



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

- ✔ **Photo Retakes** which were taken on October 2nd have not arrived yet. We expect them in a couple of weeks, and they will be sent home with students when they arrive. If you pre-ordered prints, those will be included and if you did not pre-order prints, they will include instructions to do so!
- ✔ Our entire Sage Community is welcome to our **International Festival hosted by the PTO on Thursday, November 14th from 6-8 pm here at Sage!** You can RSVP and sign up to bring a dish or activity via this [SIGNUP](#).
- ✔ We are in **need of substitutes** for both our Boise and Middleton campuses! Substitute roles range from classified openings such as the front desk and paraprofessionals that pay \$90/day, to teaching positions that pay \$110/day. If you or someone you know are interested in this fun and flexible opportunity please visit [our website](#).
- ✔ Our Sage Spirit Store is open year-round and is a great idea for holiday gifts for your students! You can pay for shipping directly to your house, pick up at their local store, or if you aren't in a rush we do monthly deliveries to Sage. You can [shop the store HERE](#).
- ✔ Do you know anyone interested in joining Sage? For the current school year, we have very short waitlists for 1st and 5th grade and openings in 7th and 8th grades! We have our first **Information Session scheduled for December 9th** if they are interested in enrolling either at the semester break or for the 2025-26 school year. They can find more information on [our website](#).

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**November 8: Friday school day for all students**

**November 14:** PTO International Festival

**November 25-29:** Thanksgiving Break - No school

**December 17:** PTO meeting and cookie decorating

**December 23 - January 3:** Holiday Break - No school



Dear families and staff of Sage International Schools,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. We are way into the school year already and I am proud of the work being done by your wonderful children and their fabulous teachers in classrooms at our Boise and Middleton campuses. There are 1,500 children learning and growing in Sage International Schools.

As we enter November and approach Veterans Day, I frequently find myself looking at the United States' flag fluttering in front of each of our campuses. The colors we chose for the flag are intended to remind all Americans of the service and sacrifice that was needed to secure our independence. As a veteran, as the son of a veteran, the brother of a veteran, the husband of a veteran and the father of an active duty Infantry officer it is personally important to me to honor veterans of our armed forces. About .5% of Americans served in Iraq or Afghanistan during nearly 20 years of conflict. In contrast, approximately 9% of Americans served in the armed forces during World War II. Service in our armed forces is borne by an increasingly small share of the population and Veterans Day is an important time to stop and consider that small population's commitment to serve all Americans.

As a family, [read about how Veterans Day](#) came to be observed in the United States after World War One. Learn more about World War One at the [National World War One Museum and Memorial](#). On this Veterans Day consider spending time as a family talking to or about veterans in your family. If you don't have veterans in your family you can explore veterans' stories at the [National Museum of the United States Army](#). Locally there are two museums you could visit to understand more about the experience of veterans: [The Warhawk Museum](#) in Nampa or the [Idaho Military Museum](#) on Gowan Field. Next September 11th, consider participating in Mission 43's [9-11 Miles of Remembrance Run](#).

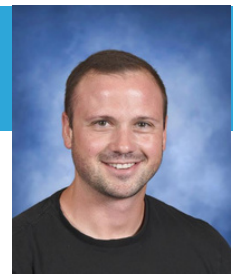
Finally, I want to thank all of the veterans in our community - parents, grandparents, staff and alumni. Their willingness to serve selflessly is an example for us all to emulate as we continue our work to ensure the next generation of American citizens is equipped to make choices that will mark our country's course over the next 50 years.

In remembrance,

Andy Johnson



## DANNY SOLOMON, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES & CAMPUS OPERATIONS



Congratulations to everyone emerging from the smoke and air quality issues this year's fire season brought upon us! We are entering that chilly time of year when morning temperatures can be freezing and afternoon temperatures can be pleasant. **As a reminder, students in all divisions are outside throughout the day.** Morning drop-off is often the coldest, but recesses, lunches, PE, and afternoon pick up all factor into time spent outside. Please encourage your students to dress for the weather (and its fickleness), and check out this guiding document for how [Sage responds to extreme weather](#). Please note that outside operations follow standard procedures in the cold, with changes in operations taking effect only when it is **below 20 degrees**. Finally, please always take care in traversing the parking lot and sidewalks in freezing temperatures. Everyone's health and safety is a priority.

