



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 27, 2023



**Weather:** As the temperatures drop, please send your student to school with jackets, hats and gloves! Fresh air and exercise provide a healthy balance that allows them to learn best! We recommend you label clothing items. In the event they are left behind, we can easily return them rather than place them in the Lost and Found.



Sage has an [Amazon Wishlist](#) with items that support our classrooms and students. On there you will find community supplies as well as food pantry items for students who need them. Items in critical need are Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and single-serve, non-perishable items.



**Enrollment:** We currently have seats open in Kindergarten, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 10th grades. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining our Sage community please share [our website](#) with them. You can invite them to one of our upcoming Info sessions listed on website above, the next one is November 8th, or have them contact our Registrar Katie Ashby at [katie.ashby@sageintl.org](mailto:katie.ashby@sageintl.org).

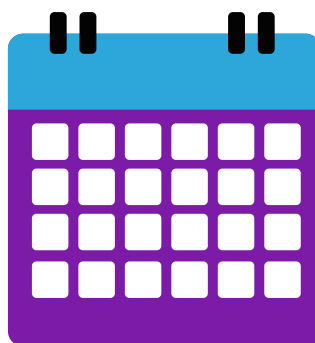


**Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for parents who can assist our busy staff during the school day. If you are interested in volunteering at lunch time, in our Nurse's office, or with creating the PYP Yearbook, please email our PTO at [information@sagepto.org](mailto:information@sagepto.org).



Our **Sage spirit store** is now open year-round! You can order Sage T-shirts, sweatshirts, bags, hats, and other items through our online store and choose to have items shipped to your home or delivered to Sage for free. Items make great gifts, you can [shop here](#).

Check out our  
**WEBSITE** and find  
us on social media  
via the links below!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**October 31:** Halloween & Fall Festival

**November 16:** PTO Gratitude Lunch  
for 6-12th grades

**November 20-24:** Thanksgiving Break  
- No School

**December 25-January 5:** Holiday  
Break - No School

## FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear Sage families and staff,

October was lovely and gave us wonderful opportunities to extend our Summer-like outdoor activities. However rainy, blustery autumn weather seems to have finally arrived. With the arrival of colder and more variable weather, please ensure that you are all taking the right steps to stay healthy - jackets for outside play, good handwashing, staying home if you have a fever, staying up-to-date on vaccinations and getting lots of fresh air and exercise. We want all of our teachers, support staff and students to be in school for the most days possible because the evidence shows that being present, even when we aren't at 100%, is far better for teaching, learning and improved academic outcomes.

As a school chartered to be college preparatory by design, I want to make sure I regularly touch base with all of you about the importance of thinking, planning and preparing well before 11th and 12th Grade. This [blog post from UNCF](#) is a straightforward and effective set of advice and activities for each of the high school years. It mentions a resource that I've shared before - [Big Future](#) from the College Board. Please sign up for this now and start having conversations with your 8th through 12th-grade students about post-high school plans. [Next Steps Idaho](#) is Idaho's portal for all things post-high school. There are lots of great resources for parents and students here. As always, our team at the high school - Brittany Meduna (Counselor), Brandy Burkett (High School Director) and me (Andy) are happy to answer questions, direct you to resources, and meet to discuss you and your child's hopes and dreams for the future.

### TODDLE: A SCHOOLWIDE UPDATE

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The Leadership team would like to update you on Sage Boise's onboarding of Toddle. Teaching teams use learning management systems (LMS) such as Toddle for curriculum planning, assessments, student portfolios, projects, progress reports, classroom management, family communication and much more. Sage previously used Managebac, and upon evaluating our objectives with an LMS chose to transition to Toddle in order to:

- Provide one consistent learning management system Network-wide that is intuitive and easy to use.
- Offer parents a platform with more functionality, particularly at the elementary level
- Enable simpler coordination and planning between teachers and teaching teams (the IB puts a premium on collaboration and interdisciplinary learning)

We want to acknowledge that onboarding has been slower than anticipated and Toddle is not a perfect system. We do believe that it will be better for our whole community. We ask for your grace and support as we continue to grow our skills with this new system.

