



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2, 2024



Thank you to the SAGE PTO for providing meals for our Teachers during conferences! They would love for you to get involved, their next meeting is **April 16th at 5:30pm** at Sage in the Big Cafeteria. Mark your calendars for these fun upcoming events:

- 5/2: K-5 Family Dance
- 5/6-5/9: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/15: Sage PTO Meeting, 5:30pm at Sage
- 5/17-5/19: Sage Family Camp Out
- 5/30: K-12 End of Year Picnic

Click [here](#) for the full Event Calendar. You can also follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you'd like to connect with members you can join their [Facebook Group](#) to find meeting minutes, agendas, and volunteer opportunities.



Sage Night at Bardenay! April 15th from 5:00-9:00 pm, 20% of ALL sales will be donated to Sage. Bring your friends, order take-out, take the night off from cooking and enjoy great food and drink while supporting Sage! We'll even have some swag to give away. See you there, Bardenay is located at 610 W Grove St, Boise.



A huge thank you to the Food Pantry donations we received! We have items available to students who wind up at school without something to eat that day. We greatly appreciate those who have made donations to it from our [Amazon Wishlist](#). We will continue to take donations and you can also drop off single-serve items at any front desk.



Need some new Sage Spirit Gear? Remember, our Spirit store is open year round, you can find the link on our website under "Current Families" and order [HERE!](#)

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 8-12:** Spring Break - No School!
- April 26:** Friday School day - All students
- May 21:** PYP Exhibition
- May 22:** Sage Graduation
- May 30:** Last Day of School, PYP Field Day, PTO Picnic

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear Families and Staff of Sage International Schools,

I hope you are all well and thriving. Thank you for supporting your children's schools so strongly and embracing our schools' mission. This is especially important as schools that value intercultural understanding - essentially developing the skills and mindsets that help a person bridge divides between their own experiences and identity and others' experiences and identities.

At schools that embrace an International Baccalaureate education, developing intercultural understanding is central to a student's experience. Further, strong intercultural understanding can help people navigate difficult/challenging social, work and educational issues. Central to developing intercultural understanding at Sage schools is the study of, practice with and acquisition of skill speaking a second language. At our Boise campus, students study French from Kindergarten to 12th Grade. At our Middleton campus, they study Spanish over the same span of grades.

French and Spanish are both important global languages and open up travel, work and study opportunities across the western hemisphere, Europe and sub-Saharan Africa - home to some of the fastest growing economies of the world. Additionally, French and Spanish are superb "entry points" to learning multiple languages. There is also evidence that learning a second language can lead to improved outcomes in mathematics, problem solving and flexible thinking.

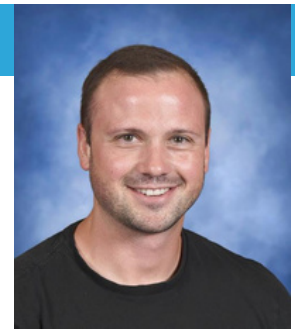
As we approach the end of the year, I encourage each of you to engage with and to encourage your children to continue to engage with their second language. There is a kaleidoscopic array of language learning podcasts available, [Mango](#) (very similar to Rosetta Stone) is available for free through the Boise Public Library and through the internet, thousands of radio, television and news outlets are available 24/7 for additional practice and immersion. Check in with your child's teacher for more recommendations. I am always happy to help as well. Stay engaged with your second language!

On a personal note - I believe in lifelong learning - particularly learning new languages. I started with French in Harrisonville Junior High School, learned German in my undergraduate studies, Dutch at the Defense Language Institute, Czech at graduate school and now I am learning Ukrainian - using podcasts and 1:1 tutoring with a professor in Ukraine. It is incredibly fun. Languages open up whole new worlds.

Finally, for parents of rising 10th -12th Grade students - the [National Security Language Initiative - Youth \(NSLI-Y\)](#) is a State Department supported program that selects and sends students for six week long, in-country immersive language learning programs. It is competitive and incredibly rewarding. My children were lucky to do this. My son went to Tajikistan to learn Tajiki (dialect of Persian-Farsi) and my daughter went to Taiwan for Mandarin Chinese. Again, for families and students who are interested, I am happy to speak with you about this program.

All the best,
Andy

TRAFFIC UPDATE FROM DANNY SOLOMON



Hello, Sage families! The purpose of my update is to tune up our traffic habits as we drop off and pick up K-12 students on campus. While we are limited in how traffic patterns can be adjusted, the vast majority of you dutifully follow our norms and that helps our process be as safe and as efficient as possible. We see you. Thank you.

