



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 26, 2024



**The Academic Calendar for the current 2023-24 school year has been updated and can be found [here](#).** Due to the snow days this month, there are two days that we need to make up. The Board has approved these two days will both be on **Fridays, March 8th and April 26**. Please note these are required school days just like any other school day. Attendance will be taken and it is very important that students are present for all school days unless they are ill. Not only is attendance critical for student success, but it is an important factor in the amount of state funding we receive for our students. Thank you for prioritizing your students' learning!



**Re-enrollment:** For Currently enrolled students and their siblings that you would like to enroll, our annual re-enrollment form will open on **January 29**. While we hope all our students will be returning in the fall, you **MUST complete RE-ENROLLMENT to confirm and save your spot for next year**. You will also complete an application for any siblings of current Sage Students during this process. You can find more details later in this newsletter, and will be receiving an email soon from Skyward with detailed instructions.



Earlier this week we shared an email with **traffic reminders**. Please take time to review them, it is important that we all follow the correct procedures to continue to keep traffic flowing and our students and staff safe. You can also review the pick-up and drop-off directions [HERE](#), please always adhere to them without exceptions. Exceptions can impose risk to others and negatively impact the efficiency of the traffic pattern. Thank you!

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**January 29:** Re-enrollment opens

**February 8:** PTO PYP (K-5) Family Luau

**February 19-23:** Winter Break - No School!

**February 29:** 2024-25 Enrollment Lottery

**March 8:** Friday School day - All students

**April 8-12:** Spring Break - No School!

## FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear Families and Staff,

Welcome back to the start of the second semester and to 2024. It is at this time of year in IB schools that we really start to think about and focus on all the work our Diploma Programme and Career-related Programme students (11th and 12th Grades) are preparing and submitting. Students who engage in the full experience of either of these two programs are more prepared for post-secondary studies and careers than students who do not.

This month the [Charter School Growth Fund](#) (CSGF) released a report on a study they did of post-secondary outcomes for students who graduated from CSGF affiliated schools. The results were very interesting and caused me to reflect on the ways we prepare our students for post-secondary life. Students in the report identified three things they wish they had more of in high school: a. Career guidance and planning while in high school. b. Making a clear choice about a post-secondary pathway (an actual plan for the day following graduation) and c. advice on what to expect after high school.

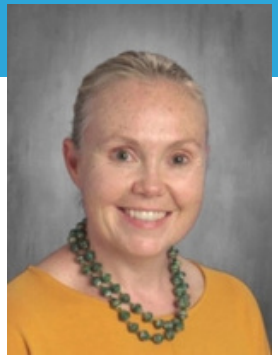
I feel strongly that students in Sage schools who are pursuing the full Diploma Programme or the Career-related Programme get much of those three elements as a natural part of their participation in either program. They get exponentially more when they + their parents meet with and discuss post-secondary options with our counselor.

Finally, I want to make sure that all of our parents know that students graduating from Sage schools can potentially graduate with four different credentials - an Idaho high school diploma, a Diploma Programme Diploma/Career-related Certificate, a STEM diploma and a Seal of Biliteracy. Please look for upcoming opportunities to learn more and/or reach out to your student's principal to be connected to a person who can answer specific questions you may have about our school and how we make a difference in children's futures.

We are excited to announce the introduction of a new certification that your graduating student can earn at Sage - the [Seal of Biliteracy](#). This prestigious award recognizes students' academic proficiency in both English and a second language. One path to demonstrating proficiency is by taking and passing the Language B French (or Spanish in Middleton) examination during the IB exam session in May of the Senior year. There are other ways to demonstrate proficiency to earn this award, and we will be sharing more information soon.

All the best,

Andy



Lots of nuts and bolts to cover this month in the PYP. Please read ahead for further information.

### **Winter Conferences February 1st and 2nd**

We hold winter parent-teacher conferences specifically for students that are receiving some kind of additional support in reading, mathematics, or another aspect of student life. Teachers will reach out to you directly with an invitation to attend if this applies to your student (and if we have not already met recently or have a plan to do so soon). Of course, we welcome – and need! – a strong home-school connection for all students, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us about your child at any time. We can certainly schedule meetings or calls as needed at any time.

