



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 7, 2025



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.



Tardy student sign-in: School starts promptly at 8:05. If you are dropping off your K-5 student after that you need to park and walk them in, and sign them in at the front desk. If they are in 6-12th, you need to email boise.attendance@sageintl.org to let them know they arrived late. Otherwise 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!



Spring photo day was February 25, 2025. When orders come in, prints will be sent home with students with information on how to make additional orders.



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!



THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to [Mind the Gap](#) this year! We are only about halfway to our goal of \$125,000 with less than 3 months left in the school year. A gift directly impacts our school and our students as we plan critical funding for next year. Can you help us?! [Click HERE](#) for more details.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 20: End of 3rd Quarter

March 27 - 29: Conferences for 6th-12th

April 4-11: Spring Break - No School

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



As the warmth of spring begins to brighten our days, the lyrics to The Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" are bouncing around in my head. We are excited about the future at our schools. We are particularly excited about the journeys our 10th-grade students will soon embark upon in the Diploma Programme (DP) and Career-related Programme (CP). These capstone programs, designed to challenge and inspire, are what Sage students prepare for with their friends and teachers. We held our DP/CP night for rising 11th Grade students and families at our Boise campus just this past week. In May, our Middleton campus will undergo an authorization visit by the IB that will enable us to offer the DP to rising Juniors next year.

The DP and CP are transformative programs, where students hone their critical thinking skills, deepen their understanding of American and global issues, and develop the resilience needed for success in college and beyond. The DP, with its rich history and rigorous curriculum, and the CP, with its career-focused approach and practical application, both offer unique pathways to personal and academic growth.

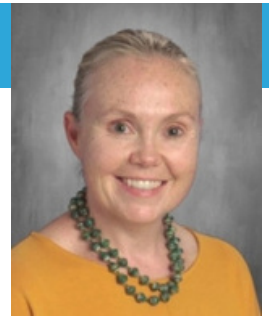
The foundation for success in these programs is built brick by brick, day by day. And that's why the months of March and April are so critical. This is a time for students to solidify their understanding of core concepts, refine their study habits, and engage fully in learning.

Consistent attendance is critical. Every day in the classroom provides valuable opportunities for learning, discussion, and collaboration. Attending school regularly and arriving on time, means that students will learn more, be better prepared and less stressed. Engagement is equally vital. I encourage all of our schools' students to actively participate in class discussions, seek out extra help when needed, and embrace the challenges presented by their teachers, peers and coursework. I urge you all to show up and dive in!

For our 10th-grade students, this period is especially significant as they prepare to make informed decisions regarding their choice to pursue either the DP or the CP. Attending information sessions, exploring program options with regard to their future plans, and engaging in thoughtful conversations with teachers and counselors will help them make the best choice for their individual goals and aspirations.

We believe that every student has the potential to achieve remarkable success. By prioritizing attendance and engagement during these crucial months, we are laying the groundwork for a successful and fulfilling academic journey. I urge you to make every effort to be at school - on time, everyday - in March and April. This is the moment when sustained effort and engagement is necessary to achieve personal growth and success.

All the best,
Andy



Welcome, March! Unlike other area schools, March is a full month for us, with our spring break falling the week of April 8th. We look forward to diving in and building on this consistency with our students!

IB Profile Trait: Knowledgeable

In March we focus on the trait of being Knowledgeable: *We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.*

Engaging with issues that have local and global significance is a perfect tie-in with the **PYP Exhibition**, which is our 5th-grade capstone project for the PYP. Exhibition prep is now in full swing, and students are grappling with the central idea of “through small actions we can make an impact”. We look forward to celebrating our students’ investigations and action-taking ideas!

Classroom Spotlight – 1st Grade

Sage Arcade was once again a big hit with the PYP! As part of their “Who We Are” unit of inquiry, 1st-grade students explored the central ideas that everyone plays and that play develops life skills. 1st graders built arcade-style games (complete with written directions), and students in other grades had a chance to play them at the Sage Arcade. Middle School students joined in the fun, supporting students in the actual building of their games.



The 100th Day of School

We celebrated our 100th day of school on Thursday, February 27th and it did not disappoint! Our youngest students in K-1 – along with their teachers – came to school dressed as their versions of themselves at 100 years old, and students worked with hands-on items to grapple with the idea of what 100 looks and feels like.

BOTH Roaring Readers and Yearbook Orders DUE March 27

- For Roaring Readers, students can use the sheet attached [here](#) to record their reading time, making copies if they wish or adding additional sheets as needed (regular paper from home is fine).
- For the yearbook, families can order at www.barksdalephoto.com using the access code: 0109005YB. The cost is \$18 per book.