What slows down traffic for everyone and creates dangerous situations is when individuals create alternate plans with their student for pick up and drop off. For the sake of student safety and in respect for the time of the majority who are following the norms, please attend to the following:

- Do not use our neighboring facilities as a place to drop off or pick up. We do not have permission to do so, and our unauthorized use of their space tarnishes the school's reputation. Additionally, it creates unsafe and unexpected pedestrian foot traffic as students cross areas where walking is not allowed during pick up and drop off.
- Coach students who are walking/biking to campus to use crosswalks. We have students who are using unexpected crossings, and it endangers their safety and slows traffic flow.
- Coach students who are walking/biking to campus to follow expected traffic laws and norms. We do not want students hurt during their commute to or from school.
- Please follow all traffic expectations outlined [here](#). Everyone can think of a reason they need an exception 'just this one time.' We can also believe that we have found a 'hack' that works for us. If we fall prey to that pattern of thinking, soon traffic becomes unsafe and sluggish for everyone, and we strain relationships with our neighbors in the community at large. Part of what we teach our children is the value of community and the importance of their contribution to the community. Please help us model that.

Thank you to everyone for contributing to a process that can be frustrating at times. Your self-discipline and willingness to help Sage as a whole is seen and appreciated.



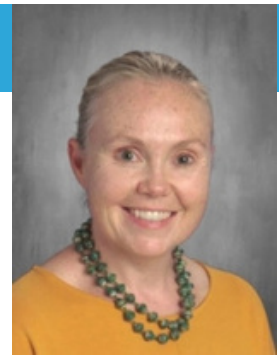
FROM REGISTRAR KATIE ASHBY

Quarter 3 Progress Reports are now posted for grades 6-12. Please visit your Family Access account through Skyward in order to view. You can find these under the "Portfolio" tab on the left.



Our [2024-2025 Application](#) for Enrollment and Waitlist is now posted on our website for anyone who would like to enroll that missed our lottery on February 29. We currently have spots available in some grades, and are accepting waitlist applications for all other grades, which can also be found on our website above. Please help us spread the word if you know anyone who is interested in joining the Sage Family.

If your plans have changed for next year and you will not be returning to Sage, please let us know ASAP by filling out the [Withdrawal Form](#).



I want to share our plan for administering the ISAT (Idaho Standards Achievement Tests) at Sage in grades 3-5. The ISAT is the primary, comprehensive assessment given each spring in all public schools in the state, and it consists of two assessments in Math and two assessments in English Language Arts.

Students in grades 3-5 will take the two ELA/reading assessments on April 16, 17, and 18th. One of these assessments is computer-adaptive (on the 16th), and the other is a performance task, wherein students will have one testing session (on the 17th) to plan their work and one session to complete the task itself (on the 18th). All testing sessions will be completed prior to lunch each day.

The next week, students will take the two Math assessments on April 23rd, 24th, and 25th. We will follow the same format as above for the computer-adaptive and performance task portions.

For me as a school leader and a parent (my own 3rd grade son will take his first ISATs this year), it is important to note what the ISAT is and what it is not. Of course, ISAT results by individual student provide us with an additional data point (among many) to identify strengths and needs. With this in mind, we ask that students approach each assessment well-rested and ready to do their best so that we get the most accurate, actionable results possible.

More importantly, however, ISAT results help us evaluate our work as a school-wide system. They help us drill down, by instructional standards, and identify where we are preparing students well and where we need to adjust our instruction or our practices in some way. I use the word 'we' intentionally – these are our students, K-12, and our results; we own them collectively. From this lens, ISAT results are most valuable in helping us reflect on our practices as educators.

If your child is stressed about ISATs and their individual performance, please remind them that these assessments are a chance for educators to see what we need to do differently. They are NOT about if a child is a 'good student'; there is so much more to each of us than a given standardized test measure.

Spotlight Special: French

Bonjour Sage Familles! During the month of March, K-5 participates in la Manie Musicale! We join schools from all over the world in a discovery of popular French Musique and we use this opportunity to build our interpersonal speaking skills, expressing our feelings and opinions. Our essential skill here is as follows: I CAN express my opinions about popular French music and agree and disagree with others' opinions. Here is a link to the slide deck that we use: [K-5 Manie Musicale 2024](#).

PYP Continued...

