



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 3, 2025



THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to [Mind the Gap](#) this year! We have raised just over **\$76,000, with about two months left in the school year to reach our goal of \$125,000.** Mind the Gap is our annual giving fund that helps our school reach a variety of goals. As a non-profit organization, all donations are subject to tax benefits. This is an important part of the year as we budget for next year, and your gift in any amount directly impacts our school and our students. Can you help?! [Click HERE](#) for more details.



ESage has a record number of students who would like to join for the summer, so we are hiring! We are looking for a broad range of staff, from high school students getting their first job to college students to parents. The pay range is \$12-16. You can find [More info here!](#)



We are excited to announce that Sage will be hosting a [“Save My Family”](#) event about the impact of Social Media on our youth and provide live education focused on empowering parents, teachers, and kids. We are partnering with Idaho Virtual Academy and Central District Health to be able to provide this free event to parents and staff at our Sage Boise campus on April 30th from 6:30-8:30 with light snacks provided. If you are interested in attending please click on the link to [RSVP](#).



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

April 4-11: Spring Break - No School

May 1-2: PYP student-led conferences

May 22: Sage Chromebook Return deadline

May 26 - Memorial Day - No School

May 29: Last Day of School!

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



Dear families and staff of Sage International School,

Our community achieved a significant milestone in the life of our school last week. We hosted a team of representatives from the International Baccalaureate Organization from Wednesday to Friday as they conducted a visit to verify our “IBness”. Periodically the IBO requires all IB authorized schools to go through an intense period of reflection, planning and reporting. This is called the “self study” and serves to inform the IBO about our governance, planning and teaching practices, and the fidelity with which the programmes (PYP, MYP, DP and CP) are implemented (and lived) at our school. We’ll get a detailed report later this spring.

The team always shares what they view are strengths and opportunities at the close-out meeting. A strength they highlighted was that our community is aligned on our mission, vision and strategy. They noted that our work was rooted in and centered on our mission to engage students within an inclusive IB learning community, challenging all members to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry. Further, they noted that our school focuses on student needs for support and community belonging through offering a range of activities to students, scheduling, staffing and by carrying out effectively planned professional development and collaboration on Fridays.

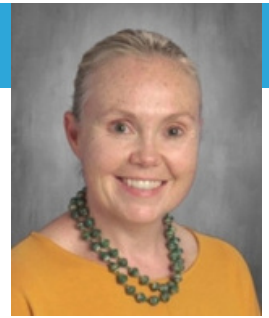
Finally, they closed out the session by telling us that our school “exudes a culture of belonging” that “kids are happy”, and that “they are kind.” That is a testament to our families, their children and our team at Sage. Thank you for your confidence and continued support. We have an amazing learning community.

All the best,

Andy

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





April Profile – Balanced

In April we highlight the IB Learner Profile attribute of Balanced. Being balanced means that “we understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives- intellectual, physical, and emotional - to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live”.

IB Visit Takeaways

Every time I read the IB Profiles I am struck by something different – this time, the call to recognizing and celebrating our interdependence (as part of being Balanced) speaks to me.

Our interdependence within the PYP was highlighted as a strength by our IB visiting team over the course of their three-day visit. Our visitors specifically made note of the work our incredible teachers have been doing in aligning and defining our IB Programme of Inquiry K-5. This alignment work ensures that we are building coherently unit to unit and year to year, providing your children with a well-rounded, balanced education that opens up every possible door for them. Our visiting team also noted that our next steps – or opportunities for growth – center on making our Programme more explicitly concept-based, with the idea of further integrating all content within each unit’s identified concepts. We are excited for this work ahead, and we know that it will only strengthen our students’ ability to link ideas across disciplines and further make meaning of their learning.

Assessment Schedule (ISAT, MAP)

Maintaining balance is important as we move into spring assessments! Students in grades 3-5 will take the [ISAT](#) over the course of April 15-17 (ELA/Reading) and April 22-24 (Math). We spread each assessment over three sessions to break up the total time allocated in one sitting and to avoid assessment fatigue and overload. As with any school day, we ask that students arrive rested and ready to learn on these days. Other than that (and eating a good breakfast!), we just ask that students do their very best on these assessments so that we, as educators, can rely on the information gathered to make informed decisions about next steps in learning.

