



SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 27, 2026



Why Sage? In last month's newsletter, you heard from Executive Director Emily Downey asking what makes you choose Sage each year. We'd love to hear from more of you—and we're sweetening the deal with a little incentive! Take a moment to read [this letter](#), share your "Why Sage" by filling out the form, and you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Goody's gift certificate!



Yearbooks are available for purchase!

- **PYP (Grades K-5)** are \$16, order online through the [Barksdale](#). Access code: 0109005YB. Deadline is April 3rd.
- **Secondary (Grades 6-12)** are \$35, order through [TreeRing](#). School Passcode: 1017105249641604. Deadline is April 24th.

We cannot accept orders or payment here at school; you must order via the links above. Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school.



Can you support Sage? THANK YOU to those families who have donated to [Mind the Gap](#) this school year! We have raised **\$53,700 toward our \$125,000 goal**. We have a long way to go to reach this by the end of June. This campaign provides important funding for our school, our teachers, and our students each year. If you haven't donated, we hope you will consider a gift in any amount!



Thank you to our wonderful PTO for organizing so many fun events for families this year. Our PYP Luau raised over \$3,000 for Sage and provided tons of fun memories for families. Congratulations to the raffle winners, ticket sales raised an additional \$1,000 for Sage, WOW!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

April 6-10: Spring Break - No school

April 14: PTO Meeting at 5:30 in Sage Cafeteria

April 30 - May 1: PYP Student-led Conferences

[2026-27 Academic Calendar](#)



As we move toward the end of March, spring has a way of bringing fresh energy, new beginnings, and a sense of possibility. And in a school, this time of year carries its own kind of energy too. Spring break is just ahead, and the year suddenly feels like it's moving quickly. For many, there's a mix of excitement with that kind of tired that comes from being deep into the school year, and that's real.

I want to encourage everyone that this is a meaningful stretch of the year, one where staying focused, staying engaged, and continuing to give our best really makes a difference. There is still important learning happening every single day, and these next few weeks matter.

When we return from our April spring break, we step into state assessments for most grades and International Baccalaureate exams for our Seniors. These represent the growth, learning, effort, and persistence that has been building all year long and continues right now. Our students are not just test-takers. They are thinkers, problem-solvers, and learners who are still growing every single day. We are all so very proud of them.

As a community, this is our moment to *lean in*, not pull back.

One of the things we love most is seeing that moment when a student finally "gets it", and I know we have all experienced this, whether you are a parent or a teacher. You can feel it instantly. The undeniable spark. There's a kind of joy that shows up in both the student and the teacher or parent at the same time. It's a quiet, powerful moment of connection, a reminder that persistence matters and that all of the effort, on both sides, has paid off. And the truth is, those moments are happening every single day in our classrooms, *especially right now*.

That's what our students carry with them into these assessments. This is their opportunity to take all of those moments, all of that hard work and growth, and show what they know. To feel proud of themselves and recognize how far they've come. This isn't about pressure. It's about confidence. It's about walking in and saying, "I *do* get this. I *can* do this. I am ready." It is a beautiful thing when a student feels that way. And this is their moment to show it.

To our students: we believe in you. We see how hard you're working. We see your potential, even on the days you might not see it yourself. Right now, your job isn't to be perfect. It's to stay with it. Stay engaged, bell to bell. When something feels hard, stick with it. Ask for help. Keep pushing forward. These next few weeks matter, and so *do you*.

To our families: we are so grateful for you. The support you give at home and the belief you show in your children have a lasting impact. Right now, one of the most important things you can do is help your child be here every day, on time, and ready to learn. That consistency makes a difference in this final stretch.

Continued...

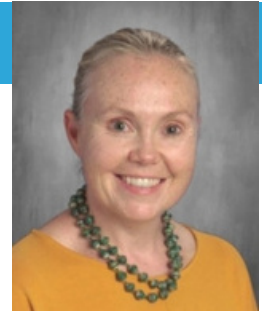
To our staff: thank you, truly. The care, patience, and heart you bring every day does not go unnoticed. You are doing more than teaching. You are building confidence, resilience, and belief in our students. I see it in your classrooms and hear it in the way you speak to students, reminding them what they can do, even when they're unsure. That matters, especially in this final stretch.

