



Principal's Corner

Over the summer last year, I asked our staff to read a book entitled Focus by Mike Schmoker. The intention was to have all of us share a common foundation as we approached the coming 2012-2013 school year. The premise of the book was, because schools are very complex with many different responsibilities and initiatives, to be truly effective we need to focus on what is essential and to do it well.

Two things advocated by Schmoker were writing, a lot, and reading critically. Of course, we want our kids to be able to read and write - they are, after all, two of the proverbial three R's - but he emphasized that for kids to learn to write well, they must write frequently, thoughtfully and purposefully. To read well, they must read frequently, thoughtfully and purposefully as well - critically, with lots of discussion, and then to respond in writing.

Our staff took up the challenge to focus on these elements this year. As an added benefit, these same goals were supported by our implementation of the Common Core. Two-thirds of the way through the year, we continue this focus. Our students have been writing throughout the year in each classroom with significant attention on narrative, expository and argumentative writings. Our goal was 15-20 formal pieces of writing during the year. Additionally, they have been learning to read critically - with a pencil in their hand, with their minds engaged, and ready to ask questions and share their perspectives.

Ask your son or daughter about their writing and reading this year. Have them explain Close Analytical Reading and the differences between narrative, expository and argumentative writing. You'll be impressed!

~ Gordon Grissom ~

Olweus Anti-Bullying Program

Bullying is often a topic in the news. Bullying prevention is most successful when all members of a community use common approaches and language. Community presentations are being offered to provide an opportunity for parents and other community members to learn about the internationally recognized Olweus Bullying Prevention Program adopted by the Bozeman School District.

Laura St. John, Olweus Trainer and Student Assistance Coordinator for the Bozeman School District will present the dynamics of bullying and ways the Bozeman community can help prevent bullying by establishing common language. The session is appropriate for members of the business community, parents, teachers, and anyone who works with children and adolescents.

Where: Bozeman City Hall/City Commission Rm
When: April 16th 3:00-4:30 pm or
April 23rd 6:00-7:30 pm

Registration is not required.

PAC News

A big Thank You to *Elin Hert* and all the volunteers who helped with the CRT testing snacks! Thank you for donating snacks for our students and for helping to distribute them! We appreciate you!

SMS Eighth Grade Parents! *Mr. Ken Gibson*, interim Principal at Bozeman High School, will be attending our PAC meeting on Monday, April 15th, 2013, at 12 noon, to meet with 8th-grade parents and discuss any questions they may have regarding their child's transition to high school. It's a great, informal opportunity to get first-hand information about Bozeman High School and incoming 9th-graders. You don't want to miss it!

Dr. Rob Watson will also be attending our April 15th PAC meeting - you are not going to want to miss this one! Dr. Watson will be providing information about the upcoming school levies. The election date for these levies is May 7th, with ballots being mailed out on April 22nd, 2013. Come and find out more about the important issues in your community!

The annual SMS Dance-a-Thon was held on Saturday, March 23rd. The SMS students who attended had an awesome time during the day filled with fun activities - thank you to *Pam Westphal*, *Erin Goff*, *Brenda Sunderland* and all the volunteers who helped put this fun fundraiser together! Final fundraising numbers will be available soon with all the proceeds going to technology for the SMS teachers! Donations are still being accepted!

We are currently looking for new officers to fill the President and Vice-President (or two Co-Presidents) and the Secretary positions for the 2013-2014 school year. Being a PAC officer is the best way to be involved in the school. If you are interested, please contact *Holly Eiden* at hwedien@optimum.net or *Danelle Seybert* at danelle100@hotmail.com. They'll treat you to lunch and fill you in on all the details.

SMS PAC is on Facebook! "Friend us" at "Sacajawea Pac Bozeman Montana"

Music Performances

The SMS Jazz Band will be performing for the residents at Aspen Point on April 18th at 7:45 p.m. They will be playing a concert of swing, rock, and latin music.

The Jazz Band will also be touring the elementary schools on May 2nd. They will visit and perform for Irving, Longfellow and Morning Star schools throughout the day.