PYP International Reading Week Opportunities From Janna Brown - March 10th to March 13th

As part of our commitment to promoting multilingualism and international mindedness, we have planned some engaging activities for International Reading Week. Here are the opportunities we need your help with!



Family Reading Videos: In the past we invited families to record videos of themselves reading a book in a different language. We are excited to announce that we will be doing this again this year! These videos will be played by teachers on the second day of International Reading Week. We encourage you to participate once more and join us in celebrating the beauty of languages at Sage. Once you record your video, please upload it [here](#) so we can all share these wonderful stories!

Volunteer for Thursday Cultural Activity: To make International Reading Week a memorable and enriching experience for our students, we are reaching out to parents who may be interested in volunteering to read a story and lead a cultural hands-on activity on **Thursday, March 13th**. Last year we had parents lead in making new years crafts, Indonesian shadow puppets, a Chinese math game, and sharing flatbread and Z'aatar. To support your time and any special materials needed, each grade level has a \$100 stipend available. If you're interested in participating, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher to share your idea and schedule a time—we'd love to have you share your traditions and stories with our students!

Global Reading Bingo: From Monday, March 10 to Thursday, March 20, join us in celebrating reading around the world with our [Global Reading Bingo](#). Your goal is to complete reading challenges on the bingo board that will be sent home next week. Students can complete the entire board and win a grand prize, or finish one row of five to enter a grade-level prize drawing—one winner will be chosen from each grade! All completed bingo boards must be turned into your teacher or Ms. Robin by the morning of Thursday, March 20 to qualify for prizes!

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER

All,

We are deep into the school year with much going on and yet time always flies fast. The end of Quarter 3 is on March 20th. During the week after, on **Thursday, March 27th and Friday, March 28th, we will hold Parent Teacher Conferences** in a similar format to the Fall Conferences. The format is open house for all classes except Language & Literature (English) and Math. These two classes will be by appointment only. Beginning in two weeks, you can expect more information on the conferences along with the links to sign up for those meetings in my weekly update.



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It is always important to note around the end of quarters and semesters that students who are failing classes put themselves in a precarious situation of potentially losing too many credits to advance to the next grade. It is also important to note that as a middle school staff, we provide many opportunities for students to reassess failed summatives (tests) as well as time when students can meet with teachers. Furthermore, I like to point out that students have Friday's to complete their homework or any missing assignments.

In general, I attempt to share in each newsletter recommendations regarding our youth and technology. Recently, Emily Cherkin, author of Screen Time Solutions, was in town offering advice for 'tech-intentional parenting'. [HERE](#) you can see the big takeaways from her presentation.

On a fun note, Middle School students have been challenged to participate in March Music Madness featuring 32 Classic Rock Bands from the 60s through the early 80s. Throughout the week in Advisory, students will listen to one song from each band and then vote on their favorite song. Students then can complete a bracket for the week and if their pick is the winning band, they earn points for their grade towards the ongoing class competition.

To that end, I encourage you to take time and listen to the music with your students and even vote. Music and connecting over music can be a great support for one's **Mental Health, which is the March focus of Sources of Strength**. While at the dinner table or on a car ride try this prompt for a: "When you feel upset or stressed, what helps you feel better?" It's also beneficial to share your coping mechanisms.

Recently 8th-grade students participated in [Snow School at Bogus Basin](#) to learn about snow science and winter ecology. They snowshoed 3 miles of groomed trails, crawled into a snow cave to learn how the structure will keep you comfortable in the elements, and dug snow pits to measure depth and temperature. They learned it's nearly 20 degrees warmer at the bottom of the pit, helping to keep burrowing critters warm throughout the winter. Students also learned how to measure the Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) to determine how much water will be available to the Treasure Valley during spring and summer snowmelt, because of course we rely on that snowpack for irrigation and recreation throughout the rest of the year.



HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT



The month of February is our chance to highlight the IB Attribute of Risk-Taker! As risk-takers, we approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and creatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

10th grader, Oliver Smith has shown these qualities specifically in his Advanced French class! Monsieur Fraley shared the following, “Oliver showed up to French class this year with a determination to learn, and he understands how you acquire a new language: through taking risks. You need to step out of your comfort zone and ironically be



comfortable with making mistakes, knowing that if you are incorrect, your participation will eventually lead you to your answer. Oliver has demonstrated this quality (and many others!) day in and day out by bravely answering all sorts of questions and experiencing firsthand the benefits of taking risks. He is a reliable, hard-working and determined student who does not back down from a challenge. I really appreciate his initiative and the positive example he sets for his peers.” Nice work, Oliver!

