



**SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:20
STUDENTS SHOULD BE DROPPED OFF NO
LATER THAN 8:15 TO BE IN CLASS ON TIME.**

Principal's Corner

In September all students completed the first of three summative assessments in math and reading. The STAR assessments are used to identify each individual's proficiency levels and serve as a baseline on which to measure student growth through the course of the year.

Much has been discussed about the role of tests in today's schools. Concerns are often expressed about "teaching to the test," testing taking away from learning, and students just being seen as numbers. At Sacajawea, we utilize our assessments for specific purposes that not only measure but support student learning.

The information gained from the STAR assessments allows us to identify students who would benefit from additional support in their reading or math learning. The data, combined with other relevant evidence, can guide the placement of students into math strategies, literacy workshop, teaching combo, or Access support classes. The focused and intentional instruction in these settings often provide the additional support needed for kids to have greater success in their learning.

These assessments also provide direct guidance on the standards on which students need to develop. Teachers can focus on the specific standards not yet mastered by the individual students in their classes. Furthermore, teams of teachers find common standards on which to focus in each class to provide consistent support for their kids.

The students will be tested two additional times this year with the STAR assessments to identify their continued growth. After each test, data will again be analyzed to review the effectiveness of any interventions and to track progress. Look for information on how your son or daughter performed at the December student-led conferences.

By using assessment data to respond to student needs, we believe testing can be a valuable tool in helping all of our kids succeed.

~Gordon Grissom~

Picking Up Students During The Day

On the days you need to pick up your child during school hours, please send a note including the reason for leaving campus (example: doctor's appointment), and the time which you need to meet your child in the main office. Your student should take the note to the main office and exchange the note for a 'blue pass'. The student should then show the pass to his or her teacher at the beginning of the period in which he or she leaves. He or she can then leave class at the appropriate time with a minimum of disruption to the rest of the class. Thank you for your assistance.

PAC News

Fall Fundraising SUCCESS!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who contributed to our two campaigns. We set an ambitious goal of \$40,000 to bring new technology into the classrooms and to help our teachers and students with extracurricular projects like field trips and classroom materials. Thanks to your GOOD WORK, we topped that goal, raising \$43,700! Our **Cornerstone Campaign**, focused on delivering more technology to the school, raised \$26,600. New hardware and software for the Technical and Video Productions class are ordered, and we expect to have new Chromebooks in the classrooms before year-end. Our **Contribution Drive** is PAC's bread and butter, and we raised \$17,100 for student enrichment, field trips, classroom supplies and teacher requests. We'll spend that money next year, and thank you to all who have put PAC and the Sacajawea community on such solid footing. Your generosity encourages our teachers to think with creativity and ambition.

Teacher Requests

This month we're approving teacher requests for the money we raised during last year's **Contribution Drive**. We have \$18,000 to give out this year, and PAC has already approved the first batch of requests: Archery targets, Science Olympiad, a conductor's stand, needles and yarn, among others. Requests continue to pour in. We'll be discussing and voting on requests at this month's PAC meeting, on **Nov. 10 at noon**. Your voice and vote are welcome.

Donate Online

And if you had hoped to contribute but never got the form, we'd still welcome your help: Every dollar raised goes straight to Sacajawea teachers and staff. Donate online at <http://squareup.com/market/sacajawea-middle-school-parent-advisory-council> Thank you for helping enhance student experiences at SMS!

November PAC Meeting

PAC meeting is Monday, Nov. 10 at noon.

Bozeman Police Detective **Dana McNeil** will talk with us about Internet and cyber safety. **Dana** joined us last year and had a wealth of information about protecting children in a digital age. Did you know, for instance, among various platforms exposing children to online threats, that cell phones, tablets and computer gaming devices sit at the top of the list? Computers and laptops are near the bottom. Find out more – and what you can do – on **Nov. 10**.

PAC meetings are a great way for parents to be involved and tuned in to what's happening at SMS. Involved parents create successful students!

