



Principal's Corner

We have just completed the first trimester of our school year ~ one-third of the way through the year already and ready for even greater gains in the coming months. With the conclusion of the first term, we are preparing for the upcoming student-led conferences scheduled for December 10th and 12th. Watch for paperwork coming home from the individual teams allowing you to schedule time with your student to review their progress over the past three months.

One of the pieces of student work you are likely to review is the first formal piece of writing for the year. The Bozeman Content Standards, based on the Common Core, outlines a continuum of writing development in three genres ~ narrative, expository and argumentative. Over the course of the year, your student will have multiple opportunities to develop his or her writing skills in these text types. Our goal is to have the students write 18-20 pieces of writing through the year, with opportunities to hone their writing skills and develop the expression of their thinking in each content area. Continually using the writing process to draft, revise, edit and publish their works will build the skills they need for life.

We look forward to the students sharing their growth at our upcoming conference days. See you then!

~ *Gordon Grissom* ~

~ Seeking Your Input ~

While you are visiting the school for Student-Led Conferences, please plan to take a few minutes to complete a brief parent survey. We are collecting your feedback on our annual Foundations Survey ~ your perspective on school safety, school climate, communication between school and home, and parent involvement. The survey will take only a few minutes and will be available on our computers in the library (check out the Book Fair at the same time!). Thank you in advance for your thoughts.

~ Parenting Workshop ~

A six week Love and Logic class for SMS parents will start in January! Thanks to a partnership between **Thrive** and **Bozeman School District**, Love and Logic will be offered on Tuesday nights, January 14th - February 18th in the SMS Library from 6-8pm. This class is for parents of SMS students and is offered for a nominal \$10 workbook fee. Sign up soon at allthrive.org or call Thrive at 587-3840.

Help improve the air quality around our school!

- Idling vehicles release hazardous chemicals into the air.
- Idling for 10 seconds uses the same amount of gas as restarting your car. Most people waste one to two entire tanks of gas every year by idling.
- Manufacturers assure that frequent restarting won't harm an engine.
- The City of Bozeman and First Student (Bozeman school buses) have no-idling policies for their fleet.
- It is illegal to leave an idling car unattended in Montana (MCA 61-8-357).

What you can do:

- As a rule of thumb, if you are going to be stopped for more than 30 seconds at drop-off or pick-up times, turn your vehicle off.
- Pledge to not idle unnecessarily ~ any time, any place.

PAC News

Fundraising

Thanks to you, parents, we raised almost \$36,500 this year, with more than \$16,000 for the Contribution Drive and nearly \$20,000 for the Cornerstone Campaign! The Contribution cash will allow us to fund teacher requests next year. The Cornerstone Campaign will give iPads to students and teachers this year. It wouldn't happen without you. And this would not have happened without our fundraising co-chairs, *Lori Faure* and *Leesa Anderson*. Thank you both.

PAC distributed about \$12,000 that we raised last year for teacher requests this fall. Your generosity gives us more for next year's effort.

Volunteers

Now is the time to think about volunteering next year. We have several open positions. If you want to get involved – and PAC is a great way to make a difference here at SMS – do so now, so you can “shadow” someone already in a role and get a feel for the position. Contact PAC's volunteer coordinator, *Pam Westphal*, at volunteers4sms@gmail.com

Thanks-4-Giving

The sixth annual Thanks-4-Giving Clothing Day was underway while we went to print. Thank you to all who made it a successful community event, especially *SuzAnn Haney* for coordinating the event.

Student-led Conferences

Thank you, again, to *Sarah Sobek* and her hospitality committee for organizing a dinner for the teachers during the upcoming Student-Led Conferences on December 10th and 12th. This is Sarah's second year heading the committee that will be serving dinner to our wonderful teachers.

Next PAC Meeting, and Beyond

We'll meet Monday, Jan. 20th at noon. There's no PAC meeting in December. Enjoy your break! Family Spirit Night is Jan. 31st, and the Spelling Bee is Feb. 7th.

SMS PAC is on Facebook!

Friend us at “**Sacajawea Pac Bozeman Montana**”

Questions or comments?

E-mail PAC co-presidents Becky Ellig at k12m09@msn.com or Danielle Freeburg at dfreeburg@montanadsl.net.

