

SMS Newsletter

December 2020



December Core Value: Compassion

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.

A Note from the Principal

The arrival of the holiday season also brings the end of Trimester 1 and the official recognition of one-third of the year having passed. It has been a most interesting year thus far.

First of all, thank you, again, for the support you have demonstrated for our work with your students. The pandemic has been challenging for everyone--students and teachers, for sure, but also families. We recognize that these unusual times have forced us all to be flexible, patient, creative, and resilient. Thank you for your willingness to learn along with your children--how best to support them, to utilize Canvas, to assist them with their schedules and organization, to maintain communication with their teachers. Your support is invaluable.

We continue to use the Blended Learning Model to maintain a safe environment at school while providing a strong educational program for the students. Although we only see the students in-person two days per week, the teachers are using Canvas to maintain their learning throughout the week. Wednesdays have proven valuable for on-going support and intervention. At this point, students should be fully familiar with Canvas and have the knowledge to navigate that platform to access their lessons, activities, and resources. The expectation of continued learning during remote days is essential for students to maintain their learning. Thank you again for reinforcing that at home.

Report cards will be available electronically on Monday, December 7. Please take time to pull the reports up on your PowerSchool accounts and have a conversation with your son/daughter(s). The standards-based reporting--3 for proficiency/mastery, 2 for developing, 1 for emerging--indicate the student's learning at this time for each standard. A 4 indicates application of skills in unique and independent ways. An "INS" indicates that insufficient evidence has been presented to the teacher for an accurate assessment of that standard (may also be indicated in the comment section). An INS may

be a result of significant absences, but could also be based on missing assignments--worth the conversation with your student.

Additionally, attribute scores are also provided in each content class--engagement, organization, perseverance, and universals (our school expectations). Please take time to discuss these scores with your child as these traits are valuable life-long skills and habits. The conversation can be a time of celebration or an opportunity for identifying ways to grow. It's all about growth!

Thanks for reading and for all that you are doing for your students.

Stay well!

Gordon

Report Cards Available - Monday, December 7th

Report Cards are now available in PowerSchool! Please log in to your account and go to Student Reports. If you need assistance with your PowerSchool account please contact *Vickie Edelman*, vickie.edelman@bsd7.org

Parent Survey

In our attempts to maintain on-going communication with families as well as provide supports which may be helpful, we want to hear from you. Please take a minute or two to respond to this brief survey: [SMS Family Feedback Survey](#).

Counseling Office

Collaborating during a pandemic

As we like to say in the educational world, "it takes a village to raise a child!" And in 2020, it might take even more than that.

This year has brought a tremendous amount of uncertainty and unforeseen challenges that make parenting an adolescent that much more complex. There is certainly a lack of research dedicated to parenting during a pandemic, but anecdotally the consensus acknowledges that it is hard. Collaboration yields insight and, hopefully, a sense of comfort knowing that we do not need to operate as if we are in a vacuum.

As counselors, we see how hard all of the adults are working to adapt and support our students. Everyone is seeking answers that we may never find. However, we would like to offer a platform to discuss challenges, but also share successes, so that no parent is left behind!

Please join us for our monthly session this Friday, December 11th, 12:00 - 12:45pm:

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/opo-uzdv-ggr

Chromebook Permission Form and Guidelines

Students were provided Chromebooks at the beginning of the school year and parents/guardians were asked to complete the on-line permission form. If you have not already done so, please complete the form here: [Permission Form](#). Also, please review this document, [BSD7 iPad/Chromebook Use Expectations](#), with your student which describes student expectations and also lists the estimated cost of the most common forms of damage to a chromebook. This link provides valuable information on internet use which may also be of value: [Parent Resources Re: Internet Use](#).

Student Council

The SMS Student Councils are working hard to spread the word about **The Giving Trees** located in each of the grade-level common areas.

The Student Councils are collecting gift cards and/or gifts for families in need. Please grab an ornament from the Giving Tree, located in the commons, take it home, and bring back a gift card or gift along with the ornament. Gifts can be dropped off with *Ms. Fabian* in 6th grade, *Mrs. Babcock* in 7th grade, and *Mrs. Hayden* in 8th grade. Thank you for helping support our SMS families!

Bundle of Books!

We want to get plenty of books to families during this pandemic, so the Children's Staff at the **Bozeman Public Library** is putting together bundles of books based on your children's ages and interests.

