



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 30, 2024



You have a few more days to purchase tickets for the Sage International Fundraising Gala on **Friday, September 6th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm!** THANK YOU to the dozens of families and organizations that have donated items to our auction! There will be a combination of silent auction and live auction items at the event, and you won't want to miss out! Some Gala fun facts:

- We have sold 138 tickets, and our Sage leadership team will be there to celebrate with you!
- Tickets include a delicious plated dinner and dessert curated by JUMP's very own Chef Anna
- There will be a no-host full bar including our featured cocktail: The Yeti!
- You can buy tickets **until September 3rd** here: <https://sageintl.afrogs.org/>
- We have already raised \$8,000 for Sage in just sponsorships alone! Thank you to Guho General Contractor, Erstad Architects, Youde & Associates, Nick Taylor, Sarah and Gaelon Gardner, and Nanci Iseri!
- We have collected a variety of over 35 auction items valued at over \$11,000! Gift certificates, baskets, tickets, vacations, and more!



We work with a local business to provide Sage Spirit wear for our families via an online store. You can [visit the website here](#), and a small portion is donated to the school. You can opt to have your items shipped to you, pick up directly from their local store, or have them delivered to Sage for free if you're not in a rush and can wait a couple of weeks. We appreciate you showing your school spirit!



School photo packets will arrive soon and be sent home with your students. If you have not yet ordered, there will be information for how to do so in the packet. If your student missed photo day or would like a retake, Barksdale will be back on 10/2/24.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 2: Labor Day, no school!

September 5: Middle School Movie Night

September 6: Sage Fundraising Gala @ JUMP

September 12: High School College Night

September 23-27: Fall Break, no school!

October 2: School photo retakes

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear Families and Staff of Sage International Schools,

We are off to a great start at both campuses! It is hard to believe that we are already at the Labor Day holiday weekend. I hope that you all spend time (fire weather dependent) on doing the things you love to do with family and friends.

We are, as we have for many years, focusing on academic growth for every student. Our schools' leadership and teaching teams have spent a great deal of time thinking about your student's and all students' academic strengths and needs. Broadly, our goals are to focus intently on pre-algebra and algebra skills across the elementary, middle and high schools. With regard to English Language Arts (ELA in the vernacular of teaching), we've decided to focus intently on improving writing skills across the schools. We are focusing on particular styles of writing - informational at the elementary level, explanatory or argumentative at the middle level and on argumentative at the high school. We know that strong writing skills are critical to success in International Baccalaureate programs, post-secondary learning and in the workplace. Finally, we firmly believe that almost all children can learn to be strong readers. To support that belief even more fully in Grades K-3 we are reinforcing our multi-year effort to strengthen and improve early reading outcomes by focusing on vocabulary development and strong spelling skills.

As always, parents can support our shared effort to educate our communities' children by ensuring their children come to school everyday ready to learn. We encourage parents to read to their youngest children regularly and routinely and with their older children to read and discuss news or stories of shared interest. Encouraging children to name the main ideas of what they are reading and using key details from what they have read to support an opinion about what they have read is incredibly supportive of what your children's teachers are doing at school.

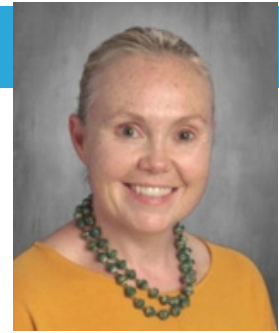
Finally, a call to action for regular attendance. Our families are very supportive of regular attendance, but there are times during the year when attendance is less regular and it might surprise parents. As we look forward to the period between the February break and the April break, I am urging parents to ensure their children attend regularly. This period, particularly during March, sees the most student absences by far every year. The period between February and March is the most important period for growth in learning. Students need to be at school with their classmates and teachers.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in our schools, our shared mission and the values our schools stand for.

All the best,

Andy Johnson

PYP DIRECTOR, KATE HUNTER



We loved seeing so many of you at Back to School Night last week! Thanks for joining us for a fun evening. Read on for some information about how the IB Learner Profile helps us shape our school wide expectations, celebrations, and framework for social/emotional learning.

IB Stars and the Learner Profile

You may have noticed half-sheets coming home at the end of the school week, noting how your child lived out the IB Profile at school. This month, we have been actively seeking out and recognizing acts of being Principled around campus, and making note of what we see on IB Star Cards. The IB defines being principled as acting with “integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere”. This is certainly a goal worthy of our attention and recognition! Students turn in their Star Cards at the front office for a chance to be drawn for a prize at the end of each week. All earned Star Cards also go home so that families can celebrate them as well.

IB Star

This student demonstrated the following IB trait (circle one):

Reflective Balanced Knowledgeable Inquirer

Open-minded Risk-taker Communicator

Caring Principled Thinker

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Trait Observation Summary : _____

Observer Name: _____



As we move into September, we will focus on being Inquirers.

Inquirers “nurture curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research... they know how to learn independently and with others, and they learn with enthusiasm”. We are excited to celebrate Inquiry across the PYP!