## 'CROSS CAMPUS COLLABORATION

We are excited to highlight some of the wonderful learning experiences possible at our unique K-12 campus in upcoming newsletters, starting with one between 3rd grade and 9-10th grade!

To wrap up the 3rd-grade inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme, *How We Organize Ourselves*, students were asked by the Community Planners of Idaho to plan and design a new city right here in Idaho. After meeting with a city planner at City Hall, students were thrilled to help create a new city. Prior to designing a city, they researched and explored Boise and how it came to be. They became experts on our local community! From there, 3rd-grade students planned and mapped out their ideas to present to the "Community Planners" (Sage high school students).

The 9th/10th grade Computer Science students collaborated to transform 2D city maps into explorable 3D models. They jumped into unfamiliar waters, took a risk, and within two weeks constructed full-sized 3D models of the cities. The 3D models included details down to ducks on ponds, building interiors, and even tooth-shaped dentist buildings. During the group presentations, all students showed truly caring attitudes and communicated clearly. Excellent work and collaboration all around!



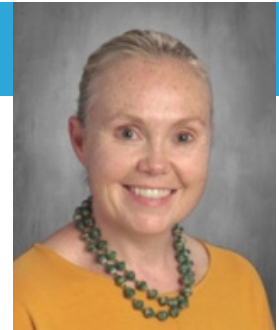
## From our Counselors

The 2024-2025 [Empowering Parents Grant applications](#) are open now. Parents of Idaho students ages 5-18 who filed a 2023 Idaho tax return are eligible. Families with adjusted gross incomes (AGI) of under 60k receive priority. Grants are \$1,000 per student and up to \$3,000 per family. The grant funds can be used for a wide range of items to support student learning – including laptops or technology, extracurricular classes, camps, and school athletic fees, driver's education, tutoring or speech therapy – and more!

Applications will close once funding is exhausted. Go to <https://empoweringparents.idaho.gov/> to learn more about this program or to apply.



## PYP DIRECTOR, KATE HUNTER



### November Update

Fall is in full swing in the PYP! As we move into November, we will focus on our IB profile trait of **Communicator**, which pairs nicely with our [social/emotional tools](#) of Listening and Using our Words. On Friday, November 8th (our one scheduled Friday school day for the year), we will engage students in some cross-grade level creative and collaborative work (in honor of those key pieces of communication); keep your eyes out for class-specific updates on Toddle.

### Literacy Screening

Another key piece of our work in November and early December is ensuring that we are identifying and addressing students' literacy skills in accordance with the Idaho Literacy Achievement and Accountability Act (aka the "Dyslexia Law"). This is a relatively new statute that, in short, requires us to screen all students for characteristics of reading difficulties, including those associated with dyslexia, and develop specific intervention plans for any students showing a need for additional support.

November is a good time of year to conduct this deeper dive, as we have now had a full quarter of experience with students in their new grade level, and we've had a chance to conference with you individually as parents/guardians. While much of this all-school screening and literacy work has long been in place at Sage, this act is also designed to make school processes more transparent to families (speaking of being good Communicators!) Should your student show the need for additional literacy support through this screening process, we will be in touch with you individually about what we identified and what our support plan is. Ultimately, we know – and research supports-that children with a wide range of reading difficulties (including dyslexia) can and do learn to read at high levels.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR, ZACH PARKER



The past month was a busy one. Middle School Student Council hosted our fall dance while the student-led Sources of Strength helped promote Positive Friendships by designing a photo booth where friends could gather to take pictures. Additionally, each advisory class is participating in a pumpkin painting contest that 5th graders will judge. The winning class will receive an award and earn points for their grade in the class competition.

