



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 27, 2026



We are very low on community supplies of **disinfecting wipes, tissue, and hand sanitizer**. If you are able to donate any of the above, you can have your student drop them off at any front desk or order directly from our [Community Supplies List](#). Thank you!



Please read the following letter for details about our [Sage Family Survey](#). This annual survey takes approximately 5–10 minutes to complete and is anonymous. Its results provide Sage with valuable feedback regarding satisfaction, communication, and engagement.



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!



Re-enrollment for the 2026-27 school year is complete, thank you to those who submitted it by the deadline! If your plans to return to Sage in the fall change at any time, please reach out ASAP to our registrar at katie.ashyby@sageintl.org. Our lottery is next week, and it is critical to know how many seats we have available between now and August.



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](#). 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](#).**

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

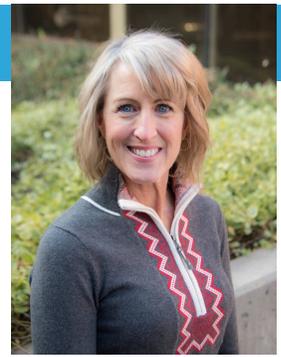
March 26-27: Conferences for 6th - 12th

March 27: DP Art Exhibition - All are welcome 5-7pm

April 6-10: Spring Break - No school

April 30 - May 1: PYP Student-led Conferences

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



Why Sage? I'd Love to Hear From You [HERE](#).

It's lottery season at Sage International School, a season that always fills me with hope. It's the time of year when new families begin asking an important question: *Where will my child be understood?* Where will they grow? Where will they belong? We are thrilled to offer open seats to families who resonate with what we offer as an IB World School, a place where students are safe, supported, challenged, and inspired.

"Why Sage?" It's a question we hear often right now, and one we love to answer. But while we can share what makes Sage exceptional, the most meaningful answers come from you. Our families. Our community.

So, why Sage?

We are proud to be an IB World School, grounded in the International Baccalaureate framework and committed to growing lifelong learners and critical thinkers. Our students build real-world skills, global awareness, and a genuine love of learning. The work is challenging, and our teachers walk alongside students every step of the way, guiding, encouraging, and stretching them to meet high expectations.

But Sage is more than a programme. It is more than academics. It is a community. There are so many reasons families choose and love Sage. It is a place where children are valued for who they are. Where belonging is intentional. Where small school relationships nurture big ideas. Where caring, expert teachers wrap around students and families alike.

Every family has a "Why Sage."

My own "Why Sage" is both professional and deeply personal. As a school leader and as a parent whose own children attended Sage, I have experienced firsthand what makes this place special. I believe deeply in our staff and in the opportunities they create for our students. At Sage, children are not only prepared for the future, but they are also deeply supported, personally connected, and challenged to reach their potential.

Now I would truly love to hear from you. What is your "Why Sage"?

Is it the IB framework? The teacher who made your child feel understood? The friendships? The belonging? The growth you have seen in their confidence?

Your voice matters. I would love to share parent stories in an upcoming newsletter or on social media, because your experiences speak louder than anything we could express.

We'd love for you to share your "Why Sage" with us [HERE](#).

Continued...

And as we welcome new families through the lottery, we also invite you to share Sage with friends, neighbors, and colleagues who might be a great fit. Word of mouth is powerful. Wouldn't it be wonderful to help fill your child's classroom with families you already know and love?

Thank you for being part of what makes Sage so special. Lottery season is about more than filling seats. It is about opening our doors wider and inviting new families into a community we cherish, so we can continue growing something truly meaningful together.

With warmth & gratitude,

Emily Downey

PTO

The PTO has a lot planned this month! Check out the [March 2026 - Early Edition PTO Newsletter](#), and our [Google Calendar](#) for more information.

March First Friday Playdate - Ceramica Arthouse - March 6th, 1:30-3:30

Join us for an artistic First Friday Playdate at Ceramica Arthouse. Prices start at \$8 and vary based on the size of pottery selected. Pieces will be ready for pick up at Ceramica 10-14 days after painting. Please [RSVP](#) with the number of participants who will be painting.

Middle School Skate Night - Treasure Valley Skate - March 12th, 6:00-8:30

Join your friends for a night full of music, skating, raffles and fun! Admission: \$8, Skate rental: \$4, Skate mate rental: \$5. Admission includes a raffle ticket! Concessions will be open with pizza, snacks, and drinks. See you there for a *wheely* great time!