Students in all grades K-5 will also take the spring MAP assessment (in mid to late May), as they did in the fall and the winter. Again, these standardized assessments help us respond to students’ needs and identify areas of strength. If your child is stressed about these assessments, please remind them that they are for us as the adults to plan our next steps, and they do not have high stakes outcomes for students (ex, no one is ‘held back’ or similar based on assessment results).

MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



We are now three-quarters done with the school year. Once we return from Spring Break, we will have seven weeks remaining. From an academic standpoint, we will have our final push to develop skills, learn new content and bring it all together. We have a few field trips lined up to enrich the experience. Please be sure to check your emails for more on this. Additionally, during this final stretch we will hold our ISAT assessments.

In looking toward the final week of school (May 27th - 29th), we are planning school wide activities. Notably, on Wednesday the 28th the 6th graders will have a field day with games and competition, 7th graders will be going to Cascade to participate in a Ropes/Zipline course, and the 8th graders will attend Wahooz! Stay tuned with more to come including times, signups and cost.

Parent Resource of the month - I've shared in the past a parent resource from the organization "You, We, Me, All". This one again comes from them. On Tuesday, April 8th from 6:30 - 8 pm at the Cathedral of the Rockies, Y.W.M.A will be hosting an event titled "Parenting for Resilience and Peer Support." You can get more information [HERE](#) while also reading about an interview from a Parent Coach.

Sources of Strengths is highlighting Family Support this month. SoS members encourage you to spend time together as a family. They suggest you try "stacking" different sources together. For instance, go for a walk outside, play frisbee at the park, take a bike ride (family time combined with physical activity), or cook a meal together, more so, teach them to cook (family time with mentoring). Play a board game or even play one of their video games with them. The purpose is to take intentional time together to strengthen bonds.

HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT



It feels like a whirlwind at the high school with so much going on as we head into Spring Break next week! Thank you to all of you who attended our parent/teacher conferences last week. It was wonderful to see so many families and to catch up.

Following Spring Break we are moving into testing season. 9th graders will wrap up their MAP testing in ELA and Math and 11th graders will take their ISAT tests in Science, ELA, and Math. Seniors will begin their IB exams beginning Monday, May 5th.

We hosted our annual DP Art Exhibition on Friday night! New this year was the addition of our DP film showcase. Many of our seniors exhibited their works and the audience got to witness the culmination of two years of hard work. Thank you so much for all who attended, and congratulations to DP Art teacher, Karelia Dubkowski, and DP Film teacher, Daniel Calderon for getting their students over the finish line. You can see photos on the next page.



The month of March is when I get to highlight students and staff who are most knowledgeable! As knowledgeable people, 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.

In the MYP, one student stands out as particularly knowledgeable... freshman Hugh Corpstein! Scout Sorcic had the following to say about Hugh, "During our Wilderness First Aid course that Hugh signed up for, he was able to connect concepts from class to what we were learning. At one point he said "We just learned this!" and was able to draw the connection between science class and keeping a friend safe in the backcountry. I was super impressed with his ability to draw from multiple disciplines over the course of the weekend." Hugh, thank you for being such an asset to your school community!

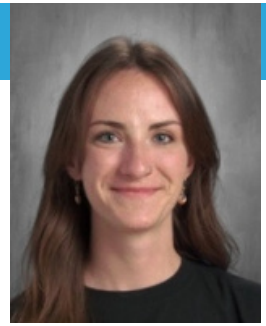


We would also like to recognize 11th grade DP junior, Ellery Brewster. Mr. Weeks and Ms. Henderson both selected Ellery as most knowledgeable. They described Ellery as thoughtful, reflective, and conscientious. Mr. Weeks shared that every time he talks with her about her EE, he is blown away by how much she knows. Not only does she have a depth of knowledge about her topic, but her approach to research is highly effective. Ellery, thank you for all of your hard work and for quietly sharing your knowledge with us. We are proud of you.