This month I co-presented at the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference for Language Teaching in Seattle with K-5 teaching colleagues from Oregon and Washington. I leveraged the work that we are currently doing with the Manie Musicale to illustrate how we develop students' ownership of their learning and build complexity in core skills over time. See [slides 10-15 of the K-5 Manie Musicale Slide Deck](#) to see the "chat mats" that we use to progress K-5. Then listen to [this speaking sample from Mr. Jacobson's 1st grade class](#).

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Manie Musicale Topic: *Vive la musique francophone!*

Interpretive Reading Skills:
I CAN identify some basic facts about featured artists from simple biographies.

Interpretive Reading and Interpersonal Speaking Skills:
I CAN ask and answer questions about popular francophone singers using prompts, sentence starters and teacher modeling.

Interpersonal Speaking Skills:
I CAN express my opinions about French music and agree and disagree with others' opinions.



2024
J'adore
la musique française!

**MANIE
MUSICALE**
depuis 2011

ON Y VA!
Let's go!

Interpersonal Communication:
K-5 Performance Toward Proficiency using Chat Mats

K-5 Interpersonal Speaking Progression with Manie Musicale			
K/1st - Novice Low	2nd/3rd - Novice Mid	4th/5th - Novice High	Intermediate Low
I CAN express basic preferences or feelings, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals.	I CAN express my own preferences or feelings and react to those of others, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases, and questions.	I CAN express, ask about, and react to preferences, feelings, or opinions on familiar topics, using simple sentences most of the time and asking questions to keep the conversation on topic.	I CAN express, ask about, and react with some details to preferences, feelings, or opinions on familiar topics, by creating simple sentences and asking appropriate follow-up questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH DIRECTOR ZACH PARKER



This year we were able to enhance our Career Day by introducing our 8th graders to an activity called "Reality Town". In this simulation students were offered job opportunities based on their actual current GPA; the higher their GPA the higher the salary and the lower the GPA the lower the salary. They were also assigned a family (or lack of) to support.



Students were able to experience "adulting" by making decisions on how they chose to spend their money. I'd like to have a special thank you to Lana Moss for organizing this event. Please enjoy the interviews from students who participated [in this video](#).

This week students will take part in two annual events. Our Earth Day Celebrations are a segment of Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and provide recreational and educational activities for all students. This year's theme centers around water. Additionally, our 7th graders will be visiting Minidoka in Central Idaho to tour the [Japanese Internment Camp](#) that existed during WW2. This camp once housed over 13,000 Japanese Americans. Today it is identified as a National Historic Site.

Middle School continued...

Next, on an academic level, when we return from Spring Break the Middle School will begin our ISAT testing. The first week back we will focus on ELA content/standards and during week two attention will turn to math. Points to note and conversations to share with your student prior to ISATS can include:

- ISAT scores are an important indicator of student growth, however, it is only one data point in the years-long examples of student learning;
- Students will not be able to use their personal tech devices or headsets (airpods, etc). The school will provide all these.

Finally, I'd like to offer a recent article from a source I often share. This is from screenagersmovie.com and their most recent article titled [Solving Smart Phone Problems are Teens are Reporting](#). This article highlights "findings from a Fall of 2023 study [through the Pew Research Center] with important stats that can help inform our parenting and spark essential conversations with our youth." As always, it's worth a read to help you have constructive conversations with your student and their cell phone usage.

HIGH SCHOOL WITH DIRECTOR BRANDY BURKETT

Hello Sage Families! There has been a lot of excitement here on campus and I am pleased to be able to share a few of the highlights with you.



Karelia Dubkowski, resident artist and high school art teacher, has worked hard to help prepare her seniors for their final art exhibition. This amazing event took place at Sage on Friday, March 29th, 2024 and students had the chance to showcase and discuss their incredible portfolios in an open house style exhibition. Family and friends joined teachers and faculty to celebrate and view the art. This is an annual event that we take great pride in. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend!

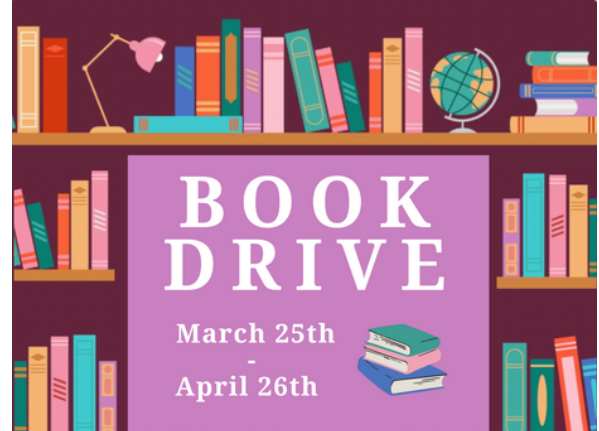


High School continued...