Social/Emotional Skills and the Learner Profile

We have also recently adopted [The Toolbox Project](#), which is a framework for teaching and learning positive social/emotional skills, with common language and practices schoolwide. The framework helps students develop – or simply uncover – twelve named tools to help them navigate their relationships with themselves, others, and the broader community. As we roll out this framework together, we will highlight a designated Tool along with an IB Learner Profile attribute monthly. For example, in December we will focus on being Caring (IB Profile), and, to fit with that, we will explore our ‘Empathy’ and ‘Please and Thank You’ Tools (from the Toolbox Project). Because social development is such a critical aspect of school for PYPers, we are thrilled to continue this vital work with shared language and structures.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR, ZACH PARKER



Dear Families, I echo Andy - we are off to a great start! We believe that great Middle Schools - like Sage's - are based in positive caring relationships that help students feel connected, safe and supported. Two factors that contribute directly to this type of environment are wonderful, caring and committed teachers and the Middle Years Programme (MYP) of the International Baccalaureate (IB). The MYP framework, as taught at Sage, encourages whole person development. Like Kate mentioned above, the [Learner Profile](#) represents a set of mindsets and values that we (and the IB) believe contribute to the type of learners who are successful and are practicing the values of good citizenship. Additionally, all of our MYP learners are challenged to try lots of new things that stretch their thinking and skills. At a time when many schools have removed or de-emphasized the arts and second languages, we have maintained our commitment to them. All of our students are mathematicians, readers, writers, scientists, French speakers, artists, designers and are practicing to take action in their communities. To learn more about the ideas and principles behind the MYP read more [here](#).

Finally, I want to share a couple of examples of the ways we are fostering engagement and student-centered action at our Middle School. Sources of Strength and Student Council are thriving, student-centered organizations that provide safe and welcoming environments for students, by students. They both organize and collaborate to provide an array of fun opportunities for all students. Additionally, Sources of Strength is focusing on Healthy Activities in September. One easy resource for families to discuss is through **TableTalk**: ask your students *What are your favorite healthy activities to do individually? As a family? Why?*

Furthermore, during our Friday PD time, MYP teachers meet and discuss common reading comprehension practices to support all students across all disciplines in order to develop all students into strong readers. With regard to developing young mathematicians, the Math team has adopted Imagine Math, a platform that dials in on student's specific needs. Imagine Math is used during the school week and can be, and is recommended, to be used during at home. All students have access to this and can login at home. [HERE](#) is a tutorial that Mrs. Harry, 6th grade Math teacher, put together to support all families. A recommendation is to find protected time on Friday, or sometime over the weekend, to have your student practice for at least 30 minutes.

We hope your student can join us for our next, all-student event: **Throwback Movie Night on September 5th from 6:30-9:00 PM**. We will watch the 80s classic, [The Karate Kid](#). Tickets will be \$5 and available at the door.

Enjoy your long weekend!

Zach

HIGH SCHOOL WITH DIRECTOR BRANDY BURKETT



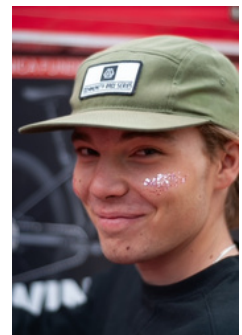
Thank you to the families that joined us this week for Back to School Night! Families were able to spend time in classrooms with teachers attending sessions focused on math, time management, language acquisition, Toddle, the Personal Project, and IB grading in the high school. We hope it was valuable time spent for you and that we were able to answer any questions!

COLLEGE NIGHT: There will be a separate college night on the evening of Thursday, September 12th from 5:00-7:00 PM. This event will be open-house style with several representatives from Idaho colleges and universities, as well as relevant information provided by our CP/DP team. All high families are invited to attend but this event will be geared toward our upperclassmen in the 11th and 12th grades.

SAGEFORT: Our annual Sagefort will return the week following Labor Day! For those who do not know, Sagefort is an amazing 3 day long event that takes place every school year. All high school students participate by signing up for daily sessions called “hacks” and three day workshops called “forts”. We cancel all of our classes and run a modified schedule where students attend hacks and forts of their choice. We are in the process of finalizing all of the materials this week so look for an email with all the details prior to September 3rd!

High School IB Shout-outs: As you may have noticed we are putting a big emphasis on our IB Attributes this school year as a K-12 focus. In the high school, you will see this reflected in our monthly newsletter posts. For the month of August we are featuring students who we see as PRINCIPLED. I have asked my staff to send me their recommendations and I am so pleased to highlight one student from the MYP and one student from the DP! Below is what their teachers have to say about them.

Senior DP student, Preston Reece: Preston is always attentive and courteous in class. He is not disruptive in any way and speaks well of classmates and of his teachers. Preston is principled because I can always depend on him to do the right thing. He represents the values of Sage and IB school as a whole. He's honest, respectful, and dependable—things that make a well-rounded and principled IB student.