I am excited to celebrate JJ Alley as our IB teacher this month! Mrs. Alley is the type of teacher who never stops learning. She is always looking for new and exciting ways to enhance her knowledge and pedagogy. There is not a summer that goes by that Mrs. Alley is not putting in extra hours to prepare for the upcoming school year. She is the epitome of a lifelong learner. It is no secret that Mrs. Alley is extremely knowledgeable about her subject area, mathematics. What you probably do not know about Mrs. Alley is that before becoming a math teacher, she attended the United States Air Force Academy for college, representing the great state of Louisiana. Mrs. Alley earned a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering. She spent 5 years in the Air Force as an Aeronautical Engineer, eventually punching (leaving the AF), to support her husband in his Air Force career. Most recently, she has been at teacher at Sage for the past five years.



EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUROIS



We wrapped up our winter expeditions with an awesome snowshoe trip near Idaho City with 5th and 6th-grade students. We identified trees and animal tracks and dug a snow pit to investigate the layers of snow. We used a microscope for an up-close look at snowflakes and discussed how the winter snowpack impacts our lakes and rivers in the valley.

We are stoked for the change of seasons bringing new recreation and outdoor learning opportunities! See the list of expeditions below to get a glance at what's coming up. We're especially excited about our week-long spring break trip to Utah!



April Expeditions

- Friday 4/4- Thursday 4/10: [Spring break camping in Southern Utah](#)
- Monday 4/28: 4th grade to Celebration Park - Info was emailed by teachers
- Thursday 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, and 5/15: [After-school climbing clinic](#) - Open to grades 7-12. FEW SPOTS REMAIN!
- Tuesday 5/13- 3rd grade to Foothills Learning Center- *info coming soon!*
- Tuesday 5/27- 5th grade to Peregrine Fund - *info coming soon!*

ESAGE

ESage has been having fun after school and on full-day Fridays! Recent field trips have included The Idaho Reptile Zoo, Boise Aquarium, Realms Arcade, and Boise Public Library. Fourteen adventurous 3rd - 5th grade ESagers also went on an overnight trip to Osprey Point Yurts in Cascade, where we met up with Sage Middleton MS Expeditions students for a nature scavenger hunt!



We're also looking forward to a fun and busy Spring Break, with trips to Zoo Boise, Planet Kid, to see Minecraft in the theater, and watch a BSU beach volleyball game!

Summer and 2025-26 School Year ESage is now open, with limited space available in some groups. Please check out our [website](#) to enroll or email esage@sageintl.org with any questions.

ENRICHMENT

We have several activities for all grade levels coming up in the spring and summer here on our Sage campus. Check them out!

[Mountain Bike Club](#) All students in 5th-8th grade are welcome! Riders leave from our campus and ride nearby foothills trails. April 1st-May 20th

[Ultimate Frisbee Team](#) High schoolers in 9th-12th grade play against other school teams. 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! We have a lot coming up in the next few months. We will be looking for **new board members and Event Chairs** for next year over the next two months. So please stay tuned to our social media accounts for updates and meeting information. **Our next meeting will be April 15th at 5:30 in the Sage Cafeteria.**

All High School students (9-12) and their teachers are invited to a fun night of **bowling at the Boise State Student Union Building on April 17th from 6-8 pm**. \$10 covers lane fees, shoes, and pizza! And of course, teachers are on us!

[Sage High School Bowling Night Tickets](#)

As we move into May, we will be hosting our **Sage K-5 Family Dance on May 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 pm!** Come join us for a night of music, concessions, and fun. There is no cost to attend. All children must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

Moving right along in May, we will be returning to the **Elk Flats Campground** for an overnight adventure. Please join us the **weekend of May 16th** for hiking, campfire stories, and s'mores! Keep an eye on your email for more information and to sign up. You won't want to miss it!

As we come to the end of the school year and move into next year, we have two really important volunteer opportunities. We will need support for our **Teacher Appreciation Week** and also hosts for our **New to Sage Playdates** over the summer. If you are interested in either opportunity, please send an email to president@sagepto.org to find out how you can help.

You can find all PTO information on [our website](#).

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Email us at information@sagepot.org!

Join
us!

