



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

Principal's Corner

It is difficult to believe that we have already reached the midway point to the 2015-2016 school year. We are pleased to look back and recognize the successes of the year thus far and are excited about the growth that will continue through the coming months.

Students at Sac took the STAR mid-year benchmark tests in reading and math during the first three weeks of January. These assessments allow us to measure the level of proficiency for each student as well as indicators of their growth thus far this year.

As shared in the fall, the academic focus of our school this year is critical literacy—engaging with text in thoughtful ways. Our January STAR reading tests demonstrate the progress of our students toward this goal. Based on this test, 74% of our students in sixth grade showed the level of improvement desired, as did 72% of our seventh graders and 79% of our eighth graders. These numbers are short of our goal of 90%, however, at this point in the year, we celebrate the vast majority of our students making the reading progress they need to be successful in their learning. We will continue to reflect on this data—on individual and group levels—to determine even more effective ways to support our kids. Watch for your individual student's report in the next few days.

Thank you for joining us in developing this culture of reading with our students. Encourage your kids to make reading a regular part of their day. Share your own reading and take the time to ask them about their books. The love of books will bring a level of success and fulfillment for life.

≈Gordon Grissom≈

Attendance Matters

Attendance Works: Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence. See why it matters at <http://www.attendanceworks.org/about/why-it-matters/>. Once you learn more about the impact of attendance, it is not hard to understand why SMS strives to monitor and analyze all student absences.

8th Grade Parent Night

All parents and guardians of eighth grade students are invited to attend the Bozeman High School 8th Grade Parent Night on Tuesday, February 2nd. The evening will provide valuable information on freshman registration, transitions to the high school, and ways you can support your student during this time. The meeting begins at 6:00 in the south cafeteria.

PAC News

THANK YOU to all of the parents, staff and volunteers who pitched in to make Spirit Night a **BIG** success.

The Pac Needs A Treasure! Our trusty *Treasurer Gary Hellinga* has *relocated* across the world on a once in-a -life-time adventure, which means that PAC is in need of a dedicated volunteer to step in and help us out. If you are interested, please contact *Becky Ellig* at k12m09@msn.com for more details. Welcome to our new **Spirit Wear Coordinator – Renee Folsom**. Thank you so much for volunteering to fill this important position.

Mackenzie River Pizza Night – February 3rd - With a *Mackenzie River Pizza* coupon, our school receives 20% of the bill on dine-in or take-out orders. Coupons are posted each month on the school website.

Student Directory – A *digital pdf* of the *student directory* has been emailed to parents. Be looking for it in your inboxes.

Cornerstone Campaign/ Contribution Drive Update – The PAC was able to purchase 50 *Chromebooks* for the school which are currently being distributed through the school based on need. Most of the requests to the Contribution Drive have been fulfilled and are being utilized in the school. Thank you again for your contributions.

Next Meeting is February 22nd

The PAC will host special guests from Bozeman High School – *Principal, Kevin Conwell* and *Freshmen counselors, Lynn Sellegren and Laura Jantzen* to discuss and answer questions about the incoming freshman registration process and changes.

Parent Volunteers Needed

Treasurer & Vice President: We are also looking for people to shadow officer positions in preparation for next year as we have several officers moving on to high school. Please contact *Becky Ellig* at k12m09@msn.com for more information.
Smarter Balance Snack Coordinator: Organize and find donations of snacks compatible with national standards for the Smarter Balance standardized tests in the spring.

PAC Officers for 2015-2016

Co-Presidents: *Becky Ellig* k12m09@msn.com
Kristin Lauman kvlauman@gmail.com

Vice President: Unfilled Position. Please contact *Becky Ellig* at k12m09@msn.com.

Treasurer: *Gary Hellinga*
gary.hellinga@gmail.com

Secretary: *Tamara Knappenberger*
tkknappenberger@yahoo.com

Volunteer coordinator: *Julianne Williams*
volunteers4sms@gmail.com

Europe Trip News

Eighteen eighth graders are going on the SMS Europe Trip in June, 2016 to *Spain, France, & Germany* with their World Language teachers. Students are excited to meet their pen pals and explore these interesting countries! We are currently accepting donations for scholarship money to offer students. If you can, please make your *donation* to: *SMS Europe Trip Fund* and give to Julia in the main office or to one of your language teachers. Students will also be doing a number of upcoming fundraisers, so please give generously!

