



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 24, 2025



**Friday School on November 7<sup>th</sup>!** Please remember that this is a required school day for ALL Sage students, the only Friday school day we have planned all year! There are a lot of exciting things happening and important learning that they won't want to miss out on.



**We maintain a food pantry** with snacks for students who need them, and families are welcome to donate to the food pantry via our [Amazon Wishlist](#). We are currently very low on lunch items such as mac & cheese and ramen cups. Our list also includes community supplies as well and we are always looking for donated items. Thank you for your support!



**Life's Kitchen** has asked us to remind families to order ahead each week or month if they would like their student to be served lunch at school. They have menus posted now through December, you can find information [HERE!](#)



**The temperatures are dropping!** We strive for all students in grades K-12 to spend time outdoors year-round as conditions allow. Please have your student come to school dressed appropriately for the weather!



**ESAGE is hiring!** If you or someone you know is interested in a FUN part-time position working with great Sage kids, we have several openings! You can find more information [HERE](#).

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



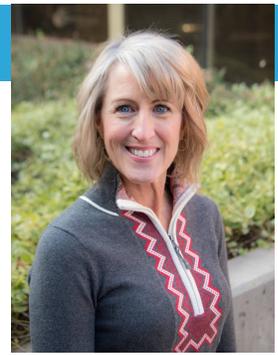
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**November 7:** Student School Day!!!

**November 13:** International Fair & Potluck

**November 24-28:** Thanksgiving Break - no school

[2025-26 Academic Calendar](#)



As we move through October, we enter what I like to call the gathering season, a time when families and friends come together more often to share meals, traditions, and meaningful connections. These moments of togetherness are not just heartwarming; they are essential to our well-being. They remind us of the importance of community, of slowing down, and of supporting one another, especially our young people.

There are so many reasons to attend Sage International School and many of them center on the intangible ways we nurture healthy mental well-being. From the way we learn to the way we connect, the Sage experience is about developing confident, compassionate learners who understand themselves and others.

Our International Baccalaureate (IB) framework does more than prepare students academically. It helps them thrive emotionally and socially. IB students learn to connect ideas across subjects, think critically about real-world issues, and understand diverse perspectives. This interdisciplinary approach encourages curiosity, empathy, and self-reflection. These skills build emotional intelligence and resilience. Through collaborative projects, inquiry-based learning, and global-minded reflection, IB fosters a sense of purpose and belonging.

We can never underestimate the benefits of time outdoors. Our students have the unique opportunity to engage deeply with nature through Sage's robust Outdoor Expeditions program, led by Megan Furois, our highly trained and experienced outdoor educator. These expeditions allow students to tackle real outdoor challenges, explore Idaho's natural beauty, and learn how to preserve and respect the environment, all while building teamwork, confidence, and resilience. Our four-day school weeks and extra breaks throughout the year create the perfect rhythm for families to tap into this resource, giving students the space and time to reset, recharge, and grow. Be sure to read on through the rest of our newsletter for more details on upcoming adventures and ways your students can get involved.

We've also seen how working in partnership with parents can make an incredible difference in supporting our students' overall growth and happiness. Regular school attendance is one of the most underrated pillars of mental health. Attending school daily builds belonging, structure, and a sense of purpose. It helps children form relationships with peers and adults who care about them. I want to make a personal ask: please make regular attendance a priority for your family. When students are here, engaged with their teachers, classmates, and our community, they experience the full richness of the Sage program.

Continued...

This fall, we're partnering with Idaho Communities for Youth and the Idaho Department of Education to administer the Idaho Youth Well-Being Survey to students in grades 6–12. The survey helps schools and families better understand how students feel about their well-being, relationships, and sense of belonging, so that together, we can build stronger supports for every child. Participation is voluntary, and all responses are confidential and anonymous. Parents and guardians must provide permission, and students may choose to complete all, part, or none of the survey. [Here is a preview](#) of the full question list and the form to [submit your consent](#). Please visit the [Communities for Youth information](#) page to learn more.

