



# SMS NEWSLETTER

December - January 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

Seasons Greetings! With the holiday season approaching, it is another reminder that we have already completed one-third of our school year. It has been a busy time--opening up the new portions of our building, welcoming the largest class we have ever had, establishing the routines and learning habits that will support our kids throughout the year, and not getting lost in the building. All significant events!

The end of the first trimester brings a valuable opportunity to look at each student’s progress and identify goals for the remainder of the year. At Sacajawea, we are continuously emphasizing growth--all students are recognized for their current learning and supported in furthering their understanding and ability across each content area. We recognize the importance of the students knowing their level of understanding, believing that they can grow, and being able to identify how to continue to improve. We also know that your understanding and support of their learning is essential to your child’s growth.

For all of these reasons, we are looking forward to student-led conferences in the coming week. On the afternoon and evening of December 12 and 14, we are requesting that you join us here at school with your student as they share their learning from the previous term, identify their strengths and challenges, and determine goals and strategies to continue to develop. Although not leading the discussion, teachers will be available to provide their perspective and answer questions you or your student may have. Conferences will be scheduled for half-hour blocks of time in advisory classrooms with the following 30 minutes available to check in with other teachers working with your son/daughter.

We look forward to having you join us for conferences and continuing to partner with us in supporting your student.

Gordon Grissom

Main Office: 522-6400  
Attendance: 522-6410

The SMS *core value*:  
December: “Compassion”  
January: “Generosity”

### Dates To Remember

- December**
- 7...SMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
B/C/O Concert,  
SMS Gym 7:30pm
  - 11...SMS Select  
Choir/ESO  
7:30pm
  - 12...Student-Led  
Conferences  
4:00pm – 7:30pm
  - 14...Student-Led  
Conferences  
4:00pm – 7:30pm
  - 15...Team Antelope  
Bridger Bowl
  - 18...Team Elk  
Bridger Bowl
  - 21-Jan. 2... Winter Break  
**No School K-12**

- January**
- 3...First Day Back  
from Winter Break
  - 11...Geography Bee,  
Library 3:30 pm
  - 15...PAC Meeting  
12:00 – 1:00 pm
  - 19...Trimester Two  
Mid-Term
  - 22...PIR Day  
No School K-12
  - 30...SMS 8<sup>th</sup>/CJMS 8<sup>th</sup>  
BHS Choirs,  
Willson 7:30 pm

### Bozeman School District Parent University

**Bozeman Parent University is changing to keep up with busy families!** Watch and listen to short informational videos and podcasts on topics of interest to families! **BPU-On The Go** will feature district and community presenters in a format you can enjoy from anywhere! We know families are busy but that doesn’t mean low interest in our topics! Previously scheduled **BPU** events are going **DIGITAL!** We’ll be bringing you information you can use in smaller doses that will be accessible 24/7. Look for **BPU-On The Go** on **Facebook** and the **BSD website**.

### Drop-Off/Pick-Up Reminder

Parents may **drop-off** or **pick-up** students in either the **north parking lot** or the **front oval** before and after school. With the **busses** confined to the **south parking lot**, either of the other two locations are available for parent vehicles. For the safety of your kids, please remember to **pull to the curb** when dropping them off.

### SAT CHALLENGE

The SAT Challenge has not been updated for this year by the **Montana AGATE** organization. We have not received any information for this year. If you have any questions please contact **Mark Salo** @ mark.salo@bsd7.org

PAC News

Our next *PAC* meeting is *January 15<sup>th</sup>* at *12pm* to *1pm*. Come listen to a *panel of experts* discuss *helping your child cope with their social and emotional needs during middle school*. *Santa Run for Education* hosted by the *Bozeman Schools Foundation*: Come run off some holiday calories and support education in our community. When *registering* select *Sacajawea* as the school you are representing. The school with the *largest percentage* of participants receives \$500. *To register go to:* [www.facebook.com/SantaRunForEducation](http://www.facebook.com/SantaRunForEducation).

Spirit Night

Spirit night will be *February 2<sup>nd</sup>*. We will be forming a committee of people interested in helping organize this wonderful event. Contact *Janet Yeomans* at [janetlyeomans@gmail.com](mailto:janetlyeomans@gmail.com) if you are interested in contributing.

Stem Education

*Stem* education in elementary schools: Have you heard of the initiative to introduce STEM courses into our elementary schools? *Bozeman Schools Foundation* is aiming to raise funds to provide supplies and training to all elementary schools. They are at 90% of their goal, if you or your business want to support this effort to introduce *STEM* courses to our elementary students, consider contributing. Contact: [anne@bozemanschoolsfoundation.org](mailto:anne@bozemanschoolsfoundation.org).