Ms. Dubkowski's juniors also had an amazing opportunity when they joined her for a Friday field trip to Boise State at the Blue Galleries to view a current exhibit.

Book Drive: Senior, Addison Portteus is running a book drive! This book drive will run through April 26th. We are collecting gently used children and teens books which will be donated to Book It Forward Idaho, a non-profit that provides books to people who do not have access. Books can be dropped off at the boxes by the front desks in both buildings on campus. Thank you for your support!



The SAT went digital this year and our juniors had a great experience. The digital SAT is much more manageable and overall, I have heard good things about the change. The College Board will release scores to students approximately 2-3 weeks from now. Students will only be able to access these using their College Board login. Sage does not have access to this information so please work directly with the College Board if your student loses their login.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

A huge congratulations to Elliot Potts! Elliot has been a student at Sage since kindergarten and we are so proud to announce that she has been accepted into the College of Idaho for the upcoming school year. Elliot has been selected as the recipient of the Kathryn Albertson Scholarship. Elliot has writing aspirations and we hope to be reading her published works some time in the near future. Go, Elliot!

The Treasure Valley College Fair is coming!

Free and open to the public, PNACAC fairs connect you with colleges and universities in one convenient location. Over 60 schools have registered so far!

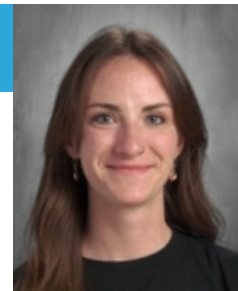
Saturday, April 13th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Boise State University Student Union Building Simplot Ballroom

*Free parking in the Lincoln Parking Garage

You can find more info [HERE](#).

SAGE EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUROIS



We've had an amazing winter expedition season! Since returning to school in January, Sage students have enjoyed opportunities for alpine skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and nordic skiing! Students have learned new skills in the outdoors and winter sports as well as "Leave No Trace" principles for winter recreation and loads about snow science! This spring we have MANY opportunities for students to get outdoors. Please keep a close eye on your inboxes and [on our website](#) for the following opportunities!



April 1st- 5th Grade Field Trip to the Foothills Learning Center

April 5th -8th - [Backpacking through Hells Canyon](#) for Grades 8-10

April 9th -11th- [Outdoor rock climbing camp with Idaho Mountain Guides](#)- SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE for Grades 9-12

May 2, 9, 16, and 23 - Outdoor rock climbing clinic (More info to come)

May 20 - 22- 8th grade to Horsethief Reservoir YMCA camp (please see email from Zach Parker)

June Camping trip- Complete the [interest form here](#) to help us gauge possibilities for this summer!

SUPPORTING SAGE

Families....we are need your help. Let's look at some important numbers for our annual Mind the Gap Fundraising Campaign:

- We are about 80% of the way through the school year. We have raised **only 43% of our Mind the Gap goal**. This is much lower than years past.
- We've had 117 generous families donate, or about 15% of our students' families.
- 28 of those donations have been \$500 or greater. (Wow!)
- We have just over 1,000 students at Sage. To meet our goal of \$125k, **that's just \$125 per student**. That's about 6 pizzas, or one month of Starbucks' drinks.
- We have until June 30th to raise \$71,000. We can't do it without YOUR help.

We have a goal of \$125,000 and are grateful to the 117 families who have donated a combined \$53,898 so far. We receive NO local tax dollars, and as we plan for next year are asking Sage Families if they can help us raise a small portion of the funds needed for the school year.

We have a long way to go! 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! 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. We would greatly appreciate your support!

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ESAGE

General Registration for Summer 2024 ESage is open! Summer ESage will be open to students entering K-6th grade next year. Students can enroll for individual weeks, a couple days per week, or full-time, with flexible schedules from week to week. Register now so your student can enjoy a fun educational summer with their schoolmates!



You can find more information on [our website](#), and [click here](#) to register.

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

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

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

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

This Summer at Sage:

[Marimba Camp](#): For students entering 4th-8th grade

When: June 10th-14th 9:00-12:00

Cost: \$150

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

Leader-in-Training spots for grades 7 - 9 may be available.

When: July 8th - 12th 9:00 - 3:30

Cost: \$285 (scholarships may be available)

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:



**Club
Invention®**

[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.