Current 7th graders who are interested in next year's trip may also start fundraising now, and then be sure to register for the year-long Spanish, French, or German class in 8th grade to qualify for the trip! Contact for more info: dena.gross@bsd7.org (Spanish), sally.bell@bsd7.org (French), and krista.steudel@bsd7.org (German)

Yearbook

Eighth Graders! If you would like to have your baby or toddler pictures (no posters please!) included in the year book, please hand one in to Mr. Bies or email to kenny.bies@bsd7.org by **March 4th**. Photos will be returned. The sale of yearbooks will take place in May.

Community Shout-Outs

A huge *thank you* to the *Bridger Ski Foundation* for grooming our ski track on our athletic field. The trail allows our health enhancement classes to get a great workout, develop their cross-country skills and enjoy the beauty of our winter season. Thanks as well to *Barnard Construction* for their donation to *BSF*, which supports the grooming. Another shout-out to *Oracle* for their gift-in-kind matches for any donations made towards our school up to \$300. *Employees of Oracle* can double the value of their gifts through this generous program.

Attention 6th Grade Parents

Seventh grade students *must* submit proof of a updated tetanus booster (either a Td or a Tdap) *or* the required "Religious Exemption" notarized forms, *before* starting the 2016-2017 school year. **Call Sally Owen at 522-6422** if you have any questions.

Special Olympics Polar Plunge

Teachers from SMS are participating in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge! Please help us reach our goal by donating. To make a contribution, go to the Montana Special Olympics web page (www.somt.org/events/plunge) and under the Polar Plunge section search for Team SMS and help us reach our goal to raise at least \$500! Thank you for your support.

Box Tops to the SMS Library

Please remember to send your Box Tops to the SMS library. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents 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.

YMCA Eat Live Play After School Program

Looking for a healthy alternative to students coming home to an empty house after school? The YMCA offers a two-hour after school program at Sacajawea on Tuesdays and Thursdays that focuses on nutritional snacks, interactive games and healthy lifestyles. Information and registration is available at montanaeatliveplay@gmail.com.

Dine and Donate

Support SMS by frequenting *MacKenzie River Pizza!* Dine in or take out; lunch and/or dinner. Each month, on a designated day, MacKenzie River Pizza at 232 E Main St will donate 20% of your ticket (excluding alcohol) to *SMS PAC*. Each month's coupon can be found at sms.bsd7.org/ or in the main office.

Dates To Remember

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| February | 1-3 | Talent Show Tryouts, SMS Cafeteria |
| | 4 | 6A – Bridger Bowl |
| | 4 | SMS 8 th /CJMS 8 th /BHS Choirs
Willson 7:30 pm |
| | 9 | SMS 8 th /CJMS 8 th /BHS Bands,
Willson 7:30 pm |
| | 10 | Spelling Bee, SMS Cafeteria 3:30 pm |
| | 11 | SMS/CJMS/BHS Jazz Bands
Grace Church 7:30 pm |
| | 15 | President's Day Holiday – <i>No School</i> |
| | 18 | 5 th Grade Parent Night, 6:00-7:30 pm |
| | 22 | PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00 pm |
| | 22 | SMS Orchestras, SMS Gym 7:30 pm |
| | 25 | Talent Show Rehearsal, Willson
4:00-7:00 pm |
| | 26 | Talent Show, Willson 7:00 – 9:00 pm |
| March | 4 | 7B – Bridger Bowl |
| | 4 | End of Trimester 2 |
| | 8 | 8A – Bridger Bowl |
| | 9 | 8B – Bridger Bowl |
| | 10 | SMS Choir Ensembles
SMS Gym 7:30-8:30 pm |
| | 11 | 7A – Bridger Bowl |
| | 14-18 | Spring Break – <i>No School K-12</i> |
| | 28 | PAC Meeting 12:00-1:00 pm |
| | 31 | SMS Bands, SMS Gym 7:30 pm |
| April | 18 | PAC Meeting 12:00 – 1:00 pm |
| | 21 | Student-Led Conferences 11:00-7:00 pm |
| | 21-22 | PIR Day – <i>No School K-12</i> |
| | 22 | Trimester 3 Mid-Term |
| | 27 | 5 th Grade B/O Festival at SMS |

Reminder:

Please do not send Valentine's Day flowers or balloons to school!

