



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

MAY 12, 2023



The Sage Book Fair is coming just in time for all your summer and vacation reading needs! Students AND parents welcome.

**Dates: Monday May 22nd - Thursday May 25th**

**Times: 7:30 am - 4:15 pm every day**

All proceeds benefit the Sage Library!



**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to our Idaho Gives campaign! We raised \$7,660 toward our Annual Giving campaign, Mind the Gap. There is still time to help us reach our goal and we have raised \$81,630 toward our goal of \$100k. Click [HERE!](#)



Our PTO invites you to get involved! We have many fun events coming up, including the Sage Family Campout May 19-21 and the End of Year Picnic on June 1, the last day of school. Find the latest details [here](#). You can sign up for their newsletter [here](#) to find out more and follow them on [Facebook](#).



**THANK YOU** to our parents and PTO for all the wonderful gifts, food, notes, and kind words that you showered our Teachers and staff with for Teacher Appreciation Week. We are very grateful to our Sage Community for always showing up for us!

Check out our great new [WEBSITE](#), and find us on social media via the links below!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**MAY 18** - Middle School Dance

**May 19-21** - PTO Family Camping Trip

**May 22-25** - Book Fair

**May 23** - 2023 Graduation Ceremony

**May 24** - PTO Meeting 4pm

**June 1** - Last Day of school & EOY Picnic

## 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 families and staff of Sage International Schools,

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. I am grateful for our teachers and staff at both of our campuses and in our Network office. We are all engaged in fulfilling our mission to engage students within an inclusive International Baccalaureate learning environment where everyone is challenged to take risks and to contribute both locally and globally.

I encourage our parents and students to take a moment and thank the teachers in our lives. Our teachers, indeed teachers around the country and world, have truly done tremendous and courageous work teaching through the darkest and most uncertain days of the pandemic and continue to do so in the much brighter days of the Spring of 2023. I also encourage teachers, staff and leaders to take a moment to offer words of thanks to those with whom you work.

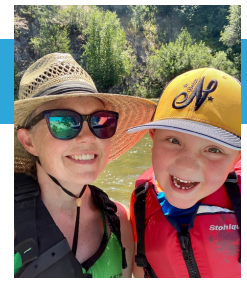
Finally, I encourage each of you to think about the teachers who most influenced and inspired you. Share those stories with each other and your children. The three teachers I think about most frequently and for whom I am most grateful are Mrs. Elrod, Jaroslava Soldanova, and Staff Sergeant Paul Shirer. The first two inspired me to love learning languages at very different times in my life. Thanks to Mrs. Elrod in 7th Grade French, I learned that I could be successful (I was a terrible student in elementary school). Jara (Jaroslava) made learning Czech at graduate school a joy, and loved that I brought our infant daughter to class sometimes! Staff Sergeant Paul Shirer inspired me to pursue college and a commission as an officer in our Army. He was an infantry sergeant who was my instructor at the Primary Leadership Development Course at Bad Toelz, West Germany in 1987. All three changed my life for the better and I am incredibly grateful to each of them.

Heartfelt thanks to our teachers at both of our Sage campuses and also to all the teachers who inspired us along the way.

Andy Johnson



# PYP WITH KATE HUNTER



## Classroom Spotlight, Kindergarten



Taking Action is a key component of the PYP Inquiry Cycle and it encourages us all to actively respond to what we learn. To that end, Rachel Avila's class created bird feeders to hang in our community as part of the transdisciplinary theme Sharing the Planet, and their work was featured by the [Kratt Brothers Creature Hero Foundation](#)! Way to go, Kinders!

## Summer is coming!

While the winter felt very long this year, suddenly it is spring and summer is fast approaching. This is the time of year when we get a lot of questions about summer enrichment, and we want to share some ideas to avoid the [Summer Slide](#) (academic regression).

First, Sage's schedule is designed to limit summer slide; we have a shorter summer than our neighboring schools and districts, with more frequent breaks throughout the year.

For families seeking to bolster reading or math skills at home, consider the Sage schedule and aim for shorter, more frequent sessions. The Florida Center for Reading Research has some excellent resources for [Family Reading Activities](#), with practical tips to weave into your daily routines (reading street signs in the car? Counting and sorting clothing items for laundry? That's skills practice!). The Boise Library also has an excellent [Summer Reading Program](#) that incentivizes and celebrates reading (online or in hard copy).

Finally – and most importantly – we encourage you and your family to lean into your favorite summer activities and do what brings you joy. There is so much to learn and do outside of our school walls, and being balanced is a key IB attribute.

