

Principal's Corner

As we enter May, the sudden realization of the impending conclusion of the school year becomes very real. As I shared with our sixth and seventh graders this past week, it is hard to believe that 5/6 of the year has passed. It's been a great year and we look forward to a strong finish.

These final few weeks bring a number of events leading to the conclusion of the year and the transition to next. During the final week of April, our *seventh grade students* completed the *Smarter Balanced* assessment. Although the test provider faced some difficulties, and we reduced the number of students tested, we believe the assessment will provide valuable recognition of the learning of individual students for their families as well as important data for our school. Look for those results in early summer.

All of our students will complete their third *STAR* benchmark assessments in reading and math in *May*. These short tests provide a snapshot of the growth of our students over the course of the year demonstrating individual progress, reinforcing our instructional work, and causing reflection for continuous improvement. Your kids will be bringing those *results home later in May*.

Our *eighth graders* will be traveling to *BHS* on *Thursday, May 28*, to learn more about their freshman year and have a chance to spend time in the high school. The next day, we will be *welcoming next year's sixth graders* to Sacajawea for a half-day. Those days are both valuable for the successful transition to the next level for these kids. We always love to welcome in the fifth graders and set the foundation for the coming year. Plus, they're so darn cute! The *eighth grade celebration* will take place on Thursday, June 4--always a bittersweet event.

Thank you for your continued partnership in support of your kids.

≈Gordon Grissom≈

Electronic Documentation for Next Year

Sacajawea is in the process of *transitioning from paper to electronic forms* for gathering and distributing information for the coming year. Families of sixth and seventh graders will receive guidelines about updating enrollment forms, demographic information, health histories, and permission forms electronically. This change will allow families to *complete information on-line* and will make the schedule pick-up process in August much more efficient. BHS will implement a similar process. Watch for an e-mail with more info.

Attention 6th Grade Parents

Seventh grade students *must* submit proof of a tetanus booster (either a Td or a Tdap) *or* the required religious exception notarized forms, *before* starting the 2015-2016 school year. Schedule pick up day can be very hectic and goes more smoothly and efficiently if we receive your child's record *prior* to that day! *Schedules and locker*

assignments will only be given when this requirement is completed.

PAC News

We did it! Many thanks to all who donated, both spring and fall, for our *Chromebooks* drive. Your generosity allowed us to leverage an extra \$3,500 from the school to purchase a *THIRD* cart of laptops for our students this year. This gives each grade level its own cart of 30 computers: The first and second carts are at the school and in use; the iPads we bought last year are in such high demand they're booked two months out. Big shout-outs to *Megan Decker* for helping with snacks at the fabulous SMS talent show last month, along with the **Bozeman Schools Foundation** for providing water during the Willson School event. What a show. Thanks to all who brought goodies for the April 9 parent-student-teacher conferences. Hurrah to hospitality chair *Sarah Sobek* and treat coordinator *Pika Fisher Meyer* for marshaling that effort. Kudos in advance for all those who provided meals for our staff appreciation day on May 6 – and to *Sarah Sobek* for organizing the event. We rely heavily on volunteers and are always grateful to see the community step forward when need arises.

MacKenzie River Pizza Night

Our last **MacKenzie River Pizza** night is upon us, and you don't want to miss this one: On **May 20**, teachers and staff will be the servers! Come see how well your teachers can juggle multiple orders and refill requests. Just don't forget the coupon, sent via email from SMS or available for download on the school website, <http://sms.bsd7.org>. There will also be some at the restaurant. MacKenzie donates 20 percent of your tab (minus alcohol) to PAC. We've raised north of \$1,000 over the year from this event, not bad for a fundraiser that also means you don't have to do the dishes. You can eat there or order for carry out.

Attention Bakers!

We're looking for cookie bakers to provide refreshments after the *8th Grade Celebration* on **June 4**. Look for an email toward the end of May.

Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome parents who want to get involved in the SMS community. We have several positions open; volunteering is a great way to get involved in school: Treasurer, Volunteer coordinator, Spirit Wear coordinator, Health Enhancement shirts coordinator. Make a difference. Contact volunteer coordinator **Pam Westphal** at volunteers4sms@gmail.com for more information, or simply join us at our next PAC meeting.

Last PAC Meeting!

Hard to believe the end of the year is upon us. Harder still to believe 8th graders are stepping up to high school. Get a glimpse of what's in front of all our kids: On **May 18** Bozeman High School principal **Kevin Conwell** will join us for our final PAC meeting of the year. Head's up, 7th grade parents! A lot will happen quickly next year with your soon-to-be 8th grader. Get an early start. Join us at **noon!**
PAC officers

Co-Presidents: **Danielle Freeburg**
dfreeburg@montanadsl.net
Kristin Lauman
kvlauman@gmail.com

Vice President: **Sarah McLain**
sckenna@gmail.com

Treasurer: **Gary Hellenga**
gary.hellenga@gmail.com

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

Volunteers: **Pam Westphal**
volunteers4sms@gmail.com

SMS PAC is on Facebook: Friend us at "Sacajawea Pac Bozeman Montana."