The Library is closed but they are open for *curbside pick-up Tuesday-Friday 10-6 and Saturdays 10-2*. Instead of placing holds online, we really appreciate you calling the Children's Desk at 582-2404 when you need *any* children's or teen books. We can find you books and make recommendations, put all materials in a bag, and you can swing by for a personalized curbside pickup. Please call us!

Outdoor Club

Interested in learning more about fly tying, Montana native fish, aquatic insects, river health and fly fishing? Outdoor Club will welcome students beginning **December 14th** by holding virtual meetings and remote instruction each *Monday at 3:45* throughout the school year. Space and materials are available for 30 interested students.

Please email *Chris Ottey* chris.ottey@bsd7.org for availability, registration or more information.

M-Bar-T Big Sky Good Student Program

Big Sky's program rewarding good grades and attributes with discounts on season passes. If you are interested in this program please contact *Leah Kreitinger*, leah.kreitinger@bsd7.org

7th and 8th Grade Boys' Basketball

Registration/Sign up for 7th and 8th Grade Boys' Basketball is now open.

The program starts on *January 4, 2021* at Sacajawea.

- 7th Graders will meet from 3:45-5:00pm on January 4, 5, and 6
- 8th Graders will meet from 5:00-6:15pm on January 4, 5, and 6

The rest of the season's practice times will be determined by team placement for your student athlete; coaches will communicate this information to your student athlete.

The following link is for "NEW" registration ~ for those that DID NOT participate in a 7th or 8th grade fall activity.

Middle School Registration Instructions

If you have already completed the registration process for 7th/8th Grade Football please complete the following 2 steps:

- 1. Log in to your DragonFly account and request either 7th or 8th Grade Boys' Basketball.***
- 2. Go to RevTrak, Log in to your account and select the correct participation fee and make your payment.***

Once you have completed these 2 steps your student athlete will be registered for the activity

All athletes should bring their own water bottle, mask, and be ready for practice at our school gym. Students will be checked in and coaches will be following protocols set by MHSA including checking for Covid-19 symptoms and taking temperatures prior to practices. If your student athlete is not feeling well please do not send them; accommodations will be made to place them on a team if they cannot attend.

There will be more information given to your student athlete regarding a virtual parent meeting, team practices, and team game schedules. If you need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Danny Waldo
SMS Activities Coordinator
p. 406.522.6480
e. danny.waldo@bsd7.org

You too can be a Book Whisperer- Notes from SMS Literacy Academy

With the break around the corner, reading books is a great way to relax and explore!

Parents often ask how they can figure out what their kids like to read?

Here are three easy ways we use in the SMS Literacy Academy to quickly find out.

1. Ask your child what was a favorite book read to them, movie they watched or tv show.
 1. This will give you information about the topic and genre which interests your child.
2. Ask your child what was the last book they read independently.
 1. This will give you an idea of what reading level your child is comfortable with reading by themselves.
3. Ask your child what they love to do in their free time.
 1. This will give you an idea of topics in the nonfiction realm or literature based in this topic area.

Shoot the SMS librarian *Brenda Wilson* and email - brenda.wilson@bsd7.org she will give you and your child some titles in the SMS library.

Keeping a steady reading diet is a great way to support your child's academic reading at school.

At SMS we use a method called Close Analytic Reading.

Close Reading

The sign of true learning is when a learner can demonstrate knowledge and feel like an expert on the topic. During a process called "close reading" a reader is able to investigate the text and draw meaning and conclusions based on information in the text. Ways you can help to support your students with Close Reading:

- Read different types of text
- Read a piece more than once
- Mark and discuss interesting or unfamiliar words
- Underline details • Circle main ideas
- Spend time having a discussion about the reading
- Encourage your learner to ask questions while reading

Have a great READING break. *Eileen Zombro, SMS Literacy Academy*

Yearbook

If your student did not have a school photo taken at SMS for the 2020-2021 school year and would like to be included in the yearbook please contact Kace Doornbos, 406-522-6471, kace.doornbos@bsd7.org.

Thrive

Does Attendance Matter?