### **Report Cards**

Report cards are now available for your review in Skyward. These are a broad snapshot into overall progress. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please reach out to his/her teacher and rest assured that we will contact you as well if we have any concerns.

### **Winter Assessments**

We are in the midst of our winter assessments, including MAP. MAP allows us to take note of both individual growth AND achievement toward grade level proficiency. This is one of many tools we use to gauge progress and adjust accordingly. As we did in the fall, we will send this information home for your review.

### **Classroom Spotlight: K-1 Performing Arts**

In Kindergarten and First Grade Performing Arts we have been working on movement! We are currently learning the eight Laban Efforts and exploring how movement can help us create characters. For example what kind of character might move using 'glide', perhaps an ice skater or a bird! We then experiment with how we can use our bodies to become such characters, we can use our arms to change the shape of our bodies, change our voice or make a silly face. Then we can use our imagination to change our environment. We can imagine what it might feel like to be a bird in the sky with wind whistling through our feathers, or an ice skater doing twirls in a cold rink. By expanding our imaginations and exploring new types of movement we can do anything!



## FROM REGISTRAR KATIE ASHBY



**Report Cards** are posted in Family Access in [Skyward](#). For high school students new to Sage this year, not all transfer grades have been updated but this should be done within the next couple of weeks.



For **currently enrolled students and siblings of currently enrolled students**, re-enrollment will open on January 29. Although your spot is guaranteed for next year, **all students MUST RE-ENROLL**. You will also enter siblings of current Sage students in the sibling lottery during this time. Families will receive an email in the next few days from Skyward with detailed instructions. Please add our registrar [katie.ashby@sageintl.org](mailto:katie.ashby@sageintl.org) to your contact list to avoid it being routed to your junk/spam folder. If you do not receive an email by January 29, please reach out.

Our **2024-25 Enrollment Lottery** is now open for NEW FAMILIES ONLY. New families must complete an [application](#) for each new student prior to February 25. Our lottery will be held on February 29, 2024 and offers should start to go out March 1st.

For families that you think may be interested in learning more about Sage, we have one last information session coming up. It will include overviews of our programs, along with small group school tours. The session will be held **February 6th from 5:30-7:00pm** and families can [RSVP here](#).

Please reach out with any questions, and be sure to update your contact info in Skyward with any changes, thank you!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



Middle School will be holding targeted Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday, Feb 1st and Friday, Feb 2. These conferences are by invite only and are designed to support students who failed a class in the first semester. If your student did fail a class you should have received an email from me about setting up a conference. If your student did not fail but you have questions about her/his academic and/or behavioral progress, please reach out to teachers directly.

**Rescheduled Events:** The following are rescheduled due to our recent snow days.

- Student Talent Show will be held the afternoon of Feb 1st
- Winter Formal Dance will be the evening of Feb 29th.
- Career Day is rescheduled during our first make up snow day, March 8th.

**Progress Reports** were sent on Thursday, January 25th. Please check your Toddler account to view them. Progress Reports highlight overall semester grades as well as individual scores for each of the four IB criteria per class.

**Secondary yearbooks** (for 6th-12th grade are on sale! Cost is \$31 and you can [order from Josten's here](#)).



## HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT

**NPR Journalist, Steve Inskeep visits Sage!** Sage Leadership and Mrs. Travis' 4B 10th grade Language and Literature class welcomed Steve Inskeep for a presentation and Q & A session on Thursday, January 25th. Steve is a co-host of NPR's *Morning Edition*, the most widely heard radio program in the United States, and of NPR's popular podcast, *Up First*.



His reporting has taken him around the world, and he is the author of several books, including his latest, *Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in a Divided America*. Students were so inspired talking with him about his life experiences!

**CP/DP Skate Night at Idaho Ice World!** Senior Sebella Lang has organized this fun event at Idaho Ice World on **Saturday, January 27th, from 7:15 to 9:15pm**. Students are welcome to invite any friends, family, or younger siblings as well. This will be a fun community event!

**Semester One Grades are now available** in Skyward Family Access. These grades have been posted to transcripts and are available to view or download. If you notice an issue on your transcript, please reach out to Brandy Burkett or Katie Ashby right away.

**SAT:** All 11th-grade students will take the digital SAT on Wednesday, **March 20, 2024**. Khan Academy has [FREE digital SAT Test Prep](#). If your student misses the exam on March 20, there will be a retake day the following week.