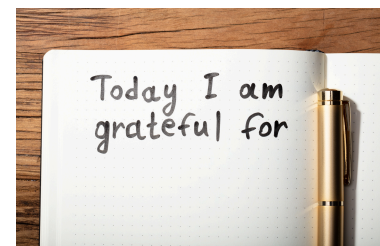
As the first quarter wrapped up, we held Parent Teacher Conferences. Looking to always improve, we made a few adjustments this year by adding on an extra hour on Thursday evening and two hours on Friday. The format was still open, allowing parents to seek out any teacher; however, we did make an adjustment where parents signed up for times to meet with Lang and Lit as well as Math teachers. If you were unable to get into either of these two teachers please send them an email. The combined changes reduced the long lines and bottlenecks that have regularly occurred in the past. We were excited to have nearly 150 middle school families attend.

We have a lot planned for November! Next Friday, Nov 8th, we will be holding Career Day. All students will have guest speakers throughout the day. Notably, the 8th grade class will participate in our 2nd Annual Reality Town. Please see the [slideshow](#) for a greater, in-depth understanding of the event as well as hearing what students who participated last year learned. Also, we are seeking 7 more volunteers to help with Reality Town; no special experience is needed, except for being an adult. I encourage anyone available to email me and come spend a few hours with our awesome 8th graders!!

Just before Thanksgiving Break is our Annual Gratitude Day on Thursday, the 21st. On this special day the entire middle school gives back to the community through service. Among many options, students will rake leaves within our local neighborhood, pick up trash on the greenbelt, and visit Boise State to chalk the sidewalks to encourage and celebrate the young adults who are earning their degree in education and social work. Other students will visit Brookdale Living Center to make cookies with the retired folks, and visit The Ronald McDonald House to help prepare food and clean the living spaces that families use when they stay over waiting on their children's procedures/surgeries to be completed. Once the community engagement ends, we hold a lunch event where all students in the secondary get to eat 'Thanksgiving Leftovers' (turkey sandwiches with all sorts of good sides). This event is run by parent volunteers. I'll be sending out more information in the next couple of weeks and would love to have your support.

Finally, a quick reminder that students spend most of their lunch period outside. With the weather cooling off please be sure your kiddo has warm clothes. If anyone needs help acquiring warm clothes, please reach out to me.

**Sources of Strength (SOS)** is focusing on Generosity and Gratitude in November. ***Ideas for dinner table conversations:*** What are your favorite ways to be generous toward others? What are you most grateful for?



## HIGH SCHOOL WITH DIRECTOR BRANDY BURKETT



Hello wonderful Sage families,

We had such an incredible October in the high school with many events and activities outside of school. I wanted to highlight a few of the amazing things that took place starting with our CP/DP (11th/12th)



Farmstead night! On the evening of October 8th many of us gathered at Farmstead to share in fall fun and community. This is one of the events that we try to hold annually because it means so much to us to spend quality time together outside of the school day.

On October 17th we hosted our annual high school Halloween dance in the Summit building. It was a really great time attended by over half of our high school students! We packed the back area of our building and danced the night away. This event is hosted by our dance committee every October. Our next high school dance will be our Winter Formal, which takes place at the Lounge at the End of Universe in January!



### Sage High School IB Students and Staff of the Month

In October we are highlighting our IB Thinkers! In the IB, a “Thinker” is someone who uses critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. Thinkers exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions. It can be argued that all Sage teachers are Thinkers, but there is one high school teacher who stands out for his amazing brain. Mr. Bryce Mercer, resident Biology and Environmental Science teacher, has been described by colleagues as a man whose mind is always working. Fellow Science teacher Viviana Aguilera shared, “He is constantly making connections and figuring things out in ways that amaze me. He has this incredible ability to pull everything together, always knowing what the last piece of the puzzle should be. What’s even more impressive is that he does it all with humor. I’m not quite sure how, but he brings a lightness to his thinking that makes complex topics seem not only solvable but fun. He truly captures what it means to be a THINKER at all levels.

Bryce, thank you for your hard work and dedication over the years at Sage!



