



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MIDDLETON NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 7, 2025



**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 on page 3.



**Secondary Yearbook orders:** The yearbook club has been working hard to capture our memorable year. Be sure to pre-purchase a yearbook if you'd like one, you can [do so at this LINK](#).



**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!



**Valentine's Candy gram** sales are underway! Completed order forms can be dropped off at the front desk with Mrs. Jessica. These are due February 12. If you have any questions, email Mrs. Stanciu at [jasmine.stanciu@sageintl.org](mailto:jasmine.stanciu@sageintl.org) or Mrs. Yarbrough at [bailey.yarbrough@sageintl.org](mailto:bailey.yarbrough@sageintl.org)

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 13 -** PTO's Goodies with Guardians breakfast

**February 17 - 21:** Winter Break - No School

**February 27-28:** Secondary targeted conferences

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 Sage Boise can be found [here] and for Sage Middleton, [here]. Additionally, currently enrolled families must complete re-enrollment in order to secure your 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.”*



## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR



**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. ***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. Thank you!

## FROM NURSE LORINDA

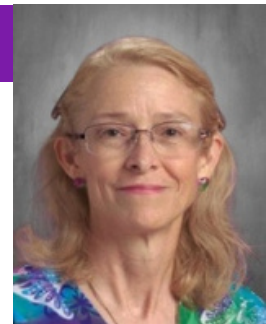
Hello parents,

As usual for this time of year we have seen a rise in absences due to illness. So far our absence rate has not been too high, and we hope to keep it low to avoid closure like other area schools have experienced. Please follow the guidelines on page 20 of our

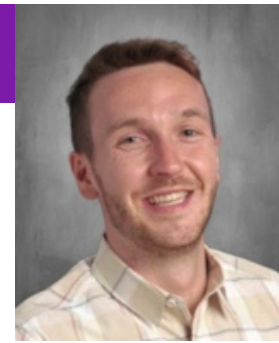
[Student Handbook](#) when deciding when to keep kids home, and when to send them back to school. If your child has a chronic problem with nausea, please let me know. Of course, any student may pick up a contagious stomach virus and need to go home.

I also would like to pass along information about Head Lice. Fortunately, in the 4 years I've been at Sage we haven't had a widespread outbreak of Head Lice, but we do get the occasional case. Per our policy and CDC guidelines, we cannot do a full-class head check. But when a student has an itchy head or other possible signs of lice, I can do a confidential head/hair exam and will let you know after doing so. Please remind your kids that although lice cannot jump from head to head, they can crawl so they should not share combs, brushes, hats, etc. They should avoid personal contact where their heads are touching. You can find our school policy on Head Lice on page 197 of [student policy](#), and if you want more info on detecting lice, treating lice, etc, please reach out to me.

Thank you,  
Lorinda Blew RN, BS  
[lorinda.blew@sageintl.org](mailto:lorinda.blew@sageintl.org)



## PYP (K-5TH) WITH AUSTIN AMBROSE



One of the most unique parts of being an IB school is the units of inquiry that teachers create to tie together all the disciplines we teach students. It's the chance to make interdisciplinary connections and show how concepts translate into different situations. Students continue to learn and expand on the Units of Inquiry because they remain the same throughout the PYP years. There is so much power in students seeing how ideas like "Change" show up in so many aspects of their learning. Below are some examples highlighting Units of Inquiry.

Our 1st graders explored the concepts of sounds and instruments. In class, they even made instruments using the knowledge they gained about sound. They also



participated in a drum circle facilitation, using drums to expand on these ideas and see sound waves in real time. Our 3rd grade students also received the

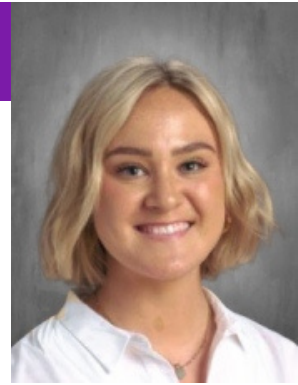
opportunity to participate in these drum circle facilitation experiences. However, they were looking at it from the perspective of animal adaptation. They discussed ideas like how the shape of an owl's ear adapted over time. This is connected to their Unit of Inquiry about animal adaptations, where students end the unit by creating their own animals and explaining the adaptations.

Fourth grade is all about Idaho history. One of the big components of this is the Oregon Trail and traveling on a wagon train. Students are participating in a simulation of this experience. They come across challenges such as breaking an arm and have to research what they can do to survive their journey. They also make "artifacts" to depict different aspects of the journey.

These are just some of the many examples of units students participate in throughout the year. It truly is what brings learning to life and engages students to think critically about the world around them. This all is possible through the hard work of teachers, and the mastery of foundational skills.



## SECONDARY (6-II) WITH JASMINE STANCIU



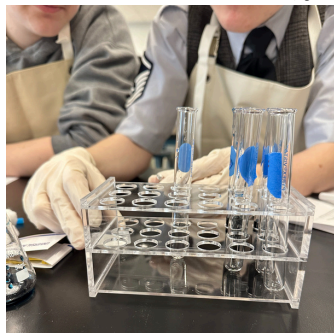
Our secondary team has kicked off the new semester with a variety of learning opportunities for our students.