*Toddle continued on next page...*



## **PYP (K-5): Toddle and alignment with curriculum development**

We are currently working in the 'back of the house' (internally at Sage) to identify our most essential standards, by grade level and content, and come to a shared understanding of what mastery of any given standard or skill truly looks like in terms of what students can do. This is incredibly important, complex, and exciting work. Research tells us again and again that the most important work we can do together as educators is to establish coherent – and high – expectations for what a year's growth in a year's time looks like (per the meta research of John Hattie, for those who are interested in learning more). A big piece of that work involves documenting our processes and making them more transparent and accessible to all stakeholders – most importantly, YOU, our families.

While the 'front of the house' (our external stakeholders) does not see this work yet, it is happening! Toddle will ultimately provide an easy-to-access platform for families where you will be able to see not only the essential standards work described above but also the rich and engaging transdisciplinary units of inquiry within the IB Programme that bring learning to life for our kids – concepts that drive students to consider big ideas, solve problems, work collaboratively and creatively, and more. Toddle also features a class stream, which in many ways resembles a social media feed specific to your child's classroom, that will allow us to share pertinent, need-to-know information in one location.

## **Middle School and Toddle**

Grades 6-8 will be making the transition this week to Toddle to communicate all assignments, grades and posts. If you are not yet logged into Toddle, please reach out to your student's Advisory teacher to get the access code. As this is a new system, please be patient with the transition. If you have questions or concerns about your students progress please 1) look at your students Toddle access and/or 2) reach out to the teacher.

## **High School and Toddle**

**9/10th Grade:** Teachers have made the transition from Managebac to Toddle and are working daily to familiarize themselves with the platform. Classes have been created and students have been added to classes. Teachers are using Toddle to post and assess assignments.

**11th Grade:** Teachers at this level are beginning to build their classes. They will begin to fully utilize Toddle by the start of semester 2. In the meantime, you can still access Managebac.

Parents of 9th-11th grades should have received their invite to connect with their student's account. Please email Brandy Burkett at [brandy.burkett@sageintl.org](mailto:brandy.burkett@sageintl.org) if you have not received an invitation. We have learned that each student has a unique code to connect with parents. So if you have students in multiple grade levels, you will need codes for each account that you wish to be connected with.

**\*12th graders will not use Toddle.** They will continue to use Managebac through this entire school year.

## CAMPUS UPDATES

We're excited to announce the start of some landscaping and playground improvements around our Sage Boise campus! To provide more all-weather playspace, we have increased the bark area of the playground and will continue to work around the perimeter to add more coverage over the next few weeks. In early November we will pour a concrete pad to relocate the gaga pit in order to increase play space on the basketball court. Our intent is to re-sod the grassy areas of the playground this spring and summer.

Several other projects around campus, such as removing dead vegetation, replacing the fence & re-sodding areas around Summit (High School), and repairing sprinklers and damaged railroad ties along the front of Everest (big building) are also in the works. We will continue re-sodding, barking and repairing areas around Everest this spring and summer for beautification and to remove the mud tracking through the school due to worn out areas.

We are excited about the improvements we are able to make around campus for our students for playtime, aesthetics and safety. None of this would be possible without you, our wonderful families! We thank you for your contributions in the past and going forward to our annual fund, Mind the Gap!! As a charter school, we do not receive any local tax dollars that regular district schools use for facilities. So, your donations to MTG make these types of improvements possible. Thank you for your support!! If you'd like to make a donation to Mind the Gap now, please click [here](#).

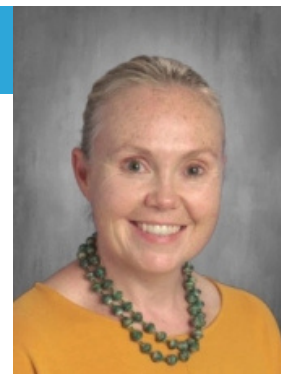


## SUPPORTING SAGE

[Mind the Gap](#) is our annual fundraiser where we invite ALL Sage families to make a donation in support of our public charter school. Unlike District schools, Sage receives ZERO funding from local tax dollars. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 this year! That amounts to about \$100 per student or just \$10/month over the school year. Can you help us reach our goal? We encourage you to donate any amount that makes sense for your family, our goal is participation from ALL families and all gifts are greatly appreciated! Many local employers MATCH gifts, which can double your donation! Read more [HERE](#).

