



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 19, 2025



Secondary Yearbooks (for grades 6-12 ONLY at this time) are available for purchase through [TreeRing](#)! School Passcode is: 1017105249641604. PYP (K-5) yearbook order information is coming soon!



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!



Sage Discovery Tours: Our lottery application for NEW to Sage families opens on January 5th! If you know anyone who may be interested in Sage, please invite them to learn more on our website: sageintl.org/boise/enrollment Please know that existing Sage students and their siblings do not need to apply for the lottery, but re-enrollment will open to hold your spot for next year on January 26, 2026.



Joyeux Noël from the Sage French Team, please enjoy their [December Newsletter](#) for all grade Kindergarten through 12th!



THANK YOU to those who have donated to [Mind the Gap](#) so far this year! So far we have raised \$21,500 toward our \$125,000 goal by the end of the school year.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 22 - Jan 2: Holiday Break - No school

January 8: End of First Semester

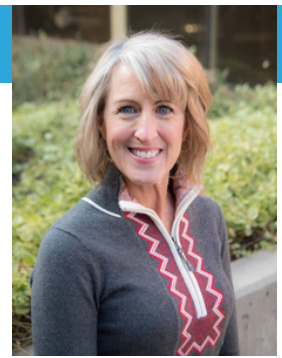
January 19: MLK Jr. Day - No School

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

February 16-20: Winter Break - No School

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

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMILY DOWNEY



As December settles in and the twinkling lights around our neighborhoods glow against quieter days, I find myself reflecting, both as a member of this community and as someone entrusted with its care, on what matters most: connection, belonging, and helping our children feel seen and inspired. This season reminds us not only to gather and celebrate, but also to care for what we love and hope to protect for the future. Much like the music, shared meals, and traditions that bring us together during the holidays, Sage is a place of connection, a steady light in students' lives where voices are valued and learning is rich with meaning.

We are incredibly proud to be a free, public International Baccalaureate (IB) charter school, a rare and powerful opportunity for families in Idaho. The IB program invites students to see the world through multiple perspectives and grow into compassionate, thoughtful citizens. It prepares students not only for academic success, but for lives filled with purpose, empathy, and joy.

Creating this kind of learning environment requires intentional investment. IB schools are more expensive to operate because they require additional staffing, specialized training, and ongoing professional development to meet rigorous IB standards. At Sage, we also intentionally prioritize and invest in our staff, supporting their growth and honoring their expertise, because the care and creativity they bring to our classrooms shape our students' lives.

Every year, we face a substantial gap between the funding we receive and the true cost of offering the exceptional IB education our students deserve. As a charter school, Sage receives no local tax dollars, which are often used for facilities and teacher pay. In addition, Idaho ranks last in the nation for per-pupil education funding. Our fundraising campaign, [Mind the Gap](#), is how our community comes together to bridge that financial gap and ensure the exceptional learning at Sage continues to shine brightly.

Will you consider giving a financial gift to Sage?

We use [Mind the Gap](#) gifts thoughtfully and with deep gratitude to support both the people and places that make Sage feel like home and where meaningful learning comes to life every day. Your generosity helps us prioritize competitive pay for our teachers, provide busing for students to increase access for families, and save for projects that enhance safe, engaging learning environments across our campuses.

Because of you, Sage has been able to make meaningful improvements such as revitalized landscaping, parking lot expansions and upgrades, and the incredible new playgrounds at each campus that ring with laughter and joy. These spaces reflect what happens inside our classrooms every day: curiosity, movement, and connection.

Continued...

Looking ahead, your continued support will help us prioritize staff pay, add playground shade structures, and plan for building maintenance and facelifts that ensure our campuses remain welcoming, inspiring places to learn.

Sage International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and donations are tax-deductible. Idaho taxpayers may receive a 50% state education tax credit (up to \$1,000 for joint filers or \$500 for individuals) and many employers offer matching gift programs that can double your impact. Your generous support helps sustain a place where learning shines brightly and students are encouraged to grow into their fullest selves.

It is never easy to talk about money or ask for financial support, but I do so from the heart because I believe deeply in Sage. I have experienced firsthand, through my own children, the extraordinary opportunities Sage provides, helping students reach their full potential while fostering a caring, uplifting, and joyful community. If you feel moved this season, I invite you to consider a financial gift to Sage. Your generosity helps keep our light shining for our students and families. Thank you, and I wish you a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

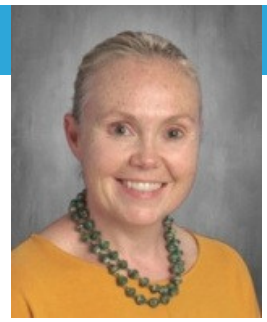
With warmth and gratitude,
Emily Downey

'CROSS CAMPUS COLLABORATION

Curiosity and hands-on discovery filled the campus during our first ever STEM Night, an evening to inspire young learners through science, technology, engineering, and math. The event was organized and planned by Diploma Programme (DP) student Zoe Watts, as part of her IB Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) experience, which challenges students to design meaningful projects that benefit others while developing leadership and initiative. All STEM stations were staffed by DP students, who guided activities and worked with families throughout the night. More than 75 PYP students and their families attended, making the event a clear success and a strong example of cross program collaboration.



