



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 4, 2024



The Academic Calendar for the current 2023-24 school year has been updated and can be found [here](#). Due to the snow days our Board has approved **March 8th and April 26** for makeup school days. These are required school days and attendance will be taken. Thank you for prioritizing your students' learning! You can find the [2024-25 Academic Calendar here](#).



Spring Photo day is next Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Class Photos will be taken of all Kindergarten through 5th grade classes, and you can pre-order a print [here](#). Individual Photos are available to any student in K-12 who would like one taken, and you can pre-order [here](#). Please note these are NOT retakes, and you MUST **pre-order online through Barksdale by Monday, 3/11/2025 at 11:59pm**. We will not take any picture orders or payment on photo day, no exceptions.

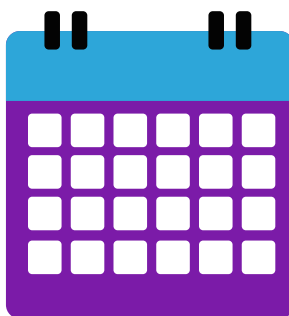


Our Food Pantry is running low! We have items available to students who wind up at school without something to eat that day. We greatly appreciate those who are willing to make donations to it from our [Amazon Wishlist](#) or you can drop off single-serve items at any front desk such as bars, noodle cups, crackers, etc. We also have a great need for donated **Tissues** this cold season! Thank you!



It's International Reading Week! Check out [this link](#) for stories read in various languages by our Sage community members! Find a great book to read this week with your family!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 8: Friday School day - All students

March 13: K-5 Grade Class Photos

March 28-29: 6-12th Grade
Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 29: Senior Art Exhibition

April 8-12: Spring Break - No School!

April 26: Friday School day - All students

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

I hope that you enjoyed the spring-like weather during “winter” break!

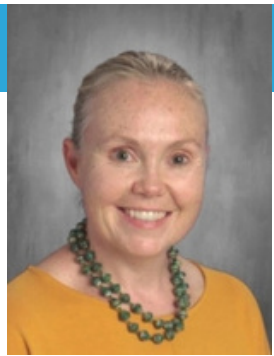
We are approaching the season when Seniors are wrapping up their two-year journeys through their Higher and Standard Level courses, finishing their independent research projects (IA’s) and beginning to prepare for exams in May. It is also the season in which we invite parents and students from the 10th Grade to hear more about our capstone programs - The Diploma Programme and the Career-related Programme.

The [Diploma Programme](#) (DP) is the oldest of the IB programs. The first class was in 1968. Since then, hundreds of thousands of people have successfully completed this interesting and challenging program. Sage Boise’s first class of Diploma Programme candidates sat for exams in 2016. This year will be Sage Boise’s 9th cohort to complete the program. This program is, I believe, the “gold standard” of college (life really) preparatory programs. It focuses on the whole student by taking a classical approach to education that encourages individual inquiry and fully engaging with the core disciplines of language and literature, a second language, the social sciences, mathematics, the natural sciences and to be a practicing artist. It also has a core set of experiences that all must complete. These include [Creativity, Activity and Service \(CAS\)](#), the [Extended Essay](#) (an independently designed and written research essay) and the [Theory of Knowledge](#) course. This is a very “do-able” programme - especially for students who have been at Sage since at least the 9th Grade. Like most truly worthwhile endeavors, this program requires strong engagement and a willingness to work hard individually and with others - in and out of the classroom. Sage-Middleton is in the authorization process to offer the Diploma Programme.

The [Career-related Programme](#) (CP) is the newest of the IB’s programs and it runs in parallel to the DP, but has its own distinct requirements. In 2018, Sage Boise’s first cohort of Career-related Programme students sat for exams and completed the requirements of the program. This year will be our 7th cohort of Career-related candidates. This program is also college preparatory in nature, but focuses more intently on career related studies (as the name suggests!). Students in this program also take 2-3 Diploma Programme courses (and exams) + engaging in core experiences in the Personal and Professional Skills course, the Reflective Project and Service Learning.

Bottom line. ***One of these two programs is in all likelihood a great fit for most people.*** I strongly encourage parents to come to information sessions, reach out to Brandy Burkett or myself, and read through resources linked in this note. Please urge your child to pick one of these programs, support them and encourage them to persist. Graduating with a credential like the Diploma Programme diploma or the Career-related Programme certificate is a mark of real readiness for the challenges after graduation.