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## SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Congratulations to senior Sebella Lang on their acceptance to



Boise State University! Sebella plans to study Health Science and we are so excited for her.

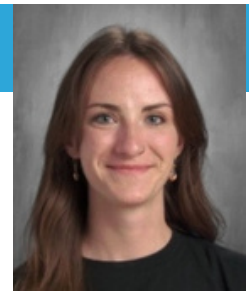


Congratulations to Koen Mairs for his acceptance to the University of Montana! Koen will join their Honors program this Fall. Way to go, Koen!

Congratulations to Kari Dimitrov for her acceptance to Boise State University! We are so proud of all she has accomplished this year!



## SAGE EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUROIS



Sage Expeditions is so excited to be back from holiday break and ready to get kids outside in the snow this Winter! We've kicked off the winter season with two Fridays spent at Bogus Basin where 35 lucky kids have been able to participate in skiing and snowboarding lessons. They



enjoyed the slopes together practicing new skills, and making new memories and friends together! You can read about upcoming events below, but please keep an eye out in your inboxes and on our [website](#) for expedition opportunities and updates on lottery openings! If you have any questions please email [megan.furois@sageintl.org](mailto:megan.furois@sageintl.org)

- Due to an unstable snowpack we have made the decision to cancel our 9th/10th grade expedition to the Idaho Wilderness Yurt.
- February date TBD: 6th Grade Snowshoeing @ Idaho City- Lottery opens 1/25
- March 1: 7-8th grade nordic ski lessons @ Bogus Basin- Lottery opens 2/16
- March 11-12: 4th Grade Snowschool Experience @Bogus Basin
- April 1: 5th Grade to Foothills Learning Center
- April 5-9: High school backpacking @ Hells Canyon

## SUPPORTING SAGE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



THANK YOU to all the generous families that have supported Sage this year in a variety of ways! The partnerships we have with our families allow for a more successful learning community for your students. YOU help make Sage possible!

Thank you to the families that have purchased items from our [Amazon Wishlist](#). Mid-year (now!) is when our community supplies such as tissue, hand sanitizer, and cleaning wipes start to dwindle. Replenishing these with donations is a huge help to our school and our budget! You can also deliver items to any front desk.

Last but not least, thank you to the 103 families who have donated to our Annual Fund [Mind the Gap](#) to raise over \$47,000 so far. Our goal is to have ALL Sage families donate in any amount. Check out [this video](#) from Emily Downey with more information about what Mind the Gap is. As a Public Charter school that offers an outstanding IB education for FREE to our students, we rely on the support of our community and receive NO local tax dollars like the district schools.

We are past the halfway mark in the school year and are asking EVERY Sage Family to make a donation in any amount to help us reach our goal of \$125,000. We have a long way to go, but know that with the help of 1,000 students and their families, we can do it. Please [visit our giving website](#) to learn more about how you can help!

## ENRICHMENT

**Rising Stars** is back at Sage for a 9-week session on Fridays **starting March 1!** This popular program for students in grades K-12 involves singing, hip-hop dancing, and acting and is great for building confidence and discipline in kids of all ages with any level of performing arts experience. These fun classes are taught by professional choreographer, playwright, and performer Kerith Telestai, or as Sage kids call her, "Ms. T". These are expected to fill up so register soon! You can find more information [here](#).



## SAGE PTO



### K-5 Family Winter Luau Carnival and Dance

- February 8th 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Sage!
- Cost: Free to enter, \$5 per ticket book

We are actively seeking middle/high school volunteers as well as parents to help run booths, sell tickets, and manage concessions. You can [Sign-Up here](#).

### School-Wide Raffle

Everyone can support our Sage PTO by participating in the raffle. Details can be found [HERE](#).



### Potluck Sign-Up for Parent-Teacher Conferences:

We are organizing a potluck for families to contribute food and ensure our teachers are well-fed during targeted conferences on February 1st. You can [sign up here](#).

**PTO Neurodivergent group:** We have some Sage families interested in creating a group for [neurodivergent](#) students and families. If you may be interested, please take a couple of minutes to complete [this survey](#). Your input is key to gauging interest and shaping the future activities and focus of our group.



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