There is so much to celebrate in the joy, resilience, and growth of our students that we see every day. We can lean into the sense of possibility and fresh start that spring always brings. This is an opportunity to show up fully, encourage one another, and help every student step forward with confidence and pride. I am so grateful each of you is part of this community. Thank you.

With warmth & gratitude,

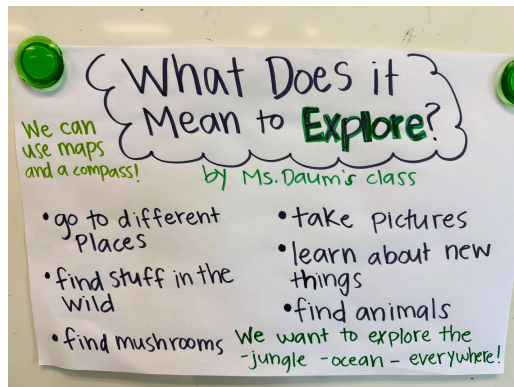
Emily Downey

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME WITH KATE HUNTER



We've had an incredible and FULL month of learning in the PYP! Here are a few highlights:

Kindergarten Spotlight: Transdisciplinary Unit "Where We Are In Place and Time" - Our kindergarteners are such strong inquirers! They are working their way through their current unit, centered on the idea that humans discover and explore the world. In addition to core literacy and math content, they are learning to use maps and globes, and are inquiring into what it means to explore.



2nd Grade Spotlight: Transdisciplinary Unit "How We Express Ourselves"

2nd graders are engaged in a truly integrated and transdisciplinary unit of study that brings together core content within a study of how humans use creativity to express themselves. Recently, 2nd graders have taken trips to see Boise Philharmonic and learn about the work of Jeffery Gibson at the Boise Art Museum. Next week, they will visit [The Castle House](#) to learn more about Idaho artist, James Castle. *Continued below...*

PYP Continued...

Throughout this unit, students research a wide variety of artists and artistic forms to discover how art and communication often go hand in hand. Students create dance, self portraits, pottery pieces, found art, sculptures, and more. The unit culminates in a personal creativity project and an art show for families featuring student work.



5th Grade Spotlight: PYP Exhibition

This week, our 5th Graders proudly hosted PYP Exhibition, an exciting culminating milestone in their final year of the Primary Years Programme. This student-led experience brings together the skills, knowledge, and approaches to learning developed throughout their time in the PYP.

Working collaboratively, students explore real-world issues they care deeply about, develop their own questions, conduct research, and take meaningful action based on their learning. They then share their learning with families and the wider community, celebrating not only what they've learned, but who they've become as engaged, reflective, and responsible learners.

Throughout the process, students build confidence and strengthen key skills that embody the attributes of the IB Learner Profile. We are so proud of our Sage 5th Grade students as they complete this important journey!



MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



After we return from what we hope is a fun and restful Spring Break, we'll be gearing up for ISAT testing and an exciting stretch of the school year. We also have some fun extracurricular opportunities coming up:

- The next Dance will be held on **Thursday, April 16th**. This is the first Thursday after we are back from Spring Break.
- The Sage Mountain Bike Team is gearing up for the Spring Season. The first meeting is Monday, March 30, in Mr. Freers' room at lunch, and the first ride will be Tuesday, April 1 right after school. Riders must own a helmet and a "trail-ready" mountain bike, although there are a few loaner bikes available. Riders must be able (at a minimum) to ride, brake, and stop their bike safely.

Sources of Strength has been promoting their mental health campaign in the middle school this month. Peer Leaders helped students cook up their most effective strategies for maintaining positive mental health, and served some "dough-not" stress out donuts. We also invited Go Team Therapy Dogs to visit Sage because getting some snuggles with a pet is a definite way to reduce stress and boost mental health.



HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT



We are so excited to announce both our Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2026!



Please join me in congratulating our **2026 Valedictorian**, senior **Luna Simonas**. Luna joined us at Sage beginning her sophomore year and she has worked hard to earn this title. She is currently a full IB Diploma Candidate. Luna has been accepted into the Honors program at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a full ride scholarship. She is currently awaiting responses from a few other schools she has applied to and she will make her decision soon.

High school continued...