As we gather this season, let's remember that fostering mental well-being is not about perfection; it's about presence, patience, and partnership. Together, we can work to ensure that our children feel supported, connected, and capable of thriving, this season and beyond.

Warmly,

Emily Downey  
Executive Director

## HALLOWEEN & SPIRIT

Halloween is right around the corner! Costumes are allowed on Thursday, October 30th for all students K-12 (and staff!) who wish to participate, and we love seeing the creativity and spirit on display! To make costumes workable at school, we ask that community members do NOT wear violent or gory costumes/accessories, costumes that restrict regular movement throughout the day, and anything that covers the face (such as masks). We also cannot allow hand-held props (such as wands) or anything that resembles a weapon of any type.

Speaking of spirit, our Sage Spirit Store is open year-round and is a great idea for holiday gifts for your students! You can pay for shipping directly to your house, pick up at their local store, or if you aren't in a rush we do monthly deliveries to Sage. You can [shop the store HERE](#).





Check your inboxes, as you should have received a series of detailed fall updates, ranging from assessment scores to upcoming PTO events and everything in between. As such, this month we will shine our spotlight on some of the incredible things happening in classrooms. Read on to see how the IB Unit *How We Organize Ourselves* takes shape in two different grade levels.



**1st graders** recently worked their way through this unit of inquiry, exploring the central idea that “groups organize into communities”. The cohort took a field trip to the Ada County Highway District, where Bob taught them all about traffic signals and crosswalks. You have likely heard Bob yourself; his voice is on all the crossing signals in Boise!

**3rd graders** also dove into the *How We Organize Ourselves* unit

this fall, with a central idea of “communities make decisions that affect society”. This unit allowed students to create paper maps and work with high school students who coded their maps electronically.



Also pictured here are some other snaps of fall learning:



A visit from a guest speaker in 3rd grade, who shared his personal immigration story with students (as part of the unit *Where We Are in Place and Time*, which focuses on homes, journeys, and the interconnectedness of individuals).

A field trip to Swan Falls with **2nd grade** (also within *Where We Are in Place and Time*), where students explored how water shapes the earth.



We love how the IB framework allows students to revisit the same big ideas through different lenses and levels of complexity year to year!



As we wrap up the first quarter I want to thank you for your partnership and support. We communicate often with you through Toddle and email, in order to keep you well informed about how your student is doing in middle school!

As our students work hard at school, I would like to share with parents some of the professional development our staff does. Our most recent whole school (K-12) PD was centered around the *Mindset Safety Training*, which is the process of calming students and de-escalating high-stress, high-tension situations. If you are familiar with Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, or simply reflect on our kiddos, you know that if emotions are volatile and/or one feels threatened or unsafe, learning cannot occur. Our staff has been collectively taking this training for three plus years to assist their students.

And now for the FUN! Next week is **Spirit Week at the Middle School**. Below are the themes. We encourage your student to participate!

Monday: Wear ALL Black

Tuesday: Halloween Accessories (earrings, shirts, socks, etc. No masks!)

Wednesday: Twin Day

Thursday: Wear your costume (no face masks or full face paint are allowed – for safety purposes).

We will be having our Halloween Dance that evening here at the school from 6:30 - 8:30, and students are encouraged to wear their costumes. Tickets will be on sale at lunch next week and at the door.

I would greatly appreciate volunteers for our two upcoming events:

- **Reality Town - 12:30 - 3:00, Friday Nov 7 [Volunteer Signup](#)** - volunteers 'own a business' as 8th graders attempt to adult. No experience necessary.
- **Gratitude Day Feast** on Nov 20. Our annual tradition of parents feeding students and staff a thanksgiving 'leftover lunch'. Be on the lookout for the Signup!

Much appreciation,  
Zach Parker



We have had several amazing events recently that I would like to highlight. But I want to start by recognizing our IB Students and staff of the month! For the month of October we are celebrating our **Thinkers**.

