

SMS NEWSLETTER

May-June 2017

At Sacajawea, we are a compassionate community that honors grit and celebrates growth in order to face the future with a level head and a critical eye.

Principal's Message

With the snow, rain, occasional sun and mud all around us, it's clearly spring in Montana. And with the season is the recognition that our school year is also nearing an end. It always seems to have passed quickly when one reaches this point in the year, but we are looking forward to a very strong close.

This past fall, our school set out with three major areas of focus: to clearly identify the prioritized skills and concepts for each content area; to learn with and from each other as a staff to better support the learning of our students; and to manage the changes and disruption caused by the construction project. We have had success in all three areas.

At each professional development day (with the exception of April) as well as on a bi-monthly basis, our teachers have reviewed the current state and district standards, determined which of those were most essential for every student to learn at each grade level, and then began the systematic process of clearly communicating these goals to our students. The intention is to ensure that every student, regardless of the teacher or class, will be guided to mastery of the most significant skills and concepts each one needs to progress successfully.

This process has led to focused collaboration among our staff. We have had a strong commitment to understanding each student on a personal level and providing the appropriate support and challenge for each. This is frequently done in team and parent meetings, but this year we have also worked closely in the various disciplines to better align our work.

Finally, in case you have not noticed, we have been dealing with a bit of construction. A project of this size, literally right alongside a classroom--think steel being cut on the other side of the wall while we are discussing John Steinbeck--could have been overwhelming. However, with the amazing patience, persistence, and flexibility of our staff, we have maintained our focus on instruction and learning throughout the year. We also could not have done it without the awareness and responsiveness of the construction team--Martel and the other contractors have been terrific to work with! We are all very excited for the full completion by mid-August and the start of next year.

It's been a busy, yet fruitful, school year. Thank you all for sharing your sons and daughters and for partnering with us throughout the year.

≈Gordon Grissom≈

School Ballots due by 8:00 on Tuesday, May 2nd

Parent University

For more information and to register, go to
http://www.bsd7.org/students_parents/parent_university

Main Office: 522-6400

Attendance: 522-6410

The SMS **core value** for the month of April is:

"Humility"

Dates To Remember

May

- 8...SMS 7th/8th Choirs
Gym 7:30 pm
- 9...SMS Dinner Jazz
Cafeteria 6:00 pm
- 15...PAC Meeting
12:00-1:00 pm
- 16...SMS 6th Grade
B/C/O
Gym 7:30 pm
- 18...SMS 7th/8th
Bands/Jazz
Gym 7:30 pm
- 22...SMS Select Select
Choir, Café 6:00pm
- 23...SMS Dinner Orch.
Café 6:00 pm
- 23...8th Grade Jump Up
Day at BHS
- 23...5th Grade Shadow
Day.
- 26...PIR Day-**No School K-12**
- 29...Memorial Day
No School K-12
- 30...5th Grade Ice
Cream Social
4:00-5:00 pm

June

- 1...8th Grade
Celebration 7:00--
8:00 pm
- 8...Last Day of
School
12:35 Dismissal
- 8...End of Final
Grading Period
- 17...Final Report
Cards Mailed
Home

PAC News

Camp Whittier

Celebrate our great outdoors this spring at *Camp Whittier*. This fun, outdoor themed, family friendly event is open to the entire Bozeman community and will be held at Whittier Elementary School, May 20th from 11:00am - 2:00pm. Kids and families will participate in hands-on activities including geocaching, outdoor cooking, wood shop, fly fishing, and art projects. Special guests include the Montana Raptor Conservation Center (with live birds), the US Forest Service (bear, backpacking and fire education), and the Bozone Ozone Bus /Gallatin Valley Farm to School. This all-inclusive event is open to the public (rain or shine). Admission is \$5 per individual or \$20 per family and children under 2 are free. Contact the Whittier Parent Association at whittierpac@gmail.com for more information.

Talking to you children about Substance Abuse

At the April PAC meeting, *Edward Sypinski*, - *Substance Abuse Prevention Strategist at Alcohol Drug Services of Gallatin County*, spoke about the network within the Bozeman community, as well as resources and tactics regarding teen substance abuse. Follow these links for more information and resources.
https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/MakeADiff_HTML/MakeADiff.pdf
[Http://c-coda.org/parents/lets_face_it](http://c-coda.org/parents/lets_face_it)
<http://c-coda.org/parents/parentpower>
http://c-coda.org/parents/underage_drinking_prevention_app

Teacher Appreciation Week – May 1-5

PAC Meeting

Monday, May 15th with guest speaker *Kevin Conwell, Bozeman High School Principal*.

8th Grade Celebration

Plan to join us for the culminating Eighth Grade Celebration to be held at 7:00 on Thursday, June 1 in the gymnasium. The celebration will recognize the accomplishments of this past year as well as a chance to hear the thoughts and musical talents of our eighth graders. A reception will follow the celebration in our cafeteria.

Solar Panel Project

Thank you to all who have contributed to our *Solar Panel Project--Solar Makes Sense!* The proceeds raised at the recent talent show as well as various other school and community fund-raisers have resulted in over **\$7000 in contributions** in just the past month!

Back-to-School Supply Kits

The Bozeman Schools Foundation and your PAC are offering the convenient services of SchoolKidz, Inc. and their Teacher Tailored® back-to-school supply kit program. Five dollars of every kit purchased is donated to the Bozeman Schools Foundation and your PAC! These donations benefit Spark Grants, Scholarships and so much more! We offer brand name items, such as Crayola®, Elmer’s® and Staples. Each item is chosen by the teachers and is exactly what is on your child’s supply list. If you have any questions, please contact info@bozemanschoolsfoundation.org.
Online Ordering Begins: April 1st, 2017
Online Ordering Ends: June 17th, 2017
Orders are ONLY accepted online. To order your kit(s) online, please follow these simple steps:
1. Go to www.shoptkits.com 2. Enter the account number: 10443 3. Choose the appropriate grade level kit – Remember to enter the grade your student will be in next year! 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.**

Tools Needed for Service Day

All students will be participating in the **SMS Service Day on Friday, May 5th**. They will be engaging in various activities around the Bozeman area. We need your help. Please bring shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows to the 6th grade common area a day or two before the event.

Yearbook Presale!

The yearbook presale will be going on during the month of May. Look for the order forms to be coming home with your student. The cost is \$20.00. Scholarships are available. Yearbooks can be paid for by check, made out to SMS, or cash. Please turn in the order form and money to the front office and not your counselor or teachers.