



SMS FALCON NEWS

SACAJAWEA MIDDLE SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Principal's Corner

The end of November signals the end of our first trimester - hard to believe we are one third of the way through our school year. This is a valuable time to pause and reflect on what has been learned thus far and to set goals for the coming year.

Student-Led Conferences are a great time to sit down with your son or daughter and discuss what they have accomplished thus far. The conferences will be held on the evenings of December 11th and 13th in the classrooms of the advisory teachers. Each conference is scheduled for approximately 30 minutes with time available to also drop by and visit elective teachers should you wish. Plan to hear from your student about their learning from each class, their work habits, and goals for the coming term. Please be prepared to ask questions about their learning, its relevance, challenges they face and goals for the remainder of the year. Teachers will be available to provide additional information and to assist with problem-solving as needed. The conferences are intended to provide a valuable dialogue about learning. However, on an on-going basis, do not forget to regularly check your student's PowerSchool grades and discuss his/her on-going learning. (Usernames and passwords are available from the school Counseling Office if needed.) Your child's academic success is a result of an open and supportive partnership between the student, the school and the home. We look forward to further developing that relationship in the coming weeks.

~ Gordon Grissom ~

~ School Boundary Committee ~

With construction of Bozeman School District's eighth elementary school underway, the District is convening a **School Boundary Committee** to study elementary enrollment boundaries and recommend changes. The District is seeking one parent participant from each school to serve on this committee. If you are interested, please complete the on-line application found at http://www.bsd7.org/schools/boundary_realignment/application_form.php by December 14th. Paper copies of the application are also available at the Superintendent's Office at Willson School. Selections will occur by Dec. 21st.

Boundary Realignment Committee meetings will convene on January 17th from 3:00 - 6:00 pm and January 24th from 4:30 - 7:30 pm in the Board Room at Willson School. The recommendations will be presented to the community for feedback in February followed by presentation to the Board of Trustees in March.

~ Parenting Workshop ~

A six week Love and Logic class for SMS parents will start in January! Thanks to a partnership between **Thrive** and **Bozeman School District**, Love and Logic will be offered on Tuesday nights, January 15th - February 19th, 2013 in the SMS Library from 6-8pm. This class is for parents of SMS students and is offered for a nominal \$10 workbook fee. The class is almost full--so sign up soon at allthrive.org or call Thrive at 587-3840.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be held in the library during the Student-Led Conferences, and until 2:00 pm on Friday, December 14th.

Encourage reading while supporting the library.



PAC News

The **Fall Contribution Drive** officially ended and the results are in! Thank you to everyone who returned an envelope! The fantastic news is we met our goal of raising \$15,000! So far, the 2012 Fall Contribution Drive has brought in over \$15,400. PAC is so thankful and appreciative. As a school, we fell short of our goal of 100% participation, however, two 8th grade advisories, Mr. Kraft's and Mr. Barefield's, had 100% of their students return their envelopes! Wow! Thank you, SMS parents!

Thank you, **Chris Harmon**, for coordinating the Contribution Drive these past couple of years. We appreciate you! Chris will not be at SMS next year as her 8th grade daughter is moving on to High School. If anyone is interested in volunteering to coordinate the Contribution Drive next fall, please contact **Holly Eiden** at hweiden@optimum.net or **Danelle Seybert** at danelle100@hotmail.com.

The PAC officers met in October and we are excited to announce that PAC was able to fund ALL of the Teachers' "Request for Funds" requests this year! The total amount given to the teachers, staff and teams was over \$12,256. This money will enhance your student's learning experience at SMS both in the classroom and through field trips.

The fifth annual **Thanks-4-Giving Clothing Drive** was, once again, a successful community event. This free clothing giveaway was open to everyone and was held at the Willson School gym on Nov. 17th and 18th. Thank you to **Megan Kempt** for volunteering to coordinate this event for SMS. We appreciate you and all the 8th grade students and parent volunteers who helped collect, sort, transport, and organize clothes at Willson the week before the event.