PAC Officers

*Jane Mittelsteadt, Co- President:*  
[janemitt@gmail.com](mailto:janemitt@gmail.com)  
*Becky Ellig, Co-President:*  
[K12m09@msn.com](mailto:K12m09@msn.com)  
*Tamara Knappenberger, Secretary:*  
[tkknappenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:tkknappenberger@yahoo.com)  
*Annamarie Brasseur, Co- Treasurer:*

SMS Library

The *SMS Library* continues to collect BOXTOPS for education. We use this funding to purchase books for *Literature Circles* and checkout. *Thank you* for your support.

Parent Night Bozeman High School

*Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>*, is the *Bozeman High School* registration information night for parents/guardians of current *8<sup>th</sup> grade* students. The *meeting* will be from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. More information will be coming via emails and a flyer. If you have any questions or concerns please contact *Kenny Bies* at 600-5211 or email: [kenny.bies@bsd7.org](mailto:kenny.bies@bsd7.org)

Thriving Families

Feeling *stressed* as the holidays approach? You are not alone! Most families feel extra pressure as holidays near. Here are a few tips to help you, and your family, stay centered:

1. *Strive for eight! Sleep expert* and *Bozeman author, Mary Sheedy Kurcinka*, states that 80% of behavioral problems in kids are sleep-related. With kids' activities and homework, sleep is the first to go. Create a quiet home environment in the late evening and remove screens from the bedroom.
2. *Rest and play*. Downtime is critical as most family schedules are action-packed. Carve out time to take a walk, eat dinner together or watch a movie as a family.
3. *Remember that our best is good enough!* Perfection is a myth according to author, *Brene Brown*. Try to strive for excellence instead perfection. Model "*Healthy Striving*" for kids. For these and other parenting tips, connect with your *Thrive Parent Liaisons*: *Libby Hansen* (Elk, Antelope and 7<sup>th</sup> grade) and *Ashley Mares Jones* (Bison, Yellowstone and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) either through the *SMS office*, *522-6400* or at *Thrive, 587-3840*.

Hour of Code for Grades 2-8

Celebrate *Computer Science Education Week* at the *Bozeman Public Library* and code your way through the worlds of *Minecraft, Disney Moana and Frozen, and Star Wars*. Spend an hour learning the basics of computer coding and have a great time too! Participants receive a custom *2017 Hour of Code Library* pin and a certificate. No previous experience is needed. Each session lasts 90 minutes and registration is required. Sign up at [www.bozemanlibrary.org/events/computer-classes](http://www.bozemanlibrary.org/events/computer-classes) to reserve your spot today. All sessions will be in the LAB (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

Monday, Dec. 4: 6:30-8 pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 5: 3:45- 5:15 pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 6: 6:30- 8 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 7: 3:45- 5:15 pm  
Saturday, Dec. 9: 10:15- 11:45 am  
Saturday, Dec. 9: 2- 3:30 pm  
Monday, Dec. 11: 6:30- 8 pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 12: 3:45 – 5:15 pm  
Wednesday Dec. 13: 6:30- 8 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 14: 3:45- 5:15 pm

**CODE FOR GROWN-UPS:** Why do kids get to have all the fun? They don't! If you have ever thought about computer coding or wonder what all the fuss was about, we invite you to join us for a special *Hour of Code* event for grown-ups *Tuesday, December 19 from 6- 8 pm* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor LAB. Have fun while the Hour of Code tutorials teach you the basic principles of computer coding. It only takes an hour and you may well discover a brand-new passion. It's never been easier to start coding! No prior experience is required. Reservations are required. Sign up at [www.bozemanlibrary.org/events/computer-classes](http://www.bozemanlibrary.org/events/computer-classes).

### **Robotics Competition**

The **SMS VEX “In the Zone”** robotics competition will be held on **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** in the **SMS half gym**. The competition will be from **9:00 am to 3:30 pm**. **Adult volunteers** are needed to help on **Friday** to move the competition field, or early **Saturday** to help with set up. Volunteers are also needed for judging, check in, and general supervision. Please contact **Gordon Chamberlain** @ [gordon.chamberlain@bsd7.org](mailto:gordon.chamberlain@bsd7.org) for more information and/or if you can volunteer.

### **Intramural Basketball**

Intramural **BB for girls 6<sup>th</sup> grade BB** will begin in **January**. Their season will coincide with the girls 7/8 season starting in January.