Our **2026 Salutatorian award goes to Nevyn Brandel**. Nevyn has been a student at Sage for her entire K-12 career. She rides Varsity for our Mountain Bike team and has been offered an opportunity to attend school at Westminster and help to develop their newly established Mountain Bike Team as well. Nevyn has also been offered a full tuition scholarship at College of Idaho. She is currently weighing her options and will make her decision soon.

In the month of March we celebrate our IB Attribute of **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. **Sophomore Angelique Musila** is the MYP student who stands out for this attribute. She was nominated by several teachers, with Kate Morgan stating, "*Angie always approaches her learning through a synthesis of what she has learned with what she knows. She works to broaden her knowledge base constantly through reading and learning - even outside of class.*" Drew Lunt added, "*Angie consistently demonstrates well researched and thoughtful knowledge on the topics presented in class. Angie shows great eagerness to go beyond what is required to further her understanding of the topics at hand and to share her knowledge with her peers.*" Thank you, Angie for being such a wonderful part of our community.



We would also like to recognize **senior Alexander Golding**. Ms. Henderson shared, "*Alex is such a wonderful mix of knowledge and humility. Whenever students need help, he is the first to offer a thoughtful response. He has a wide variety of interests and never fails to have a valuable insight to offer to the discussion.*" Alex is gearing up to graduate this semester, and we will miss his insight and humor!

Finally, for our student-selected IB Teacher of the Month, we honor **Ashley Henderson**, our IB DP Math teacher and Diploma Programme Coordinator. Ashley has been at Sage for well over a decade, and she is an integral part of our Sage family. Senior Kennedy Lunde shared, "*She is genuinely one of the most incredible teachers I have ever had. The fact that she can teach every unit at the same time, keep us on a tight schedule because we have a lot to cover for HL, and still prioritize full understanding of concepts using a variety of resources is amazing. Thank you, Ms. Henderson!*"



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[Ultimate Frisbee](#) for 8th-12th grade at Williams Park every Wednesday from 4-6 PM

[Mountain Bike Club](#) for 5th-8th: all are welcome and meet on Tuesdays at 4:00

[Mountain Bike Team](#) for 6th-12th is a competitive team that practices 3x per week from July 1 through mid-October, and participates in 5 interscholastic races throughout Idaho.

[Skyhawks Pickleball](#) for 2nd-4th grade -Thursdays from 4/30 - 5/21

[Skyhawks Pickleball](#) for 5th-7th grade - Wednesdays from 4/29-5/20

[Camp Invention Registration is open!](#) Camp is for students entering Kindergarten - 6th grade this fall. Camp Dates are 7/6-7/10

Summer ESage registration opens March 30th at 2pm!

Enroll your rising K-6th-grade student for an exciting Summer full of fun and adventure.

Kids are active and engaged with daily enrichment activities.

Summertime lets us splash around at local pools & swimming holes, hike local trails, explore around town, and have BBQs and S'mores! Please plan to enroll early, as space is limited and ESage always



fills up fast. You can find the link on our website: sageintl.org/boise/enrichment/esage

NEW this Summer! Adventure ESage Camps for Middle School Students

Adventure ESage is a Summer camp for students entering grades 6-8 this fall. Camp will take place over 2 weeks in the summer, June 8-11 & July 13-16. Students can sign up for the Cultural Track on Mon/Wed, the Outdoor track on Tues/Thur, or both. The Mon/Wed group will focus on art, science, and cultural enrichment through hands-on experiences and local exploration. The Tues/Thur group will focus on outdoor exploration and physical adventure around Boise. Please email esage@sageintl.org with any questions!

Expeditions

April will be especially busy for our Boise program. We are thrilled to launch our **inaugural 5th Grade Campout**, a program we've developed all year. We're excited to bring this experience to life and begin what we hope becomes a tradition for our PYP students.

This month also includes an awesome lineup of trips: our CP high school students in the outdoor education program will complete their capstone backpacking trip through Hells Canyon, some lucky high school students will be camping and rock climbing at City of Rocks, and the entire 4th grade will spend a day exploring Celebration Park.

This time of year offers some of the best conditions for outdoor learning, and we feel so fortunate to allow Sage students the chance to experience these places as an extension of the classroom. Lotteries and registrations for the 2025-26 school year expeditions have now closed. Please keep an eye out for next year's catalog and a preview of opportunities coming this August—we can't wait to share what's ahead!