The IB defines a Thinker as **someone who uses critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems**. As Thinkers, we exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.



Our students nominated Theory of Knowledge and World Religions teacher, Austin Weeks! In fact we had so many submissions that I only have space to include a few student comments. Evelyn Evans shared that, "Mr. Weeks teaches us to think in a different way and question our preexisting assumptions and knowledge." Aiden Luetzgerodt added that, "He literally teaches Theory of Knowledge, which is about thinking. To teach how to think you must think on how to make other people think

about thinking. He often has really insightful discussions that really make you think (usually about thinking)." Finally, Lillian Penney described Mr. Weeks as a person who, "Spends all of his time pondering all of these different concepts to try to teach curiosity to the youth. If anyone is a thinker, it's Mr. Weeks." I want to thank Mr. Weeks for the valuable work that he does every day to grow all of us in our ways of knowing.

We have students to celebrate this month as IB Thinkers. First, is sophomore Anastasia Cervena-Najman. Mr. Falconer shared that, "Anastasia always goes the extra mile to analyze, comprehend, and take action in schoolwork and personal goals. Whether it is her ballet dancing, attending STEM club, working on community trails on Friday, or pouring time and attention into her assignments, Anastasia exemplifies the reasoned and ethical decision-making of an IB Thinker."



Next, we would like to recognize senior, Henry Reagan. Scout Sorcic stated that, "Henry has been a great Thinker in the Reflective Project process. Henry has a great topic (that looks at dams and Salmon) that is close to his interests and has excellent synthesis of ideas. Henry took a really complex, regional issue, and explained it in a way that honors the nuance of the dilemma and simplifies it to be understandable. In his Dual Credit courses, Henry has done a fantastic job of learning a new citation system and connecting interdisciplinary thinking to all he is learning." I want to extend a huge congratulations to both of these students and encourage you both to keep up the hard work.

*High School continued...*

We had two separate community building events at Lowe Family Farmstead this month! First, Mrs. V organized our 9/10 students and staff to join her at the Farmstead on October 7th. Then, Ashley Henderson continued our CP/DP tradition of rounding up the 11th and 12th graders to join us there on October 14th. Both groups had a wonderful time and we hope to continue this tradition for years to come!



Dr. Faith Hansen and CP extraordinaire, Scout Sorcic took many of our Middleton and Boise juniors to BSU on Monday, October 13th. Juniors from the Boise Sage campus in the Diploma Programme joined their peers from Middleton High School for a day of research and exploration at Boise State University. The two groups met in the Albertsons Library,



evaluating scholarly resources for their Extended Essays, (a DP Core requirement). With laptops open and research questions in hand, students learned how to navigate academic databases, refine searches, and access reliable materials to support their investigations.

The morning was a great success! It was an engaging and productive opportunity for students from both campuses to come together with a shared purpose.

Students from the CP also joined in on the fun! Their tour gave students the opportunity to learn about college admission tips for BSU and beyond, what life looks like on campus and what programs are offered. Scout noted that successful CP students will earn between 12 and 18 college credits just from CP requirements, with a possibility to earn more from subject areas they choose to take their IB exams in at the end of senior year. Way to go, Juniors!



The first quarter has officially concluded! You will have access to your high schooler's progress report once it is posted in Family Access in Skyward. Thank you to those who joined us for our open-house style secondary conferences on October 23rd and 24th. I will send a detailed email to all families on this subject, which will include information on how we are supporting your students and their academic success.

## MIND THE GAP CAMPAIGN

At Sage International, we're proud to provide an exceptional International Baccalaureate education for all students tuition-free. But as a public charter school, we receive no local property tax or levy funding and operate on the limited state support. As you likely know, **Idaho is ranked very LAST in the nation** for per-pupil spending. Our students deserve better, and we provide better.



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

Each fall, we launch [Mind the Gap](#), our annual fundraiser that ensures our classrooms stay full of dedicated teachers, engaging IB learning, and opportunities for every student.