[Fred Meyer Community Rewards](#) - if you shop at Fred Meyer, every purchase can support our school!





### Family Engagement

One of our Network-level goals is ensuring that our families feel a sense of connection and belonging. To that end, if you were not able to attend conferences last week, or if you have any lingering questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us at Sage. Your child's teacher is typically a good 'first stop' for communication. That said, all of us are here for you and your child, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

### PYP – Classroom Spotlight

Our 3rd graders are immersed in the IB 'Where We Are in Place and Time' inquiry unit, and they are exploring the central idea that communities are formed by a variety of cultures.



As a K-12 school, we have a unique opportunity to bring in older student speakers and role models to work with our younger students. In this case, our 3rd graders were visited by 8th grader Sala Alrubaye, who shared her own personal immigration experience and answered our questions about her home country. Thank you, Sala, for so graciously sharing your experience and broadening our perspectives!

## PERFORMING ARTS

Ms. Megan Brandel just completed her residency with 2nd grade and put on three phenomenal "Upstanders With Open Arms" assemblies for Sage's PYP students with fantastic performances from all the 2nd grade classes. Upstanders with Open Arms is an anti-bullying program that promotes disability awareness and education, as well as acceptance of all human differences. It is deeply rooted in the values and missions of both [Open Arms Dance Project](#) and the [Wassmuth Center for Human Rights](#). This



program is based on the Wassmuth Center's Upstanders lessons, taught through fun dance games, books, films, and Open Arms Ambassador talks. Through these methods, second grade students develop empathy, explore how to treat others with kindness and respect, and how to stand up against hatred. This residency was funded, in part, by the [Idaho Commission on the Arts](#).

Students in 3rd-5th grade performing arts are into their musical theatre units. Each 3rd-grade class is doing "The Bremen Town Rock Musicians" with "We Will Rock You" by Queen. 4th graders are combining to put on "Weather Or Not", a Ms. T. original which has three parody songs (think Weird Al!) about extreme weather that connect to the 4th-grade inquiry unit on natural phenomena. 5th graders are learning monologues, battle scenes, and songs related to the Revolutionary War and Declaration of Independence.

*PYP continued on next page...*

**PE:** There's a lot happening in PE this time of year! 4th grade students had a great time going to BSU earlier this month, and they will have a chance to make it back there in the spring. During the week of November 6th, all PE classes in the PYP will be going to Master Kim's Taekwondo studio. Master Kim invited us last year and this partnership has allowed all of our students to be introduced to martial arts.



3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade students have been working on football skills, and currently the record holder for our "punt, pass, and kick challenge" is Ali in 5th grade. Way to go Ali!

Just a reminder with the weather really changing on us, please send your student to school with appropriate clothes and shoes for having PE outside. Thank you!

**FRENCH:** Bonjour K-5 French Families! C'est Octobre! C'est l'Halloween! Here's our [interactive slide deck](#) for C'est l'Halloween!

**Skill 1:** I CAN identify and name Halloween characters. Key Question: "Qu'est-ce qu'il y a pour l'Halloween?" Sentence Starter: "Il y a..."

1st Grade: [la classe de M. Jacobson](#)

4th Grade: la classe de Mme. Blasius - [Hera et Josephine](#)

**Skill 2:** Through a charades game, I CAN talk about what I'm afraid and not afraid of.

Key Questions: "De quoi as-tu peur? Est-ce que tu as peur des...?"

Response Starters: "J'ai peur.... / Je n'ai pas peur..."

