**April 2015 Newsletter**

**Sacajawea Middle School**

**Main Office and ATTENDANCE 522-6410**

**Principal’s Corner**

As we begin the third trimester, we are entering an important period of time in our school year. Our students have been building their learning and developing their skills throughout the year; we will continue to provide opportunities for them to apply that learning and gain even greater understanding. As mentioned in last month’s newsletter, the students will also be demonstrating their learning through summative assessments. The eighth graders completed the science CRT in early March and all of our students will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments in the coming weeks.

Our upcoming Spring Conferences will provide an opportunity for your students to share their learning with you. Conferences are scheduled for April 9th and will offer a chance for the kids to discuss what they have been learning, their successes, and their commitments for further growth. In each class, they will reflect on the specific skills and concepts they have gained during this past term as well as identify habits they will continue to develop to enhance their learning.

The Spring Conferences will also provide an opportunity for parents and guardians to chat with their student’s teachers. Our staff will be available to discuss the year and the progress of the kids. Letters with additional details are being sent home with students during the first week of April.

We look forward to seeing you on the 9th. Thank you, as always, for partnering with us in the development of your students.

≈Gordon Grissom≈

Smarter Balanced Assessments

Our students will be demonstrating their learning through the Smarter Balanced Assessments in April and early May. Each grade level will be taking reading and math tests. These tests are computer-based and responsive to each student which should provide meaningful results for the students and families as well as for the school. This information will further guide our instructional program and assist us in meeting the specific needs of each individual.

The testing will occur on the following weeks:

* 6th grade—April 20-24;
* 7th grade—April 27-May 1;
* 8th grade—May 4-8.

Please ensure your student is fully prepared to demonstrate their learning—well-rested, well-nourished, and confident in their abilities.

PAC News

We get many donations from parents and grandparents, and we're grateful for each one, no question, but every so often a special gift arrives deserving extra recognition, and that happened this month. It comes via two Sacajawea students, seventh graders ***Dominic Bidegaray*** and ***McCade O'Reilly***. The duo created a company, Bozeman Bands, for ***Mr. Perry's*** Entrepreneur Access Class and sold wristbands during Spirit Night. They opted to donate 20 percent of their proceeds to a local nonprofit: The Sacajawea Parent Advisory Council!

So thank you, ***Dominic*** *and* ***McCade***, for your $34 donation. We'll put it to good use here in the school.

**Matching Grant for ChromeBooks**

Speaking of donations: Thanks to your generosity this fall, PAC purchased new MacBooks and software for the Technical and Video Productions class plus two full carts of 30 Chromebooks each as part of our **Cornerstone Campaign**. The first cart is at the school and getting rave reviews. The second have just arrived. The computers are in such demand that principal ***Gordon Grissom*** has earmarked $3,500 for a third cart so each grade level can have its own. We need to match that. Let's make that third cart a reality this spring. PAC's philosophy is to spend money as fast as we get it so the benefits of your donations quickly accrue to your students. We don't have a deep savings account. Chromebooks cost the district about $280 each; a full cart of computers runs about $11,000. We'd love your help: If you missed our fall campaign, if your donation envelope is still in the bottom of your child's backpack (it's happened!), if you're getting a little extra refund from the taxman this year, help us make this match. Any amount is appreciated, whether you can buy a computer with a $280 donation or kick in $10 or $20. You can donate online at our **Cornerstone Campaign** here: http://squareup.com/market/sacajawea-middle-school-parent-advisory-council

**Mackenzie River Pizza Night**

Who doesn't love pizza? Only two more **MacKenzie River Pizza** nights left in the school year: April 15 and May 20. MacKenzie will donate 20 percent of your tab (minus alcohol) to PAC. You can eat there or order for carry out. The hitch? You need a coupon, sent via email from SMS or available for download on the school website, http://sms.bsd7.org. There will also be some at the restaurant. Just don't forget to use the coupon!

**Cookies Needed!**

Student-led conferences run 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 9. We'll be providing muffins, cookies and other treats for teachers and staff that day. Want to put a smile on a teacher's face? Drop off your goodies in the office on the afternoon of April 8 or the morning of April 9. Contact ***Pika Fisher Meyer*** at *pika@bresnan.net* to help.

**Snacks Needed!**

While we're talking treats: PAC offers each student at SMS a nutritious snack during the Smarter Balanced testing period, which runs for three weeks starting April 20. We need about 240 individually packaged snacks every school day from April 20 through May 8. Goldfish, cheese crackers, peanut butter crackers, Ritz Bits, yogurt covered raisins or pretzels, GoGo SqueeZ, cheese sticks, Go-Gurt, etc. all are much appreciated by hungry students. Drop off snacks at the office any time this month. Note: Anything containing nuts must be packaged by the producer – not sorted into baggies at home – to prevent cross-contamination. Look for more information via email, or contact ***Kendice Rollison*** at ***kendi@rollisons.com*** with questions or to help.