For Zoe, the project was deeply personal. "I still remember making my own harmonica at my elementary school STEM night in 4th grade. I want a younger kid to have the same core memories that I had." By turning that memory into action, Zoe created an experience that connected students across grade levels and laid the groundwork for future STEM Nights.



Winter Assessments It is hard to believe that we are already midway through the school year! Over the course of the next few school weeks (through mid January) we are conducting our winter MAP assessments along with some one-on-one benchmarking in both reading and math. These mid-year assessments help us identify where and how students are growing, and where and how we need to focus our efforts moving forward.

Semester Report Cards

We are also working to revamp our PYP Report Card, with the aim of providing you as parents and guardians, with more targeted information on your child's progress. To that end, you will see a greater degree of specificity in the math section of this winter's report card. Instead of reporting on a broad topic like "Operations and Algebraic Thinking" (with an accompanying list of sub-topics), teachers will report on specific math standards, such as "Counts a given number of objects from 0-20 (from a written or verbal direction)". We are excited for this update – and to carry this work into other content areas – as we continue to fine-tune our communication and highlight our students' work. Report cards will be published in mid-January, and we will provide further details regarding what to expect ahead of that time.

Classroom Spotlight: Performing Arts and 5th Grade

Our 5th Grade Team and our Performing Arts Specialist joined forces this fall to provide our students with a transdisciplinary experience focusing on the establishment of the United States and the Revolutionary War period. Through the PYP themes of *How We Organize Ourselves* and *Where We Are in Place and Time*, students inquired into the central ideas of "Perspectives have influenced citizens throughout history to take action" and "Governments and societies make decisions that influence one another". Through everything from in-class simulations, a novel study of *Chains* by Laurie Halse Andersen, and primary and secondary document investigations, students explored this period of US History from multiple perspectives. Further deepening and connecting that work, students presented a Revolutionary War program integrating song, movement, and monologue to bring this time period to life. We love how the PYP naturally lends itself (and requires!) this transdisciplinary work.





End of Semester As we approach the end of 2025, we are also near the end of the first semester. Technically, the semester ends the first week we return from the Holiday Break. You can expect to see your student's final grades posted to both Toddle and Skyward around the 13th of January. Here is a [grading breakdown](#) to help explain the MYP/IB overall scores for the semester. Keep in mind, scores of 1 and 2 are failing, 4 is considered grade level, while 5 and above show an increased level of understanding and development. If students fail any classes, families will be contacted regarding our *Pathway to Promotion*, a process we use to encourage students to work through and recover their failed grade. If a student fails an entire year of one class (ie: Lang & Lit, Math, Design, French, etc) or fails 3 or more classes over the entire school year, they will repeat the entire grade next year. To be clear, this generally applies to very few of our students.

MAP Testing

All students will take the Winter MAP assessments the first week we return from Break. Reading Comprehension and Math tests will occur on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The results allow our Middle School team to assess our instructional practices and determine what we are doing well and identify areas we need to adjust.

Parent Resource

In an attempt to continue to provide parent resources, I am sharing another opportunity from the organization "You, Me, We, All". This particular one is called Resilient Parents Peer Support Groups and the link provides the Winter and Spring [parenting sessions](#).



Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who donated in support of Sage Families through our Giving Tree! Together, we collected approximately \$3,500 in gift cards to support 16 families this holiday season. Coming on the heels of November's Food Drive, this generosity is a wonderful reflection of how our Sage community continues to show up for and support one another.

Festive Fun

Student Council hosted a fun movie night showing "Home Alone" last week. Mark your calendars for the Winter Formal, coming up on Thursday, January 22nd! Check out some fun our staff and students had for the holiday spirit week, including our life-size Elf on the Shelf, Taylor Steele! Green and red day, and then Madame Rachel spreading joy at the network office with her students!



In December, we highlight our IB Attribute of **Caring**! As Caring people, we show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.



Our MYP Caring student of the month is **Ada Lyle Genstsk-Chumbley**! Drew Lunt and Austin Weeks had the following to say, “Ada Lyle is consistently a thoughtful, respectful and kind student, friend and member of the Sage community. As Ada Lyle's teacher I can always count on Ada Lyle to bring a positive attitude to the classroom environment and someone who always brings out the best in those around her.” Thank you Ada Lyle for being such a bright light in our community!

In our CP program, we are highlighting senior, **Atticus Perkins**! Scout Sorcic shared that, “Atticus is always greeting folks with a smile and a genuine “how are you?” He takes time to have conversations about subjects that his peers are interested in, he waits for friends when they have dropped behind, and he always respectfully listens. In class, he offers high quality feedback, sharing a level of care for his classmates' work and success that is admirable. I always appreciate Atticus's caring nature in my classroom.” Burkett added, “Atticus Perkins lights up the room. He is thoughtful, courageous, and always thinking of others before himself. I am so proud of the person that he is, and I will miss him so much when he graduates this spring.”



