



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

## Principal's Corner

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! We are off to a great start and anticipate a terrific school year working with your sons and daughters. The first week is always filled with energy, excitement, promise, and yes, a bit of anxiety. But we know that your kids will be properly challenged and supported during this time of adolescent development.

Sacajawea continues to grow—we have the largest enrollment that we have had for the past number of years, and expect that trend to continue. This has allowed us to expand our staff and to continue to provide additional services for our students. It forces us to be flexible and creative—good opportunities to model important skills to our kids.

We are focusing on three significant areas this year as a school. First, we will continue to develop our students' critical thinking and communication skills. Our implementation of the core standards across all disciplines will be taken to new levels this year as we support their close reading skills, provide multiple opportunities to discuss their perspectives on text, and to communicate and support their thinking in their writings. A second focus will be on developing meaningful and purposeful relationships with our students. We know that recognizing the uniqueness of each individual student is the foundation for each one's success. Finally, we will be continuously seeking ways to learn from each other. We believe that we are all learners, and the more we take the time to collaborate and share with our colleagues, the more effective we will be collectively.

I am excited to continue to work with all of you to support the learning of your students. Expect a terrific year.

≈Gordon Grissom≈

## NEW STAFF

We are excited and blessed to welcome our new teaching staff this year. These folks each bring a love of working with middle school kids coupled with valuable life and teaching experiences to the classroom.

- Alison Ulrich – 6<sup>th</sup> grade special education
- Lindsay Hall – 7B science
- Colin O'Brien – 7B CA and social studies
- Hailey Hancock – 7A social studies
- Jill Keegan - choir

## PAC News

**Contribution Drive:** This is the only time PAC will be asking you for money. Our efforts here will determine how many teacher and school projects PAC can support this year and next.

We have **two main goals:** Our annual Contribution Drive supports projects and ideas teachers would like to add to their curriculum: field trips, science equipment, special speakers, scholarships, art supplies, the science fair and much more. Last year we gave \$15,000 directly to teachers and the school – slightly below past levels. This year we hope to raise \$20,000.

**Cornerstone Campaign** brings technology into the school. Technology has become a crucial part of both the classroom and the larger society, and we want our children ahead of the curve. Last year your support allowed us to purchase a cart of 30 iPads and 10 mini-iPads that teachers are using every day in the classrooms. This year teachers have identified Chromebooks and video production hardware as the greatest need. We're hoping to raise \$20,000 here, for a total of \$40,000 for the two campaigns. Your participation is crucial: We can hit our targets if every family contributes \$40 to each campaign. Last year, the average donation was \$150. 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. Look for more information in the PAC packet sent home with your child. The drive ends October 10. You can donate to either campaign online: <http://squareup.com/market/sacajawea-middle-school-parent-advisory-council>

Questions? Call Douglas Fischer (219-3816) or Lori Faure (579-1499), fundraising co-chairs. Thank you for your help enhancing classrooms at SMS.

**More Information:** Information packets will be coming home with your student next week. It will include a fundraising letter that we ask all families return, regardless of donation. We're looking for 100 percent participation; the grade with the most envelopes turned in gets a voucher good for Popcorn Friday. We give a \$1 snack bar voucher to every student in the first class to turn in all envelopes.

We have a lot of fun volunteer opportunities throughout the year. The donation form has an area to complete if you're interested. Or email *Pam Westphal* at [volunteers4sms@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers4sms@gmail.com)

Look for information coming home Friday about purchasing ads in **Sacajawea's student directory**.

As of today, the PAC-run **school store and afterschool snack bar** are open! Students needing basic supplies or a quick breakfast snack can buy them between 8:10 and 8:20 a.m. The snack bar is open after school.

**Volunteers! A BIG THANKS** to all who made Schedule Pick-Up Day a success! . The biggest need: Friday snack bar, after school. This is a great volunteer position, running from about 3 to 3:45 p.m.

Interested? Contact Danelle Seybert at [Danelle100@hotmail.com](mailto:Danelle100@hotmail.com).

PAC Officers for 2012-2013

**Co-Presidents:** Danielle Freeburg [dfreeburg@montanadsl.net](mailto:dfreeburg@montanadsl.net)  
Kristin Lauman [kvlauman@gmail.com](mailto:kvlauman@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Open - we could use your help!

**Treasurer:** Gary Hellenga [gary.hellenga@gmail.com](mailto:gary.hellenga@gmail.com)

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

**Volunteer coordinator:** Pam Westphal  
[volunteers4sms@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers4sms@gmail.com)

**Our first PAC meeting of the year is Monday, Sept. 15, at noon in Room 158.**

## Parent Night

Plan to join us on Thursday, September 25, for our Parent Night. Each core team will share their perspectives on the coming year, the areas of focus, and ways in which you can partner with us to support your student. Elective teachers will also be available to share their classes and plans for the programs.

- 6:00-6:45 B Core Teams
- 6:50-7:25 Elective Classes
- 7:30-8:15 A Core Teams
- PowerSchool Training 7:30/8:15

## ✪ Check This Out ✪

Parents and students can check the **Daily Bulletin** for important **current information**. To access this great information go to Power School, click on Functions, then on Daily Bulletin.

## Spring To Europe

Only a few places left for this amazing trip to France, Germany and Spain! Talk to your language teacher for more information.

## SMS Bike Club

SMS Bike Club is sponsoring Wednesday rides to school until the weather conditions do not permit bike riding. Rides will leave at 7:30am from various points in town. "Doughnut Rides" leave at 7:45 and meet at Granny's Doughnuts for a free doughnut. The bike rides are a fun way to build community at SMS as well as a way for students to explore alternative methods of transportation for getting to school.

## Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

As part of a healthy lifestyle, we encourage students to ride bikes or walk to school if feasible. However, if you do drop-off or pick-up your child during the year, please use only the north parking lot before and after school. For safety reasons, use the lane closest to the sidewalk and be respectful of other drivers and students. If waiting for a student in the afternoon, please limit the space between vehicles and turn off your engine. The loop in the front of the school is reserved for buses only

## Dates To Remember

September	15	PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00 Room #155
	23	School Photos
	25	Parent Night
	<b>29</b>	<b>PIR Day – No School K-12</b>
October	1	Assembly
	7	School Board Lunch
	10	Trimester Mid-Term
	<b>16-17</b>	<b>No School K-12</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>PIR Day – No School K-12</b>
November	3	SMS 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr B/C/O Concert SMS Gym 7:30
	10	Veterans Day Assembly, Gym
	<b>11</b>	<b>PIR Day, No School K-12</b>
	11	SMS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade B/C/O Concert SMS Gym 7:30
	17	PAC Meeting, 12:00 – 1:00pm Room #155
	25	End of First Trimester
	<b>26-28</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>



