



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 7, 2025

- ✓ **Tardy student sign-in:** School starts promptly at 8:05. If you are dropping off your student after 8:00, they will not be seated in their classroom by 8:05. You need to park, walk them in, and sign them in at the front desk. If not they will be marked as an unexcused absence, and you will receive a call from the attendance line. Thank you for your attention to this!

- ✓ **Individual Spring Picture and PYP class picture day is February 25, 2025.** Visit the [Barksdale Storefront](#) to order, online orders only and the store will close on 2/24/25 at 5 p.m. There are two different codes:
Individual Pictures code: 0109005SG
PYP Class Pictures code: 0109005GP

- ✓ **Yearbook orders:** There are two different yearbooks and two different websites where you can order online based on grade level.
 - **Grade K-5** yearbooks are \$18 and can be ordered at www.barksdalephoto.com using the access code: 0109005YB. The deadline to order is March 27th.
 - **Grade 6-12** yearbooks are \$35 and can be ordered at <https://web.treering.com/validate> using passcode 1017105249641604. The deadline to order is April 30th.

- ✓ **Lottery:** Our 2025 Lottery application is open and posted on our website! If you know families who are interested in joining Sage, they can learn more and apply [HERE](#). As Sage families, you do NOT need to enter currently enrolled students or their siblings in the lottery, but **you MUST re-enroll your students and add their siblings by Sunday, February 9th**. Please see more information from Katie Ashby on page 7.

- ✓ We are looking for donated soccer balls and basketballs (used or new) for our playfield, they can be dropped off at any front desk. Thank you!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 27 - February 9: Re-enrollment period

February 11 - PTO Meeting

February 17 - 21: Winter Break - No School

February 25: PYP Class Photos & Spring Individual

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

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON



Dear families and staff of Sage International Schools,

We are proud to be, as the Idaho Constitution describes, a “public, free common schools” and ones that embrace a mission of inclusive learning and taking action to improve our world. We have strong and thriving public schools serving 1,500 students at our Boise and Middleton campuses.

We are in the time of the year when new families enter the lottery for a place at one of our schools. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our families. More than 90% of our families return year after year - making openings at our schools difficult to obtain. Nonetheless, we would love for you to continue to encourage families to apply who embrace our mission and would thrive alongside your children. Information about our lottery at both schools can be found at sageintl.org/enrollment, and lotteries for both schools will take place in early March. Currently enrolled families must complete re-enrollment in order to secure their child’s place next year. All currently enrolled families should have gotten an email from Skyward. Please take some time and re-enroll your child before February 9th.

Finally a note about immigration and school enrollment. I want to share some information about immigration, citizenship status, and enrollment in Idaho public schools. These resources come from the Idaho State Department of Education and the U.S. (Federal) Department of Education. The linked documents explain the current laws and may help answer any questions you may have. We'll be sure to update you if there are any changes in the future.

[Idaho State Department of Education Link](#)
[Federal Fact Sheet Link](#)

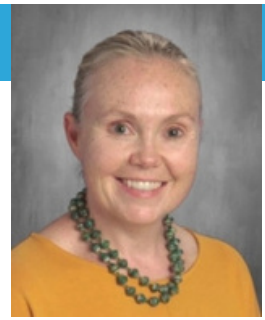
All the best,

Andy Johnson

Mission: “Engaging students within an inclusive IB learning community, challenging all members to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry.”



PYP WITH KATE HUNTER



We are having a great winter in the PYP! Read on for a few housekeeping reminders and updates.

Winter MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment information will go home the week of February 10, just prior to winter break. As with other assessments, we use this information about student learning to plan our next best steps as educators. From an individual student perspective, assessment results are one snapshot in time, and we will be in communication with you if we are seeing any specific concerns.

Winter Weather: It has been wet out there! Please encourage students to dress for the weather, particularly in terms of footwear. We do go outside when it is reasonable to do so, and we want everyone to be able to enjoy the fresh air without hours of wet feet.

Morning Sign-In: With these wintry mornings, we know it can be tough to get everyone out of the house on time. Please remember that school starts right at 8:05, which is when students are settled in classrooms and ready to start the academic day. If they will not be in their classroom by 8:05, you need to walk them in and sign them in so we know they are late, or they will be marked absent. We appreciate your attention to prompt drop-off, as it really does help set the tone for the day and ensure that we are accounting for all the students entrusted in our care.