In Ms. Thies' 11th grade class students are learning about CAS and a group project. The goal of the group project is to provide a service with/for the Middleton Police Department. It's still a collaborative work in progress. Way to reach out to the community. The 10th grade finished their horror stories at the end of the first semester and are getting ready to publish their book. It is called "The Descent".

In Math, Integrated 2 students rounded out their quadratics unit by taking to the skies. They designed and flew paper airplanes, measuring their flight paths over time to collect real-world data. Using this data, students then analyzed and modeled the observed trajectories with quadratic equations, interpreting key features like maximum height, range, and axis of symmetry.

This hands-on project helped students see how math connects to the real world. By tracking how far and high their planes flew, they discovered how quadratic equations can predict the path of objects in motion. It was a fun, engaging way to bring math to new situations and prove that numbers and equations can exist anywhere. Check out the included [student exemplar](#) to see how the data came together for this project!

Biology is currently investigating the differences between viruses and cells- oh my! The current case study is about Influenza A and its ability to change. In Environmental Systems & Societies the 11th grade students are investigating a phenomenon about tree growth and wildebeest populations in the Serengeti. Through this investigation, they've



learned about energy movement within ecosystems and how organisms rely on both biotic and abiotic factors. They even got to see and feel some real skulls and hides from animals found in the Serengeti, including a wildebeest, eland, warthog and gemsbok. The 9th and 10th grade students are investigating how carbon dioxide moves through earth's systems as sources and sinks through a series of labs with Mrs. Stanciu.

With Mrs. Lindsey the 10th graders are doing a fantasy musical theatre tournament (like fantasy football) and the 9th grade is about to kick off their theme parks in the coming weeks! How exciting!

In Mr. Ellsworth's design class 9th grade students are designing and creating a hand- or machine-sewn textile product using reclaimed or upcycled materials, efficiently sourcing and repurposing fabrics while developing or adapting a sewing pattern to meet the specific needs of an intended user. (photos next page)



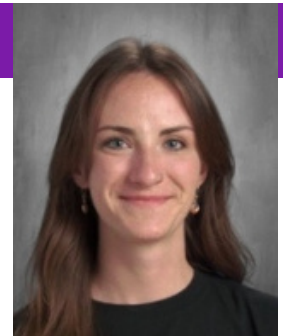
## Secondary continued...

The 8th graders will be undergoing a research project about waves. They will research an item/phenomenon that happens to either light or sound waves. In years past Mrs. Yarbrough has actually had students build speakers or instruments! The 7th graders will be building an organism and its environment, using adaptive traits and behaviors to survive!

Shoutout to Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Norland for leading a book study for our secondary team. Teachers are continuing their learning in a shared, bi-weekly community exploring Dr. John Medina's Brain Rules. Applying these in their classrooms aims to explore modes and methods for accessing ALL students and individual needs. Learning has presented itself in their book study as well as collaborative note taking.

Thank you to Sage Boise for inviting Sage Middleton High School students to their Winter formal. It was so awesome to see the students and staff together.

## EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUROIS



January was a great month for outdoor expeditions! The sunny, dry weather led to some gorgeous ski and snowboarding days at Bogus Basin for over 30 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.

March 1-2: Winter camping and snow science at Osprey Point Yurts ~ Lottery closed

March 6: 4th Grade to Bogus Basin for Snowschool

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

March 21: Grades 5-6 snowshoeing and snow science near Idaho City ~ Lottery opens 3/3

April 4 - 10- Camping and hiking in Southern Utah~ Limited spots still available! Email [megan.furois@sageintl.org](mailto: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 our Boise and Middleton campuses. We're beyond grateful for this support!

## ENRICHMENT

[Skyhawks Basketball](#) for students grades 1st - 5th is coming to Sage Middleton from March 12th - May 7th. [Click here](#) for more info!

### Boys Middle School Basketball Schedule:

2/10 Home vs TVCA @ 4:15  
2/13 @ FalconRidge @ 3:30  
2/24 Home vs Adrian @ 4:15  
2/27 Home vs Doral Academy @ 4:15 (B team only)



### ESAGE

We've been having fun staying active this Winter! Some of our recent field trips have included swimming at Givens Hot Springs, roller skating at the Rollerdrome, wheels day at Midway Park, visiting the Nampa Library, a trip to the movie theater (with popcorn, of course!), and lots of engaging indoor activities like polymer clay jewelry & painting. We would love to have your child join in on the fun!

We still have space available to enroll Mon-Fri. Students in grades K-6 are welcome to attend one or more days per week, or attend on a drop-in basis. All activities, field trips, and daily snacks are included in tuition, plus you can try out ESage for half price on your child's first day! [Click here to enroll.](#) Please email [esage\\_middleton@sageintl.org](mailto:esage_middleton@sageintl.org) with any questions.



Sage Middleton PTO presents

# Goodies

with Guardians

2/13  
7:45am-8:10

Bring your student and start your morning with delicious pastries!

This is free to all students!!

### PTO

Start your morning with a sweet treat with PTO's Goodies with Guardians! Join us for a fun, free event featuring a delicious variety of freshly baked pastries and coffee—all served with a side of community spirit!

Date: February 13, 2025  
Time: 7:45am-8:10am  
Location: School Gym/ Cafeteria

It's a great way to meet other parents, chat with teachers, and kick off the day with some tasty treats—all for free! Bring the whole family and let's enjoy the morning together! You can follow our PTO on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SagemiddletonPTO>