



Principal's Corner

It's difficult to believe, but we have just passed the mid-way point of the year. We feel that it has been a terrific year thus far - implementing rigorous reading and writing, experiencing the classroom beyond our walls, and gaining new skills in the arts and other electives. We are looking forward to continuing our momentum through the remaining months.

In the coming few weeks, our students will be involved in two significant assessments. First, on February 28th, a large portion of our eighth grade students will complete the National Assessment of Educational Practices (NAEP) test measuring reading and writing. Given every two years, this test provides nation-wide feedback on the progress of our students in comparison to other states and nations. Montana eighth graders have performed in the upper levels in all three areas including number one in science. We expect our students to continue to demonstrate high achievement on this year's test.

Beginning the first week of March, all three grade levels will participate in the state's Criterion Reference Test (CRT). All students will be assessed in reading and math; the eighth graders will also be tested in science. This test, although only one measure of student learning, provides a snapshot of each individual's continued growth. It provides important information for scheduling and placement for the students, as well as valuable feedback for our instruction.

Please ensure students are fully prepared for the testing on March 4th-6th. Please do not schedule doctor's appointments or family vacations during these days. Be sure students have a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast. Thank you for supporting your kids in this way.

~ Gordon Grissom ~

School Security

In the wake of recent events in our nation, administrators and staff have carefully reviewed school procedures to continue to provide a safe environment for our students. We believe the safety provided through our day-to-day operations and facility is balanced appropriately with the welcoming relationship we have with our community. Please help us maintain this balance by checking into the office whenever you arrive at school during school hours, and obtaining and wearing a visitor pass when in the building. Together, we can provide a safe, comfortable and supportive environment for your children.

Detection Canines

Just prior to the holiday break, a specially-trained dog demonstrated its detection abilities to our students in grade level assemblies. To maintain a safe school environment, we have contracted with Interquest Canines to have their dogs return for further visits to detect the possible presence of prohibited substances - illicit and prescription drugs, alcohol, and gunpowder-related items (ammunition and firearms). The dogs are trained to alert on an item; they will not be detecting odors on students. It is our belief the occasional visit of these dogs will better help us monitor and preserve a safe learning environment. A full description of the program is available on our website, www.bsd7.org - 'BSD7 School Safety Information', and in our office.

PAC News

PAC would like to thank **Sarah Sobek** and her **Hospitality Committee** for providing a wonderful dinner for the teachers during the Student Led Conferences on Tuesday, December 11th. Thank you to all who brought food, decorated the teacher's lounge, made cookies and cleaned up! We appreciate you!

Thank you to **Leisl Pessl and her committee** for putting together our SMS Student Directory. Directories were handed out before Christmas break.

SMS Family Spirit Night is Friday, Feb 1st, 5-7:30 pm. Bring the whole family for an evening of food, fun and games at SMS! Dinner will be provided by **Johnny Carino's** and will be served in the cafeteria from 5 - 6:30 pm for \$8/meal. Carnival & Raffle tickets, \$.50 each, are currently being sold at lunch. The raffle drawing will be at 6:30 pm in the gym and you need not be present to win. Money earned by the club at each Carnival booth is given back to the club! This is the biggest fundraiser our clubs have. So come and spend a fun evening at SMS this Friday, Feb 1st!

PAC needs the following volunteers: an 8th Grade Celebration committee chair (celebration is June 8th); a new Contribution Drive chair for next fall; and Snack Bar volunteers for Tuesdays and Fridays after school. Please contact **Diana Weber** at volunteers4sms@gmail.com if you would like more information about volunteering.

The **Bozeman Schools Foundation** is asking the PACs from each school to help them raise money by selling raffle tickets at the mall for the **Playhouses on Parade**. The volunteer opportunity entails working a 2.5 hour shift at the raffle ticket table at the mall on Saturday, Feb 16th or a 2 hour shift on shift on Sunday, Feb 17th. The money raised through this raffle will be split by BSF and the PACs that participate. This should be close to a \$1000 for SMS's PAC. Please contact **Diana Weber** at volunteers4sms@gmail.com.

Our next PAC meeting is on Monday, February 11th, from 12:00 - 1:00 in Mr. Kostrba's classroom. See you there!

