



## Principal's Corner

*Failure Is Not an Option!* This phrase has gained familiarity during the past several years stemming originally from the retelling of the story of Apollo 13. The astronauts on that flight faced sure destruction unless they were able to construct a make-do repair to their capsule using materials available to them on their flight. A recent book on education, using the phrase as a title, described strategies a school could use to ensure that all students would succeed.

Three years ago, Sacajawea began a program we call Chance to Recover based on the same premise. Simply put, we wanted to provide opportunities - time and location - for our students to catch up on missing schoolwork. We opened a classroom each day during lunches and again after school for students who were falling behind. Knowing the strong correlation between failing grades at the middle level, particularly in math and reading, and kids later dropping out, we wanted to closely monitor and support those kids who may lose out on their learning because of incomplete assignments.

The Chance to Recover program continues to serve our students at Sacajawea. Sasha Gavica supervises the program with assistance from classroom teachers who drop by during lunches, as well as high school and MSU practicum students who assist in the after school program. After School CTR runs Monday-Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 and is available for any student seeking that time and place or some additional assistance on their work. We encourage any student to attend. Call me at 522-6400 with any questions you may have.

Thank you for continuing to partner with us to support the learning of your students.

~ Gordon Grissom ~

## CRT Testing

Our statewide standardized testing occurs on Monday, Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. These summative tests measure our students' understanding and abilities in math and reading as well as science in eighth grade. The information gathered from the tests guides our instruction, development of interventions and professional development. The data also informs our placement of students in appropriate classes.

Please help your child do his or her best. During the days of the tests, ensure they receive a good night's rest, have a healthy breakfast, and arrive in school on time. We want every student to be fully ready to show what they have learned.

## PAC News

*Spirit Night Thank Yous!* Thank you to all the parents and staff who helped make Spirit Night such a success this year! A special thank you to *Karen Ward* at *Johnny Carino's* for the delicious dinner they provided and to *Harrington's* for supplying the drinks again this year!

PAC would like to thank all of our wonderful SMS teachers, staff and administration who donated an item for the Spirit Night raffle! Thank you to *Mr. Kostrba, Mrs. Bauerle, Mrs. Hickman, Mrs. Heap, Mr. Grissom, Mr. Perry, Mr. Franklin, the SMS Library staff, Mrs. Janssen, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Jacoby, Mrs. Colliver, Mrs. Hedglin, Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Barefield, Mrs. Rice, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Guettler, and Mrs. Johnson.*

*Snack Drive for CRT Tests!* SMS PAC is organizing a "snack drive" in order to provide each student with a nutritious snack on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. We need 2,400 of individually bagged snacks or packaged single- snacks such as goldfish, cheese or peanut butter crackers, Ritz Bits, yogurt covered raisins or pretzels, cheese sticks, gogurt, etc. NOTE: Anything containing nuts must be packaged by the producer - not sorted into baggies at home - to prevent cross-contamination. Please drop off the donations in the SAC office as soon as possible and before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact *Elin Hert*, [elinanddoug@hotmail.com](mailto:elinanddoug@hotmail.com) with questions or if you can bring snacks. Thank you!

*Volunteers for CRT Snacks!* We also need 6-12 volunteers to distribute snacks to kids prior to testing from 8 to 9 am on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact *Elin Hert*, [elinanddoug@hotmail.com](mailto:elinanddoug@hotmail.com), and let her know what you can do!

*PAC volunteer opportunities!* We still need an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation committee chair (the celebration is June 12<sup>th</sup>) and a new Contribution Drive chair for next fall. We also still need Snack Bar volunteers for Tuesdays and Fridays after school. This is a really fun way to volunteer and interact with the kids! Please contact *Diana Weber* at [volunteers4sms@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers4sms@gmail.com) if you would like more information about volunteering.

If you would like to be included on the PAC email list, please contact *Holly Eiden* at [hweiden@optimum.net](mailto:hweiden@optimum.net) or *Danelle Seybert* at [danelle100@hotmail.com](mailto:danelle100@hotmail.com).

Our next PAC meeting is on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 - 1:00 in Mr. Kostrba's classroom, Rm 158. Hope to see you there!

Friend us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/sacajawea.bozemanmontana>

## Sixth Grade Parents

The state requires all students to have received a tetanus booster within five years of entering of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and two MMR's (most students have already received two MMR's, so please check), exceptions are children with religious or medical exemptions. Proof of a tetanus booster, Td or Tdap, administered since August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 will need to be provided prior to receiving your child's seventh grade schedule. We encourage you to provide this record prior to schedule pickup day in late August. Doctors may fax to 522-6484, or you may drop the record at the Main Office. If you have questions, call Julia Anderson at 522-6422.

## From the Thrive Desk

The following was adapted from an article in *Parade*:

Surveys show children most want their parents to be less tired and less stressed. An effective way to cut down on stress is to hold weekly meetings to review how well your family is functioning. Sit together with everyone and pose three questions: What worked well in our family this week? What didn't work well? And what can we work on now? The following week, adjust and try again.

Eating dinner together as a family has been shown to benefit children, but at least a third of Americans rarely do so. Children who eat dinner with their families do better in school and are less likely to drink, smoke, do drugs, or develop eating disorders. Yet one study found Americans rank 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 25 countries when it comes to family meals. Still, research shows you can reap most of the same benefits by gathering at other times, like at breakfast - even if its just once a week.

So then, what do happy families do right? Happy families adapt. They talk-a lot. They go out and play. And they make the decision to keep working on their family. In the end, this may be the most enduring lesson of all. What's the biggest secret to a happy family? Trying.

For further information on this or other parenting topics please contact your SMS Parent Liaison, *Ashley Mares Jones*, at 922-4230.

## Around School

Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> grader *Camille Landon* who bested a competitive field of students in the SMS Spelling Bee. *Olivia Swarthout*, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, placed second followed closely by 6<sup>th</sup> grader *Emanuel Buenrostro*. Joining these three at the County Bee on March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be *Laura Waterman, Nolan Stoltzfus, Erick Lawrence, Hannah Brauch, Vincent Davison, Louis Davison, Brie Buchanan and Augusta Reinhart*. Good luck to each of you!



The *Falcon It right! Club* has been quite busy this year. We have made several visits to area retirement homes; helped at the Morning Star After-School Programs; held bake sales; and presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade during Take Over Day. The club's large project for the school this year is to have a Water-Bottle Re-filling Station installed. As the cost is quite substantial, the club has been doing several fundraising events. Currently, we are collecting and redeeming aluminum cans. If you would like to help in our endeavor, your student can bring cans to Room 113 or to his or her Advisory class.

### Dates to Remember

March	4 - 26	CRT Testing
	8	End of Trimester Grading Period
	8	8B - Big Sky Ski Day
	<b>11 - 15</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
	21	7 <sup>th</sup> gr Choir Ensembles, gym, 7:30pm
	21	Tri 2 Report Cards sent home
	22	7A - Bridger Bowl Ski Day
	23	Dance-a-Thon, 8:00am - 6:00pm, gym
	25	PAC meeting 12:00
April	1	Track and Field begins, 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>
	2	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands, gym
	<b>3</b>	<b>Early Release, 1:45 pm</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>No School</b>
	15	PAC meeting 12:00
	24	5 <sup>th</sup> gr Band/Orch Festival, 1:00 pm
	26	End of Grading Period - Mid-term
May	2	Mid-term Reports sent home

March 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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