



SMS NEWSLETTER

March, 2018

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 Corner

Welcome to March and the hope of spring! Certainly it is somewhere on the horizon.

In spite of what the weather looks like outside, we have come to the end of Trimester 2 and are ready to step into our final term of the year. Report cards will be coming home next week and spring conferences will be scheduled for the second week of April. New electives begin for many of our students next week as well offering another opportunity for our kids to gain new experiences in the arts, tech, languages and cultures.

The spring also brings the time to begin planning for next year. This past month your eighth grade students have been provided information for high school registration and our sixth and seventh graders with elective information. We will have all students registered by the end of the first week of March.

With the conclusion of the second trimester, please take a few minutes to review your student’s progress and discuss goals and intentions for the remainder of the year. You are encouraged to use powerschool on a regular basis to have discussions with your kids on what they are learning and how it relates to their lives and future. Have them share their successes as well as areas in which they can improve. We know that regular conversations about their learning--beyond “How was school today?”--can have a positive impact on their growth.

Thanks, as always, for your partnership with us.

≈Gordon Grissom≈

Why You Should Talk With Your Child About Alcohol

About 10% of 12 year olds say they have tried alcohol, but by age 15, that number jumps to 50%. The sooner you talk to your children about alcohol, the greater chance you have of influencing their decisions about drinking. Resource (link):
<https://www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking/parent-resources/why-you-should-talk-your-child-about-alcohol>.

Main Office: 522-6400
Attendance: 522-6410

The SMS *Core Value* for March: **Humility**

Dates To Remember

March

- 2...End of Trimester 2
- 6...Madison- Bridger Bowl
- 7...Jefferson- Big Sky
- 9...Absaroka- Bridger Bowl
- 12-16...Spring Break
No School K-12
- 29...SMS Band Concert
SMS Gym, 7:30pm

April

- 2-6...Smarter Balance Testing (6th)
- 12...Student-Led Conferences
11:00 am - 7:00 pm
- 12-13...PIR Day
No School K-12
- 16-20 Used Book Sale
- 16-20 Smarter Balance Testing (7th)
- 20...Trimester 3 Mid-Term
- 23-27 Smarter Balance Testing (8th)
- 25...5th Grade
B/O Festival at SMS

Special Bozeman Parent University Offering: RUN LOCK FIGHT

**March 29, 4:30-5:30 pm at Bozeman High School
New Berg Library (2nd Floor), 205 N. 11th Avenue**

Run Lock Fight is a specific response against an armed intruder. It is a training that the school district uses for staff members but is helpful for all to know. This presentation, by District School Resource Officers (SROs) and the District’s Student Assistance Coordinator, will provide you with some of the fundamentals! The class is free of charge.

PAC News

SPIRIT NIGHT: Thank you to all who volunteered to make our Spirit Night in February a huge success. We had a record number in attendance at Spirit Night and all had a good time.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS: We will *not* have a **PAC meeting** in **March** due to spring break, but please plan on attending our **April meeting** on **April 9th** at **12 pm** in the 6th grade wing. We will have speakers to discuss the growth of e – cigarettes and vaping in adolescents. They will address the alarming trend of use among our adolescents and the health concerns of vaping and e – cigarettes. Come with your questions! We will also have a speaker on nutrition and obesity in our youth. Our last meeting of the year will be May 14th. **Mr. Grissom** will present **Standards Based Grading** and answer your questions on this new system being implemented at Sacajawea. The **5th grade ice cream social** will be in the end of **May** and **8th Grade Celebration** will be on **June 1, 2018**. Please stay tuned for volunteer sign ups. Consider helping out to make these events special for the students.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS: We are looking for volunteers to fill some positions on the **PAC** board, if you are interested in getting more involved in the PAC please contact any of the PAC officers listed below. Also if you have an 8th grader who will be at **Bozeman High** next year and you are interested in the PAC at the high school, please contact **Jane Mittelsteadt**.

PAC Officers

Jane Mittelsteadt, Co- President:

janemitt@gmail.com

Becky Ellig, Co-President:

K12m09@msn.com

Tamara Knappenberger, Secretary:

tkknappenberger@yahoo.com

Annamarie Brasseur, Co- Treasurer:

annamariebrasseru@yahoo.com

Kristen Lyle, Co- Treasurer:

kristenklyle@gmail.com

Janet Yeomans, Volunteers:

janetlyeomans@gmail.com

Arabic Language & Culture Class

We are pleased to offer an **Arabic Language and Culture Class** each **Tuesday afternoon** at **SMS** for the remainder of the year. **Mahmoud Dahroug**, a visiting teacher from **Egypt**, has been sharing information on the culture of his country as well as introducing the **Arabic** language to our students and some of our staff. Your students are welcome to join the class.