Health Guidelines

We have hit the flu and cold season! Please help us keep our students healthy by following these guidelines:

- If your child is sick, we ask that they stay home at least 24 hours after the last sign of fever, vomiting or diarrhea.
- If your child is taking antibiotics or antivirals, we ask that they stay home for at least 24 hours after starting those medications.
- Please make sure the school has your latest phone numbers and emergency contacts in case your child does get sick at school and we need to get in touch with you.
- Parents (or a designated adult) may come to school to administer medication if needed during the school day. Middle schools students are allowed to carry one dose of medication in the original container with them with parent approval.
- Please call the school, 522-6410, when your child is sick and won't be attending. If you leave a message, please let us know what your child is home sick with, this helps us track trends.
- Talk with your child about covering their mouth when coughing, using tissues, and washing hands frequently.

~ **Around School** ~
Geography Bee

The 2013 National Geographic Geography Bee was conducted in every social studies class the week after break. Each student was given seven questions and those with six or more right could move on. Eighty-seven students moved on the compete for the ten spots available in the school final. They took a very difficult 20 question quiz. *John Schaffer* had the high score with 11 correct. The school final was held Thursday, January 17th and *Allie Lynch* walked away champion after 19 rounds of questions. Now she has a chance to go the the state level in April. Go Allie!

Yearbook

Eighth graders! If you would like to have your baby or toddler picture (no posters please!) included in the yearbook, please hand one in to Mr. Bies by February 28th. Photos will not be returned.

The 2013 SMS Yearbook presale will take place through the month of February. The cost of the yearbook is \$20. Please make checks payable to SMS. A limited scholarship fund is available; requests will be accepted in February only.

Science Fair

SMS 7th Grade Science Fair, February 27th 6:00 - 7:30 pm community and parents invited. Come celebrate the students' hard work and learn about science!

Library

The SMS Library Reading Flag Promotion is continuing. For every book a student reads, he or she can fill out a flag that coincides with his or her Team color. Flags are drawn, prizes won, and BOOKS are READ! Our goal is to read 2,013 books by March 8th. KEEP ON READING!

Student Pick Up and Drop Off

Please check in at the main office any time your child comes in or leaves other than before or after school. Also, if he or she has an appointment, please send a note or call FIRST thing in the morning to let us know what time to have your student ready - then we don't have to interrupt the class with a page.

Thank you for adhering to the student drop-off and pick-up area in the north parking lot before and after school. Please remember to have your students exit your vehicle directly next to the curb, not in an adjacent lane.

~ **Around Town** ~
Girls for a Change

This year's Girls for a Change Conference will take place at the MSU Strand Union Building Saturday, February 9th. The keynote speaker will be Red Ants Pants Founder, *Sarah Calhoun*. For information and to register, email gfac@allthrive.org or call 587-3840.

BSF Spelling Bee Fundraiser

Mark your calendars and get your team organized, the Bozeman Schools Foundation's Adult Team Spelling Bee is just around the corner! Come join the fun and cheer on your friends on Friday, February 8th from 6:30-10:00pm at the Emerson Theater, \$25 at the door. Sponsorship opportunities are still available visit www.BozemanSchoolsFoundation.org or call the Foundation at 522-6071.

Arts Without Boundaries

Free music lessons are available at MSU in Reynolds Recital Hall. Contact one of the music teachers for more information on this wonderful opportunity.

Dates to Remember

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| February | 1 | Big Sky Ski Day - Team 6B |
| | 1 | Family Spirit Night, 5:00-7:30 pm |
| | 8 | Big Sky Ski Day - Team 8A |
| | 8 | BSF Spelling Bee, 6:30-10pm, Emerson |
| | 11 | PAC meeting, 12:00 - 1:00 pm |
| | 12 | 5 th gr Parent Night, SMS 6 - 7:30 pm |
| | 12 | Bridger Bowl Ski Day - Team 6A |
| | 13 | Early Release - Dismissal 1:45 |
| | 14 | SMS 7 th /8 th Honors Orchestra, 7:30 pm |
| | 18 | President's Day - no school |
| | 21 | Talent Show Dress Rehearsal, Willson |
| | 22 | Talent Show, Willson 7:00 pm |
| | 28 | <u>NAEP Testing - 8th grade</u> |
| March | 4-26 | <u>CRT Testing</u> |
| | 8 | Big Sky Ski Day - Team 8B |
| | 8 | End of Trimester Grading Period |
| | 11 - 15 | Spring Break |
| | 21 | Trimester 2 report cards home |
| | 22 | Bridger Bowl Ski Day - Team 7A |
| | 25 | PAC meeting, 12:00 - 1:00 pm |

Reminder:

Please do not send Valentine's Day flowers or balloons to school!

February 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.

Sacajawea Middle School
 3525 South 3rd Avenue
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 (406) 522-6470
 Return Service Requested



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