



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 21, 2025



**Holiday Resource Guide:** Full of community options throughout the Treasure Valley. Find here in [english](#), en [español](#), kwa [kiswahili](#).



**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!



**Survey:** We are still looking for more families with students in grades 6-12 to provide consent for their student to complete the [Idaho Youth Well-Being Survey](#). The survey helps schools and families better understand how students feel about their well-being, relationships, and sense of belonging. Thank you in advance, our hope is that together, we can build stronger supports for every child. We invite you to complete the [consent form](#).



**Life's Kitchen** would like to remind you to be sure to order lunch at least 48 hours ahead if you want your student to be served lunch at school. They have the December menu posted now, you can find information [HERE!](#)



**French Newsletter:** Our K-12 French team has created monthly letters full of all the great things happening in their classrooms! You can check out the last two editions: [October](#) and [November](#).

Check out our  
**WEBSITE** and find us  
on social media via  
the links below!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

**December 22 - Jan 2:** Holiday Break - No school

**January 8:** End of First Semester

**January 19:** MLK Jr. Day - No School

**January 26:** Re-enrollment for 26-27 School Year

The [2026-27 Academic Calendar](#) is posted!



As we move into November, I find myself feeling especially grateful for the incredible community we have here at Sage. In the midst of busy days, changing seasons, and the challenges we face, I am reminded again and again how lucky we are to walk this journey together, lifting up and encouraging one another and staying united in our shared goal of helping our students grow and thrive.

I want to extend my **gratitude to the veterans** within our school community, including the families, staff, and neighbors who have served our country. Your courage, service, and sacrifice exemplify the very best of the IB attributes: being principled, reflective, and caring. Thank you for the example you set for all of us, and especially for our students.

**To our families**, thank you, truly, for your trust, your partnership, and the love you pour into your children. As you juggle the many responsibilities of family life, we feel honored that you have trusted us with the privilege of helping your children learn, grow, and thrive. Thank you for sharing them with us. They bring joy, purpose, and meaning into our lives every single day.

Last month, when the government paused SNAP benefits, you didn't hesitate. So many of you responded to my letter that shared resources and reached out immediately asking how you could help your fellow families. Your generosity, your willingness to step in for one another, and your principled action moved us deeply. There is no doubt that our families are the beating heart of this school. I want to offer a heartfelt thank-you to Heidi Hagman, our Marketing and Communications Director. As an overwhelming amount of food donations came in she swiftly stepped into action to coordinate the donations, partner closely with our fantastic PTO to box everything up, and ensure that families received what they needed with dignity and care. Her leadership, kindness and heart embody exactly who we strive to be as a community.

**To our community partners and advocates**, thank you. We are incredibly fortunate to have partners such as the [JA and Kathryn Albertson Foundation](#), [BLUUM](#), [Charter School Growth Fund](#), the [Idaho Charter School Association](#), the [Idaho Public Charter School Commission](#), the [Idaho State Department of Education](#), and many more that help us deliver the promises we make to our families. We are deeply grateful for their collaboration and support of our mission and students.

**To our staff**, I cannot express enough how grateful I am for each of you. This work isn't easy, yet you show up with resilience, creativity, and genuine love for our students. You model what it means to be reflective and principled educators. What you give of yourselves, your time, energy, and hearts, creates a community where students grow not only academically, but as human beings. I feel inspired by you and honored to work alongside you.

Continued...

**A special thank you to our students:** you are the reason we come to school each day. You fill our hallways with laughter, curiosity, honesty, courage, and joy. You push us to think in new ways, to reflect, and to grow right alongside you. But I want you to know something even more important: **You give us hope.** No matter what challenges we face in our community or in the world, your resilience, your energy, and your willingness to learn and care for one another remind us of what is possible. You show us what it means to be open-minded, balanced, and caring global citizens. You inspire us more than you know.

With warmth and gratitude,  
Emily Downey

## CAMPUS UPDATE

We are thrilled to share that construction has officially begun on our new playground equipment! Back in June, we invited Sage families and staff to weigh in on several design options, and your thoughtful feedback played a meaningful role in shaping the final plan. Thank you for helping us create a space that will best serve our students!

Construction will continue through next week as crews work to complete this BIG upgrade, and we hope it will be complete for students to discover when they return from break. We've been working closely with these professionals for over a year to ensure the new play space is not only exciting but also safe, sustainable, and built to be enjoyed for years to come.

Looking ahead, our next goal is to add permanent shade structures, both to keep play areas comfortable and to help protect the equipment long-term. Your important Mind the Gap donations help pay for projects like the playground and shade structures. Thank you! Thank you also to our PTO for their fundraising efforts to help us "Raise the Shade" sooner rather than later!