Thank you to **Sarah Sobek and her Hospitality committee** for organizing a dinner for the teachers during the upcoming Student-Led Conferences on December 11th and 13th. Sarah and her committee will be serving dinner to our wonderful teachers on Tuesday, December 11th.

SMS Spirit Night will be Friday, February 1st. This is a fun family night that includes dinner from **Johnny Carino's** and provides an opportunity for SMS clubs to raise money through entertaining carnival games and activities. Please plan on attending to support your SMS clubs! If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact our volunteer coordinator **Diana Weber** at volunteers4sms@gmail.com. We are still looking for one or two volunteers to chair or co-chair this fun and important event.

The new **SMS SpiritWear** sale began Tuesday, October 16th and ran through Tuesday, October 30th. This sale featured T-shirts and hoodies with logos that incorporated our new school color: Carolina Blue. If you missed the ordering window, our next scheduled SpiritWear ordering window will be organized around Spirit Night on February 1st. More information to come...

If you are unable to attend PAC meetings, but would like to stay involved, please contact our volunteer coordinator **Diana Weber** at volunteers4sms@gmail.com. If you have questions or comments, please contact our **PAC Co-Presidents** **Holly Eiden** at hweiden@optimum.net or **Danelle Seybert** at danelle100@hotmail.com.

SMS PAC is on Facebook!

Friend us at "**Sacajawea Pac Bozeman Montana**"

~ Youth Leadership ~

Four 8th grade students were selected to participate in the **Two Roads Project**: *Evan Morris, Sophie Josephs, Ben Holmgren, and Erin Sofianek*. On November 2nd during a special advisory meeting, the students were each presented with a \$100 bill and given the challenge to grow the money and benefit in some way our community, country or world in 90 days. They will report back to the 8th grade on February 4th. We are excited to see what they do. More information about this project can be found at www.tworoadsproject.com.

~ Science Olympiad ~

Mr. Ottey's ACCESS students participated in the Science Olympiad at MSU on Tuesday, November 13th. A JV and Varsity team, competed in 14 different events like Crimebusters, Mousetrap Vehicle, Forestry, Reach For the Stars, Disease Detectives, Write It/Do It, Metric Mastery, Water Quality, and Sounds of Music. 1300 6-12th graders competed. SMS placed 18th out of 45 middle schools. Students had the opportunity to prepare and practice solving problems to increase their science, technology, engineering and math skills.

~Chance to Recover Program~

Additional support for students to catch up on their school work is now available. Students who are struggling to stay current with their assignments, or who have fallen behind in their work, will be invited to attend lunch time study sessions. Additionally, after school sessions are available Monday through Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30. Staff, and possibly MSU practicum students, will be providing support. Please contact **Mr. Salo** (6A and 8th) at [522-6420](tel:522-6420), or **Mr. Bies** (6B and 7th) at [522-6421](tel:522-6421) if you would like to arrange for your son or daughter to attend these sessions.

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 • Congratulations Falcon Friday winners for 'November: 6th - Mikayla Brown, Rocky Espeland, Ben Taylor, Grace Werne; 7th - Chris McCullough, Rebecca Kruse, Lauren Gaspar, Brandon Oakley; 8th - Keely Lane, Evan Morris, Leah Becker, Austin Hoell
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~ Speech & Debate Club ~

SMS 7th and 8th graders are invited to join the debate club this January. Bozeman Senior High School has a highly successful Speech and Debate team that has finished in the top 3 at state for the past 35 years. This is your opportunity to begin your adventure in an activity that can help you:

- Become a polished public speaker
- Express a message you believe in
- Develop creativity and critical thinking
- Help you academically and in future careers

The club will meet for 9 weeks on Fridays after school in the 8th grade hall beginning January 11th and end in a debate meet on March 22nd. I am also seeking a **parent volunteer** who would be willing to assist with the club. Questions may be emailed to gwinnerw@gmail.com.