On Friday, April 19th the 7th and 8th grade Orchestra students will be performing Solos and Ensembles during their regularly scheduled orchestra class periods ~ Per 4: 11:26 - 12:14; Per 5: 12:17 - 1:05; Per 6: 1:41 - 2:29. Parents and teachers are invited to attend. If you have questions, please call Hollie Sexton at 522-6437.

Around School

Forty-seven SMS 7th graders traveled to Butte for the Southwest Montana Regional Science Fair. Eleven of these students qualified for the State Science Fair in Missoula held on March 18th and 19th. Competing against over 600 students from across the state the following students earned silver awards: *Brandon Oakley, Reilly Bennett, and Sam Odermann*; gold awards: *Vincent Davison, Carina Gillet, Zach Kelsch, and Soraya Bucholz*; and gold and Grand Award Physical Science awards: *Cooper Tuckerman (3rd), Brie Buchanan (2nd), and Erick Lawrence (2nd)*. *Katie Ellig* also qualified for the State Science Fair, but was unable to attend. Congratulations!

The Annual SMS Science Fair was a great success due to the many parents, staff members, and MSU students who volunteered as judges. Thank you to all who attended and helped out!



Is your 7th grader interested in traveling to Europe next year? If so, plan to attend the first parent & student Europe informational meeting on Tuesday, April 9th from 5:30 – 6:30 in the Bozeman Public Library (the small meeting room).

WHO: If you will be an 8th grader at CJMS or SMS next year and enrolled in Spanish, French, or German, you have the opportunity for an educational travel experience to Spain, France, and Germany! Students will be required to meet behavior and grade expectations in order to be accepted.

WHEN: DURING SPRING BREAK 2014, students will travel for 11 days with CJMS & SMS teachers and an EF Tour guide.

HOW MUCH: The base price of the trip will be about \$4,000.00 depending on how many students go. **START FUND RAISING!**

Please contact your world language teacher if you are interested but can't make the first meeting.



Around the Neighborhood

Learn about another culture in-depth when you host a student from Japan this summer! Delegates are here for one month to experience what it is like to live with a typical American family. Program dates are July 22-August 18 and delegates range in age from 12-16. To apply to host or for more information, contact *Stephanie Davison* (406-994-3502) or go to www.states4hexchange.org.

Dates to Remember

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| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 7th/8th Gr Track begins 2 6th, 7th & 8th Gr & Jazz Bands, gym 3 6th Gr Track begins 3 Early Release, 1:45 pm 5 Europe Trip 2013 Reunion, Lindley Ctr, 5:30 pm 8 7th/8th Gr Girls Fastpitch begins 9 6th Gr Girls Fastpitch begins 12 No School 15 PAC meeting 12:00 18 Jazz Band to Aspen Point, 7:45 pm 19 7th/8th Gr Orchestra Informances 24 5th SMS/CJMS Band/Orch Fest, 1 pm 26 End of Grading Period - Mid-term |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Jazz Band tours elementary schools 2 Mid-term Reports go home 7 School Election Day 9 6th Band/Choir/Orchestra, gym 13 SMS 'Dinner Jazz', cafe 6:00 pm 16 7th/8th/BHS Choirs, Willson 20 PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00 pm 22 5th Gr Ice Cream Social, 3:30-5:00 pm 23 Early Release, 1:45 pm 24-27 Memorial Day Holiday 30 8th Gr Jump Up Day at BHS 31 5th Grade Shadow Day |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 7th/8th Bands/Jazz, SMS gym 7:30 pm 6 SMS 'Dinner Orchestra', cafe 6:00 pm 12 8th Gr Celebration, gym 7:00-8:00 pm 13 Last Day of School, 12:35 pm dismissal 14 End of Final Grading Period 21 Final Report Card Mailed Home |

April 2013

**Sacajawea Middle School
Mission Statement**

Working together, we encourage curiosity for life-long learning and set high expectations for students' academic and social growth.

Return Service Requested
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