Red Robin Fundraiser - Parkcenter Location - March 26th

Join us for a delicious way to support Raise the Shade at our Parkcenter Red Robin Fundraiser on March 26th! Order online using [these instructions](#) or gather your family and friends and enjoy a night out, where great food meets a great cause. Be sure to mention that you're from Sage or present the event flyer when you order so your purchase counts toward our fundraiser.

Teacher Meals for Secondary Conferences - March 26-27

The end of March marks Parent-Teacher Conference time for secondary students. The PTO will be providing a meal for teachers, and if you'd like to support them during these long workdays, please consider donating [here](#). We truly appreciate your support!



The year is well underway, and our learning is far from winding down! In fact, rich learning and meaningful growth are ramping up, and we have a nice stretch of time ahead to really dig deep. Read on for a few highlights in the PYP, emphasizing the learning and engagement taking place across the division.

5th Grade Spotlight – Kicking off PYPX

This first week back from Winter Break we find ourselves in the full swing of Exhibition (PYPX), which is the IB’s capstone collaborative project for PYP. The purpose of Exhibition is to help students synthesize, reflect upon, and showcase their learning across the years and the transdisciplinary themes in the PYP. Students work in small groups to define and address a real-world problem in this culminating inquiry, with a focus on local action and impact (along the “think globally, act locally” line of thought). As with any capstone project in the IB Programme, students have an opportunity to connect with the larger school community in this work. Each group receives guidance from a designated mentor (someone who is NOT their classroom teacher), who provides support and guidance along the way. This year, we were thrilled to expand the mentorship role to both 5th-grade parent volunteers and a select few of our high school students. We LOVE these opportunities for community connection, and we love how the IB incorporates mentorship (think editor, thinking partner, trusted colleague) into their framework.

Check out these photos of our 5th graders kicking off their brainstorming session for PYPX.



4th Grade Spotlight – Living History

4th graders recently wrapped up their “Where We Are in Place and Time” unit of inquiry, which focuses on the idea that exploration cultivates discovery and change. While examining these big ideas and concepts through a variety of lenses, students ultimately presented a Living History Museum, in which each student presented an informational speech on an individual of their choosing who can be considered an explorer (in the many ways that we can define that term).



PYP Continued...

4th Grade Spotlight cont – Meeting Needs

Next, 4th graders dove into their “How We Organize Ourselves” unit, focusing on community decision-making regarding resources and needs. This unit explores the ideas of supply and demand, scarcity, division of labor, and specialization within communities. Students fine-tune their argumentative writing in this unit, expanding their abilities to make claims and use evidence to support their ideas. To the right, we have students experiencing the challenge of using varying quantities of resources to build sound structures.



3rd Grade Spotlight – Critical Reading Skills

Not to be outdone, our 3rd graders are really stepping up as READERS this winter! You may have heard about the transition from “learning to read to reading to learn”, and this cohort is showing how it is done.



Through their “Sharing the Planet” unit of inquiry, which in part focuses on the complexity of nature through weather patterns and natural disasters, students grappled with complex texts and learned how to identify key details and evidence. Left is a photo of our students working collaboratively to identify key components of a weather-related text.

We are looking forward to a great stretch of learning ahead this spring!

MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8) WITH ZACH PARKER

Learning at Sage doesn’t stop at the classroom door. It comes alive in real-world experiences! We were fortunate that the week leading into February break brought a snowstorm to Bogus Basin just in time for our 8th graders to attend the annual Snow School event. Before their Bogus adventure, Mrs. Woodruff (7th & 8th grade PHE teacher) welcomed “Snow Scientists” to campus to teach students about our local watershed and the important role snowpack and runoff play in the Treasure Valley. At Snow School, students snowshoed, learned to identify various tree species, and conducted hands-on snow science experiments. We may or may not have played a game of hide-and-seek among the trees as well.



Middle School Continued...

Looking ahead, we have several important upcoming events:

March 16th marks the end of Quarter 3. Teachers will finalize grades by the end of that week. Student-led conferences will take place the following week on Thursday, March 26th in the evening, and mid-morning on Friday, March 27th.

Sage has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card. Both schools and then students are randomly selected nationwide to participate. This year, 51 of our 8th graders have been randomly chosen to take part in the Reading and Math assessments on **March 18th**. Families of selected students will be notified within the next two weeks. NAEP results are compiled into state and national data; we do not receive individual student or school-level results. Sage was last selected to participate eight years ago.

On March 24th, 8th graders will have the opportunity to attend a live Shakespeare performance in an exciting extension of their classroom studies. In the coming months, our 6th and 7th graders will have their own special adventures as well.

April 16th we will hold our Middle School Spring Dance and hope your student can join us!

