



# SAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BOISE NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY 26, 2023**



**Semester 1 grades** have been posted in Skyward Family/Student Access under the Portfolio tab. You should have received an email from [skyward@sageinternationalschool.org](mailto:skyward@sageinternationalschool.org) with instructions, but you can also find them [here](#). If you do not remember your password, you can click the "Forgot your Login/Password" link. Please reach out directly to your student's teacher with any questions about grades.



**Re-enrollment for the 2023-24 school year begins Monday, January 30th!** You will be receiving an email again from "Skyward" to remind you, and will have until February 12th to complete it and secure your student's spot for next year! This is also your opportunity to enter any siblings of current students in the lottery. If your student will not be returning to Sage next year, there are also instructions for that form in the email.



**It's COLD!** Please be sure your student is dressed appropriately for the weather, we try to get outside when conditions allow. It is also very helpful to write their name on the tag of clothing items so we can return them when lost. Thank you!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**January 30** - Re-enrollment for 2023-24 opens

**February 3** - Instructional Friday for Grade 12

**February 8** - Lottery Info Night 4:30 - 5:30

**February 20 - 24** - Winter Break, no school

**March 2** - New Family Lottery for 2023-24 School Year

**April 10 - 14** - Holiday Break, no school

## STAY IN TOUCH

Other than this newsletter, our website is the best resource for general info about Sage. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



## OUR MISSION

“ Sage International School engages students within an inclusive IB learning community, challenging all members to take risks and contribute locally and globally through open-minded inquiry. ”

## A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON:



Dear Families and Staff of Sage International Schools,

Tomorrow is [Holocaust Remembrance Day](#), the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz - one of the most widely recognized symbols of the Nazi planned and led Holocaust of Jewish people and other vulnerable groups such as LGBTQ people, Sinti, Roma, priests, ministers, people with disabling conditions, and people considered to be enemies of the State (the Nazi Party). Please click [here](#) to learn more about the Holocaust.

I ask each of you to take a moment to remember all of the victims of the Holocaust. If you are on our Boise campus, stop and look at our school's portrait of Anne Frank just inside the main entryway and consider her life and the lives of those swept away in this genocide. Another local place to learn, consider and think about Anne Frank's life and human rights in general is Boise's Wassmuth Center and the adjacent Anne Frank Memorial.

Antisemitism is alive and well in Boise, the United States and around the world. Similarly, hate crimes and violence inspired by hate towards vulnerable groups continues.

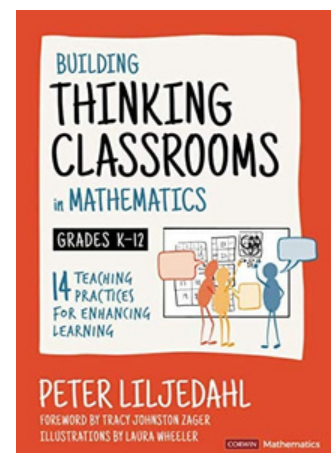
Inclusion is at the heart of our mission at Sage International Schools. Take action today to make sure the people around you, the people that you meet and the people with whom you are in contact with electronically feel valued, respected and supported.

All the best in this time of remembrance,  
Andy Johnson

## LIFELONG LEARNERS

### Schoolwide Teacher Training: A Glimpse into our Friday Work

Among other professional development opportunities, teachers in grades K-10 will team together this spring to complete a book study on *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics* (Liljedahl). As the title suggests, this text focuses on practical and specific ways we can increase critical thinking and engagement in mathematics. Each book study session will be led by a teacher-team whose members will act as facilitators and collaborators for the staff as a whole.



## A MESSAGE FROM DANNY SOLOMON, DEAN OF STUDENTS AND CAMPUS OPERATIONS



It's cold! You may have noticed that we have moved students inside several mornings during drop-off the last few weeks.

