



SMS NEWSLETTER

April, 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

Happy spring! We’ve entered our third trimester and are looking forward to the warmer weather and finishing the year strongly!

All students are scheduled to take the Smarter Balanced literacy and math tests in the coming weeks. These assessments will measure the students’ growth in their reading, writing and math skills based on the Montana State Standards in those areas. They use a rigorous test platform that will allow students to apply their skills in real-life scenarios. Note we have rescheduled the testing dates for our students: 7th grade--April 16-20, 8th grade--April 23-27, and 6th grade--April 30-May 4. Please encourage your students to demonstrate their best abilities.

Information will be sent to you shortly about our Spring Conferences to be held on Thursday, April 12. Each team will be scheduling specific times to meet with students and families as well as providing time for drop-in visits. In the next few days before conferences, students will be reflecting on their learning this year as well as looking forward to their anticipated growth in the spring and coming years. If you visit during the drop-in times, you can expect to chat informally with your student’s teachers, have your son/daughter share evidence of learning, and visit elective classrooms.

Also on April 12, we will be providing an informational meeting for parents to discuss the transition to standards-based grading which will be fully implemented at the middle schools next year. This move from the traditional to standards-based reporting will provide more accurate reporting of student learning as well as the behavior attributes necessary for on-going success. Please plan to join us at 6:00 on Thursday, April 12, in the cafeteria to learn more about the standards-based system.

Thank you for your continued support of your student’s learning and growth.

Gordon Grissom

Main Office: 522-6400
Attendance: 522-6410

The SMS *Core Value* for April: **Falcon Four**

Dates To Remember

- April**
9: PAC meeting, 12:00 pm
12: Spring Conferences
 SMS, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm
12: Standards-based
 grading parent meeting
 SMS Cafeteria, 6:00 pm
13: PIR Day **No School K-12**
16-20: Used Book Sale
16-20: Smarter Balance
 Testing 7th Grade
20: Trimester 3 Mid-Term
20: Spring Dance
 5:30 – 7:30 pm
23-27: Smarter Balance
 Testing 8th Grade
24: Talent Show Rehearsal
 Willson, 4:00-7:00 pm
25: Talent Show
 Willson, 7:00-9:00 pm
26: 5th Grade B/O
 Festival at SMS
30: Smarter Balance
 Testing 6th Grade
May
1-4: Smarter Balance
 Testing 6th Grade
7: SMS 7th & 8th Grade
 Choirs, Gym, 7:30 pm
8: SMS Dinner Jazz
 Cafeteria, 6:00 pm
14: PAC Meeting, 12:00 pm
15: Rotary Luncheon
15: SMS 6th Grade
 Band/Orchestra/Choir
 Gym, 7:30 pm
17: SMS 7th & 8th Grade
 Bands and Jazz
 Gym, 7:30 pm
17: 5th Grade Shadow Day
21: SMS Select Choir
 Café, 6:00 pm
22: SMS Dinner Orchestra
 Café, 6:00 pm
24: 8th Grade Jump Up Day
 at BHS
25: PIR Day
 No School K-12
28: Memorial Day
 No School K-12
29: Ice Cream Social
 3:30 – 5:00 pm
31: 8th Grade Celebration:
 5:30 – 7:30 pm

SMS Talent Show

Please plan to join us for our annual Talent Show at the **Willson Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 25th**. (Due to conflicting schedules, we will be holding the show on Wednesday rather than the typical Friday evening.) Our students have auditioned and rehearsed for these select spots and are looking forward to showing their amazing talent. *Rehearsal for the participants will be Tuesday, April 24th from 4:00-7:00 pm.* Hope to see you at this fun event!

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. Box top contributions to date are \$300 which will go directly to buying playaways and books for the students at SMS. Send your BOXTOPS in with your students. Thank you for supporting the SMS Library!

PAC News

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March was a busy month with spring break so we did not hold a regular PAC meeting but we are back and will be holding our next meeting on **April 9th at 12pm**, featuring a speaker on the growth and dangers of e cigarettes in our youth. Our final meeting of the year will be **May 14th at 12pm**, with our own Mr. Grissom speaking on the new grading system at Sacajawea. Please consider attending to gain valuable insight to help your children navigate middle school and beyond.

DO YOU KNOW THE PAC DOES?