School Within a School Parent Information Meeting

This past year, SMS created a small, two-person team providing a “school within a school” environment intended for students who were not functioning to their capacity in the traditional setting. We feel that the model has been quite successful for this group of students and intend to continue the team for the coming year for next year’s seventh and eighth grade students. A parent informational meeting is scheduled for **6:00 on Thursday, March 22nd**. Please join us if you have potential interest for you student.

Thriving Families

Thriving Middle School Students

Parenting is tough! Throw smart phones, social media and adolescence together and it can be one challenging combination. Here are a few tips to up the ante of success:

1) Attend a presentation by **Officer Scott McCormick**. **Officer McCormick** is a **Bozeman Police Officer** who investigates Internet crimes against children. His title may sound heavy, but Scott is a wealth of information on how to keep our kids safe in the digital age. From information on current trends to talking points on sexting, Scott will give you the insight you are looking for. His next talk is **Wednesday, March 21st at 6pm** at **Bozeman United Methodist Church**. All are welcome to attend.

2) Consider keeping your child’s phone at night. Sleep is critical during adolescence. From brain-pruning to hormonal shifts, much is going on in the minds and bodies of our kids. Phones can impede this critical sleep. With a constant pull from friends (24/7) it may be hard for middle school students to digitally disconnect. Many parents report that since phones were removed from kids’ bedrooms, their children are happier and more awake and engaged at school.

For these and other parenting tips, contact **Ashley Mares Jones** (Bison, Yellowstone, and 8th Grade) at ashley.maresjones@bsd7.org **Libby Hansen** (Elk, Antelope, and 7th Grade) at libby.hansen@bsd7.org or call **Thrive** at **587-3840**.

6th Grade STEM Fair Update

On February 23, the 6th grade students held a STEM Fair in the 6th grade common area. All 6th graders participated sometime throughout the afternoon by presenting their Science, Technology, and Engineering focused projects to peers, teachers, and parents. It was an impressive showing by a terrific group of kids.

Science and Math Exploration for Middle School Girls

The **25th Annual Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics (EYH) Conference** will be held on **Saturday, April 21st, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm** at MSU Bozeman. 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. Conference registration opens March 13th and the cost is just \$30 which includes lunch and supplies. Space is *limited to 240 participants* and is determined on a first-come basis. Registration forms will be sent to **SMS** at the beginning of March, and will be available online after March 13th. Register early! For more information or questions contact **EYH Program Manager Nicole Soll** at (406) 994-6633 or nicole.soll@montana.edu

The Used Book Sale is Coming!

It's time to clean out your books! **SMS Library's Used Book Sale** is coming up in **April!** This is the library's most popular event, and its success depends on donations. We accept gently used books, DVDs and CDs for all ages. (No textbooks, encyclopedias, or moldy books, please!)

This year we would like *donations* brought *directly to the library*. We will keep track of the donations and award donuts to the advisory classes that bring in the most items. The goal of this year's sale is a **free book** to **EVERY STUDENT**. There will be **NO SALES** on the first day until *all C.A. classes* come through and each student selects **ONE FREE BOOK**.

Parent Email Changes

We need your help! The method we have been using to send parents and guardians emails, has changed. If your child's family uses more than this email, please access your Parent Portal and follow these steps to add an additional email or two:

1. Click on the School Messenger Icon
2. Click on the Contact Manager Icon and Choose the Contact Tab
3. Click on the Edit Pencil
4. Type the additional email(s), one per line, and click the checkboxes for the information you wish to receive from the school
5. Save

Thank you! If you have questions, or need to create a Parent Portal, please contact Sally Owen at sally.owen@bsd7.org or 522-6422.

Hawk Volleyball Update

Hawk Volleyball would like to invite any middle school student interested in volleyball to join us at open gyms starting March 19th! For more information join our email list by emailing ashley.obstar@bsd7.org, and visit our website at bit.ly/hawkvolleyballwebsite. See you on the court!

~Coach Obstar