For our student selected IB Teacher of the Month, we are celebrating **Mrs. Viviana Aguilera**! Mrs. V was nominated by so many students for being our most caring teacher that I can't include all of their remarks here. Freshman, Loey Brandel said, “Mrs. V is a very kind and supportive teacher. She is there for her students and wants to take care of everyone. She is always there to listen to students and cares about everyone deeply. She is a great person and teacher, and we are so lucky to have her.” Sophomore, Moukthik Pakala added,

“Mrs. V is super awesome! Whenever a student is struggling she goes more than out of her way to help them whether it be in class assignments or students talking about their personal issues. She tries her very best and even goes over the top to ensure students understand and succeed in class.” Mrs. V, we are so lucky that you have made Sage your home. Thank you for making such an impact on our students and staff. PS, Feliz Cumplenanos!

ECON Summit: Melissa Webster's 10th graders took a field trip to JUMP to participate in the International Economics Summit, joining teams from Timberline and Boise High to represent nearly 50 countries. Students competed in geography quizzes, formed strategic

ECON Summit continued...

alliances, and participated in a trade simulation. This year, we could not be prouder of Team Argentina, who won the debate portion of the event, Sage's first-ever victory in that category! Congratulations to all teams on a job well done.



Model UN: The Model United Nations Club attended PACMUN in Seattle for a two-day conference in which students represented countries from around the world. They debated issues ranging from environmental protection to immigration policy, faithfully advocating for their delegation's interests. Throughout the conference, students drafted, debated, and voted on UN resolutions.

A special congratulations to Kennedy Lunde, who earned Best Delegate in her committee! It was a memorable and rewarding experience, we hope you'll join us next year.

Career-related Programme Leaving to Learn: As you may know, the CP has changed a lot this year, and students are getting some amazing hands-on experiences. Teacher and Coordinator, Scout Sorcic, is doing an incredible job at organizing opportunities for



students to learn outside of the school building! On December 2nd, four Outdoor Education students headed out to NIFC to learn more about the behind-the-scenes of Wildland Firefighting. They met with Smokejumpers, learned about the logistics in the cache, saw how all of the radios were built and maintained, and were able to spend some time with a mechanic and in a fire truck.

Then on December 10, Medical Sciences students visited the BSU School of Nursing Simulation Center to get a hands-on look at how students in the school train on skills before they enter clinicals. They were able to practice putting on and taking off PPE and were exposed to Hal, the realistic practice patient.



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Snow Team: **From Coaches Zach Parker & Mimi Trevino** Any Middle and High school students who wish to join the Snow Team still can. Please see [THIS](#) slideshow or link above for information. The cost to join is \$25 and it can be paid to Mrs. Sarah at the Middle School desk. Slide #16 is a link to our Google Classroom which will keep everyone updated. If you have questions please reach out to (zach.parker@sageintl.org) or Mrs. Trevino (mimi.trevino@sageintl.org).

Enrichment continued...

Sage Expeditions Semester II Catalog is available and some lotteries are open! Detailed information on each expedition will be sent out to all eligible students' families, so please watch your inboxes!

Shake It Up After-School is a free after-school drama program for students in 5th and 6th grade, offered at Sage in partnership with Boise State University. The program begins February 6, 2026 and runs Mondays–Thursdays for six weeks, with no sessions during Sage's February break.

During these sessions, students will be coached and directed by undergraduates from Professor Matthew Hansen's ENGLIT 345 Shakespeare class to prepare a one-hour performance version of Shakespeare's magical romantic comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Performances will be on March 12, times TBD. To Register for the program lottery please click [HERE](#).

PTO

ACME Bakeshop Fundraiser

Thank you to this wonderful local bakery for their partnership to bring their delicious breads to Sage families and donate their profits the school for Raise the Shade! We sold 165 loaves in total of Stollen (German Christmas bread), Cranberry Sourdough and Ciabatta Pull-A-Parts, and raised almost \$900. Thank you for your orders, and to our Christmas elves (pictured right) who helped deliver orders to students!



The First Friday Playdate for the New Year is at Idaho IceWorld on January 9th! Everyone is welcome, but we do ask for an RSVP just for planning: [SignUp HERE](#)

Panda Express Virtual Community Fundraiser

Place your order for pickup or delivery on **Thursday, January 22!** Online orders only, available at Panda Express locations nationwide, so share with your friends and family who'd like to support! Apply code 9010154 in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at www.pandaexpress.com or via the App!



PANDA IN THE COMMUNITY

Upcoming Dates:

1/9: Friday Playdate at IceWorld
1/13: PTO Meeting @ 5:30pm
1/22: Panda Express Fundraiser
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