



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 10, 2024



**School closure alerts:** Winter is here, and in the event of a school closure we will let parents know by 6:30 AM in the following ways: Email, Social Media, KTVB, and by text IF you opt-in. To opt in to text alerts please text "Y" via your cell phone to 61569. If you're unsure if you've done this, please do it again!



**Our Food Pantry** is in need of restocking. Please consider donating non-perishable, single serve food items such as Cup of Noodles, granola bars, jerky, fruit pouches, etc. These can be dropped off with Miss Sarah at the Middle School desk, or you can purchase items from our [Amazon Wishlist](#) and have them delivered directly to the school.



**Secondary Yearbooks for grades 6-12** only are on sale! Yearbooks are \$35 and can be ordered online at [www.teering.com/validate](http://www.teering.com/validate). Enter passcode 1017105249641604. PYP Yearbook ordering is coming soon!



Do you know anyone interested in joining Sage? For the current school year, we have a couple of openings in 1st and 5th grade and several in 6-8th! We have several information sessions coming up where they can learn more if they are interested in enrolling for the remainder of this year or for the 2025-26 school year. They can find more information on [our website](#).



**We are hiring for paraprofessionals** at both our Boise and Middleton campuses. These positions share the same hours and majority of schools days as students, so is a convenient schedule for many parents and caretakers! Learn more on our [Careers](#) page.

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

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

**January 9:** End of 1st semester

**January 20:** MLKJ Day - No School

**January 27 - February 9:** Re-enrollment period

The [2025-26 Academic Calendar](#) is available!

## FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear Families and Staff of Sage International Schools,

I hope that you are all well and enjoyed time together during the Thanksgiving break. We are in that part of the school (and work!) year that absolutely flies by. Days seem to go even faster given the short days and the commitments many of us have at school, work or with family and friends at this time of the year. Acknowledging that, I encourage you all to take a little time for yourselves and make sure you feel the sun on your face, go for a walk or just enjoy a moment of quiet during the day.

I looked back at notes that I've written at this time of the year and noticed that I have frequently returned to themes of gratitude for our schools, our mission and our commitment to an International Baccalaureate education. I feel the same way this year. There is something about this time of year that causes me to reflect on what we have at Sage. We are free, public charter schools that embrace a mission of academic excellence, inclusiveness and open mindedness. We embrace and want to know our world.

In that spirit, both campuses have recently achieved significant milestones. The Middleton campus has done the hard work and preparation to achieve authorization to offer the Diploma Programme. The school's verification visit will take place this spring. At the Boise campus, the team has also done an enormous amount of reflection and work to be ready for a periodic evaluation of all four IB programs - the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Career-related Programme (CP) and the Diploma Programme (DP). The IB is sending a relatively large group of IB educators to facilitate this evaluation in the spring. Both events represent superb opportunities for us to learn and grow as schools. We will keep you all posted!

Thank you, as always, for your support, advice and encouragement. All the best to you and your families as we wrap up 2024.

Sincerely,

Andy Johnson

**OUR MISSION:** *Sage International Schools engage students within an inclusive IB learning community, challenging all members to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry.*



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



Winter weather is upon us! Please be safe during travel on and off campus, and ensure your child is dressed for the weather. [Linked here](#) is a guide to our typical practices when confronted with extreme weather conditions. In the event snow makes travel to school too unsafe, we will communicate the need for a snow day. Look for communications through text (if you have opted in by texting “Y” to 61569), email, and through the local news. Decisions for a snow day are made in partnership with the busing company, neighboring school districts, and other local stakeholders.

We also need to revisit traffic patterns again for pick up and drop off, and **it's important**. The vast majority of us follow the expectations...thank you! Those expectations not only maximize efficiency for everyone, but more importantly, are designed to keep your kids—and you—safe. If you need a refresher on the routes, please find them [here](#).

Recently there have been a number of near accidents due to drivers not following directions. **To those that choose not to follow the established routes:** it is unsafe, disrespectful, and frustrating to everyone else. Please be a principled and caring part of the Sage community by doing the right thing, as we expect the same behavior from our students, staff, and all who have chosen Sage for these very values. Traffic is not fun in any scenario, but we ask that you please choose to be a part of making the best of an unavoidable reality. Please pay attention to these important reminders:

