



Principal's Corner

As Fall begins to settle in, we find ourselves hitting our stride at the beginning of the year. We are off to a great start and are anticipating a terrific 2012-2013 school year.

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend our Back-to-School Night on September 24th. Your participation in that event helps solidify the partnership we share in providing the best possible education for your sons and daughters.

A major focus of our school this year is the implementation of the **Common Core State Standards**. These standards, adopted by nearly every state in the country, are intended to identify the essential skills and concepts students need to be fully prepared for post-high school life, whether that is college or the workforce. Although we have had standards in each subject area for the past several years, the Common Core aligns many of those content-specific standards around the significant need for critical thinking, literacy skills and high-level mathematical practices. In the classroom, students will have increased opportunities to read purposefully, articulate and defend their thinking with evidence in writing, and apply their learning in meaningful, real-life situations.

I encourage you to talk with your student daily about what they are learning and how it can be applied in practical situations. We expect our students will be challenged throughout the year to become even better readers, writers and thinkers.

Thank you for your partnership in our work!

~ **Gordon Grissom** ~

~ Creating a Partnership ~

When parents and schools work together children are more successful!

Some tips on keeping the connection strong between school and home:

- Get to know your child's teachers
- Stay in touch with teachers throughout the year (email, voicemail, volunteer at school)
- If your child is struggling at school, contact your child's school counselor to discuss the issue and/or arrange a school meeting
- Inform the school counselor and/or teachers if your family is going through a difficult time or change of any sort
- Support school rules and policies

For more information contact your Parent Liaison, **Ashley Mares Jones** at 922-4230. The Parent Liaison program is a partnership between Bozeman Public Schools and Thrive.

Newsletters will now be sent home by email. Please keep your email address current with school. To change or add an address, contact us at 522-6422 or julia.anderson@bsd7.org. We will continue to send newsletters in the mail for those who do not have email accounts. Newsletters are also posted at <http://www.bsd7.org/sacajawea/newsletters.php>

PAC News

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) was created to bring parents, guardians, SMS staff, and community members together to enrich our students' middle school education. We work with the school to support and encourage parent/guardian involvement, which creates more success for our students.

A BIG THANKS to all of our volunteers for a great schedule pick-up day! It was fun to see new (and returning) SMS families!

Our annual fundraiser, the **Contribution Drive**, is in full swing. The Contribution Drive runs from September 20th to October 12th. Your child should have given you a packet from PAC highlighting the Contribution Drive. If you haven't seen it, please contact us and we'll get one to you, or stop in at the main office. We are asking each family to contribute \$35, if possible. Every single dollar donated will enhance our students' education at SMS. Thank you for your contributions, which are tax deductible. Our goal is 100% participation! We also encourage corporate matching donations. If you have any questions, please contact **Chris Harmon**, Fundraising Drive Chairperson, at 585-5524.

Included in the PAC packet is a Volunteer form. We have many fun volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Even if you cannot volunteer but want to receive emails from PAC, please complete the form and return it to the Main Office.

And the winner is..... Blue! The students voted on Schedule-Pick-Up Day for the new "accent" color and blue won by a landslide! The new SMS colors are now officially black, silver and blue. Your student will have a chance to order new Spirit Wear beginning on October 16th. Forms and more information will be coming home soon.

PAC Officers for 2012-2013

Co-Presidents: **Holly Eiden** ~ hweiden@optimum.net and **Danelle Seybert** ~ danelle100@hotmail.com

Treasurer: **Kristin Hope** ~ hopebzmn@aol.com

Volunteer Coordinator: **Diana Weber** ~ volunteers4sms@gmail.com

Secretary: **Erin Goff** ~ egoff@bresnan.net

We currently are in need of a Snack Bar Volunteer Coordinator, a PAC Spirit Night Chair, a 'CRT Snacks' Chair, a 5th Grade Ice Cream Social Chair and an 8th Grade Celebration Chair (no 8th grade parents please). If you're interested in any of these Chair positions, please email Holly or Danelle. We'd love to hear from you!

