



# SMS FALCON NEWS

SACAJAWEA MIDDLE SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

## Principal's Corner

We are a month into the new school year and feel like we are beginning to hit our stride. It has been a busy few weeks laying the foundation for a successful school year ~ building relationships with our students, setting the expectations for learning in each class, re-implementing the Olweus anti-bullying program, and building collaborative teams within the building. Thanks to all of you who made it to our Parent Night and for everyone who is working with us to make this a terrific school year for your sons and daughters.

Teachers and staff at Sacajawea have three main goals this year that parallel those of our district and build on our work from the previous year. We will continue to focus on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. In each discipline, we will be developing our students' abilities to think critically and creatively, to write articulately and thoughtfully in that subject area, and to read for depth of understanding. We will strive to further personalize each student's learning. Our mantra is to get to know each student well so that we can both provide the necessary support he or she may need, but also to challenge each one to greater learning. Finally, as a staff, we are committed to learning with and from each other. Our collaboration will result in better understanding of the standards, more effective instruction, and improved learning for each of your children.

Sacajawea is a great school with a strong reputation. But we will continue to grow ~ not only in numbers, but in our own capacity to improve. We are dedicated to continue our own learning so we can prepare your son and daughter for on-going success in school and life. Thank you for partnering with us in this goal.

~ 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.

## PAC News

Sacajawea's 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.

### Contribution Drive Launch

We've started our annual Contribution Drive and hope all families will participate. Every year the PAC gives from \$25,000 to \$30,000 to the school ~ for field trips, assemblies, scholarships, supplies, the science fair and special projects (such as a new school sign!). But the biggest slice goes directly to teachers, funding projects and materials they've identified as enhancing your child's classroom experience. Last year, for instance, we gave \$19,000 directly to teachers for such requests and other classroom needs.

That money comes almost entirely from our annual fundraiser, the Contribution Drive. This is where your participation is crucial! *We hope to raise \$20,000 this year*, a target we can hit if every family contributes \$35. But any amount helps and is welcome. Our goal is 100 percent participation, at any level. Contributions are tax-deductible and matching corporate donations gladly accepted. *Every dollar raised goes to the school.* Look for more information in the PAC packet sent home with your child. The drive ends October 11<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Call Leesa Anderson (580-3322) or Lori Faure (579-1499), Contribution Drive co-chairs. Thank you for your help enhancing classrooms at SMS.

### Cornerstone Campaign

Technology has become a crucial part of both the classroom and the larger society, and we want our children ahead of the curve. We've launched a campaign this year to pay for *120 iPads*: 30 iPads for our teachers and for an iPad cart with 30 tablets for each grade level. Students arrive at SMS having used these tools in elementary school. Let's provide this technology to our middle school!

If you know of a business, or a grandparent who'd like to make a difference in your child's education, or if you are able to offer extra support this year, please consider joining our "Cornerstone Group." We are seeking donors at the following levels:

<b>Pinnacle</b>	(a SET of 30 iPads)	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Medallion</b>	(Five to 10 iPads)	<b>\$2,500 - \$5,000</b>
<b>Principal</b>	(Two iPads)	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Apple Circle</b>	(One iPad)	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Apple Bytes</b>		<b>\$100 to \$250</b>

**Please note ~  
Announcements are read at the following times: 8:21 am, 11:21 am, and 2:26 pm**

~ *PAC News cont'd* ~

**Calling all volunteers!**

A BIG THANKS to all who made Schedule Pick-Up Day a success! It was fun to see new (and returning) SMS families! We need volunteers to fill several slots. The biggest need: The **Thanks-4-Giving campaign chair**. This is a great volunteer position, with three weeks of busy and then done! It's also a huge value to the community. Interested? Contact **Diana Weber** at [volunteers4sms@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers4sms@gmail.com).

We also need "shadows" who can work with a coordinator this year and then take over the position next year:

- Treasurer
- School store
- Snack Bar coordinator
- T-Shirts
- CRT snack
- Student directory (Word & Excel skills a must)

Included in the PAC packet that your student brought home is a Volunteer form. We have a lot of fun volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Please complete the form and return it to the main office. Even if you cannot volunteer but want to receive emails from PAC, please complete the form.

**PAC Officers for 2013-2014**

Co-Presidents: **Becky Ellig** ~ [k12m09@msn.com](mailto:k12m09@msn.com)  
**Danielle Freeburg** ~ [dfreeburg@montanadsl.net](mailto:dfreeburg@montanadsl.net)

Vice President:  
**Kristin Lauman** ~ [kvlauman@gmail.com](mailto:kvlauman@gmail.com)

Treasurer: **Pam Bittner** ~ [plbittner@gmail.com](mailto:plbittner@gmail.com)

Secretary: **Douglas Fischer** [fischwing@gmail.com](mailto:fischwing@gmail.com)

Volunteer Coordinator:  
**Diana Weber** ~ [volunteers4sms@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers4sms@gmail.com)

*Please join us!*

Our next PAC meeting is Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at noon in Room 158. It's a great way for parents to be involved and tuned in to what's happening at SMS. Involved parents create successful students!

SMS PAC is on Facebook!

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

**Be a CAP Mentor**

Help us celebrate 25 years of CAP Mentoring by getting involved in our program! Do you know someone that would like to get involved and help a student in our local schools? CAP needs motivated individuals to serve as mentors to Bozeman students for the 2013-14 school year. 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](http://www.allthrive.org) for more info.

**"TALL COP SAYS STOP"**

Jermaine Galloway

October 9<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Best Western GranTree, Bozeman, Montana

Admission: Free

- The Truth About Underage Drinking
- Making the Connection Between Youth, Drugs, Alcohol, and Violence
- Drugged Driving

**Dates to Remember**

<b>October</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Early Release</b>	<b>1:45 dismissal</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>MT Board of Crime Control Conf.</b>	<b>GranTree Inn, 6:30-8:00 pm</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>Trimester Mid-Term</b>	
	<b>16</b>	<b>Mid-Term Reports sent home</b>	
	<b>17 - 18</b>	<b>PIR Days - No School</b>	
	<b>21</b>	<b>PAC meeting 12:00-1:00, Rm 158</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Gr B/Ch/O, 7:30 pm, SMS gym</b>	
	<b>6</b>	<b>Early Release</b>	<b>1:45 dismissal</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>Veterans Day Assembly, public welcome</b>	<b>SMS gym 8:30-9:30 am</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Gr B/Ch/O, 7:30 pm, SMS gym</b>	
	<b>18</b>	<b>PAC Meeting 12:00-1:00, Rm 158</b>	
	<b>26</b>	<b>End of Trimester One</b>	
	<b>27 - 29</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday - No School</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Gr Choir Informances</b>	
	<b>9</b>	<b>Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 pm</b>	
	<b>10</b>	<b>Student-led Conferences, 4:00-7:30 pm</b>	
	<b>12</b>	<b>Student-led Conferences, 4:00-7:30 pm</b>	
	<b>13</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup> Gr Choir Informances</b>	
	<b>23 - Jan 3</b>	<b>Winter Break - No School</b>	

**October 2013**

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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