- Pick up and drop off must follow the line of cars - do not create your own route or cut in line. This is happening near the entrance along Parkcenter - you **MUST** enter off Mallard by Smoky Mountain. We encourage those waiting in line to **NOT** let people cut in.
- The handicap parking spots at the front of the PYP entrance are reserved **only for people who need to get in and out of the building and have official handicap paperwork**. Adults who are picking up or dropping off kids do not need to get in or out of the building, and should reserve those spots for students with disabilities or adults with disabilities who need to exit their vehicle. The remaining spots along the entrance are for quick use - under 5 minutes.
- Stay in your car when picking up or dropping off students.
- Pay attention to the pickup times and family scenarios for pick up times. We are able to clear all of elementary traffic before secondary release only if people abide by the times. **Please do not arrive on campus before 3:15 for PYP and 3:40 for secondary.**
- Do not pick up or let students out of your car in areas outside of the designated locations- traffic is intentionally routed to keep moving vehicles away from pedestrians.
- Do not park in our neighboring businesses. We regularly get complaints from the people who manage those properties and they are allowed to ticket you.
- Do not make exceptions for yourself and your child. The safety of our students and staff cannot be compromised due to your schedule.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping Sage a safe place for all!

## ENROLLMENT AT SAGE

With announcements about our lottery coming, please know that currently enrolled Sage students do not need to apply for the lottery. However we do **require them to be Re-enrolled for the 2025-2026 School Year** which is facilitated through Skyward Family Access. The Re-Enrollment period for your Sage student will be **open Monday, January 27, 2025 through Sunday, February 09, 2025** and you will receive links to do so by email. Students who have not re-enrolled by the deadline will NOT have a spot secured for the 2025-26 school year and we will offer spots to lottery applicants.

During the re-enrollment period, you will also be given an opportunity to register siblings that are not already enrolled at Sage, in the Sibling Enrollment lottery. Current students and/or their siblings will not be registered in the general lottery. Stay tuned for links and instructions to come in January!

## GIVING TREE

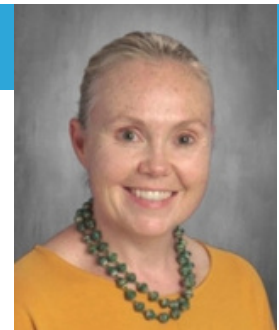
We are looking forward to our 7th Annual Sage Giving Tree. Mr. Parker is leading this effort again this year with a focus on helping food-insecure Sage families.



- Families in need of assistance, [please complete this survey](#). Respect for privacy is important and names will only be seen by the three school Administrators and Sarah Brown, our incredible Middle School Administrative Assistant. Sign ups will end on Monday, **December 9th**.
- To donate, please purchase Walmart and/or Winco gift cards and deliver them to Ms. Sarah at the Middle School front desk by noon on **Monday, December 16th**.
- If you have the ability to donate, we are kindly requesting *physical* gift cards only.

Letters with gift cards will be mailed out **Wednesday, December 18th**. Thank you!

## PYP DIRECTOR, KATE HUNTER



### December's IB Profile Trait – Caring

It's the perfect time of year for us to emphasize **caring**! The IB Programme states that caretakers – of all types – “show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us”. In this season of festivities, we will celebrate the fact that acts of caring and kindness are free of cost and brighten even the darkest winter days.

### Roaring Readers -- Back again in January

Returning Sage students will be familiar with Roaring Springs' "Roaring Readers" program. Similar to the Fit for Fun program, Roaring Readers asks students to track their daily (at home) reading progress for an opportunity to earn a free pass to Roaring Springs. We will share that information in January.

**PYP continued...**

### **Winter MAP Assessments**

These will be given during the weeks of December 9 (Reading) and January 13 (Math). These are benchmark assessments for us, as educators, to get a view of progress-to-date this school year. Students do not need to do any specific academic prep; just arrive rested and ready to go, as we would on any other school day.

### **Toddle – Window into the Classroom**

Virtually all of you are now connected to your child’s classroom via Toddle, an IB-specific learning management system. We hope you are enjoying the photos and stories that provide a window into our days here at Sage. If you aren’t yet connected to Toddle, please reach out to our Network PYP Coordinator, Nora Strauch at [nora.strauch@sageintl.org](mailto:nora.strauch@sageintl.org).

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR, ZACH PARKER**



Families,

I'd like to update families on a couple traditions we hold at the middle school. I shared last month about Career Day and 8th grade Reality Town. In its entirety, this was another successful event. A special thank you to the guest Career Speakers as well as to our volunteers who allowed Reality Town to occur. Moreover, a special thank you to Mrs. Moss (6th and 7th grade PE) for organizing Reality Town, which provides 8th graders the opportunity to 'adult' and budget based on their chosen career. Through interviews this year's biggest takeaways from students was their shock at 1) how much families spend on food, 2) that budgets matter when choosing housing and 3) health and dental insurance is important. Check out some photos below!