HIGH SCHOOL (9-12) WITH BRANDY BURKETT

Announcing the FINALISTS of the National Merit Merit Award:

We'd like to begin with a huge congratulations to seniors Milo Fouch (below left) and Alexander Golding (below right) for their advancement to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship competition.



The honor of being named a National Merit Finalist is highly prestigious and has the potential to qualify students for significant scholarships to many universities. We are incredibly proud of Milo and Alex for their hard work and dedication to meeting all of the rigorous requirements of the competition. Congratulations to them both!

High School Continued...

ISAT: To better understand each student's strengths and areas for growth and ensure we can best support, challenge, and guide them effectively in their learning, all 11th graders will take the ISAT **during the weeks of March 9th and March 16th**. In total, students will take 2 math tests, 2 ELA tests, and 1 science test. These tests will be taken in class and proctored by several teachers. The ISAT measures proficiency in each subject area.

All 11th graders will take the SAT on Wednesday, March 25. The SAT measures college readiness and is often required for college applications. Students should bring their charged Sage Chromebook, as well as water and snacks. Chromebooks will be provided for those who need one. The test will be taken online and will begin promptly when school starts. Most students will test in the large cafeteria, with accommodated testing held in designated classrooms. Students interested in preparing may visit the College Board website.

9th Grade Field Trip: Experiential learning opportunities deepen students' understanding of history, human rights, and their role as thoughtful global citizens. As part of this important work, students will attend a field trip to the Wassmuth Center on March 11th. Families will receive an email from Language and Literature teacher, Chris Jackson, with all the details.

DP Art Exhibition will be on March 27th between 5:00 and 7:00pm. DP Art seniors will showcase their incredible works of art in this annual open house gallery-style event. This event is open to all and held in our multipurpose room in the Everest building.

Mark your calendars, our **Sage Prom will be on May 2nd**! Details to come.

IB Student and Teacher of the Month

For the month of February, we are celebrating 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. This month, two MYP students have been selected!



First, join me in celebrating 9th grader, **Cindy Sherman!** Mr. Lunt shared that, "Cindy consistently demonstrates forethought and determination when it comes to the variety of tasks in class. Cindy takes risks in class while demonstrating a great passion for the art assignments in U.S. History class. Cindy's creativity is evident not only through her thoughtful writing and contributions, but also in her detailed and creative art pieces that connect to the lessons. Cindy consistently takes risks while engaging in the curriculum.

Sophomore **Brayden Barker** also stands for being a Risk Taker. Mrs. Alley shared that, "Brayden always speaks up, asks questions, and corrects me when I make a mistake in math. He also asks questions which extend the math; thinking questions." I would like to send huge congrats to both of these MYP students for all that they contribute to their classes and to Sage!



High School Continued...

Our student-nominated **IB Teacher of the Month** is 11/12 Language and Literature teacher, **Rebecca Travis**! Mrs. Travis has worked at Sage for several years across many grade levels. She started in our middle school and has worked her way through teaching grades 8, 9, 10, and now 11 and 12. Every IB teacher knows that transitioning into being a DP teacher means taking a huge risk. Mrs. Travis has done this with courage and grace. Senior Lillian Penny shared, "She is such a special kind of person that isn't afraid to explore new ideas or adapt things to better suit lessons or even foster connections. She tries new things all the time and is always developing and changing, and even when things she tries don't work out she's never afraid to admit that and try something else." Way to go, Mrs. Travis. You make Sage a better place!



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Skyhawks Pickleball - Registration open!
[For 2nd-4th grade](#) - Thursdays- 4/30-5/21
[For 5th-7th grade](#) - Wednesdays- 4/29-5/20

Summer Camp Invention - Spark
Registration is now open!
For Grades K-6 here at Sage
July 6 - 10, 2026 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
[More Information here!](#)



Expeditions

Sage Expeditions is wrapping up winter opportunities and preparing for warmer, sunnier days! We currently have TWO opportunities with open spots for Sage Boise:

- The [Salmon River White Water Kayaking clinic](#) has 2 spots remaining open! Snag one by emailing megan.furois@sageintl.org directly!
- The April [rock climbing camp in City of Rocks](#) for Grades 7-10 has an open lottery until 3/16 at 8:00 am. This 3-day, 2-night camping and climbing clinic is in partnership with [Idaho Mountain Guides](#). Students on this trip will get to explore incredible places, including Castle Rock State Park & City of Rocks National Reserve. Activities will include hiking, camping, hot springing, and rock climbing. All experience levels are welcome and encouraged to join!

For other opportunities offered, take a look at our online [Catalog!](#)