PAC Cont.

Volunteers

We are still in need of shadow volunteers for this year (Hospitality, Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator). Interested? Email **Pam Westphal** at volunteers4sms@gmail.com.

PAC Officers for 2014-2015

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

Volunteer coordinator: **Pam Westphal**
volunteers4sms@gmail.com

Join us!

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

Attendance Matters at Sacajawea

Here are some facts about chronic absenteeism:

- Your children can suffer academically if they miss 10% of school days (about 18 days). That can be just one day every two weeks, and that can happen before you know it!
- By middle and high school, chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out.
- It doesn't matter if these absences are excused or unexcused; they all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.

What can you do?

- Set a good example. Show your child that attendance matters to you.
- Help set homework and bed times; allow for 8.5-9.5 hours of sleep.
- You can turn to the school for help. Call Valentina at 522-6400: she is our mentor to students and families with attendance issues.
- Schedule family vacations to coincide with school breaks.

Every School Day Counts!

MUSIC COFFEE FUNDRAISER!

Thank you to all the music students who sold Coffee for our Music Fundraiser. Coffee orders will be ready for pick-up the week of November 17-21. Please make plans to pick up your coffee after school sometime that week.

Box Tops to the SMS Library

Please remember to send your Box Tops to the SMS library. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ and benefits the school library. For more information about Box Tops and participating products, please visit the BTFE.com website. Thank you for supporting the library.

Birthdays and Special Occasions

While we enjoy celebrations, please do not send flowers, balloons or any other items of the sort to school for your child. Thank you!

SMS Bike Club

LAST DOUGHNUT RIDE OF THE FALL, Wednesday, Nov. 5th. **MSU bike racing team will be leading the way!!** Questions? Contact **George Scott**, george.scott@bsd7.org

Tips for Protecting Kids on Social Media

Keeping our kids safe is vitally important both in our community and online. Here are a few suggestions from the *Nation Center for Missing and Exploited Children*: **Know your child's passwords.**

It is ok for parents to have a child's password for sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Gmail. Share with your child that this is another way that you protect and care for them. Check their accounts often. Discuss any concerning content with your child.

Read what your child is posting.

Check comments and images for personal info (phone numbers and address). Scan for inappropriate (or illegal) content such as mean statements, foul language, or racy pictures. Delete anything you feel is offensive or provides too much information and talk to your child about the decision.

Know how your child accesses social media.

Mobile devices (like cell phones and tablets) let kids access social media apps away from adult supervision. Children may post content or even share their locations. Review the app settings and help children keep their current and frequent locations private.

For these and other parenting topics, please contact your SMS Parent Liaison, **Ashley Mares Jones** at Thrive-922-4230 or at Ashley.maresjones@bsd7.org

Thrive believes when families are strong and children are successful, communities thrive. Learn more at allthrive.org

Dates To Remember

November	3	SMS 8 th Gr B/C/O Concert SMS Gym 7:30
	4	SMS 7 th Grade B/C/O Concert SMS Gym 7:30
	10	PAC Meeting, 12:00 – 1:00pm Room #155
	10	Veterans Day Assembly, Gym 8:30 – 9:30
	11	PIR Day, No School K-12
	25	End of First Trimester
	26-28	Thanksgiving Holiday
December	9	Student-Led Conferences 4:00-7:30
	9	SMS Jazz Band Concert 7:30 pm
	11	Student-Led Conferences 4:00-7:30
	22-Jan. 2	Winter Break
January	5	First day back to school
	15	Geography Bee, Library 3:30pm
	19	PAC Meeting, 12:00 – 1:00pm
	22	SMS 6 th B/C/O, SMS Gym 7:30pm
	23	Trimester 2 Mid-Term
	26	PIR Day-No School K-12
	27	PIR Day-No School 6-12
30	Big Sky Ski Day-7B	
30	Family Night	

