



SMS FALCON NEWS

SACAJAWEA MIDDLE SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Principal's Corner

Hard to believe we are midway through the 2013-2014 school year, but students will be bringing home their 2nd Trimester Midterms this week. As a staff, we have been focused on each individual student's strengths and challenges—to build on what each one does well and take it to another level while providing the necessary supports for the learning challenges each one faces.

Besides personalizing the education for each student, another goal of our school this year has been the continued implementation of standards-based education. The curriculum of each subject area is based on standards—local, state or national. These standards ensure that each student is being taught the essential skills and concepts for that subject area.

The Bozeman Academic Standards in math, based on the Common Core, identify the significant learnings for each grade level. Another valuable element of the standards is the **"Eight Mathematical Practices."** These practices are life-long skills that will prove valuable for students throughout their careers. In fact, one teacher at Sac calls them the "8 Learning Practices." They include:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them;
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively;
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others;
- Model with mathematics;
- Use appropriate tools strategically;
- Attend to precision;
- Look for and make use of structure;
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

As one can see, these practices build valuable habits for our students in their schooling. Our math teachers develop their lessons around these strategies each day to further develop their capacity to learn and be successful.

Ask your child about their learning. And as always, don't hesitate to chat with staff about our partnership in your son's/daughter's education.

~ Gordon Grissom ~

CAP Celebrates 25 Years

The Child Advancement Project (CAP) of Thrive is celebrating 25 years of mentoring in collaboration with Bozeman Public Schools. During that time, over 9,000 children have spent over 150,000 hours one-on-one with community volunteers who have spent hours valued at over \$2 million. This is an exciting time for CAP as we celebrate this milestone as well as our recognition by the National Registry of Evidence Based Programs and Practices which tells us that CAP works to increase school attendance, academic success, and connectedness to school and community. To celebrate Thrive is launching the 2014 Membership Drive as a way to increase individual, on-going donors who will support Thrive for years to come. Check out the CAPtivating Story Video Series of CAP kids and School staff at ithrivemt.org.



Drop off your Box Tops for Education labels in the collection box in the library. All proceeds benefit the library. Thank you!

PAC News

A big **"Thank You!"** to all who helped with Spirit Night on Jan. 31. Thanks also to **Johnny Carino's** for providing dinners and to **Harrington's Pepsi** for the drinks.

PAC also is quite grateful to **Shavon Cape** for co-ordinating the school board luncheon earlier in January, and to hospitality co-ordinator **Sarah Sobek** for help as well with the luncheon and for feeding our teachers during the student-led conferences in December.

And thank you again to all who contributed during our **Contribution Drive and Cornerstone Campaign**. Your generosity allowed the school to order 30 iPads and a cart for students, 10 iPads for teachers and 10 iPad minis for special education. It's not too late to help: Contact any PAC officer below for information how to donate.

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, Co-Chair for Thanks-4-Giving, 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 for more information, or simply join us at our next PAC meeting.

Upcoming PAC Meetings

PAC will meet Monday, Feb. 24 at noon. Principal **Gordon Grissom** will share the new framework for next year's math classes. We also expect Bozeman School District Superintendent **Rob Watson** to join us at an upcoming meeting, and we're planning an overview for you of the district's new grading system. Specifics will come on Facebook and via email later this month, but mark Feb. 24 on your calendar. Join us!

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

SMS PAC is on Facebook!

Friend us at "Sacajawea Pac Bozeman Montana"

Health Guidelines

Does your child have food allergies? Do you know what a 504 is? Come find out what the Bozeman Schools are doing to keep your child safe. **Rebecca Spear**, our district nurse, will be coming to review the new policy the school district has adopted in regard to food allergy; discuss the state of stock epinephrine in the schools; discuss 504's- who is eligible and what to expect; and what training is given to the school staff in regards to food allergy. **Chad Berg**, director of special education, **Marilyn King**, deputy superintendent, and **Dr. Michael Zacharisen**, allergist will also be on hand to answer questions. Bozeman Public Library small conference room, Wednesday, February 5th, 2014 at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to fabozeman@yahoo.com Food Allergies in the Schools- and like us on **"Facebook at Food Allergy Bozeman"**.