In my position as High School Director, I have the privilege of working with the most incredible educators. It is no secret that Sage has the best teachers, but this month I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight a teacher who takes risks daily. **Ashley Henderson, DP Math teacher and Coordinator**, has been a teacher at Sage for many years. In the last two years I have worked very closely with her in new capacities and I constantly witness her strategically problem solve, always with the focus of what is best for our students. She is creative, innovative, and she is never afraid to throw out a solution, or try a strategy in her classroom to further increase student engagement. I am in awe of her daily. Thank you, Henderson for inspiring me, and for never being afraid to dig in and do the hard work that it takes to keep Sage thriving. Love, Burkett



10th Grade Field Trip: Author Talk at Capital High School

On February 27, Sage 10th-grade students, along with high school students from all over the Treasure Valley, attended a lecture by award-winning author of *The Firekeeper's Daughter*, Angeline Boulley at Capital High School. The lecture began with a beautiful welcome from a teacher, artist, musician and his family from the Duck Valley Reservation in Idaho and Nevada. He and his family performed a welcome song he had composed and he talked about the symbolism in his artwork. Angeline Boulley spent most of her lecture answering student-generated questions about her writing process, the artwork on her book covers, and the significance of her Indigenous culture in her work.

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This inspiring presentation tied into the work 10th-grade students did at the beginning of the year in Language and Literature as they read essays from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer and wrote personal narratives about the significance of place for them. (We even had two brave students make it to the stage to meet the author and get



her to sign their book!) As always, students were engaged and respectful and made an excellent impression of Sage out in "the real world" as they referred to Capital High!

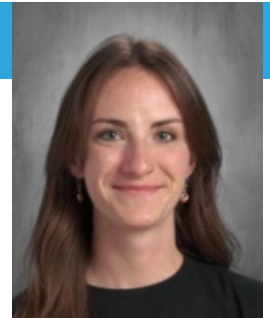
Recently, Sage parent Christine Hayes visited to present to Ms. V's high school science class! Christine is a forensic biologist with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and studies wildlife health.

Students were able to learn from her about invasive species. We love to have families share their knowledge with our students, thank you Christine!



EXPEDITIONS

We are in a super fun time of year when winter and spring outdoor activities are both accessible and the options for activities are endless. This March, we have a few more winter opportunities to seize up before spring completely takes over. See our list of planned expeditions below and click the links to take advantage of any last-minute spots!



March Expeditions

- Friday 3/7- [Rescheduled snowshoeing expedition](#) for 5th and 6th graders
- Friday 3/14-Sunday 3/16 - [Backcountry winter cabin in the Sawtooths](#) - FEW SPOTS REMAIN. *This expedition is open to any student in grades 9-12. Please email megan.furois@sageintl.org to snag a last-minute spot!*

April Expeditions

- Friday 4/4- Thursday 4/10- [Spring break camping in Southern Utah](#) - FEW SPOTS REMAIN. *This expedition is open to any student in grades 8-12, please email megan.furois@sageintl.org to snag a last-minute spot!*
- Monday 4/28- 4th grade to Celebration Park- info coming soon!
- Thursday 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15- After-school climbing clinic: info coming soon!

ENRICHMENT

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

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

[Soccer Shots](#) (K-2nd grade): March 25th-May 6th

[Skyhawks Sports Basketball](#) (1st-5th grade): March 12th-May 7th

[Mountain Bike Club](#) (5th-8th grade): April 1st-May 20th

[Ultimate Frisbee Team](#) (9th-12th grade): March 24th-May 5th

[Summer Camp Invention](#) (K-6th grade): July 7th-11th

[Summer Marimba Enrichment](#) (3rd-8th grade): June 23rd-27th

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

PTO

Hello Sage Families! This past week we had our Winter Luau for our PYP students and it was a blast! We want to give a big thanks to our volunteers and our sponsors. We can't do what we do without them! **The raffle will be open until Midnight on March 9th** and you can still buy tickets for these great prizes:



[Purchase Raffle Tickets Here](#)

Winco Gift Card

Melting Pot Gift Card

Top Golf Gift Card

Pojo's Gift Basket

Sisu Cold Plunge & Sauna Pass

Zoo Boise Tickets

Boise Hawks Tickets

Lotus Tree Studio CST Gift Card

Idaho Shakespeare Fest Tickets

Oregon Shakespeare Fest Tickets

Roaring Springs Tickets



Our next event is Ice Skating at Idaho IceWorld for Middle School students. Come join us on March 20th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm for ice skating and pizza. \$10 for entrance and \$5 to rent skates. [Purchase Idaho IceWorld Tickets Here](#)



Join
us!



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