We can't wait to see our students enjoying this new space. Thank you again for always being such a supportive and enthusiastic community!





**Lottery season is just around the corner!**

Please spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested in enrolling with Sage for the 2026-27 school year. The lottery opens on January 5<sup>th</sup>, and we invite new families to attend one of our upcoming Sage Discovery Tours to learn more! Each tour includes a presentation by our leadership team and exploration of our campus.

Families interested in Kindergarten are especially encouraged to attend our special Kindergarten Discovery Tour on Friday, January 9, 2026, though Kindergarten families are welcome at any date listed below.

**Upcoming Discovery Tours:**

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Friday, January 9, 2026 – 12:00 PM (Kindergarten-focused tour)

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Friday, February 27, 2026 – 12:00 PM

Please [RSVP HERE](#)

Location: Sage International, 431 E Parkcenter Blvd, Boise, ID 83706

Kids are welcome to attend with their family!

**Current families do not need to apply for the lottery.** The re-enrollment process for current Sage students, which includes the sibling application, will open January 26, 2026.

**MIND THE GAP**

**The Gap in Funding for Sage International School Boise this year is \$125,000.**

**That amounts to about \$125 to support a student for the year. Can you help?**

**MIND THE GAP FOR SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL!**



MIND THE GAP is Sage International’s annual giving campaign – our community’s opportunity to help sustain the exceptional education our students receive every day. Your gift directly supports our classrooms, teachers, students, and projects like our new playground. It helps bridge the gap between the limited state funding we receive and the true cost of operating our high-quality K–12 public charter school. We have a new giving site located on Square that you can visit by clicking the button below.

We know we have a generous community with many worthy causes to support. We hope you will consider a donation in ANY amount to show your support for Sage!



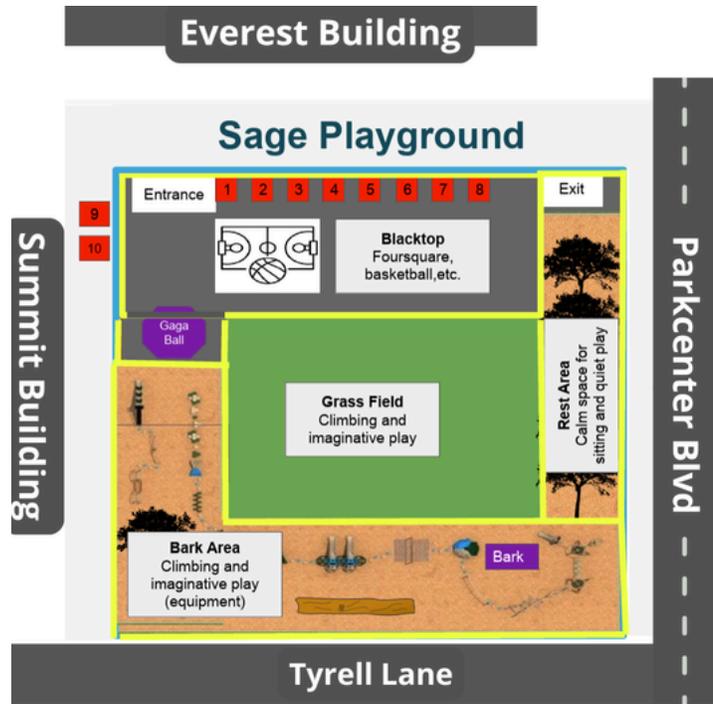


### Playground Equipment Update-

We are excited about the new playground equipment! This new addition will give students additional opportunities for physical activity, imaginative play, and strengthened social connections during recess.

In the PYP, play is recognized as a powerful driver of inquiry. Through play, children explore ideas, negotiate roles, experiment with problem-solving, and build the social and self-management skills that help them thrive as learners. To facilitate this, we use research-based approaches to playground procedures, such as zoning the playground for different activities, providing students a way to play and have fun with a universal conflict-resolution tool, and providing a stepped approach to responding to behaviors.

This approach aligns well with the IB and child-development research. We use a combination of the following to create a playground that is fun, safe, active, and developmentally supportive. These playground routines also help to maximize learning time in the classroom.



**IB PYP Learner Profile:** Our playground routines help students practice key attributes such as Caring (taking turns and including others), Principled (following playground agreements and respecting shared space), and Balanced (engaging in healthy physical activity and using calm areas when needed). They are also Communicators (using simple tools like Rock–Paper–Scissors to solve disagreements quickly), and Thinkers (making choices, solving problems independently, and learning from natural consequences).

