



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

Principal's Corner

November 22 marked the end of Trimester 1--we have completed one-third of the school year and are looking forward to building on our early success.

With the end of the trimester comes an opportunity to reflect on the learning experienced thus far and make plans for continued growth. Student-led conferences will be held on the evenings of December 6 and 13 and will offer a chance for each student to summarize his/her learning thus far and anticipate the remainder of the year. Teachers will also be available to share their insight and perspective as well.

A significant part of middle level education, student-led conferences are intended to have the focus of the conversation include the person at the center of the learning--the student. They will be prepared to share the learning they have accomplished during this past term, their successes and challenges, and ideas for continued growth. Come prepared to have a meaningful discussion about learning.

We look forward to having you support your son/daughter in this manner.

≈Gordon Grissom≈

Expansion Update

As you have probably noticed, construction on the expansion continues at a steady pace. The brickwork is nearing completion on the wing expansions and significant work has been completed inside. Sheetrock and taping, as well as, window frames and rough-ins for plumbing and electrical have been completed in the seventh grade classrooms as well as the corner rooms in the sixth grade. On the west side, the exterior walls are almost at full height while the foundations have been poured for the gym and music expansion. We look forward to occupying six new classrooms during the December break!

Scholastic Book Fair

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be held in the library from **Tuesday, Dec. 6** through **Tuesday, Dec. 13**. The fair will be open during **Student-Led Conferences** and the library staff will be on hand to help you with your holiday shopping. Credit cards will be accepted and free gift wrapping will be available.

PAC News

A sincere *thank you to all of the families that make donations to the PAC Contribution Drive and Cornerstone Campaign*. Your generosity has allowed the PAC to start fulfilling teacher requests for learning experiences, equipment and supplies to enhance the classroom experience of our kids. We have already been able to help support the *MesoMan* presentation for 6th grade and entrance fees for the *Science Olympiad* in November through the *Contribution Drive*. From the *Cornerstone Campaign*, will continue to provide *Chromebooks* and other technological needs throughout the building, based on the most critical needs and what will be appropriate with the completion of the new construction. The PAC is always grateful to collection a donation of any amount at any time to help support our school.

January Guest Speaker

Rob Watson, Superintendent of Bozeman School District, will be *speaking* at the **January 16th PAC meeting**. He will speak about the district's vision of College and Career Readiness.

Volunteers Needed

The **PAC** is always looking for *volunteer support*, including help with the Snack Bar, Spirit Night Coordination, and very importantly a Volunteer Coordinator. Please contact **Julianne Williams** if you can have time or expertise to lend.

Williams.julianne@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates:

January 16 – PAC meeting noon – 1pm at SAC

January 27 – Spirit Night

PAC COMMITTEE

Co-Chair Becky Ellig – k12m09@msn.com

Co-Chair Julianne Williams –
williams.julianne@gmail.com

Vice Chair – Jane Mittelsteadt –
janemitt@gmail.com

Treasurer Gary Helenga –
gary.hellenga@gmail.com

Secretary Tamara Knappenberger –
tkknappenberger@yahoo.com

Gun Locks Available

Officer Vandersloot will have gun locks available in his office to give away to families in regard to gun safety at home. Two types of locks are available. Gun locks have always been available through Law Enforcement, but typically were picked up at the Law and Justice Center. To better serve our school families, these locks will be available from **SRO Vandersloot** and he will be able to demonstrate how these locks are used. Please **call Officer Vandersloot** at 522-6430 or email him at eric.vandersloot@bsd7.org for more information or set up a time to meet and pick up the gun locks.

Science/Math Exploration for Middle School Girls

The 24th Annual Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Math (EYH) Conference will be held on Saturday, April 22, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at MSU. The focus of this workshop is to encourage young women in grades 6-8 to explore a variety of math and science related professions through fun and creative hands-on workshops. Registration forms will be sent to SMS the beginning of March. Learn more at <http://eu.montana.edu/ContinuingEd/youth/>

Creating a More Healthy And Less Stressful Holiday Season

- **Set priorities:** learn to say “no” to some things - choose quality over quantity. Your main priority may simply be spending time with your children and enjoying each other’s company.
- **Plan ahead:** take charge of your holidays in advance by making lists of things to do and setting aside some time each day for them - nothing creates more stress than last minute shopping and preparations.
- **It’s healthy to want:** Do your children want things you can’t afford? That’s good! Wanting for things is an important life lesson, and an important part of life. If your children want something bad enough, empower them to come up with some ways to afford it. The value of a dollar is also an important life lesson.
- **Delegate:** you don’t have to do it all yourself - there is only so much time and people generally appreciate the opportunity to help out. The holidays present a great opportunity to empower our children to take on more responsibilities, and help out more.
- **Have realistic expectations:** if there is tension within your family it is more than likely that this will only escalate during the holiday period. You might consider visiting your relatives separately if they do not get along well or keeping them occupied when together.
- **Look after yourself:** to take care of others you need to first take care of yourself. A healthy diet, regular exercise, learning to relax and getting enough sleep will help to reduce stress.
- **Positive attitude:** try to think positive thoughts. Your thoughts influence your feelings - if you dwell on unhappy thoughts, you start to feel unhappy. Your attitude can be transferred to others and this is not helpful with children at home.
- **Give:** a gift of your time and energy not only makes us feel less stressed and like a more integral member of our community, it also role models to our children what we all feel deep down is the most important part of the holidays; Giving. For these and other fantastic parenting tips, please contact your **SMS Parent Liaison, Ashley Mares Jones at Thrive, 922-4230 or Ashley.maresjones@bsd7.org or loveandlogic.com.** **Thrive** believes when families are strong and children are successful, communities thrive. Learn more at allthrive.org

SMS Spiritwear Orders Available Online

Need a gift idea for your student? We have short- and long-sleeved SportTek t-shirts, hoodies, and ¼ zip long-sleeved pullovers. Order online at <https://squareup.com/market/sacajawea-middle-school-parent-advisory-council> and you will be contacted with pick-up details. Spiritwear will also be available for purchase at Spirit Night on January 27th.

Boy’s Basketball

Basketball practice starts **Tuesday, Jan. 3; 7th graders** will begin at **3:30** and **8th graders** will start at **5:00**. Teams will be formed the following week. A **parent meeting is to be announced**. Boys should have their **sports physical and \$80 fee** turned in to the office, and complete the '**Middle School Athletic Form**' found on your Parent Portal **before they leave for winter break**. For information email **Mr. Becker at don.becker@bsd7.org or call Karen Downes** at the high school activities office-**522-6234**.

Food Drive

The **student directed food drive raised 4,595 pounds** of food for our local food bank. Our delivery was made on 11/18 as part of the **Can the Griz/Cats** effort. A tip of the hat to leadership access kids who designed and oversaw this year's food drive. **Thank you for your donations!**

Box Tops to the SMS Library

Please remember to send your Box Tops to the **SMS library**. Each Box 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.

Dates To Remember

December	6	Student-Led Conferences All Day
	8	Student-Led Conferences All Day
	8	SMS 6 th Gr B/C/O Concert SMS Gym 7:30 pm
	12	SMS Select Choir, Café 6:00 pm
	19	6B-Bridger Bowl
	22 – Jan. 2	Winter Break – No School K-12
January	3	First day back from Winter Break
	12	Geography Bee, Library 3:30 pm
	16	PAC Meeting 12:00 – 1:00 pm
	20	Trimester 2 – Mid-Term
	23	PIR Day – No School K-12
	27	Family Spirit Night
	31	SMS 8 th /CJMS8th/BHS Choirs Willson 7:30 pm