3rd Grade: la classe de Mme. Percy - [Daniel, Thomas et Cal](#)

## ESAGE AT BOISE

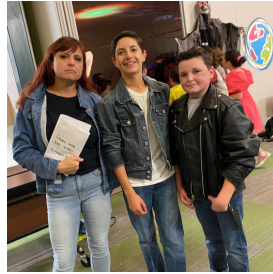
The ESage program has been busy having fun! Recent field trips have included Monster Bounce, a Parks Tour, Foothills Learning Center, and an overnight camping trip for 3rd-5th grade. Some of the upcoming trips are scheduled for The Farmstead and Pojo's. The kids have been having fun and keeping busy after school and on Fridays. If you have any questions, please reach out to [esage@sageintl.org](mailto:esage@sageintl.org)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



**Spirit Week:** Student Council and Sources of Strength put on a Spirit Week that led to our Annual Halloween Dance. Students were challenged to dress up on different days. The interaction and fun between students and staff and students was evident!



**Parent Teacher Conferences:** First, thank you to everyone who was able to attend last week's Conferences. In walking around and listening I heard many great conversations that put our students in a position to discuss their experience as a learner and student, and this was followed up with feedback from teachers and parents. A student-centered approach is at the heart of the IB. Furthermore, I want to acknowledge both the turnout, the lines, and wait times. I will be talking with our team of educators, as well as seeking feedback from parents, on ways to help expedite and improve the conference experience.

Second, if you were unable to attend and/or did not get to speak to a teacher, please reach out directly to them with questions. You can find email addresses on [our website](#) under staff. Your student can share their teachers' names with you!

**Supporting Math:** In support of student growth and success, the math team has been helping students access a free resource that meets students where they are in their learning, called Khan Academy. Students can log into their school Google account, visit [Khan Academy](#), and enter in their MAP scores to guide them through what they need help with. MAP assessments are conducted three times a year to help us guide our instruction to support student growth at all levels. All math teachers have helped students log into their Khan account so they can access it from home. If your student needs help, please contact their math teacher directly: [rachel.harry@sageintl.org](mailto:rachel.harry@sageintl.org), [david.kelly@sageintl.org](mailto:david.kelly@sageintl.org), and [lainei.mcgrady@sageintl.org](mailto:lainei.mcgrady@sageintl.org). I will be sending a follow-up video next week.

**Attendance:** If your student is going to be absent, 1) please contact the school at [attendance@sageintl.org](mailto:attendance@sageintl.org) and 2) encourage your student to reach out to teachers to find out what they need to make up. At the least, have your student let their teachers know they will not be in class. The purpose of this is to help your student develop self-advocacy skills and take ownership of their education. Attendance is critical to success at school, so please encourage attendance whenever possible.

**Cold Weather:** With the weather shifting I want to remind everyone to have your student dress appropriately for outdoor lunch. Barring moderate rain, snow or freezing temperatures students will have lunch outside. This is because: 1) students need fresh air and exercise, 2) having 315-ish students inside the main hallway for lunch creates cleaning/crowding issues and 3) the sensory overload with continuous noise and bodies can easily be overwhelming for most involved. Thank you!



# HIGH SCHOOL AT SAGE

Dear families of Sage High Schoolers,

It has been such a pleasure to be back on campus with our community. We have had some jam-packed weeks full of evening events, including our Halloween dance which is planned for Thursday night. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend parent/teacher conferences! We had a big turnout and it is always amazing to get to meet and visit with our families. With the rigor of the IB, I can't emphasize enough the importance of daily attendance, as well as your support at home while students adjust to the demands of their coursework. As we transition to Toddle, I know it has been especially tricky to keep a good pulse on what is happening with your high schooler. If I can offer any advice it would be to communicate with them often about how things are going and reach out to their teachers directly if you have any specific questions related to course-work or assignments.



**Senior Planned Farmstead Night:** Senior Sebella Lang organized an evening outing for seniors last Thursday at the Farmstead!



**Senior Friday:** Each year we ask our seniors to attend Friday school and this year we focused on what comes next! Teachers and counselors led workshops related to post-secondary planning and we had two awesome field trips with one group going to College of Idaho in Caldwell, and another to Boise State.