## ***Middle School continued....***

Additionally, our Gratitude Day was another successful event. Parent volunteers with our PTO helped feed over 500 secondary students and staff. Then many of our students participated in activities giving back to our neighbors and community.



As we draw closer to wrapping up semester one, I encourage you to have conversations with your students about how they are handling the stress of holidays and end-of-semester finals. Finals will be occurring over the next two weeks, which, along with colder and darker weather, can offset our students. In looking to support them, as opposed to asking closed questions that yield ‘yes or no’ responses, look to draw out explanations with open-ended questions like “tell me more about that, how did you feel with X”. Explicit strategies of time management are helpful for students along with a clear checklist of what needs to be done and by when (refer to the weekly WAAG or “Week at a glance”).

Finally, as we draw to the holidays I want to offer a few resources to support you and your students adjust to the upcoming two weeks off and avoid full entertainment via technology. In the past I’ve shared several resources from the blog [screenagersmovie.com](https://www.screenagersmovie.com). A few of the most timely blogs this time of year deal with [Tech-Free Holiday Gift Guide](#), [Waituntil8th.org](https://www.waituntil8th.org) (an organization of family support to hold off on your kiddo having a cell phone – NOTE: I’ve personally pledged to this), a Guide to help you discuss the [Problematic Social Media Use](#), as well as suggested [Skills](#) to help build our kiddos resilience.

## **HIGH SCHOOL WITH DIRECTOR BRANDY BURKETT**

Dear Sage Families,

We are so excited to celebrate the success of three of our students for their demonstration of outstanding potential for academic success based on their scores on the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT. About 34,000 Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2025 competition by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as a key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this



## High School continued....

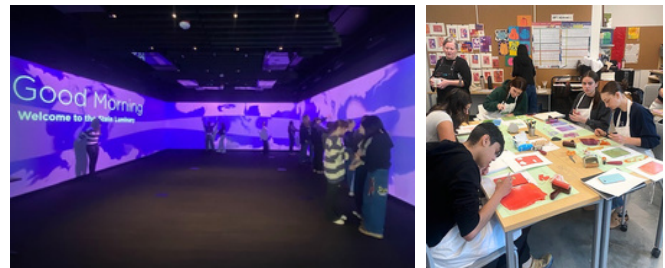
recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success. Congratulations to Sage seniors (Pictured L - R) Helena Schwarthoff, Timothy DeLuna, and Owen Marvel!



The High School Green Club has been hard at work on Fridays caring for the garden with assistance from our Network Enrichment Director, Arron Walton. Senior Casey Thomas sent me the following info describing the club's dedication to the project: Throughout the month of November Sage Green Club members gave some much needed TLC to the garden located behind the Summit Building in hopes of turning it into a place where students would want to spend their time, as well as building an outdoor learning environment for teachers. Green Club will be continuing the rejuvenation of the garden throughout the rest of the year!



The DP 11th Visual Arts students visited the Boise State Art Department and worked with Dr. Kathleen Keys and her art education students. Students learned about the Gelli Printmaking process and also walked through the printmaking lab to see students at work with different processes. Before leaving the art department students visited the Stein Luminary permanent interactive and immersive exhibit.



Dr. Faith Hansen and Austin Weeks hosted students over the break at the annual Model UN conference in Seattle, Washington. Representing leaders and countries from around the world, the students participated in political simulations and debates. Getting dressed up and role playing early in the morning and late into the evening has never been so much fun. During their freetime they enjoyed exploring Pikes Market on the bay and finding amazing food like Dough Zone dumplings and Cheesecake Factory!



Garen Gudgell was chosen as an Assistant Director of a committee, and Cooper Molinengo won an award for his position paper! (Seen top right: Garen & Cooper)

*High school continued.....*

### **The Extended Essay: Explained**

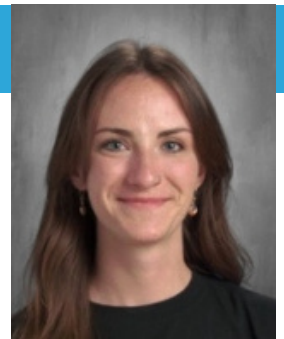
One of our high school goals is related to full Diploma Candidates submitting their Extended Essay by the deadline which is in the fall of their senior year. For context, the Extended Essay or EE is a research project that all IB Diploma Programme students must complete. The project is a self-directed research paper of up to 4,000 words on a topic that interests the student. It must be related to one of the IB subjects they are studying (Math, History, Lang and Lit, French, Biology, Film, or Art). This paper gives students a chance to explore a topic in depth, develop critical thinking, and improve research and writing skills. It's also good preparation for college-level work. The essay is graded externally by IB examiners, who look at things like the clarity of the research question, the quality of the research and argument, and how well the essay is organized and written. Reflection on the process is also part of the grade. All students work with an EE Supervisor who is a specialist in their subject area. This Supervisor helps guide them in their thinking and rhetorical processes.