**Staff Appreciation Help**

We always like to recognize our fantastic team at Sacajawea during Staff Appreciation Week, May 4 - 8. Look for more information later in April, or contact Hospitality Committee coordinator ***Sarah Sobek*** *at* ***sarahsobek@gmail.com.***

**Volunteer Opportunities**

We welcome parents who want to get involved in the SMS community. We have several positions open this year and next; volunteering is a great way to get involved in school: Treasurer, Volunteer coordinator, Spirit Wear coordinator, Health Enhancement shirts coordinator. Make a difference. Contact volunteer coordinator ***Pam Westphal*** at *volunteers4sms@gmail.com* for more information, or simply join us at our next PAC meeting.

**Upcoming PAC Meetings**

We are honored to host Superintendent **Rob Watson** on **Monday, April 20 at noon.** This is your opportunity to share your views and offer feedback to the very top level of the school district. On **May 18** Bozeman High School principal **Kevin Conwell** will join us: Pay attention 7th grade parents! A lot will happen very quickly next year with your soon-to-be eighth grader. This is a chance to get an early start. Join us!

**PAC Officers**

Co-Presidents:

 **DanielleFreeburg** dfreeburg@montanadsl.net

 **KristinLauman** kvlauman@gmail.com

Vice President:

 **SarahMcLain** sckenna@gmail.com

Treasurer:

 **Gary Hellenga** gary.hellenga@gmail.com

Secretary:

 **Douglas Fischer** fischwing@gmail.com

Volunteers:

 **Pam Westphal** volunteers4sms@gmail.com

SMS PAC is on Facebook: Friend us at "Sacajawea Pac Bozeman Montana."

**SMS Talent Show**

The ***SMS Talent Show*** will be held Friday, April 17th at the Willson Auditorium at 7pm.  Admission is $5.00.

**Montana History Day Results**

On Saturday, March 28th, SMS seventh graders competed against students from across Montana at Montana History Day.  The top two places in each categoroy qualified for nationals at the University of Maryland - College Park June 14-18th.  Students had to relate their topic to the theme, leadership and legacy, using evidence from primary and secondary sources.

**Individual Documentary** - 3. Sam Schmidt, 1. Sabine Love

**Group Documentary** - 2. Kamila Ponce and Cora Rosanova, 1. Stephany Acosta, Francie Beadle, and Anna Sofianek **Individual Exhibit** - 3. Bianca Everts 1. Nora Daniels

**Group Exhibit** - 3. Holly Angell, Adele Gammill, Juliet Raynovich

2. Trisha Gouveia, Zemma Kitchen and Sophie Rotella

**Individual Website** - 3. Erin McKinney, 1. Simona Cerenzia

**Group Website** - 3. Lucy Child and Ellie Bertram 2. Sarah Allen, Denali Stahly, and Grace R.

**Performances** - Alexandra Flory, Karla Konzen, Teagan Moore and Trinity Twing

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to ***Grace Rembert*** for winning the state championship of the 2015 National Geographic Geography Bee. On to nationals!

**Love and Logic for Middle School Parents**

SMS will be hosting "Love and Logic for Middle School Parents" Saturday, April 18th from 8am to 5pm in the SMS Library. Cost for the class is $10. Sign up at ***[allthrive.org](http://allthrive.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).*** Presented by ***Ashley Mares*** ***Jones***, this workshop will be tailored to the unique challenges of raising an adolescent or teen.  This one-day parenting workshop will enrich the connection that you have with your child as they head toward adulthood.  Goals of the workshop include helping your child solve their own problems, minimizing arguments, and maintaining a close connection through adulthood.  This class will be fun, interactive and will truly enrich your parenting! Hope to see you then!

**Dates To Remember**

April 9 **Student Conferences**, 11:00-7:00pm

 ***No School***

 10 **PIR Day – *No School K-12***

 16 SMS Talent Show Dress Rehearsal

 at the Willson

17 SMS Talent Show at Willson, 7:00pm

 20 PAC Meeting 12:00-1:00 pm

 22 5th Grade Band Festival at SMS

 24 Trimester 3 Mid-Term

 30 SMS/BHS Choirs, Willson , 7:30pm

May 5 School Election Day

 12 SMS Dinner Jazz, Cafeteria, 6:00 pm

 18 PAC Meeting, 12:00-1:00 pm

 18 SMS 6th Grade B/C/O, SMS,Gym7:30pm

 25 ***Memorial Day-No School***

 28 8th Grade Jump Up Day at BHS

 29 5th Grade Shadow Day

June 1 SMS Dinner Orchestra, SMS.

 Cafeteria 6:00 pm

 2 SMS Bands, Willson 7:30 pm

 2 Ice Cream Social 3:30-5:00 pm, 5th grade

 families.

 4 8th Grade Celebration, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

11 Last Day of School Dismissal, 12:35pm

 12 End of Final Grading Period

 19 Final Report Cards Mailed Home

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