We also use [Peaceful Playgrounds](#) to establish clear play areas, reduce conflicts, and improve safety. Structured options lead to more active play for all students, and Playground Behavior Training teaches simple conflict-resolution routines. The [Let Grow Philosophy](#) encourages giving children appropriate independence so they can build resilience, confidence, and problem-solving skills. Our approach allows kids to handle small problems themselves, giving them freedom to make decisions within clear boundaries.

PYP continued...

**PYP STEM NIGHT:** This great event hosted by Sage High School students has been rescheduled! Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 7:00 here at Sage**. We hope your family can join us for STEM-based activities for your students in K-5 including booths, exciting robotics, and a scavenger hunt!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade held a Harvest Celebration** on Thursday as the culmination of their unit of inquiry on how living things depend on one another to meet their needs and maintain balance in the environment. All three classes read the story *Stone Soup* and made soup together with vegetables that they brought from home to share.



That afternoon, their families joined them with pots of their favorite soups and bread to enjoy a meal together. It was a wonderful celebration of friendship and food!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8) WITH ZACH PARKER

From an **academic standpoint**, I would like families to know that all Semester 1 finals will be taking place during December. You can expect an uptick in school work, hopefully a strong focus on your students' part, and likely some stress. I encourage you to help your student create a structured study plan at home that is balanced and consistent.



For example, when students get home from school, they may need some time to decompress. Then they may need a schedule for completing their tasks, such as completing any household chores, listening to music, and getting some physical activity in. Also scheduled in there should be a set time to complete school work (see the WAAGs) before getting good, solid sleep. As always, I encourage **NO PHONES** in your students' bedrooms to avoid late-night texting.

On a **cultural level**, Middle School Student Council put together a fun Christmas Movie Contest that students get to vote on in December. This is fully optional, and it provides a great opportunity for students and families to have dialogue and debate on the best Christmas movie when they go head-to-head. To see the brackets, check out [THIS](#) document. The winning movie will be shown in December as an after-school student event.

*Middle school continued...*

Much appreciation to all the families who donated food and volunteered for our PTO's annual **Gratitude Day Feast**, held on Nov 20th. That morning, we had nine separate locations where students volunteered their time to give back to both Sage and our local community.

After our morning of giving, all secondary students sat to enjoy a parent-provided meal with their teachers. A giant thank you to Gwen Hernandez, who has organized this feast for the past 6 years!

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving Break.



## HIGH SCHOOL (9-12) WITH BRANDY BURKETT

**Important announcement for Senior Families:** I am collecting your student's baby and childhood photos. Please email 3-5 photos to include in the senior slideshow and yearbook to me at [brandy.burkett@sageintl.org](mailto:brandy.burkett@sageintl.org).



**Holiday Edition: IB Teacher and Students of the Month:** In the month of November, we celebrate our **Communicator** IB Attribute. As Communicators, we *express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.*



Our student selected IB Communicator of the month is Mr. Fraley! Mr. Fraley teaches French to our 11th and 12th graders and has recently taken on the role of K-12 French Department Lead. He was nominated for this award by several students and here is some of what they had to say: Junior Greta Hall shared, "He always tries to make sure everyone is learning and that everyone is able to absorb some sort of information in his class. He enjoys helping his students and listening to them. He also asks for feedback about his teaching and how he can improve." Junior Urban Salmans commented, "Mr. Fraley goes through great effort to communicate deadlines and upcoming events to us. Also he teaches us how to communicate in a different language and that requires a lot of communication skills." Junior Majave Hayes nominated Mr. Fraley saying, "He communicates to students the similarities and differences between English and French with several types of examples, but also with stories and clever wordplay." And finally, senior Kennedy Lunde shared that, "He does a really good job of trying to relate french to all of our other classes."

Thank you Mr. Fraley for all your hard work!

*High school continued...*

We are excited to celebrate our IB Communicators of the month by breaking our tradition and nominating a group of seniors who are extraordinary communicators. Rylee Flichel, Audrey Stephenson, Kaysen Feider, Nevyn Brandel, Ellery Brewster, Elyse Pippet, and Kennedy Lunde are strong examples of what it is to be IB. Ms. Henderson, their HL Math teacher shared, "I think the beauty of their friendship deserves recognition. They are kind and thoughtful, and they show up for each other and for Sage. I have witnessed many authentic and genuine conversations between these women that reflect a depth of understanding in friendship and communication far beyond their years."



**DP Update and Celebrations:** All seniors who are planning to take IB Exams at the end of this school year have been registered! If you have questions about IB Testing, please contact either Scout or Ashley, our CP and DP Coordinators.