**High school continued.....**

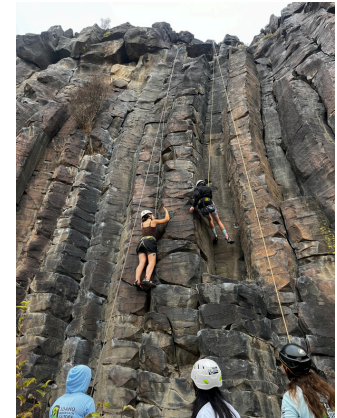
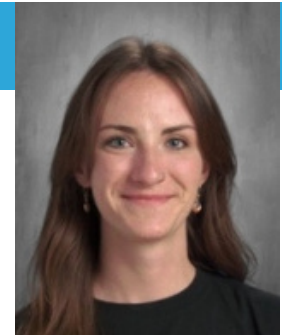
Our MYP (Middle Years Programme) IB Thinker is 9th-grade student Molly Steenhoven! History and Government teacher Drew Lunt shared, "Molly consistently demonstrates an eagerness to learn, to explore new ideas and to be a thinker in the classroom far beyond what's generally required of a student. Molly is highly engaged in class, eager to learn and seizes the opportunity to take their learning beyond the general requirements in class. Molly is able to connect ideas from different units and topics in class. Molly is a student that inspires other students to think about the greater meaning beyond the topics and themes presented in U.S. History class."



Our DP (Diploma Programme) IB Thinker is 11th grader, Andrew Quarles! Melissa Webster, DP History of the Americas and Economics teacher said, "He takes the time to consider different perspectives, and his contributions in class make connections to concepts in and outside our curriculum!" Way to go, Andrew! We are proud of your hard work!

## OUTDOOR EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUIROIS

October was a busy month for Expeditions on the Boise campus! We ran a 4-week climbing clinic with our awesome partners at Idaho Mountain Guides. We had a group of students grades 6-8 spend Thursday evenings at the Black Cliffs near Lucky Peak learning the basics of outdoor rock climbing and improving their climbing technique. Climbing is a unique activity that is individualistic but also equires a team of support on the belay. It provides a really incredible opportunity for our students to build trust with each other and inspire confidence in one's self through conquering fear and personal achievement. It was great to see our students build and strengthen relationships through these activities and become more and more confident on the rock. We plan to provide more rock climbing opportunities in the Spring! Keep your eyes open for emails to come about those.



### **Outdoor Expeditions continued....**

We also took a group of 7th and 8th-grade students to Owyhee county for an overnight camping trip. Students spent a day exploring the Shoofly-Oolite area in BLM land south of Grandview. Here we were able to learn about the geological history of the area and find real artifacts of this history through some very fun fossil hunting. We spent the evening and next morning at Bruneau Dunes State Park where students learned about the stars at the incredible Bruneau Observatory. It was a cloudy evening but we were still able to get a glance of Saturn and the moon through the telescopes at the observatory! This trip was jam packed with adventure and learning opportunities.



Finally, we got nearly 20 4th and 5th-grade students out to Idaho City for a day of learning and exploration. The morning was spent hiking Charcoal Gulch Trail where we learned the 7 principles of Leave No Trace and learned how to identify trees using clues from bark, needles/leaves, and cones. We also got to watch as several planes took off at the nearby airstrip which was SUPER exciting.

The afternoon was filled with a picnic in the park and scavenger hunt around the historic town of Idaho City. Students learned all about the history of the town through the scavenger hunt and practiced navigational skills reading maps to find their clues. LOTS of fun was had!



Our last opportunity for this Fall is on Friday, November 1st for a day of service learning. We've partnered with our friends at the [Idaho Trails Association](#) to offer a day of giving back to our outdoor spaces through trail work. Thank you to all our volunteers who've signed up for this opportunity!

**Keep an eye out in next month's newsletters for updates on Winter Expeditions plans, we would love for your students to join us!**



# ENRICHMENT

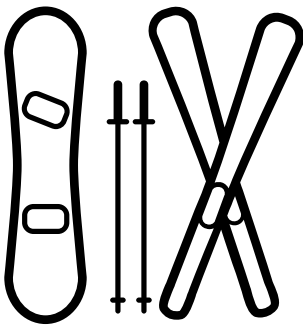
## Mountain Bike Team

Our Sage Team maintained their lead going into the state championship and walked away with FIRST PLACE in their division! The final race was delayed a week due to wildfires, but ended on a beautiful fall day at Bogus. Congratulations to the team, and a huge thank you to the coaches, parents, and everyone else who supported this team throughout this awesome season!