~ APPLE Recognition Awards ~

Looking for the perfect way to say Thank You or Happy Holidays? The **Bozeman Schools Foundation** presents the APPLE Recognition Award. The award honors special teachers, administrators, staff and school leaders for their dedication and contributions to excellence in education. Your donation of any amount will honor deserving recipients with the following:

- A personalized card with a message from you
- Recognition of their honor on the Bozeman Schools Foundation web site
- Acknowledgement of their distinction given to their school principal. Visit www.bozemanschoolsfoundation.org to donate. Awards must be received by December 19th to ensure delivery before Winter Break.

~ Common Core Implementation ~

Math teachers are working with students on the 8 *Mathematical Practices* (indicated below) as useful tools for understanding and applying math. These practices will be revisited yearly to reinforce proficiency and give students the skills they need to progress at each more complex level. The 8 Mathematical Practices schedule is as follows: **October** - Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; **November** - Reason abstractly and quantitatively. Watch the videos for Practice #2 at this site <http://illustrativemathematics.org/standards/practice> Short videos are available for all the practices on this site; **December** - Construct viable arguments; **January** - Model with mathematics; **February** - Use appropriate tools strategically; **March** - Attend to precision; **April** - Look for and make use of structure; **May** - Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

~ Holiday Assistance ~

• On **December 1st, 9-12pm**: **Children's Christmas Shoppe: Hope Lutheran Church**, 2152 W Graf, 586-5572 Free program. Kids ages 4 - 10 years select and wrap gifts for their family members (with a max of 5). Children should bring a list of who they want to select gifts for. Adults who bring children will be provided with coffee/juice and cookies while children shop. No income verification is needed.

• **December 1st, 10-3pm**: **3rd Annual Portrait Day, Montana School of Film & Photography**: 406-994-6220 MSU Visual Communications Bldg. (corner of 11th & Grant) rm 211. All families will receive a free portrait session, a cd of their images, and a 5x7 print - all free of charge. Call or email Alexis Pike 994-6220 /photobozeaman@gmail.com Limited space.

• **Through December 12th, Mon & Wed's, 1:30-3pm**: **Salvation Army Christmas Assistance Program**: 586-5813 x23 (Frank or Tammy) Sign-up at the Salvation Army, 32 S Rouse. Apply for holiday food box for families who live in Gallatin County and gifts for children through age 14. Bring proof of address (rent receipt or utility bill), income verification for all household members (2 pay stubs, DHSS, SSI) and picture ID for all household members.

• **Going on Now**: **Hope AND the Holidays and Santa Hot Line**: 406-451-5312 Contact: 219-3102 Sandy (formerly Toys for Tots) Parents may call in with child's age and information, and distributions take place December 14th & 15th. Parents pick up the toys themselves. When leaving a message, please remember to include name and phone number.

Dates to Remember

December	4	Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 pm
	7	8 th gr Choirs Informances, choir room
	10-14	Scholastic Book Fair, library
	11	Student-Led Conferences 4:30-8:00 pm
	13	Student-Led Conferences 4:30-8:00 pm
	14	6 th /7 th Choirs Informances, choir room
	17	PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00
	24 - Jan 4	Winter Break - No School
January	15	BHS/CJ & SMS8 th Bands, 7:30 Willson
	17	Geography Bee, 3:30 pm, library
	18	7B Big Sky Ski Day
	21	PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00
	22	6 th gr B/Ch/Orch, 7:30, SMS gym
	24	Early Release, Dismissal 1:45 pm
	25	Trimester 2 mid-term
	25	No School - grades 6-12 PIR Day
	31	Mid-Term Reports sent home
	29	CJ & SMS8 th /BHS Choirs, 7:30 Willson
February	1	Family Spirit Night
	1	6B Team, Big Sky Ski Day