If you're curious about how we decide when kids are inside vs. outside, here is our typical practice:

- Inside if it is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit
- Inside if the air quality is in the unhealthy range (more info here)
- Inside if the precipitation is such that students will be wet, no matter how well they dressed for the weather
- Inside if there is something occurring in the community that we want to avoid exposing students to (typically related to safety, such as a stray animal, etc.)

We can always use your help in having students dressed to thrive in the day's weather, knowing they are outside for up to half an hour at a time (longer for PE, conditions allowing). It also helps speed up the pick-up and drop-off process if students are prepared to jump out of or into the car upon your arrival.

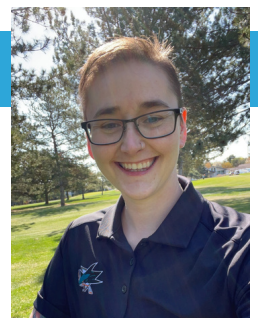
We have also had a few concerned citizens share worries over unsafe driving on Parkcenter. Please continue to follow all traffic laws to keep ourselves and our community safe. I always appreciate how well the Sage community represents itself. Let's turn the least-fun, rush-hour traffic into an opportunity to elevate our community.

Thank you for all you do to keep our students safe and well-prepared for each day of rigorous learning!

## FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

**From Britany Meduna:**

- Save the date for the PNACAC Spring College Fair at Boise State on April 29th, 2023. This is a great place to start looking at and learning about colleges. All high school students are encouraged to attend. More communication will be sent out closer to the date!
- [Next Steps Idaho](#) has great resources for students in grades 8-12 looking to be College and Career ready! Find suggestive checklists for each grade, take quizzes to help narrow down your future plans, and scholarship opportunities.
- Students in 11th grade will be taking the SAT in April. Start studying now with [Khan Academy's SAT prep!](#)
- If your senior needs a mid-year transcript sent to colleges, please have them contact me.



## FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

### From Ashley Rivers:

Hello Sage Families,

I hope the year is going well for you so far. We've been enjoying the start to our second semester and are proud of our kids for working hard on their MAP testing. We are proud of them!

Whether it's the winter blues setting in or the start of the new year, I have been hearing a bit more 'worries' from kids lately. Worries that quickly turn into anxiety or fear. Because of this, I wanted to share a tip with families so that you can support kiddos at home when they are feeling worried or nervous about something - try turning their worry into wonder.

Often, when a child expresses fear or worry, our initial reaction is to say: "There's nothing to worry about." But, even adults know that facing something new or doing something hard — even when it's a good thing — can be stressful. Plus, saying this can make kids think that they shouldn't feel the way that they do, which can be harmful to your child and your relationship.

Instead, listen and show them that you understand and accept their worries. Second, help them rephrase their worries and turn them into wonder. Here is a [helpful graphic](#) with some tips!

By the way, this is not just helpful for kids - I use it on myself and find it to be very helpful! Enjoy the rest of your January!



## DANCES TONIGHT!



Both our Middle School and High School programs are hosting FUN dances tonight that we hope your student will attend!

**Middle School's "Winter Wonderland Ball"** for students in 6-8th grades is from 6:30 - 10:00 in the Sage Main Cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 at the door and snacks and hot cocoa will be available for purchase! "DJ Freezy" (science teacher Mr. Freers) will be spinning their favorite hits!

**High School's "Winter Masquerade"** semi-formal for students in 9-12th grades is from 7:30 - 10:30 at "The Lounge at the End of the Universe" located at 2417 Bank Dr. in Boise. Cost is \$10, or \$15 for two and tickets can be purchased at the door.