Valentine's Fundraiser: On Thursday, February 6, individualized Valentine's packets offered from Barksdale will be sent home with your K-5 students. If you wish to keep these, please see the packet on how to pay. If you do not wish to participate, please send the packet back with your student no later than Thursday, February 13. Two dollars from every packet ordered will go back to our school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



Taking Action: Ms. Pasco, our 7th grade Lang & Lit teacher, wrapped up a unit challenging students to take action regarding topics and/or activities that students are drawn to. Some notable projects she highlighted include Theo, who created advertising and promotion to get students involved in rockclimbing; Hannah who also created advertising and promotion to involve young ladies in local lacrosse; and Niko and Dermot who worked with our school librarian, Mrs. Konkol, to create a designated shelf to hold student's original writing.

Winter MAP: We have wrapped up the mid-year assessments of math and reading growth and scores went home last week. We use the feedback from the assessments as another source of information to help us measure our students' progress in reading and math.

Middle School continued...

Technology Talks: Per my usual advocacy to limit students' use on cell phones and social media, I'm sharing out a few new resources to support parents either in being more educated about social media and/or provide talking points with your students.

- The majority of large social problems in middle school at Sage stem from the use of devices. Students are learning communication skills as young adults and yet they are just that, young adults who do not know appropriate ways of communicating. To support your students in avoiding drama that can be both noticeable or behind the scenes I advocate for limited time on phones, with texting and social media.
- Wait Until 8th, a nationwide and Sage parent organization supporting the limiting of smartphones to students until they reach 8th grade. We have parents signed up for 7th grade (myself included) and 4th.
- You.Me.We.All - a parent led non-profit that focuses on Youth Mental Wellness. They are hosting a couple events within the next month.
- Benefits of a Digital Detox - worth considering even if for one night, say a Friday, Saturday or Sunday.
- There is a new app for iPhones called Explode that allows users to send photos and messages and they quickly disappear, or explode, after being sent. This is similar to SnapChat.

8th Grade Annual Snowshoe Trip: Next week a handful of teachers led by Mrs. Woodruff will be taking our 8th grade students to Bogus Basin to snowshoe and learn more about the impact of snow and water within our valley. This is always a fun trip that incorporates learning, the outdoors and physical activity.

Speaking of physical activity, our Sources of Strength focus for January and February, centers on the strength of **Physical Health**. Try these Dinner table discussions: When were you not physically healthy? What possibly prevented you from not being physically healthy or active? How did you become healthy again? What changes to your life did becoming healthy and or active have for you?

HIGH SCHOOL

We are so excited and proud to announce this year's Valedictorian, Helena Schwarthoff! Helena has attended Sage since kindergarten and she is a wonderful example of an IB student. She is a speaker of three languages (French, German, and English). In her free time she loves to



play D&D with friends, and she keeps busy with Model UN club here at Sage. Helena has not yet decided on the college or university that she will attend next year but she does plan to move to Germany and has narrowed her choices down to Heidelberg University, University of Bonn, RWTH Aachen University, and The University of Erlangen–Nuremberg. She will study Liberal Arts and is very excited to be closer to her family in Germany! Congratulations Helena!



High School continued....

We also honor our school's Salutatorian and this year the title goes to Preston Reese! Preston is a full Diploma Programme Candidate and Varsity athlete on our Sage Mountain Bike Team. In his free time he enjoys cycling, snowboarding, playing ultimate frisbee, and hanging with friends. Currently he is racing for Tribe National Devo Race team. As an athlete he has become very interested in the study of Exercise Physiology/ Kinesiology. Eventually he plans to earn a higher ed degree in Physical Therapy. Preston is still weighing his options and has not yet chosen a college or university but he is interested in Montana State.



The IB Attribute that we are highlighting in January was Open Minded! As open minded people we critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.