This year, we aim to raise **\$125,000**, the equivalent of about \$125 per student, to help bridge the gap between state funding we receive and the real cost of delivering our world-class education.

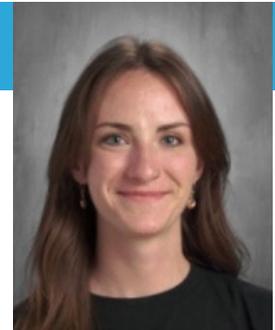
Your donation supports:

- Additional teachers to deliver a broad, rich IB curriculum
- Competitive pay for our dedicated staff
- IB programming that challenges and inspires every student

Every family's participation matters. Whether it's \$10 or \$1,000, your gift shows that our community believes in Sage, in our educators, and in IB for ALL. Your gift to Sage qualifies for the [Idaho Education Tax Credit](#) (50% up to \$1000), plus potential federal and state deductions. [Many employers offer matching gifts](#), which can double your impact. Read more about Mind the Gap and donate [HERE](#).

## EXPEDITIONS WITH MEGAN FUROIS

Sage Expeditions is wrapping up the fall season and starting to get super excited about Winter and Spring activities! Please let us know what outdoor learning opportunities you would like to see offered in the second semester by filling out the interest form linked below!



Your input helps us create intentionally designed and timed programs that are accessible and meaningful for our community. We appreciate you taking just a few minutes to give us your input before October 31!

[Sage Expeditions Semester 2 Parent/Guardian Interest Form](#)

Also, mark your calendars! We will be opening up the lottery for our annual **ski and snowboarding days at Bogus Basin** on November 3rd! This opportunity will be available for students in grades 3-12. More details and lottery sign-ups will be sent via Toddle Announcements, email, and posted on our [website](#).

## ENRICHMENT

All 6th–12th grade students interested in participating in the **Bogus Basin Student Race Program with the Sage Snow Team** (in Downhill Ski Racing, Freestyle Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowboard Racing, or Nordic/Cross-Country Ski Racing) should email their interest to Mimi Trevino at [mimi.trevino@sageintl.org](mailto:mimi.trevino@sageintl.org). They will be invited to a Snow Team Google Classroom, where all information will be housed. Check out this [Snow Team Video](#) for some inspiration!

We'll kick off the season with an informational meeting for all interested families (no commitment necessary to attend) on **Wednesday, November 12, at 6:30 pm** in the Petit Cafe at Sage. Additional events throughout the season will include a Ski & Snowboard Wax Clinic, helmet decorating, pizza parties, and awards ceremonies. The race season officially begins in mid-January (Think Snow!) and runs for six weeks on Saturdays. Bogus Basin also offers family race practices on Thursday nights, along with discounted tickets for racers. Scholarships are available!

## PTO

The next Sage PTO Meeting is October 14th in the Sage Cafeteria at 5:30 PM! All are welcome at the meetings, including children. Click [here](#) for contact info, meeting minutes, volunteer form, calendar, and more!

### Join us November 13th for the International Potluck and Fair!

Come enjoy the rich cultural diversity of our Sage community through food, interactive booths, and performances. The event takes place in our Everest building cafeteria, and all are welcome! Bring a dish to share, and enjoy at this FREE event.

Our “fill the bucket” challenge is underway! Buckets are located at each front desk, and your donation will be your vote for which staff member gets to kiss a Sage family’s pet boa constrictor! Thank you to our brave volunteers: Megan Fink for PYP, Zach Parker for Middle School, and Bryce Mercer for High School! You can also donate at the link above.

This event is powered by Sage families and is not possible without your support. Please [RSVP](#) and bring a dish to share, culturally significant or something your family loves. We would greatly appreciate donations for a silent auction at this event, and will be happy to promote business or individuals who contribute! Please email us about any donations: [information@sagepto.org](mailto:information@sagepto.org)