Police Week

Police Week will commence on May 5th and will continue through May 16th. On May 15th, the 34th Annual National Police Officers' Memorial Service will be held on the West Front of the United States Capitol in Washington, DC. 131 officers were killed in the line of duty in 2014. The Bozeman School District will honor our Bozeman Police Department by making posters and writing letters and thank you cards that will be displayed for our local Law Enforcement. Please also help us honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to keep our communities safe by wearing blue on Friday, May 15, 2015.

Give Big Gallatin Valley

This May 5th, go *BIG* for The Bozeman Schools Foundation. BSF is participating in the first *Give Big Gallatin Valley*, Gallatin County's Largest Day of Giving. For 24-hours only, visit GiveBigGV.org, make a donation (min. \$10) and every dollar you donate will be stretched by a Match Pool of Funds from the *Bozeman Area Community Foundation* and their presenting sponsors. Over 100 local non-profits are participating. Many educational and youth related non-profits that serve our kids and community. When you give big, extraordinary things happen! Mark your calendars; tell your Friends, Give Big. More information GiveBigGV.org

SMS Bike Club Doughnut Rides

Wednesday Donut Rides have started again. Rides will be leaving from Cooper Park, the Public Library, Gardner Park, and Jarett Park at 7:30. We will then be gathering at Granny's Doughnut's for a doughnut and on to school. All rides are supervised from designated locations and to SMS. Students are responsible for the return trip as well as getting to the ride location or Granny's. Parent participation is always a treat. Feel free to ride along! Questions can be directed to Kevin Guetter, kevin.guetler@bsd7.org or George Scott, george.scott@bsd7.org

Falcon it Right!

SMS's volunteer and service group has been busy creating ceramic pins for Eagle Mount for their Oncology Camps this summer, improving the school grounds by planting two apple trees on Earth Day, visiting Alzheimer units at Spring Creek and Highgate Assisted Living Homes, as well as the Morning Star Elementary After-school Program, and the Food Bank each month. We will be

providing a dessert bar for the staff in celebration of Teacher Appreciation week. Any students interested in joining our group should see Mrs. Hedglin.

Back To School Supply Kit

The *Bozeman Schools Foundation* and *SMS PAC* are offering the convenient services of SchoolKidz, Inc. and their Teacher Tailored® back-to-school supply kit program. Why fight long lines trying to find every single requested item on your child's supply list? Let us do the shopping for you! Plus, \$5 of every kit bought gets donated to the *Bozeman Schools Foundation* and your *PAC*! These donations benefit Spark Grants, Scholarships and so much more! Each item is chosen by the teachers and is exactly what is on your child's supply list. Best of all, the entire package comes in a reusable *personalized* kit. If you have any questions, please contact info@bozemanschoolsfoundation.org. Sacajawea Middle School 2015/2016 School Supply Kits Online Ordering: Begins: **May 1st, 2015**/Online Ordering Ends: **June 26th, 2015** Orders are ONLY accepted online. To order your kit(s) online, please follow these simple steps: 1. Go to www.shopttkits.com 2. Enter the account number: **10443** 3. Choose the appropriate grade level kit - REMEMBER TO CHOOSE THE GRADE YOUR CHILD WILL BE ENTERING IN THE FALL! 4. Enter your child's first and last name 5. Add to cart; confirm your order and checkout. **IMPORTANT NOTE: YOU DO NOT NEED TO SIGN IN OR CREATE AN ACCOUNT WHEN CHECKING OUT. YOU MAY CHECKOUT WITHOUT AN ACCOUNT BY ENTERING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ONLY.**

National Geographic

SMS is proud of Grace Rembert for being the state champion at last month's National Geographic Geography Bee. She will be heading to Washington, D.C. in May to represent our state. This is Grace's second trip to nationals. Go Grace!

Wanted for the Library... If you are doing any spring-cleaning, the *SMS library* will begin accepting books for our *Used Book Sale*. The Used Book Sale will be held **June 1-3**. We accept all *gently worn books* for all ages. Our book sale is open to the public after the first day.

Dates To Remember

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| May | 5 | School Election Day |
| | 11 | SMS/BHS Choir @Willson, 7:30pm |
| | 12 | SMS Dinner Jazz, Cafeteria, 6:00 pm |
| | 18 | PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00 pm |
| | 18 | SMS 6 th Grade B/C/O, SMS,Gym7:30pm |
| | 25 | Memorial Day-No School |
| | 28 | 8 th Grade Jump Up Day at BHS |
| | 29 | 5 th Grade Shadow Day |
| June | 1 | SMS Dinner Orchestra, SMS. Cafeteria 6:00 pm |
| | 2 | SMS Bands, Willson 7:30 pm |
| | 2 | Ice Cream Social 3:30-5:00 pm, 5 th grade families. |
| | 4 | 8 th Grade Celebration, 6:30 – 7:30 pm |
| | 11 | Last Day of School Dismissal, 12:35pm |
| | 12 | End of Final Grading Period |
| | 19 | Final Report Cards Mailed Home |