Beginning last school year, our DP Core teacher, Austin Weeks began partnering with our Media Specialist/Librarian, Danielle Konkol. Danielle's understanding of and strength in teaching research writing skills have been a huge complement to the EE course Austin teaches. Together they have worked to further support DP students in their ability to conduct research and write at a college level for their EE. This is a big year for Sage because ***this group of DP seniors is our largest in history. 100% of our full programme candidates submitted an EE by the deadline.*** We want to extend a huge thanks to both Mr. Weeks and Mrs. Konkol, as well as the Supervisors and family members who have supported our students throughout the last three semesters as they worked through their Extended Essay.

## **OUTDOOR EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUROIS**

As the holiday season unfolds, Sage Expeditions is taking a quick break from programming. Before we jump into the new year, we want to pause and reflect on why our expeditions are so meaningful for the students we serve. Beyond teaching outdoor skills and responsible recreation, we are committed to fostering a deep sense of belonging in our participants. One powerful way we do this is by guiding students to experience **moments of awe**.

Awe is that profound feeling you get when you encounter something vast, something greater than yourself—whether it's standing before a towering mountain, witnessing the beauty of a starry night sky, or experiencing the raw power of nature. It's a moment that challenges your understanding of the world and your place in it. This sense of awe plays a vital role in helping our students connect with the world around them and, in turn, with each other.





## Outdoor Expeditions continued.....

Research from the [Greater Good Science Center](#) at UC Berkeley has shown that awe has a range of powerful effects on humans, from improving physical health to [strengthening social connections](#) and inspiring a deeper sense of purpose. For students, these benefits extend into their social-emotional well-being, physical health, and even [academic achievement](#).

At Sage Expeditions, we create awe-inspiring moments in nature, but awe can be found in many places. This winter, consider visiting an art or science museum with your family, or enjoy a nature documentary together on a cozy night in. Simple activities like these can nurture a sense of awe that supports your child's emotional growth and connection to the world. You can find more ideas for inspiring awe for your students and family [here](#). We look forward to bringing even more awe-some experiences to our students when we return in January. In the meantime, check out our winter schedule below and let the wonder of the season inspire your family.

### **Sage Expeditions Winter 2025 Schedule:**

**January:** 1/10, 1/24, 1/31- Lifesports ski and snowboarding lessons

**February:** Friday 2/7- Snowshoeing near Idaho City

**March:** Friday 3/7- Nordic skiing at Bogus Basin

Fri 3/14- Sun 3/16- Hike-in winter camping at Camp Sawtooth (indoor sleeping)

## ENRICHMENT

### **Cross Country**

The Sage Cross Country Team competed at the Nike NXR NW Regional Meet in November! Though it was a cold start, the athletes warmed up and ran an excellent race. Results for our runners can be found [here](#), it was a fantastic season!



### **Ski/Snowboard Team**

Sage offers the opportunity for students of **all skill levels** in Grades 6-12 to take part in Alpine, Nordic and Snowboard Competitions. 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](#) and check out this fun [Promo Video](#)!

### **ESage**

ESage has been having so much fun! Recent field trips have included trips to the Downtown Library, Foothills Learning Center, Nampa Rollerdrome, Planet Kid, and the movie theater to see Wicked over Thanksgiving Break!

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

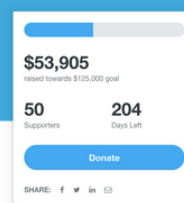
# SUPPORT SAGE

## Help us Mind the Gap!

**Thank you** to the 50 families who have donated online so far and also to our gala! So far we have raised almost \$54,000 of the \$125,000 we need to fundraise for this school year! We hope that each family is able to support the IB education we are providing to their students **with a donation of any amount**. Our goal amounts to about \$100 for each Sage student, with many families being able to donate less or more. Please consider us in your year-end giving and check to see if your employer matches donations to 501(c)(3) organizations like Sage. You can visit our [Mind the Gap website HERE](#).



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



## SAGE PTO

Thank you to all the families that donated food and their own time volunteering for our secondary Gratitude Feast!

We had an AMAZING turnout for our **International Fair and Potluck!** It was wonderful to celebrate our diverse and multicultural community over wonderful food, entertainment, and activities.



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

**Next Event** will be the K-5 Luau on February 8th, mark you calendars! We need volunteers to make it happen!

## CONTACT US

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

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

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

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For more info