All the best,
Andy



Above, our Executive Director Andy highlighted our IB capstone programmes for 11th and 12th graders. With that 'end game' information in mind, I want to take this opportunity to share some key components of the PYP Programme, and update you on the work we are doing this spring to revise and update our overarching curriculum – called the Programme of Inquiry.

The graphic below helps me visualize the PYP. Our students and other community members are at the very heart; from there, you can see a prominent focus on transdisciplinary themes and the Programme of Inquiry.

Here is what the IB says about transdisciplinary learning:

Transdisciplinarity transcends subjects. It begins and ends with a problem, an issue, or a theme. Students' interests and questions form the heart of trans-disciplinary learning. It is a curriculum-organizing approach where human commonalities rise to the top without regard for subject boundaries. Subjects become an instrument/tool/resource to explore a theme, problem or concept in depth. The result is a different or new organizing framework (Beane 1997; Klein 2006). A transdisciplinary education, according to Nicolescu (2006) "allows us to establish links between persons, facts, images, representations, fields of knowledge and action and to discover the Eros [love] of learning during our entire life".



With this foundational structure in mind, The IB has developed [six transdisciplinary themes, around which we organize our teaching and learning](#). Students revisit each theme each year, within the context of a different (and increasingly complex) problem, issue, or concept. This collection of themes - by grade level – constitutes our Programme of Inquiry.

The IB asserts – and we at Sage agree! – that this approach allows us to:

- inspire a coherent educational experience that is broad, balanced, and holistic
- incorporate the needs and developmental stages of students
- consider the knowledge, conceptual understandings, skills and dispositions students need to engage in a changing world
- embrace the principles of an equitable education

While teacher teams continually adjust their units and day-to-day instruction to meet students' needs, this spring we – as a PYP staff – are beginning a full K-5 revision of our Programme of Inquiry. We are excited to engage in this work and ensure the very best of all of the above-noted goals for our students.

Keep an eye out for future publications in which we share the results of these efforts!

Classroom Spotlight: PYP Art with Ms. Bu

Hello Wonderful Sage Community! Ms. Bu here with the latest and greatest from our powerful (albeit mostly peanut) gallery! Winter snowflakes are gone from our windows and displays, replaced with incredibly fabulous installations at the main entrance, in the cafeteria and down all kinds of hallways.....here's a peek of our latest endeavors:



Fifth Grade - Collage Color Wheels, completed and hanging in the cafeteria (vocab: principled, inquirer, color theory, primary, secondary, tertiary, collage)



Fourth Grade - What Do I Want to See For the World and Me, vision boards integrated into personal goal setting in PYP unit (vocab: reflective, caring, collage, composition, line, shape, space)



Third Grade - What Do I VALUE? Inspired by contemporary artist Laura Simpson, mixed media crystal drawing/collage with artist statements from the heart (vocab: open-minded, knowledgeable, mixed-media, geometric line, value, organic and geometric shape)



Second Grade - Flashback Forest, completed and displayed in cafeteria, cut paper, integrated into PYP self-expression unit (vocab: risk taker, thinker, negative space and positive shape, contrast, collaboration)

First & Kinder Grades - James Castle Inspired Community with Friends - recently installed in the K-1 hallway is a creative-cardboard feast, sprinkled with magic glitter foam windows, integrated with PYP studies on community (vocab: James Castle, mute, deaf, self-expression, community, geometric shape, organic shape, collaboration)



DONATION WEEK: MARCH 4TH THROUGH MARCH 7! There will be large boxes at the PYP entrance, accepting drop-off donations for ONLY:

- old wall calendars with awesome images you can't bear to throw away
- newspaper (not magazines)
- cast-off spray paints in cool colors
- newer scrap-booking papers and decor

Last but not least, yours truly is self-publishing a color book, currently on its way to the printer!! It's called **Sacred Circles in Nature, a Deeper - Look Colorbook**. Keep your eye out at Zero-Six and other favorite coffee shops!

Warmest regards!
Ms.Bu, Elementary Art Goddess

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH DIRECTOR ZACH PARKER



Hello all,

I want to highlight a couple events that the Middle School completed prior to break as well as identify a few upcoming events.

First, our 8th graders held their annual Snow School Day at Bogus Basin. Students were able to snowshoe with guides from Bogus as well as complete science projects asking



them to measure snow depth and density to determine snow impact on the mountain.