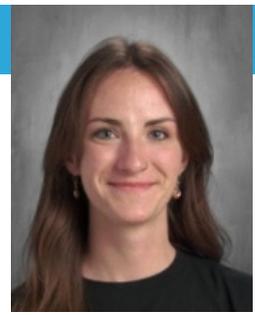
Nov 11th was a very special day for Sage's 21 DP Seniors! They just turned in their IB Extended Essay, a 4,000-word academic research paper on a topic of their choice that they've been developing for the past sixteen months! Starting in their junior year, each student selected a subject, formed a research question, and spent the year researching, drafting, and revising. The Extended Essay is a major DP requirement that asks students to manage their time, work independently, and build strong research and writing skills.

Through this process, each student produced a substantial piece of academic work they can be proud of. We're so proud to see them make it to the finish line!

**CP Update and Celebrations:** Year 1 CP students are working hard in their individual career-related study tracks. Scout has taken students out to experience several opportunities for learning in their field, and she recently hosted many community members for panel discussions related to students' career interests. I want to send a HUGE thank you to everyone who showed up to support our students in their knowledge and future career pursuits. You are all making a difference in their lives.

The photos seen here are from a collaborative event that took place recently where our CP Outdoor Education students had the opportunity to meet our ESage elementary students off campus to teach them some of the skills they are being certified in. It might be worth mentioning that we all got a little misty-eyed when we saw this magic take place.





**Sage Expeditions** has wrapped up our fall schedule and proudly served over **170 Sage Boise students** on an outdoor adventure with us this fall! Looking ahead, we're so excited for the upcoming winter season and the new adventure opportunities it brings.



This year, we have our entire Semester II schedule posted with interest forms and lotteries already open for you to let us know which opportunities you'd like to have your student join us on! Take a minute to explore our

[Sage Expeditions Semester II Catalog](#) and start joining lottery lists now! Open lotteries

include our Salmon River Kayaking Course, City of Rocks Climbing Adventure, and Winter Snowshoeing & Yurt Trips! Detailed information on each expedition will be sent out to all eligible students' families closer to expedition dates, so please watch your inboxes, and reach out any time with questions: [megan.furois@sageintl.org](mailto:megan.furois@sageintl.org)

## **Secondary Snow Team: From Coaches Zach Parker & Mimi Trevino**

The season is kicking off! If your student is interested and in Grades (6-12), we invite them to join. If you missed the meeting last week, check out [THIS slideshow](#) to get the information and sign up.

Payments of either cash or check are **due by December 18th** to Ms. Sarah at the middle school front desk. Shoutout to Ridgeline Bike n Ski for donating time and materials to wax students' skis and snowboards. This is the second year they have done so, and we have developed a solid relationship working with them. Start those snow dances now - we're looking forward to a great season!



**ESage** has been having fun after school and on Fridays! Field trips have included a cooking experience at JUMP, the Library!, a Leave No Trace collaboration with the CP high school students, swimming at Roystone hot springs, trips to the apple orchard, corn maze & pumpkin patch, and plenty of local parks to enjoy the beautiful Fall weather!



We've also enjoyed lots of engaging activities on campus after school, like Fall crafts and park day on Thursdays at Baggley Park.

All activities, field trips, and daily snacks are included in tuition, and we do currently have some space over the upcoming holiday breaks. [Click here to enroll](#), and please email [esage@sageintl.org](mailto:esage@sageintl.org) with any questions.

Our **International Fair** was a vibrant celebration of our community, featuring 7 country-themed activity booths hosted by students and families who offered hands-on crafts and engaging cultural games. With an incredible turnout of over 300 attendees, families generously shared an abundance of delicious food from around the world.



The performances were a highlight of the night, beginning with an energetic Klezmer rock set by Micah and Brand-LeMond, joined by fellow friend Scyrus Cusimano (above left). We also enjoyed a cultural dance piece by Sayanti Mallick (center) and ended with a dynamic Indian dance finale by brothers Atharva and Aryaniel (above right).

We were also treated to a stunning vocal performance by 8th-grader Luna Martinez singing in Spanish. Luna is pictured right with our wonderful Janna Mitchell. Along with our PTO, Janna organized the entire event! THANK YOU, Janna!



Our PTO added even more excitement with successful fundraisers, including a silent auction, a Scheels gift card raffle, and a competition where PYP raised the most money, earning the unforgettable moment of our amazing Megan Fink kissing "Cake" the snake (left). Thank you for everyone who attended and took part, this annual event is an annual Sage favorite and would not be possible without you!



### Upcoming Dates:

- 12/05:** Rock Band Class with Boise Rock School. \$10 and your student can [Sign up Here](#).
- 12/09:** PTO Meeting @ 5:30pm: Cookie decorating!
- 12/16:** PYP Luau Planning Meeting
- 1/13:** PTO Meeting @ 5:30pm
- 2/26:** K-5 Luau 5:30-7:30pm @ Sage

You can find all PTO information on [our website](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and email us at [information@sagepto.org](mailto:information@sagepto.org)