Our next **PAC meeting is Monday, October 15th, at noon in Room 158.** Please join us! Involved parents create successful students!

SMS PAC is on Facebook!

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

~ WeTip Hotline ~

The **WeTip Hotline**, sponsored by the Bozeman Police Department and the Bozeman Public Schools, may be used by anyone who has information about theft, vandalism, or other crimes that have been committed at one of our schools or in our community. The WeTip hotline is a way for people to get involved in establishing a safer community. While students are always encouraged to talk with an adult at the school, students are sometimes reluctant to report crime information because they fear reprisal from the person they are reporting. WeTip provides an alternative for students and families who wish to give information. WeTip hotlines are answered by tip operators 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are taken on all crimes affecting schools and the surrounding communities. The operator taking the call will ask series of questions, designed by law enforcement, to obtain the maximum amount of information about the reported crime. After the information is taken, a code name and number are assigned to the informant. Information is then passed on to Bozeman's school resource officers.

Anyone who has information about illegal activity at a school can call WeTip 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-78-CRIME, or submit a tip on the internet at <http://www.wetip.com/>. For all emergencies and crimes that are in progress, immediately call 911.

8th Grade Europe Trip Organizational Meeting
Bozeman Public Library, Oct 3rd, 5:30-6:30 pm

~ Straw Bale Maze Fundraiser ~

On October 12th from 5:00 to 8:30 pm (FLASH-LIGHT NIGHT from dark to 8:30 pm), twenty percent of the maze entry proceeds will benefit the **Bozeman Schools Foundation** and their programs.

Maze Admission: \$7 per person. Children 4 and under are free with an adult. Some activities including train rides, bungee trampoline and refreshments are sold separately.

Location: At the end of Mandeville Lane behind Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply off N 7th Ave

Contact: BozemanMaze.com, 388-7818 or www.BozemanSchoolsFoundation.org

~ Destination Imagination ~

An informational meeting for all students and parents about **Destination Imagination** will be held on Wednesday, October 3rd at 7 pm in the SMS cafeteria. DI is an educational program in which student teams solve open-ended challenges and present their solutions at tournaments. The challenges integrate science, technology, cultural studies and the arts. The teams use research, team-building, engineering, technical, theatrical design, construction, time management and budgeting skills to devise original solutions. Participants gain more than just basic knowledge and skills—they learn to work as a team, let loose their imaginations and take unique approaches to problem-solving. The following blog is very informative: <http://gallatingifted.wordpress.com/2012/05/27/di-instant-challenges/>

For more information, please contact **Christa Merzdorf** at 586-6481 or merzdorf@montana.edu.

Be a CAP Mentor

Do you know someone who would like to get involved and help a student in our local schools? CAP needs motivated individuals to serve as mentors to Bozeman students. Find out what an impact can be made in just an hour a week, and how much fun can be had! Call 585-7929 or go to www.allthrive.org for more info.

Dates to Remember

October	3	Europe Trip Mtg, 5:30-6:30pm, Bzn Library
	3	Destination Imagination, 7pm, SMS cafe
	10	Early Release 1:45 dismissal
	12	Straw Bale Maze ~ 2:00 - 8:30pm
	12	Trimester Mid-Term
	15	PAC meeting 12:00-1:00, Rm 158
	16	Spirit Wear available
	17	Mid-Term Reports sent home
	18-19	PIR Days - No School
November	1	8 th Gr B/Ch/O, 7:30 pm, SMS gym
	7	Early Release 1:45 dismissal
	8	7 th Gr B/Ch/O, 7:30 pm, SMS gym
	19	PAC Meeting 12:00-1:00, Rm 158
	21-23	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School

October 2012

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

Mission Statement

Sacajawea Middle School

Sacajawea Middle School
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Return Service Requested



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