11th grader, Carson McDonald is truly one of a kind. He is thoughtful, gracious, and always approaches people and subjects with an open mind. Mr. Fraley shared the following about Carson, *"Carson is a really cool dude who can talk to you about so many cultures and languages that he has read about. He is knowledgeable, inquisitive and appreciative of the many cultures he chooses to surround himself with. I love how he gravitates towards the social aspect of any lesson."*

Another 11th grade student who is especially open minded is Hailee Lamberson. Melissa Webster, Hailee's History of the Americas teacher said, *"Hailee actively listens with genuine open mindedness, which is a hard thing to do. She responds sincerely and calmly to someone's perspective without making immediate judgments, but always speaks the truth when it needs told."* Hailee, we are so proud of the hard work you have put in this year. Keep it up!



Our teacher IB spotlight this month goes to Colin Falconer! This is Colin's first year with us but he is not new to IB as he is actually a Diploma Programme graduate! Colin has had some big shoes to fill taking over our Design and Computer Science courses this year but he is truly a perfect fit with our team. This month Colin was recognized by his colleague,



Scout Sorcic. Scout shared the following, *"Mr. Falconer is always asking great questions in staff meetings and about teaching/students/school. He is always willing to try new methods in his classroom and brings a lot of his experiences before Sage to students. Mr. Falconer is as much a student as he is a teacher, and it is clear he is learning from his experiences."* Colin, thank you so much for everything you have done. We are so grateful you joined our team!

High School continued....

Wilderness First Aid Certification Opportunity: In partnership with the Desert Mountain Medicine Wild Med Initiative, Sage International is offering a 16-Hour Wilderness First Aid course that includes a CPR certification. Wild Med is an affordable option, geared toward getting high school students prepared to play outside.

This is a two day course which takes place on Friday, March 7th and Saturday, March 8th. The student cost is \$165, discounted from \$325. There is limited space in the class so please consider reserving your spot as soon as possible. If interested, please email our CP teacher Scout Sorcic directly at scout.sorcic@sageintl.org.

Reminder to Families about our HS Phone Practices: We have had several issues lately with students mismanaging their phones. I want to remind you all of what our current phone use practices are here at the High School.

- **Students are not to be on their phones during class.** Phones should be turned off/on silent and kept in backpacks. If students choose not to abide by this rule, teachers are free to take the phone for the class period, or the school day. At this point in the school year, there is no reason all students should not understand this. If a student is habitually breaking this rule, Sage administration will place them on a technology contract. Student's may also be subject to serving detention as well.
- **Students are able to use their phones during passing periods and at lunch.** Students may not use their phones in the Everest building at any time. But they are free to have them in the Summit building during the periods mentioned. We do this to support the ongoing effort of K-8 staff in managing their students' cell phone use during the day.

If families have questions or concerns these can be directed to Mrs. Burkett. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we do our best to keep students focused on their coursework.

EARN THE SEAL OF BILITERACY

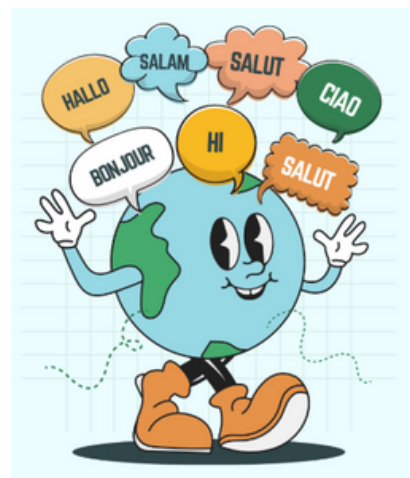
The Seal of Biliteracy honors students' proficiency in additional languages. Seal recognition appears on a student's official transcript and is a clear way to communicate language skills to universities and employers. Many universities use the Seal of Biliteracy to place students in higher language courses that will boost them toward minors and double majors, adding valuable expertise and flexibility to any field of study.

The Sage Network will host a Seal of Biliteracy testing day in March. The deadline to register is Feb 14, 2025:

When: Friday, March 14, 9:00-12:00am at Sage Boise Campus

Who: Open to Sage high school students in grades 9-12.

How: [CLICK HERE](#) to register and specify the language(s) you want to test in.

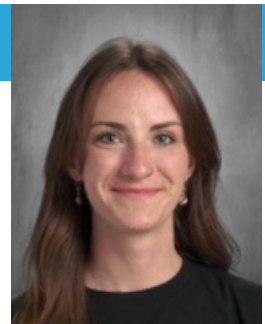




IMPORTANT! Re-enrollment for ALL current students returning next year is underway and ***must be completed by this Sunday, February 9***. This is facilitated through [Skyward Family Access](#) and you should have received multiple emails with instructions.