## PYP Family Dance

We had such a blast at our Family "Rainbow" Dance! Students dressed in their grade level colors, families and teachers joined in the fun, and MS Student Council DJ'd. Thank you to the PTO for organizing this once again for our community!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



Design Students recently took part in the [Climate Innovation Challenge](#). This program guides students through the creation of climate change solutions and develops storytelling and video production skills. **Three Sage 6th-graders** earned awards for their video submissions! This year's challenge asked students to "think globally, act locally" to showcase a climate change solution. Students were challenged to use research, creativity, communication skills, and video design to create an engaging project.

Of the over 300 entries submitted from grades 3-12 around the world, the following Sage students were recognized:

- Vivian Chetwood and Avery Burke won the grand prize for best storytelling for their video "[Rooftop Gardens](#)". They earned \$200 and will have their video featured on the [CIC YouTube channel](#)!
- Toni Zarybnisky won an honorable mention and a \$50 prize for her video "[Cows Affecting Climate Change](#)"

**Friday, May 12th** our students in 7th grade were invited to an Enrichment field trip to the Japanese Internment Camp in Minidoka, a National Historic site. This American concentration camp once held over 13,000 Japanese Americans and is an important part of our history and understanding the world around us!



**Secondary (6-12th) yearbooks have arrived and we have extra copies available for purchase!** You can order online [here](#), the cost is \$40 and they will be distributed on the last day of school. If your child will not be present on June 1 and would like to pick it up beforehand, please email Mr. Freers to make arrangements: [ryan.freers@sageintl.org](mailto:ryan.freers@sageintl.org)

**Volume 3 of the 8th-grade newspaper, *Wordi Yeti* is [here](#)!** Inside...Can you tell which article was written by AI? Chapter 2 of Maecy's creative writing story, Interview with Mrs. Trevino, More 6-word stories, and B&W photography. Check it out!

**DANCE Through the Decades** - the final Middle School Dance with everyone's favorite DJ Freezy will be **May 18th from 6:30 - 9:00 pm** outside on our playfield. Tickets go on sale on May 15th at lunch for \$5 and will also be available at the gate. Students are encouraged to dress up as a "Decade"!





# HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT



**IB Exams:** Exams are in full swing here at Sage and we are so proud of our seniors! This is the moment they have all worked for over the last two years and it is a very exciting and stressful time. If you have a senior in your life, consider taking them out for ice cream. They deserve it!



**Freshman Orientation:** Our 9th and 10th-grade team hosted our incoming freshmen and their families on May 9th. We had an amazing turnout and we are so excited to be able to welcome our newest cohort of high schoolers! If you could not make it, or if you have any follow-up questions, please reach out directly to our HS Counselor, Brittany Meduna, or HS Director, Brandy Burkett.

**Prom:** Prom was a huge hit! We danced the night away at the Boise Train Depot and truly had a lovely time.



**Graduate Family Breakfast:** Monday, May 22nd: All graduate parents are invited to join the 11/12th-grade teachers and the graduates for a special senior breakfast. This will take place from 8:15 am to 9:30 in the big building on campus. Sage will provide the majority of the spread, and students will be asked to bring in one side to share. Following the breakfast, seniors will put on their cap/gowns, and prepare for our annual K-12 senior walk. All parents are invited to stay to witness this amazing moment when our seniors parade through the school for all to see in their regalia. Bring your Kleenex!

**Graduation Ceremony:** Tuesday, May 23rd is Graduation day! All graduates must report to Boise State Student Events Center to rehearse at 12:30 pm. The rehearsal takes about one hour and then seniors are dismissed for the remainder of the day. They must return to the venue by 4:30pm.

Families will be welcomed into the event beginning at 5:00 pm. All guests must have a ticket to enter. These tickets have already been provided to graduates. The event will be live-streamed through our Facebook page. Please email Brandy Burkett with any questions.



## FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Hi Sage Family,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying our last full month of the school year! This week we'd like to address a topic that may arise in the classroom: how to help your child navigate and process their feelings when a peer has an explosive temper tantrum. Our primary values at Sage are safety and community, and we want to ensure that you, as parents, feel equipped to support your child through such situations. You can read [more details here](#), but in summary:

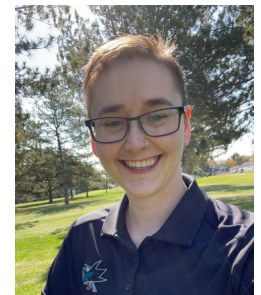


1. Find a calm, quiet space.
2. Open the conversation: Ask your child about their experience, listening attentively.
3. Emphasize safety: Remind your child that their safety is a priority for both you and Sage.
4. Teach self-protection strategies: Help your child understand how to stay safe during another student's escalation.
5. Discuss emotions: Talk with your child about how emotions can sometimes be difficult to manage, and that it's normal for people to feel overwhelmed or upset at times.
6. Recognize diverse needs: Explain that every student has unique challenges and needs.
7. Reinforce community values: Stress the importance of empathy, kindness, and understanding when dealing with others.
8. Address concerns: If your child is worried about future tantrums, reassure them that Sage's staff are there to handle such situations.
9. Set an example: Model healthy ways to cope with emotions and stress.
10. Encourage open communication: Let your child know that they can always come to you or the Sage staff with questions or concerns.

Remember to approach these conversations with patience, empathy, and understanding. Together, we can create a supportive and nurturing environment for all of our Sage students. I am happy to answer any questions or speak with you or your child about this. Please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Rivers, K-7th Grade Counselor

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month!** This makes it the ideal time to spread awareness and talk about mental health issues that are in our schools and community. With better awareness, we can decrease the stigma associated with mental health and find ways to support one another and ask for help. [This link](#) has stats as well as awesome tools and resources for you and your families as we go into the summer months.



As always, if you have any concerns about your child(ren) please reach out to their school counselor for help! We are here to assist you.

Brittany Meduna (8-12th Counselor)



Idaho colleges and universities will be hosting a [Summer Treasure Valley College Fair](#).

**Date:** Wednesday, May 31, 2023

**Time:** 4 pm to 6 pm

**Location:** College of Western Idaho - Academic Building (5500 E Opportunity Dr, Nampa, ID 83687)

The Summer Treasure Valley College Fair is an excellent opportunity for admitted students and families to meet with admissions counselors and review their next steps as they prepare for the fall semester. It is also a great opportunity for incoming seniors (Class of 2024) to meet with admissions counselors and learn about each institution's academic programs, admissions process, scholarships, and campus resources as they prepare for their senior year of high school.

Colleges and Universities in attendance:

- Boise State University
- Brigham Young University-Idaho
- College of Southern Idaho
- College of Western Idaho
- Idaho State University
- Lewis-Clark State College
- Northwest Nazarene University
- The College of Idaho
- Treasure Valley Community College
- University of Idaho

- **Annual Sage Family Camp Out: May 19-21** at Elks Flat Campground. All Sage families are welcome and there is still room! You can find out more info and Register [here](#).
- **PTO Meeting:** May 24th 4:00 pm @ Smoky Mountain, kids welcome!
- **End of Year Picnic:** June 1st at Kristin Strong Municipal Park, 5pm to sunset. Bring an item for the potluck and your own drinks, and relax and have fun with our Sage Family!
- Thank you again to our parents and PTO for feeding our staff breakfast and lunch this week! Full bellies = happy and energized staff!





## ENRICHMENT

**ESage is hiring!** We are looking for teachers and bus drivers, for both the summer and beyond! Flexible part-time schedule, having FUN with Sage kids! Find out more info [here](#).



**Mountain Bike Club** for students in 5th-8th grade has begun! These fun weekly rides start at Sage and ride to and around our amazing foothills trails. All skill levels are welcome and rides are led by experienced riders. There are no dues to participate, just bring your own bike and helmet.

**WHEN:** Tuesdays from 3:45-5:45  
You can find more info and register [here](#).

**Mountain Bike Team** is a competitive athletic team organized through the [Idaho Interscholastic Cycling League](#) for students of all skill levels in grades 6 and up. They practice 3 days/week starting July 1 and travel to participate in 5 interscholastic races throughout Idaho between August and October. You can find more information [here](#).

**Camp Invention:** A STEM Summer Camp for Grades K-6 here on our Sage Boise Campus for all students entering Grades K-6 in the fall. Campers do not need to attend Sage.

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

You can [learn more here](#) and save \$15 with code SAVESPRING15 if you register by 5/17!



**African Marimba Camp:** Offered here at Sage this summer by the founder of [Marimba Boise](#) Heather Steele. Group lessons and games for students aged 9-14 years old with a parent concert on the last day!

**Dates:** 6/26 - 6/30 from 9:00 am to noon  
You can find more information [here](#).

**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](mailto:info@sageintl.org).