We meet and organize speakers for our monthly meetings. We pick subjects that we feel will help parents navigate the middle school years with their children. If you have any ideas for future meetings please contact **Jane Mittelsteadt** or **Becky Ellig**. In addition, our major role is fundraising, which we do in the form of our contribution drive every fall. Those funds help supplement programs and buy equipment to help educate your children. This year we were able to fund field trips, speakers, spelling bee and science olympiad participation, calculators for math class, kitchen supplies for the world language classroom, and an accompanist for band, choir and orchestra concerts. In addition, we were able to purchase 20 chrome books, approaching our goal to have one available for every child in each class. These funds are invaluable which means the job of the PAC is very important in the lives of our students. We also help run the school store and snack bar. We are looking for new members for the 2018-19 school year, so please consider volunteering for a position. The time commitment is minimal (requiring attendance at our monthly pre-PAC and PAC meetings.) **Your kids need you! Contact any PAC member if you are interested.**

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, Volunteer Coordinator:

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.

Special Event: Jason DeShaw “Serenity in the Storm”

The Bozeman School District is partnering with The Help Center, Realize Hope, Montana State University and The Yellowstone Club Found. to bring you **Jason DeShaw “Serenity in the Storm” on April 3rd at the Willson Auditorium, 6:30 – 8:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm).**

Admission is *FREE* and open to the public. *In kind donations will be accepted on behalf of The Help Center and Realize Hope.*

Mr. DeShaw is a national award-winning speaker and singer/songwriter who shares his journey with mental illness and addiction. His journey to help others has taken him to schools, communities, and psychiatric hospitals across the country. He received the Champions Award in Washington DC for “exhibiting courage, leadership, and service on behalf of all people living with mental illness.” His presentations aim to give everyone a better understanding of mental illness, addiction, and suicide.

He is also scheduled to perform at SMS on May 9th.

Thriving Families

Struggling to get your middle school student to talk? Wish they would open up more? Family schedules are busy and hectic. Even brief moments talking can deepen our relationship with our child. Here are a few tips to foster conversation with your child:

1. Talk when you are side by side.

Opportunities for short check-ins can be found in many places, such as driving in the car, playing basketball, walking the dog together, or chatting at bedtime. Face to face conversations can be intense for tweens and teens. Side by side conversations, although brief, can be powerful and filled with insight.

2. Use open-ended questions.

Open-ended questions deepen dialogue with our kids. They encourage elaboration and discussion. Closed-questions are answered with a yes or no and limit communication between the parent and child. Examples of open-ended questions include: What was it like for you? How would you like that to be different? What worries you about that? What are your thoughts about that? What might you do next?

For these and other parenting tips, contact your Thrive Parent Liaisons at SMS:

Libby Hansen & Ashley Mares Jones
406-522-6469 406-522-6473

Solo/Ensemble Orchestra Performances

Orchestra students will be performing Solo and Ensemble performances during class time on **Thursday, April 19th**. This is during Orchestra students’ regularly scheduled Orchestra class during the school day. The performances should last about 30-40 minutes. Please email hollie.sexton@bsd7.org with questions.

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** will begin **Tuesday, April 17th**. 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* through **Wednesday, April 11th**. We will keep track of the donations and award donuts to the advisory classes that bring in the most items. On **Monday, April 16th**, the day before the sale, every student can select one *free* book. There will be no sales on this day to ensure a good selection for all.

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 from Coach Obstar

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!

Congratulations SMS Computer & Robotics Club!

Congratulations to the SMS Computer and Robotics Club members who worked hard all year. They won the State Championship and earned a spot at the VEX World Robotic Championship. This is a big win for SMS!

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Update

What is the Youth Risk Behavior Survey?

The Youth Risk Behavior (YRBS) assists educators and health professionals in determining the prevalence of health-risk behaviors as self-reported by Montana youth. The Bozeman School District Foundations/Safety committee comprised of District staff, teachers, principals, and parents reviewed the YRBS data in January 2017. The committee set actionable goals around facilitating positive student behavior based on trends observed in the YRBS data. The goals include increasing the proportion of students getting at least 8 hours of sleep on week nights by 3-5% each survey year, decreasing tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use by 5% each survey year, and increasing fitness by 3% annually. Bozeman School District recognized the importance of sharing this information with care providers and the community.