

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



Principal's Corner

President Obama and the Department of Education have recently made a recommendation to review the amount of summative tests students are required to take during the course of the school year. Since the passage of No Child Left Behind legislation, high-stakes tests have been discussed for both their benefits and their drawbacks. It is a valuable conversation.

At Sacajawea, we have district assessments in each content area typically given to students semi-annually or at the end of the year. These assessments are based on the standards—district and state—for each subject and provide information for our students as a measure of their continued growth. Equally of value is the information to our staff about our curriculum, programs and quality of instruction.

We use STAR assessments three times a year for measuring student learning in math and reading. The data from these tests are used to indicate student growth through the course of the year. We want all of our students to reach proficiency, but we are also committed for each one—regardless of where he/she starts—to continue to grow.

A final note—we do not teach to the tests; we teach to the standards. The assessments measure growth toward the standards, which are those skills and concepts that will lay the foundation both for future success in school as well as in life.

Working together...

~Gordon Grissom~

Veterans Day Assembly



All family members of our students—moms or dads, grandfathers or grandmothers, brothers or sisters, aunts or uncles—who have *served* in the *military* in any capacity are invited to *join us* for our annual **Veterans Day Assembly** on **November 11 at 8:30** in the gym. We are *honored* to *recognize* your *service* for our country. A reception will follow the assembly in the cafeteria.

Attendance Matters

According to *MT Code Annotated 20-5-106 (4)(a)*, "If the child is discovered by the attendance officer to be *truant on 9 or more days or 54 or more parts of a day in 1 school year, the child may be referred to youth court as habitually truant under Title 41, chapter 5.*" Any student deemed habitually truant may also be considered a "youth in need of intervention" as defined by 41-5-103(51)(ii), MCA. Contact Sacajawea if you need assistance ensuring the regular attendance of your student.

PAC News

November Bond Issues: *Superintendent Rob Watson* and *Deputy Superintendent of Operations Steve Johnson* attended the October PAC meeting to answer questions and discuss the proposed renovation and expansion of Sacajawea if the upcoming bond is passed.

Election Day

Election Day is November 3, 2015. For more information go to

<http://www.bsd7.org/district/2015bondelection>

Update on the fall fundraising campaigns - A huge "Thank You" to all who contributed toward the Contribution Drive and Cornerstone Campaign. The PAC has approved an operating budget for the coming year based on the funds we gathered this year. Teacher requests have been submitted and will go through the approval process this month. Even though the drive and campaign have ended, you may always make a *contribution* through <https://squareup.com/market/sacajawea-middle-school-parent-advisory-council> Our **Contribution Drive** goal is \$45/student to fund teacher requests and field trips. The **Cornerstone Campaign** goal is \$40/student to work toward providing 5 Chromebooks for each classroom to supplement the carts. Contributions are tax-deductible and matching corporate donations are gladly accepted. *For questions*, please contact **Becky Ellig** at k12m09@msn.com or **Tamara Knappenberger** at tkknappenberger@yahoo.com. Thank you for helping enhance student experiences at SMS!

We Need Volunteers!

We have many of fun volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Shadowing one of the volunteer positions is a great way to get involved and check out what a volunteer role entails.

Interested? Email **Julianne Williams** at volunteers4sms@gmail.com.

The following positions are open. Please contact the person listed with the position if you are interested in filling one of these very vital roles.

Treasurer: **Gary Hellenga**, is moving in January. We need someone to fill the position for the remainder of this school year. For more information please contact Gary at gary.hellenga@gmail.com

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

Spirit Wear Coordinator: Please contact **Holly Eiden** at holly@eidenfamily.com.

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 Hellenga**

gary.hellenga@gmail.com

Secretary: **Tamara Knappenberger**

tkknappenberger@yahoo.com

Volunteer coordinator: **Julianne Williams**

volunteers4sms@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

November 16, noon - PAC October Meeting;

A guest from the Bozeman School Foundation will talk about the BSF fun run happening before the Christmas Stroll on Dec. 5th.