Second, over February break one of our science teachers, Mr. Tetrault, took a dozen Sage middle school young ladies to Micron's annual Girls Going Tech. Students toured the fabrication labs of Micron to see how wafers are made, and operated a Scribble Toy which required them to program a robot that colored for them based on the programming inputs. They also experimented with chromatography and heard from leading women from around the Treasure Valley who work in science and business.



Secondary yearbooks (for 6th-12th graders) are on sale! Cost is \$31 and you can [order from Josten's here](#). If cost is a barrier for your family please reach out to our Yearbook advisor Mr. Freers at ryan.freers@sageintl.org.

Looking forward, some updates for 8th Grade families:

- On Friday March 8th (a makeup school day Friday), the middle school will be having our annual **Career Day**. The 8th graders will be participating in Reality Town, a simulation requiring them to 'adult' and make payments while confronting the challenges of budgeting one's paycheck.
- From May 20th - 22nd we will be having our **Second Annual End of Year 8th Grade Adventure**. This will be a two night sleep over at Horsethief YMCA campground. The cost of \$210 for each student will include meals, transportation, lodging and activities/entertainment. Please see this [Video Overview of 8th Grade Adventure](#) for more details from myself and two of our current 9th graders who attended last year. **MUST do for ALL 8th graders** whether they DO or DO NOT plan to attend is to complete the Horsethief Pre-Registration [Sign up form](#) – DUE March 7th. If attending, full payment of \$210 will be due by Monday, May 6th.

HIGH SCHOOL WITH DIRECTOR BRANDY BURKETT



Congratulations to our Class of 2024 Valedictorian, Addison Portteus!

Addison has a remarkable education story which includes her being homeschooled from 5th-10th grade. Prior to coming to Sage, she had completed several dual-credit college courses. The Portteus family made a move to Idaho prior to Addison's 11th grade year and it was Addison who researched schools in our community and picked Sage as her top choice. While she has been here she has maintained her 4.0, engaged in several significant acts of service, and has dedicated much of her time to working with children with disabilities. Addison is an accomplished ballet dancer with a love the arts, but she is also extremely interested in science and plans to double major in Neuroscience and Public Health, on a Pre-Med track. She has not made a commitment to a university yet as she is still weighing her options.



Congratulations to Kaiya Farr for earning the title of Salutatorian for the Class of 2024!

Kaiya has been a student at Sage for six years and has earned this title as a result of her incredible dedication to her coursework and academics. She is a lifelong soccer athlete who currently plays for Boise Timberthorns ECNL and Borah High School. Kaiya works at Starbucks, is a part of Student Council, Beta Club National Honor Society, and Green Club at Sage. Kaiya is a full candidate in the IB Diploma Programme and following graduation, she plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering and play for the women's collegiate soccer team.



Save the Date

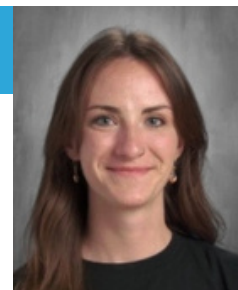
- **3/20 SAT:** All 11th-grade students will take the digital SAT on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. Khan Academy has FREE digital SAT Test Prep. If your student misses the exam on March 20, there will be a retake day the following week.
- **3/28-3/29 Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Thursday, March 28th and Friday, March 29th. Families and students are invited to join us Thursday evening and Friday morning for our annual spring conferences. Reminders will be sent when we get closer to the event.
- **3/29 Senior Art Exhibition:** Evening of Friday, March 29th. Please save the date for this wonderful event where DP art students will showcase their hard work gallery style. More details to come as the date approaches.
- **4/13 Treasure Valley College Fair:** Free and open to the public at the Boise State Student Union Building. 1:00 - 3:00, with free parking in the Lincoln Garage. [More info here.](#)



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Jae Florendo for her acceptance into Boise State University! Jae would like to major in Graphic Design, with a minor in Creative Writing. Jae is a full candidate in the Career-related Programme. Jae, we are so proud of you and we are excited to see what comes next!

SAGE EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUROIS



Sage Expeditions is in full swing this winter and spring and have lots of exciting opportunities coming up in the future. Our expeditions sign ups roll out throughout the seasons so keep checking back and watching your emails for updates on our opportunities!

For now, please check out our list of planned expeditions for the next few months and [visit our website](#) for more details.