~ APPLE Recognition Awards ~

Looking for the perfect way to say Thank You? The *Bozeman Schools Foundation* presents the APPLE Recognition Award. An APPLE Recognition Award honors special teachers, administrators, staff and school leaders for their dedication and contributions to excellence in education. Your donation of any amount will honor deserving recipients with:

- A personalized card with a message from you
- Recognition of their honor on the Bozeman Schools Foundation web site
- Acknowledgement of their distinction given to their school principal

To send a check:

The Bozeman Schools Foundation
PO Box 1803
Bozeman, MT 59771-1803

To donate by credit card, go to <http://www.bozemanschools-foundation.org>.

~ Creating a More Healthy

and Less Stressful Holiday Season ~

+ Set priorities: learn to say "no" to some things - choose quality over quantity. Your main priority may simply be spending time with your children and enjoying each other's company.

+ Plan ahead: take charge of your holidays in advance by making lists of things to do and setting aside some time each day for them - nothing creates more stress than last minute shopping and preparations.

+ It's healthy to want: Do your children want things you can't afford? That's good! Wanting for things is an important life lesson, and an important part of life. If your children want something bad enough, empower them to come up with some ways to afford it. The value of a dollar is also an important life lesson.

+ Delegate: you don't have to do it all yourself - there is only so much time and people generally appreciate the opportunity to help out. The holidays present a great opportunity to empower our children to take on more responsibilities, and help out more.

+ Have realistic expectations: if there is tension within your family it is more than likely that this will only escalate during the holiday period. You might consider visiting your relatives separately if they do not get along well or keeping them occupied when together.

+ Look after yourself: to take care of others you need to first take care of yourself. A healthy diet, regular exercise, learning to relax and getting enough sleep will also help to reduce stress.

+ Positive attitude: try to think positive thoughts. Your thoughts influence your feelings - if you dwell on unhappy thoughts, you start to feel unhappy. Your attitude can be transferred to others and this is not helpful with children at home.

+ Give: a gift of your time and energy not only makes us feel less stressed and like a more integral member of our community, it also role models to our children what we all feel deep down is the most important part of the holidays; Giving.

+ Laughter: nothing reduces stress as quickly or as effectively as a good laugh!

Remember: What your family and your children really want most is to spend time with you!

Adapted from www.community.nsw.gov.au by Thrive.

~ Book Fair ~

The *Scholastic Book Fair* will be held in the library from Tuesday, December 10th at 7:30 am until on Friday, December 14th at 2:00 pm. The fair will be open during the Student-Led Conferences and the library staff will be on hand to help you with your holiday shopping. Free gift wrapping is also available!



Dates to Remember

December	6	8 th gr Choir Informances
	9	Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 pm
	10-14	Scholastic Book Fair, library
	10	Student-Led Conferences 4:30-8:00 pm
	12	Student-Led Conferences 4:30-8:00 pm
	13	6 th & 7 th gr Choir Informances
	17	PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00
	24 - Jan 4	Winter Break - No School
January	6	7 th & 8 th gr Girls Basketball begins
	13	7 th & 8 th gr Boys Wrestling begins
	13	6 th gr Boys & Girls Wrestling begins
	14	School Board Luncheon, SMS
	16	Geography Bee, 3:30 pm, library
	17	7B Team, Big Sky Ski Day
	20	PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00
	23	Early Release, Dismissal 1:45 pm
	24	Trimester 2 mid-term
	24	No School - grades 6-12 PIR Day
	28	BHS, CJ & SMS 8 th Bands, 7:30, Willson
	30	Mid-Term Reports sent home
	29	CJ & SMS 8 th & BHS Choirs, 7:30, Willson
	30	6 th gr B/Ch/Orch, 7:30, SMS gym
	31	8A Team, Big Sky Ski Day
	31	Family Spirit Night
February		Yearbook Pre-Sale all month
	3	BHS, CJ & SMS 8 th Choirs, 7:30, Willson
	7	6A & 6B Teams, Big Sky Ski Day
	10	PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00
	11	5 th gr Parent Night, 6:00-7:30 pm, SMS
	21	SMS Talent Show, Willson
	23	Early Release, Dismissal 1:45 pm
	24	7 th & 8 th gr Honors Orchestra, SMS
	17	President's Day Holiday - no school
	19	Spelling Bee, 3:30 pm SMS cafeteria
	20	SMS Talent Show Dress Rehearsal, Willson
	21	SMS Talent Show, 7:00 pm Willson

December 2013/January 2014

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

Sacajawea Middle School
Mission Statement

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