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. If you believe you completed this but received subsequent emails, that means something needs attention and your re-enrollment has not been submitted. ***During the re-enrollment period, you will also be given an opportunity to register siblings*** (who are not already enrolled at Sage) in the Sibling Enrollment lottery. Current students and/or their siblings will not be enrolled through the general lottery.

SAGE EXPEDITIONS



January was a great month for outdoor expeditions! The sunny, dry weather led to some gorgeous ski and snowboarding days at Bogus Basin for 40 of our students. Dry trails in the foothills opened up opportunities for families and friends to hike and bike on our local trails. It was a great month to be outdoors! That said, we snow-lovers are



stoked to see cloudy skies bringing moisture back our way. Snowfall isn't just good news for winter recreation, it's also crucial for our environment! On our winter expeditions, students get the chance to learn hands-on about the snowpack and its importance while also getting the chance to do fun activities

outdoors with peers! Check out the opportunities we have planned below and sign your student up to learn more about the snow, and how to recreate in it responsibly!

If you want to learn more about why snow matters, the [National Snow and Ice Data Center](#) has loads of information on why we can be grateful for snow.

Upcoming Expeditions:

February 7: Grades 5&6- Snowshoe and snow science adventure ~ Lottery closed

March 7: Grades 6,7,8- Nordic Ski lessons @ Bogus Basin ~ Lottery opens 2/13

March 14-16: Grades 9,10,11,12- Backcountry Cabin & snow science ~ Lottery opens 2/24

April 4-10: Camping and hiking in Southern Utah~ Limited spots still available! Email megan.furois@sageintl.org to inquire about these openings!

Big news! Thanks to a grant from [Be Outside Idaho](#), Sage Expeditions has brand-new snowshoes, making winter adventures even more accessible for students at both of our Boise and Middleton campuses. We're beyond grateful for this support!

ENRICHMENT

We have several activities coming up in the spring and summer! Check them out:

[Marimba Enrichment](#) - March 25 - May 13 for 3rd - 8th Grade

[Soccer Shots](#) - March 25 - May 6 for Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

[Skyhawks Basketball](#) - March 12 - May 7 for 1st - 5th Grade

[Camp Invention Summer](#) July 7 - 11 for Kindergarten - 6th Grade

Sage's High School Ultimate Frisbee Team registration is open! Click [HERE](#)

There are also several **Community Activities** posted on our [website](#).

Our **Sage Snow Team** is doing awesome and just completed their 4th race last weekend. Our High School Team is in 19th place out of 45 teams, with a total of 6 racers. Our Middle School Team is 21st out of 54 teams with a team of 10 racing.

We have had some racers place toward the top, in Race 3 Ellis Troutman placed 1st for Female MID class, Wyatt Tucker 2nd for MAle Snowboarding, and Jacob Swartz 2nd for Male Nordic! Congratulations and keep up the good work Racers!

ESAGE

We have been having fun after school and on full-day Fridays! Recent field trips have included swimming & sliding at the West YMCA, ice skating at Idaho Ice World, visiting a book shop, Idaho State Museum, Fly High Trampoline Park, bowling at Emerald Lanes, and a trip to the movie theater (with popcorn, of course!). We've also been busy after school celebrating Lunar New Year with some Chinese snacks and Year of the Snake activity, arts and crafts, and walks to Parkcenter Pond on the mild Winter days.

Students in grades K-5 are welcome to attend. We currently have limited space available Mon-Thur after school & during break weeks, and have a waitlist on Fridays. Please check out our website to enroll or email esage@sageintl.org with any questions.



PTO

Our Next Meeting is Tuesday, February 11th at 5:30 and we would love for you to join us!

Next Event will be the **K-5 Luau planned for Thursday, February 27th!** We are in need of several volunteers to make it happen, you can [sign up here](#). We need volunteers to gather raffle prizes, donate desserts for the cake walk, sell tickets, help run the games and concession booth, etc. This is one of our most beloved PTO events and is SUCH a great time for PYP students and families!

You can find all PTO information on [our website](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Email us at information@sagepot.org!