Planned Boise Expeditions:

March 11-12: [4th Grade to SnowSchool](#) @ Bogus Basin

April 1: 5th Grade to [Foothills Learning Center](#)

April 5-8: 8-9th Grade Backpacking in Hells Canyon

April 9-11: High School Rock Climbing @ Black Cliffs

May 20-22: 8th Grade to Horsethief YMCA Camp

SUPPORTING SAGE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



As we enroll for next year, we are also working hard on the budget for our great Public Charter School! Do you know that charter schools are funded VERY differently than the local District schools?

We receive most of our funding from the State of Idaho, but none from the local government. For example, the Boise School District received over \$150 million dollars from local tax dollars this school year to support their students. In comparison, Sage International and other Idaho Charter schools receive **ZERO local tax dollars**. We make our schools excellent by spending much less money and through the support of organizations and people that value what we are able to offer as a public school.

We are asking Sage Families if they can help us raise a small portion of the funds needed for the current school year. We have a **goal of \$125,000** and are grateful to the **113 families who have donated a combined \$50,353 so far**.

We have a long way to go!! With roughly 500 Sage Families, we know we can reach our goal with a donation by every family who is able to give. ANY amount shows that you support Sage and our efforts to provide your students a top notch IB education! Check out [this video](#) from Emily Downey with more information about what our Mind the Gap Fundraiser is.

Please [visit our giving website](#) to learn more about how you can help! EVERY gift is important and subject to great tax benefits including a 50% tax CREDIT up to \$1,000.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We have some fun NEW opportunities coming up for your students!

[Afterschool Basketball](#): 2nd-5th Grade, starts March 26th

[Girls on the Run](#): 3rd-5th Grade, starts March 5th

[Mountain Bike Club](#): 5th-8th Grade, starts April 16th

[Soccer Shots](#): Kindergarten - 2nd Grade, starts April 1st

For Summer:

[Marimba Camp](#): 4th-8th Grade

[Camp Invention](#): Students entering Kindergarten- 6th Grade

AFTER SCHOOL CAMP INVENTION

We are excited to announce that [Club Invention](#) is coming to Sage this spring! All of the best parts of Camp Invention, made for afterschool and lead by Camp Invention Director Mrs. Konewko. Your child will participate in fun, hands-on stem activities. Starting this **April on Mondays & Wednesdays from 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM** please join us:



[On Mondays: Castles, Catapults and Coats of Arms](#)

Dates: 4/15, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13

Investigating basic scientific principles through the lens of medieval history, students use their imaginations to take on the roles of lords, ladies, knights, craftspeople and serfs. They work together and make decisions to complete a variety of hands-on challenges.

[On Wednesdays: Trash Island: A Garbage Patch Journey](#)

Dates: 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15

Children investigate the extreme buildup of trash in the Pacific Ocean known as "Trash Island". They explore its causes and develop solutions to keep it from growing. Students learn about ocean conservation and pollution control as they collaborate, research and use their creativity to clean up the ocean and secure a brighter, healthier future.

SAGE SNOW TEAM

Congratulations on finishing strong this ski/snowboard season! Our High School & Middle School Teams earned "Small School 13th Place" Overall! Congratulations to the following individual winners:

High School :

Wyatt Tucker - 1st Place Dotty Clark Snowboard Expert

Greyson Phipps - 4th Place Dotty Clark Snowboard Intermediate

Alice Brown - 6th Place Dotty Clark Advanced Slalom Female Ski

Middle School:

Scarlett Chetwood - 1st Place Dotty Clark Advanced Slalom Female Ski

Oliwia Stout - 1st Place Dotty Clark Snowboard Expert Female

Morgan Peck - 1st Place Dotty Clark Novice Nordic Ski





The Family PYP Luau was a blast! Thank you to everyone who attended, and to all our volunteers who made this FUN event possible!

6th-8th graders are invited to for a fun night of ice skating at Idaho Ice World!

- DATE: March 21st
- TIME: 6:15 - 7:45 PM (Doors open at 5:45 PM, arrive as early as 5:45 to get your skate rentals before the event starts.)
- TICKETS: \$5/Student, \$10 with Skate Rental
- PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY: use the link below to get your tickets

Proceeds will go to help support our 8th graders' trip to Horsethief Camp

Potluck Sign-Up for Parent-Teacher Conferences:

We are raising funds to ensure our teachers are well-fed during 6th-12th grade parent/teacher conferences on March 28th. You can [donate funds here](#) or if you can volunteer with setup and/or cleanup email us at information@sagepto.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 17-19

**ALL SAGE
FAMILIES ARE
WELCOME!**



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find more details about
the Sage PTO!



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