## Ski/Snowboard Team

Under the organization of [Bogus Basin Ski Education Foundation](#), Sage offers the opportunity for students of all skill levels in Grades 6-12 to take part in Alpine, Nordic and Snowboard Competitions. This year our team will be coached by Mimi Trevino and Zach Parker, who will be hosting a parent information meeting on **Thursday, December 12th at 6:00 PM**. We do not want cost to be a barrier for any family, and there are some scholarship funds available. You can find more information on our [website](#).



## ESage

ESage has been enjoying time inside and outside with fun activities after school, and enjoying the Fall weather on full day Fridays with off campus adventures to The Old Penitentiary, Idaho Botanical Gardens, Pumpkin Palooza, local fruit stands, and lots of fun local parks! We also recently had our annual Fall Camp Trip with an overnight stay in Idaho City.



We currently have limited space available Monday-Thursday after school and a waitlist on Fridays. Students in grades K-5 are welcome to attend. Please check out our [website](#) to enroll or email [esage@sageintl.org](mailto:esage@sageintl.org) with any questions.

# SUPPORT SAGE

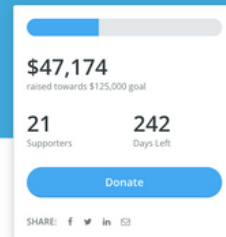
## Help us Mind the Gap!

You may hear us talk about “Mind the Gap” and wonder ...what IS that? You may be familiar with the annual fund that most nonprofit organizations have. That’s

exactly what it is! As a public school, we get funding from the State of Idaho, but as a public CHARTER school that is not part of a school district, we get zero funds from the local government. Those bonds we all vote on that raise millions for local school districts? Unfortunately, they don’t affect us. How do we get by?! First of all, we are very savvy with the funding that we receive at the federal and state level. Second, we have several partners who believe in the work we do and support us with grants. **THIRD, we hope that our families support the IB education we are providing to their students!**



**YOUR DONATION HELPS DEVELOP  
LIFELONG LEARNERS WHO THRIVE  
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

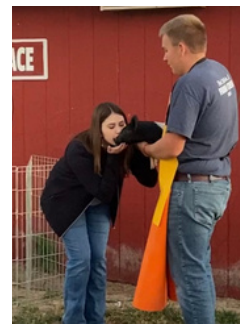


**Thank you** to the 21 families who have donated online so far and the over 130 attendees who supported us via the gala to raise just over \$47,000 of the \$125,000 we need to fundraise for this school year! We’ve even received donations from grandparents, aunts, and several of our own staff members. Can you help us? Our goal amounts to about \$100 for each Sage student to reach our goal, you can visit our [Mind the Gap website HERE](#).

## SAGE PTO

Thank you to all the families that donated food and their own time volunteering toward the taco bar provided for teachers during conferences!

Our Farmstead event was a total blast! Kiss a Pig raised \$224 for our PTO! PYP raised the most (in fact, twice as much as middle and high school combined) and wonderful 5th grade teacher Ashley Levin got to kiss a darling little pig! We also raised \$1 for every Sage attendee, so not only was it fun for all but we raised some money for our school.



We hope you can join us for the [International Fair](#) on **Thursday, November 14th!** Join us for a diverse range of cuisines, performances, and activities all provided by Sage families. Please RSVP at the link below and consider providing a food item, activity, or game. Our goal is to celebrate our diverse and multicultural community!

**Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Location: Sage Cafeteria**

**Cost: FREE to Attend**

[Event LINK](#)

**Next Meeting** is on 12/17 and we invite you to join us, we will be decorating cookies! 5:30 in the Large Cafeteria.

## CONTACT US

Website: [ln.ki/Sagepto](http://ln.ki/Sagepto)

Facebook: [@sageintpto](https://www.facebook.com/sageintpto)

Instagram: [@sageinternationalpto](https://www.instagram.com/sageinternationalpto)

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For more info

