



## Principal's Corner

March is always a benchmark month during our school year. Semester Two draws to a close on March 7; hard to believe, but we are nearing the last third of the year. Perhaps as a celebration, the following week brings our Spring Break from March 10-14.

March has always been significant as the time when our state's standardized test—the CRT—has occurred. This year marks a meaningful change, however, as only the Science CRT will be administered to our eighth graders. Montana has requested and received authorization to substitute the CRT in reading and math with the Smarter Balanced Assessments. These tests will focus on the Bozeman Learning Standards (based on the Common Core standards) and will be administered by grade levels on three separate weeks beginning in April: 6th grade—April 7-10, 7th grade—April 21-24, and 8th grade—May 5-8.

Administered on March 4, the Science CRT will provide valuable information to our students, families and staff demonstrating student learning. Because the science test is only given in grades 5, 8 and 10, the data will show growth over the past three years in science skills and understanding.

For students to perform at their highest ability in both the CRT and upcoming Smarter Balanced Assessments, please ensure they are attending and on time during testing days. Please avoid scheduling medical appointments during these dates. Make sure they get plenty of sleep the night prior to the tests, have a good breakfast, and are prepared to do their best.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership with us in supporting your children.

~ Gordon Grissom ~

## New Electronic Readerboard

You may have noticed the change in our readerboard in front of the school; after 19 years of service, we have placed our old board to rest. The new sign will allow us to keep you informed of upcoming events and news on a much more timely manner. It will also allow us to celebrate the accomplishments of our students more frequently—something that was often sacrificed because of the limited space on our old board. Special thanks to our PAC and a gift from an anonymous donor for the purchase.

## Student Drop-Off

Thanks for your continued help in keeping our north parking lot safe for our kids in the morning. Please be sure that students are dropped off along the curb, not from the north lane closest to Cambridge Street. Also, please be aware of students on the sidewalk along Cambridge when exiting as well as the students at the crosswalks.

## PAC News

### A Spirited Spirit Night!

Student clubs raised \$3500 to support their activities, and students made another \$500 for trips, all in one successful evening of fun, games, raffles and prizes. The most popular game was the balloon pop, clearing \$678. At 50 cents a pop, you can figure out how many balloons got stomped (and cleaned up!). Many games were successful; at evening's end PAC treasurer **Pam Bittner** counted some 7,800 spent tickets. Thank you to all who helped make the evening a success. Thanks also to **Johnny Carino's** for providing dinners and to **Harrington's Pepsi** for the drinks.

### iPads Have Arrived!

Thank you again to all who contributed to the **Cornerstone Campaign**. The school now has a cart of 30 iPads, and students and teachers are making use of them. **Principal Gordon Grissom** reports seeing a first-period algebra class last month using iPads to freeze a video of a ball bouncing in SMS gym and then measuring the decaying amplitude of the bounce. Nice work.

### Winter Fest, Thanks to You

PAC's core mission is to support our teachers and students. **Mr. Jacoby** asked if we could help get both six grade teams to the Winter Fest this year. Because of your generosity during the fall **Contribution Drive**, we covered in full the \$950 necessary for four buses and the facility rental. We can't do this without you, and teachers always have unforeseen or unexpected requests in the spring. Help us help them by donating now. All contributions are funneled directly back to the Sacajawea community. Contact any of the PAC officers below.

### Talent Show

One last "thank you" to all parents who volunteered at concession stands during the Talent Show last month, especially **Tammy Estensen** for helping coordinate and deliver the snacks.

### Volunteer Opportunities

PAC needs you! We have several positions open next year, and volunteering is a great way to get involved in school. Consider volunteering now so you can "shadow" the current job-holder and make the transition easier:

- Vice-President/Treasurer/Co-chair for Contribution Drive/Co-Chair for Student Directory
- Snack Bar /Co-Buyer CRT Snack Chair
- Spirit Wear Coordinator

Make a difference in the Sacajawea community. Contact volunteer coordinator **Pam Westphal** at [volunteers4sms@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers4sms@gmail.com) for more information, or simply join us at our next PAC meeting.

### Upcoming PAC meetings

PAC will meet **Monday, March 24** at noon. **Principal Gordon Grissom** will explain the school's new testing system, Smarter Balanced Testing. On April 21 at noon, **Mr. Grissom** will offer an overview of the district's new grading protocol. Join us!

## PAC News cont'd

### PAC Officers

Co-President: **Becky Ellig** k12m09@msn.com

Co-President: **Danielle Freeburg**  
dfreeburg@montanadsl.net

Vice President: **Kristin Lauman**  
kvlauman@gmail.com

Treasurer: **Pam Bittner** plbittner@gmail.com

Secretary: **Douglas Fischer** fischwing@gmail.com

PAC on Facebook:

Friend us "Sacajawea Pac Bozeman Montana."

## 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 Sept. 1st, 2009 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 Sally Owen at 522-6422.

## Spelling Bee Results

Congratulations to 7th grader **Abby Doss** for her victory in the SMS Spelling Bee! Kudos to **Elliot Johnson** for his second place finish. These two, along with finalists **Riley Nicholas, Nathan Gorski, Renn Meuwissen, Mikayla Brown and Kamilla Ponce** will compete in the *Gallatin County Bee* on *Saturday, March 1st*. Alternates to the *County Bee* are **Christian Estensen** and **Maggie Miranda**. Good Luck Super Spellers!

**"Have a Great Spring Break"**

## Around School

### Regional Science Fair

March 3rd- **Carrie Holland** and **Lynn Ahlers** are taking about 30 7<sup>th</sup> graders to the Regional Science Fair in Butte, MT. We are looking forward to the opportunity for the students to share their experimental processes and journeys!

### Library Used Book Sale!

Spring Break is a great time to clean out your bookshelves for the Library Used Book Sale!

Bring your gently used books, CDs, videos and DVDs for all ages to the library during school hours. Advisories with the most donations will receive donuts! The sale will be held in the library and open to the public April 22-25.

### Dates to Remember

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| March | 4 Science CRT - 8th Grade  |
|       | 5 Select Choir Assembly  |
|       | 6 6A/6B Big Sky Ski Trip   |
|       | 7 8B Big Sky Ski Trip  |
|       | <b>10 - 14 Spring Break</b>  |
|       | 20 Tri 2 Report Cards sent home  |
|       | 20 Choir 7:30 Gym  |
|       | 21 7A - Bridger Bowl Ski Day   |
|       | 24 PAC meeting 12:00-1:00  |
|       | 31 7th-8th Track Starts  |
| April | 4 No School K-12   |
|       | 8 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bands, gym |
|       | <b>16 Early Release 1:45</b>   |
|       | 21 PAC Meeting 12:00-1:00pm  |
|       | 25 Mid-term  |
| May   | 1 Mid-term Reports sent home   |
|       | 6 School Election Day  |
|       | 19 PAC Meeting 12:00-1:00pm  |
|       | <b>21 Early Release 1:45 Dismissal</b>                                 |
|       | <b>26 Memorial Day Holiday</b>   |
|       | 29 8th Grade Jump Up Day at BHS  |

March 2014

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

Sacajawea Middle School  
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