**High School Food Drive:** Our student council is hosting a fall food drive November 1st-16th for the Boise Rescue Mission. During the holiday season the demand for food at local food banks is greater than usual and last year we donated 544 pounds of food! The grade that donates the most food per capita will earn a prize. The buckets for each grade will be located inside the entry of the Summit building and will be labeled by grade. Please be sure to donate non-perishable healthy food.

**NYC/DC trip:** There's still time to sign up for this educational trip taking place April 8th-12th, 2024. The cost of the trip is \$3,333. A \$99 deposit is required and payment plans are available. The cost of the trip includes flight, hotel, food, all admission fees, and transportation while on the trip. You can sign up for the trip using trip ID 209293 at [worldstrides.com](http://worldstrides.com) or by calling 800-468-5899. The trip is open to any current high schooler at Sage or any other local high school. We will visit many amazing sights including Mount Vernon, the Supreme Court building, U.S. Capital as well as some powerful museums such as the Holocaust Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. In NYC we will see a Broadway show and visit Ellis Island and the 9/11 Memorial. Please contact Mr. Lunt via email at [drew.lunt@sageintl.org](mailto:drew.lunt@sageintl.org) with any questions.





## SAGE EXPEDITIONS



Earlier this month 9th Grade students enjoyed a day exploring the Oolite-Shoofly interpretive trail in the Owyhees. They learned about the history of the land and how the rock formations were created. With the materials and expertise of science teacher Michael Tetrault, they were able to use rock hammers to find old fish fossils! They also visited Bruneau Sand Dunes for a picnic and had fun playing in the sand.

A group of 4th and 5th grade students took a Halloween-themed trip to explore the ghost town of Silver City! The day was filled with a history lesson of the abandoned mining town, short hikes around Silver City, and a fun themed picnic.



Sage Expeditions has wrapped a successful fall season at Sage Boise! We were so thrilled to offer expeditions for most grades 4-12. We were able to offer a wide variety of activities such as hiking, rock climbing, camping, trail work, and geology exploration. Keep an eye out in our newsletters and website for our winter and spring expeditions!

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Both the Mountain Bike Team and Cross Country have wrapped up great seasons! Our MTB Team finished their season in FIRST place for our division. We are impressed with their hard work and want to thank the large tribe of parents and coaches who helped them earn this great achievement!

### Current clubs & activities

- [Afterschool Basketball \(2nd-5th Grade\)](#)
- [Baking Club \(6th-8th grade\)](#)
- [Dance Committee \(9th-12th grade\)](#)
- [Dungeons and Dragons \(7th grade\)](#)
- [Green Club \(9th-12th grade\)](#)
- [High School Student Council \(9th-12th grade\)](#)
- [Model United Nations \(9th-12th grade\)](#)
- [National Beta Club \(9th-12th grade\)](#)
- [Rising Stars \(Kinder – 12th Grade\)](#)
- [Sage Car Club \(9th-12th grade\)](#)
- [Soccer Shots \(Kinder – 2nd Grade\)](#)
- [Spanish Club \(9th-12th Grade\)](#)
- [The Finer Things Club \(9th-12th Grade\)](#)
- [Volleyball Club \(9-12th grade\)](#)

**Ski & Snowboard Team:** We will have a Parent/Student Information Meeting November 16th @ 5:30 in Mr. Weeks room, Room 208 in the Summit building. Any student in grades 6-12 who is interested is welcome to come and find out more information. We are looking forward to another great season!



## SAGE PTO

### International Fair

Thank you to all who joined us for this FUN celebration of the many international cultures that make up our Sage Family! We enjoyed food, music, and activities from all around the world.



### Farmstead & Kiss the Pig Fundraiser

THANK YOU to all our students and families who donated to this FUN fundraiser, we raised over \$700 for our PTO! Our 5th grade donated the MOST at about \$300, and chose their teachers Ms. Dillard and Ms. Rebekeh to Kiss the Pig at the Sage Farmstead Night!



### Upcoming Dates:

**November 15 @ 4:00 pm** - PTO Meeting, everyone is welcome!

**November 16** - Gratitude lunch for students in 6-12, signup form coming soon

**December 19 @ 5:30 pm** - PTO Meeting, everyone is welcome!



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