Sophomore MYP student, Mojave Hayes: Mojave is such a great example of someone who is principled because she truly cares about people and doing what she can to ensure that they are treated with fairness and justice. With the attention and passion she brings to discussions, Mojave is focused on supporting and understanding people.

High school continued.....

SENIOR CAMP TRIP: Our seniors and Sage 12th grade faculty had a wonderful time overnight near Soldier Mountain at the Pioneer Campground. This was the 8th annual senior camp trip and it was one for the books! Our main focus of the trip is to build community and cohesion within our senior class as we kick off the last year of high school. This class is our biggest yet and we had a blast with them doing several team building activities, sharing meals, and time around the camp fire. Check out these awesome photos from our adventure!



OUTDOOR EXPEDITIONS

Expeditions programming is getting up and running for Fall Semester! Take a look at our list of adventures below and mark your calendars for those registration openings your student is interested in! More information can be found on our website:

<https://sageintl.org/boise/enrichment/sage-expeditions/>



Fall Break Rock Climbing Camp @ City of Rocks

Friday 9/20- Sunday 9/22

3 days, 2 nights rock climbing and camping at City of Rocks with professional mountain guides! All experience levels are welcome.

Registration opens 9/3



After School Rock Climbing Camp

Thursdays in October

Spend 4 Thursday evenings at the Black Cliffs with friends and professional climbing guides! All experience levels are welcome.

Registration opens 9/9



Camping at Bruneau Sand Dunes

Friday 10/11- Saturday 10/12

Spend two days and one night exploring the desert environment through a wide variety of activities including fossil hunting, astronomy lessons, hiking, and sand dune sledding!

Registration opens 9/9



Silver City Spooky Scavenger Hunt

Friday, October 25th

This fun day trip is geared towards our upper elementary students as an intro to hiking and exploration in the very cool ghost town of Silver City!

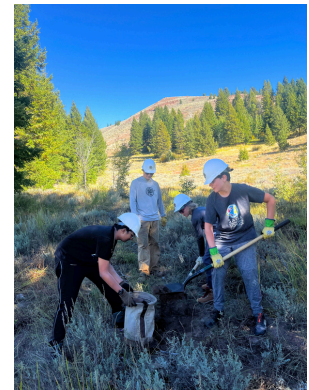
Registration opens 9/20

November Service Project

Friday, November 1st

Spend a day outside and giving back to the community. Sage Expeditions is partnering with Idaho Trail Association to provide trailwork in the Boise Foothills!

Registration opens 10/7



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

You can find all our clubs and activities on our website [HERE](#).

Club Invention for 1st-5th grade: several sessions throughout the year.

Soccer Shots for K-2nd grade: Mondays from 3:45 - 4:30 pm, 10 week session begins August 26th. Find more information and enroll: [LINK](#)

Summit Innovation Lab: Fall STEM classes and camps can be found [HERE](#), register by September 15th and they'll donate 10% of your September enrollment fees to Sage!

ESage is off to a fun start this school year! The groups are having fun after school, and on Fridays the students have been enjoying off campus adventures to Bowling, Regal Theater, Ann Morrison Fountain & Playground, Planet Kid Indoor Playground and of course lots of fun local parks!

We currently have limited space available for after school, and a waitlist for all groups on Fridays. Registration and more information is available on the [ESage website](#), or you can email esage@sageintl.org with any questions.

Middle School Cross Country has begun! Athletes have been practicing after school and have the below meets coming up, good luck to our Sage Team!

August 28th - Middleton Soggy Sneaker

September 11th - Nyssa Invite

October 2nd - Kiwanis Open

October 10th - Rusty Fender

October 16th - Winston Tilzey

November 16th - NXR Northwest Regional Championships

PTO



The poster for 'Sage Night at the Farmstead' features a central orange pumpkin illustration. Text around the pumpkin lists activities: 'CORN POPPERS', 'CORN MAZE', 'APPLE BLASTERS', 'PUMPKIN PATCH', 'HAY RIDE', and 'AND MORE!'. The date 'OCTOBER 03, 2024' is prominently displayed. Below the date, the location 'LOWE FAMILY FARMSTEAD, 2500 S. EAGLE RD, KUNA' and time '4PM-8PM' are listed, along with the price '\$12(+TAX) PER PERSON'. At the bottom, it says 'KISS THE PIG AT 7:30PM' and includes a note: 'DON'T FORGET TO SAY YOU ARE WITH SAGE \$1 FROM EVERY ADMISSION WILL GO TO SAGE PTO.'

Coming up:

- September PTO Meeting: 9/17 at 5:30pm in main cafeteria - all are welcome!
- 10/3: Sage Night at the Farmstead

How to support the PTO:

- Join our [Facebook Group](#): A great way to stay up to date on all the behind the scenes information is through our Facebook group. Here you will find meeting minutes, agendas, and volunteer opportunities.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Attend meetings: We hold meetings monthly. These are usually only an hour long, and children are always welcome.