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

Bus Drivers Needed

First Student is looking for dedicated individuals to drive school busses. Please visit <https://apply.firstgroupcareers.com/vacancy/school-bus-driver-1041/1067/description/> for more information.

Be a CAP Mentor

Help a child in the Bozeman community thrive by becoming a mentor! Do you know someone that would like to help a student in our local schools?

CAP needs *motivated individuals* to serve as *mentors* for one hour a week during the 2015-16 school year. Find out what an *impact* can be made and how much fun can be had! Call **585-7929** or go to www.allthrive.org for more info.

PIR Day Student Activities

For the first time, we are partnering with **Gallatin United Way** to provide programs at school for our students on **PIR** Days. The **United Way** will sponsor a day camp at Sacajawea for all interested middle school students on upcoming staff development days—November 30. Information available on the **Greater Gallatin United Way** website. <http://www.greatergallatinunitedway.org>

Europe Trip 2016

Open to eighth grade in Level 1 Spanish, French & German June 2016. **The Last Day** to register is **Nov. 20**. Europe Mandatory **Parent Meeting Wed. Nov. 18, 5:30 p.m.** Bring a Spanish food to share! Meet in SMS Spanish Room 118, enter through 8th grade wing. Contact your language teacher for more info. If you'd like to donate scholarship money to help a student go to Europe, please contact us!

krista.morrell@bsd7.org, dena.gross@bsd7.org, or sally.bell@bsd7.org

SMS Library News

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be held in the library from **Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 a.m.** through **Friday, Dec. 11 at 1:30 p.m.** The fair will be open during Student-Led Conferences and the Library staff will be on hand to help you with your holiday shopping. **Free gift wrapping is also available.**

Coffee Fundraiser Pick Up

Music Department - Coffee fundraiser pick up is **November 16 - 20** after school.

Breakfast for Champions! This Isn't the School Lunch You're Used To!

Just a reminder, we now have a hot, nutritious breakfast available each day in our cafeteria. Running late, haven't made it to the grocery store, or just want to take advantage of the offer, have your kids stop by the cafeteria anytime between **7:45-8:20** for a nutritious start to the day. Cost is only **\$1.80**. Hot breakfast will provide beneficiary proteins for our students to get their day started off right. Please share this information with everyone in the community to help get the word out. While school lunches have been the target of many jokes in the past, a quick look at the updated menu on our school site will prove this type of overcooked humor is headed down the sink. **Check out the school lunch menu, which is found by clicking the red apple icon on the Sacajawea Middle School home page.** After searching for the appropriate school--Sacajawea, of course--parents and students can literally see the entire menu for the upcoming months. By clicking on any of the menu items, a picture of the dish comes up along with its entire nutritional breakdown, as well as an option to rate the meal on a five-star scale. On the right hand side of the screen, parents and students can also view carb counts for all of the week's meals, and can view filtered menus based on special diet requests! So, if the old adage is true, that you are what you eat, this is a pretty impressive way to preview who you will be for the month ahead; at least, if you are taking advantage of the improved school lunch program!

Thank You Kenyon Noble Lumber

The Sacajawea Middle School's **Outdoor Adventure Club** would like to thank **Kenyon Noble Lumber** for donating all the supplies to build bluebird-nesting boxes for our school grounds. Students built and set ten bird nesting boxes around the perimeter of the SMS school grounds in hopes of improving bird habitat and to attract bluebirds for studying future nesting return dates. We **appreciate** their **support** for this project.

Dates To Remember

November	2	SMS 8 th Grade B/C/O, SMS Gym 7:30 pm
	11	Veterans Day Assembly, SMS Gym 8:30-9:30 am
	16	PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00 pm
	24	End of First Trimester
	25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday- No School
	30	PIR Day- No School K-12
December	1	SMS Jazz Band Concert, 7:30 pm SMS Cafeteria
	8	Student-Led Conferences 4:00-7:30 pm
	10	Student-Led Conferences 4:00-7:30 pm
	11	Choir Informances
	21 – Jan. 1	Winter Break – No School K-12