## THE PYP WITH KATE HUNTER



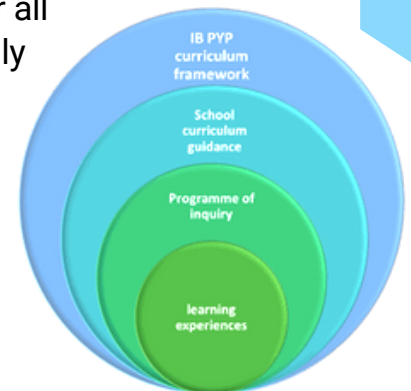
### Report Cards, State Standards, IB – how it all fits together

Many IB Schools worldwide, including Sage, use the IB PYP as their foundational structure while weaving in required local or national standards (in our case, the [Idaho Content Standards](#)). This IB Blog Post provides an excellent overview of this approach: “Instead of a conventional curriculum, the IB uses curriculum frameworks that give flexibility and freedom for local curriculum to be designed in schools so they can best meet the needs of their own learners”.

It is with this in mind that we design our curriculum around the PYP’s transdisciplinary themes (i.e., the [Programme of Inquiry](#)) and fit the key Idaho Content Standards within those themes by grade level.

On your child’s report card, then, you will see scores on a proficiency scale of 1 to 4, focusing on the key topics of the Idaho Content Standards (ex, Reading Comprehension or Operations and Algebraic Thinking). Of course, these key topics house unique standards at each grade level that develop in complexity. You will also see scores on the report card in the areas of Approaches to Learning, which are IB-identified traits that are important for all of us to develop (ex, Communication Skills). We report primarily on Idaho State Standards because ultimately we are a public school – and proud of it! – and our report cards need to be easily read and understood in our local context.

To the right is a visual representation of how these systems coordinate together:



### Classroom Spotlight, 2nd Grade

To see how state standards can integrate into the larger IB Programme of Inquiry, consider the current 2nd-grade PYP inquiry unit “How We Express Ourselves”. Students are studying various forms of human communication and expression, taking a field trip to visit the [James Castle House](#) here locally, and weaving in Idaho Content Standards that ask them to conduct short research tasks (an English Language Arts Content



Standard) and compare defining attributes of two- and three-dimensional shapes (a Math Content Standard, and an excellent one for analyzing the work of James Castle!).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Kate Hunter if you have any questions about how the PYP and Idaho Content Standards work together.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ZACH PARKER



Semester one is complete and grades are posted on your [Skyward Family Access](#) account. We will be holding Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday evening, Feb 2nd, and Friday morning, Feb 3rd ONLY for parents who have students who failed one or more classes. For all inquiries into how students are progressing, I encourage everyone to kindly reach out to teachers and ask for a brief update.

For the first time, our 7th grade class has been invited to participate in the [McCall Outdoor Science School](#) at the end of March. MOSS is an educational opportunity that connects our students with Graduate students from the University of Idaho. Students and chaperones will be attending four days and three nights for this great opportunity. For 7th grade parents, please see [this video](#) sent to you on Monday, January 23.

Our 7th grade Design classes had guests from the [Idaho Assistive Technology Project](#) visit to speak with students about the role that assistive tech can play in the lives of people with disabilities. The kids were able to explore and try out several of the devices and technologies themselves!



## HIGH SCHOOL WITH BRANDY BURKETT



**Semester grades have been posted:** Grades are available through your [Skyward Family Access](#) account. As a reminder, your student's GPA is calculated by semester grades. Please take a moment to review your high schooler's grades and feel free to reach out to their teachers, high school counselor Brittany Meduna, or Brandy Burkett if you have questions or concerns. We do not have any parent/teachers conferences scheduled until the Spring, but we would be happy to schedule a meeting with you as needed!

**Graduation plans and details:** We are excited to announce our plans for the commencement ceremony for the Class of 2023! This year, Sage seniors will celebrate at the Boise State Special Events Center (known as the SPEC) on the evening of Tuesday, May 23, 2023. This venue is much larger and allows for a greater capacity than in years past and graduates will now be allotted (8) tickets each! Families of seniors can expect to receive email updates as the date approaches.

## SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

National School Choice Week takes place every year and informs, inspires, and empowers parents to discover the K-12 education options available for their children, while generating widespread public awareness of the importance of school choice. School choice means giving parents access to the best K-12 education options for their children. We appreciate and are so grateful for the choice YOU have made to be a part of our Sage International Community!



## GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR SAGE COMMUNITY

- The Sage PTO is sponsoring a **K-5 Winter Luau on February 2nd** from 5:30-8 pm. Families, throw on your tropical best and escape the cold with our winter luau, "Passport to Paradise". Enjoy a night of fun with dancing, games, and prizes. PTO is looking for volunteers from families K-12 including high school students. Click [here](#) for volunteer opportunities, thank you!
- **Community Supplies:** We are mid-way through the year and in typical fashion, are running very low on some of the community supplies many of you graciously donated when school started! Specifically, we have a **high need for kleenex and disinfecting wipes**. You can donate by ordering them from our [Amazon Wishlist here](#) or drop them off at any front desk. Thank you!
- We are creating a **Parent Ambassadors Program** for families who are new to Sage. Our veteran families are a valuable resource for new families, and volunteering may include attending info nights, reaching out via phone and/or email, writing personal notes, etc! You can volunteer by completing [this form](#), thank you.
- **Mind the Gap: THANK YOU** to everyone who has donated. We have raised almost \$55k of our \$100k goal! We are hoping for participation from ALL families this year in any amount and hope you will consider a gift to Sage to support the opportunities we provide your students. You can find more information [here](#).



## ENRICHMENT

**Our Snow Team** has competed in two races so far this season! At last week's race the Middle School team came in 10th out of 50 teams, with Evie Byron placing 6th in the Expert Ski and Ollie Whitlock 1st in the Intermediate Snowboard. Congrats! The High School team finished 11th out of 39 teams with several athletes placing in the top 10:



Sam Lewis - 7th in Expert Ski  
Oskar Hansen - 1st in Advanced Ski  
Rufus Taylor-Keys - 8th in Advanced Ski  
Wyatt Tucker - 3rd in Expert Snowboard

Jacob Nice - 7th in Expert Snowboard  
Cambel McKenzie - 1st in Intermediate Snowboard  
Arks Lloyd - 10th in Freestyle

Next race is this Saturday, High School has an 11:30 am start time and Middle School is 12:00 pm. You can find more information about their races [here!](#)

**Artemis ROADS:** The (Rover Observation And Drone Survey) program for 7th-8th grade students will be led by Ms. Baker and Mr. Mercer for the duration of second semester. ROADS takes inspiration from real NASA projects and guides students on a space-related mission. Meeting dates are 1/23-5/22 on Mondays from 11:49-12:24 in Mr. Mercer's room. Students can email for more information: [bryce.mercer@sageintl.org](mailto:bryce.mercer@sageintl.org), [morgan.baker@sageintl.org](mailto:morgan.baker@sageintl.org)

**Heart & Sole:** This middle school program offered through Girls on the Run meets the unique needs of girls of all abilities in **6th-8th grade**. The program considers the whole person – body, brain, heart, spirit and social connection. All program participants train for and run a 5K. Find more details and register [here](#).

**Location:** Sage Boise Campus

**Dates:** Weekly on Tuesdays starting March 7th from 3:45 - 5:45  
End of the season 5K will be on May 19th

**Camp Invention:** A STEM Summer Camp Program for Grades K-6 that turns curious kids into innovative Thinkers! Introducing their all-new program for 2023, Wonder! This camp is held on our Sage Boise Campus for all students entering Grades K-6 in the fall.

**Dates:** 7/10/23 - 7/14/23 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

You can [learn more here](#), and save \$25 with early registration, discount information can be found [here](#).

**Improv Club:** Introduces students in 9th-12th grade to theater arts through the lens of improvisation and theater games. Interested students will need to submit [this application](#) to Mr. Calderon to apply.

**Community Opportunities** - You can find other activities offered for all ages in our community [here!](#) If you would like to add something, please email [info@sageintl.org](mailto:info@sageintl.org).

