on [Impactful's website](#) until November 2023. If you plan to attend, please [complete this RSVP](#) so we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you all there!

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR SAGE COMMUNITY

- **Community Supplies:** We are mid-way through the year and in typical fashion, are running very low on some of the community supplies many of you graciously donated when school started! Specifically, we have a **high need for kleenex**. You can donate by ordering them from our [Amazon Wishlist here](#) or drop them off at any front desk. Thank you!
- We are creating a **Parent Ambassadors Program** for families who are new to Sage. Our veteran families are a valuable resource for new families, and volunteering may include attending info nights, reaching out via phone and/or email, writing personal notes, etc! You can volunteer by completing [this form](#), thank you.
- **Mind the Gap: THANK YOU** to everyone who has donated. We have raised almost **\$72k of our \$100k goal!** We are hoping for participation from ALL families this year in any amount and hope you will consider a gift to Sage to support the opportunities we provide your students. We have received several match donations from Sage Employers such as Micron, check with yours to see if they match gifts! You can find more information [here](#).
- **THANK YOU** to our wonderful PTO for providing delicious bagels and coffee the last two Fridays! It was a welcome breakfast as teachers worked some extra hours for targeted Parent-Teacher conferences.

Speaking of our PTO, they hosted an OUTSTANDING family event on February 2nd with their **Winter Luau!!** Students, families, and staff danced, played games, and laughed a LOT together during this fun event! Thank you to the PTO for their many hours of planning, setup and cleanup! A big thank you as well to all our parents, and even secondary student volunteers who were a huge help with the various games and selling snacks! Our Sage Community is THE BEST.



ENRICHMENT



[Our Sage Snow Team](#) is doing fabulous! After last weekend, our Middle School team is in first place, and our high school team is in second place! You can find the results [here](#). These scores are based on participation and race times, and our racers are rocking it! Race 6 is this weekend and Dotty Clark finals are next week on Feb 22-23. You can find more information about their races [here](#)!

[Heart & Sole](#): This middle school program offered through Girls on the Run meets the unique needs of girls of all abilities in **6th-8th grade**. The program considers the whole person – body, brain, heart, spirit and social connection. All program participants train for and run a 5K. You can find more details and register [here](#).

Location: Sage Boise Campus

Dates: Weekly on Tuesdays starting March 7th from 3:45 - 5:45, 5K will be on May 19th.

[Camp Invention](#): A STEM Summer Camp Program for Grades K-6 that turns curious kids into innovative Thinkers! Introducing their all-new program for 2023, Wonder! This camp is held on our Sage Boise Campus for all students entering Grades K-6 in the fall.

Dates: 7/10/23 - 7/14/23 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

You can [learn more here](#) and save \$25 with early registration, discount information can be found [here](#).

[Soccer Shots](#): Returning this spring to the Sage Campus for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade! 6-week program.

Dates: Mondays at 3:45 pm from March 27th - May 8th

Cost: \$126 for the season

[Click here](#) for more info, and Enroll [HERE](#).

[Rising Stars](#) is back at Sage for a 10-week session of singing, hip-hop dancing, and acting! Taught by professional choreographer, playwright, and performer, Kerith Telestai, or as Sage kids call her, "Mrs. T". She now offers three different programs for students in grades Kindergarten through 12th.

Dates: Fridays at Sage from March 3 - May 19, with a performance on the last day. Find more information [HERE](#), deadline to register is March 1st and classes begin Friday, March 3rd!

More Opportunities - Sage has a large variety of clubs and activities, and you can find the complete list [here](#). You can find other activities offered for all ages in our community outside of Sage [here](#)! If you would like to add something to our Community Opportunities, , please email info@sageintl.org.