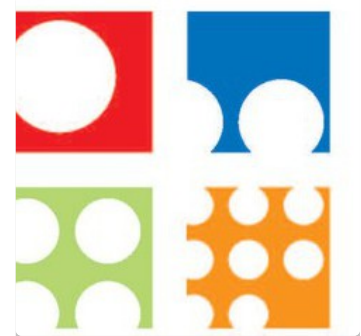
We all feel the pull from our kids: "Mom, it's a powder day, can I head up to Bridger to snowboard?" or "I was up late playing video games. Would you call me in so I can get some sleep?"

It's just a missed day here and there. Does attendance *really* matter?

According to Attendance Works, chronic absenteeism is the number one indicator that a student will drop out in high school. Missing only two days of school, per month, translates into missing 10% of the school year!

Whether it's making it to an in-person class or showing up on remote days: attendance matters. Remember: attend today...achieve tomorrow!

For these and other parenting tips, connect directly with your SMS Thrive Parent Liaison, Ashley Mares Jones at 406-813-1617 or ashley.maresjones@bsd7.org



Box Tops For Education

Did you know Sacajawea Middle School is part of the Box Tops for Education program?

It has changed to a mostly digital program. Traditional clip out Box Tops are being phased out but you can still send them to school (make sure it doesn't say scan) to be turned in to the library.

The new process is so much easier!

1. Get the free new and improved **Box Tops mobile app** on your phone
2. Buy your groceries and ask for the receipt
3. Get into your car and take pictures of your receipt (within 14 days) with the app.
4. It will find any qualifying products and give 10 cents for each one to the school.

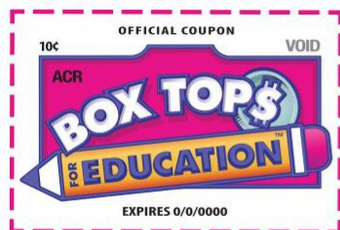
The money adds up and is used to enhance the book selection at our library.

It's costs you nothing but 30 seconds of your time and you can help ALL the students at your child's school. Encourage your friends and relatives to do the same.

On the Box Tops for Education website, you can find coupons and special deals.

Thank you so much for giving back to others!

Your PAC Team & SMS Library



SEE THIS...
CLIP IT



SEE THIS...
SCAN
YOUR RECEIPT

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

BEFORE YOUR CHILD HEADS OUT THE DOOR FOR SCHOOL
CONDUCT A HOME HEALTH SCREENING

STAY HOME

if he or she is experiencing one or more of the following:

- Fever or chills – temperature greater than 100.4°
- Cough
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and/or smell
- New runny nose or congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19

NOTIFY SMS – 522-6400

IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE OR IS IDENTIFIED AS A
CLOSE CONTACT OF SOMEONE WITH COVID-19



BSD 7 Food & Nutrition Services



AT THIS TIME
ANY STUDENT
CAN HAVE A FREE
MEAL

***YOU MUST TAKE THE FOLLOWING FOR
YOUR MEAL TO BE FREE:***

FOR FREE BREAKFAST:
ENTREE
FRUIT
MILK (OPTIONAL)

FOR FREE LUNCH:
ENTREE
VEGGIE/FRUIT
MILK (OPTIONAL)

***ALL OTHER ITEMS WILL BE
CHARGED TO STUDENT ACCOUNTS***

Free meals also available for curbside pickup at all schools (excluding GHS) M-F 9:30-10:30 on remote learning days.

REMOTE MEAL PICK UP

MENUS: [BSD7.NUTRISLICE.COM](https://bsd7.nutrislice.com)
QUESTIONS?
CALL: 406-522-6381
EMAIL: BRITTANY.SELVIG@BSD7.ORG



- FREE GRAB-N-GO MEALS AVAILABLE FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP DAILY, FROM 9:30-10:30 AM AT ALL SCHOOLS (EXCLUDING GHS - GO TO MEADOWLARK)
- NO PREORDER NECESSARY
- GRAB-N-GO BREAKFAST ALSO AVAILABLE AT:
 - BHS
 - CHIEF JOSEPH & SACAJAWEA
 - IRVING, WHITTIER, HYALITE
- STUDENT DOES NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT
- FREE TO ANYONE 18 & UNDER

Upcoming Dates

December

- 11 Collaborating During a Pandemic - Google Meet, 12:00-1:45 pm
- 21 - Jan 1 Winter Break

January

- 12 Orchestra Concert, Willson Auditorium, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
- 18 K-12 PIR Day - **No School**
- 25 - 26 PIR Days 9-12 - **No School**



Sacajawea Middle School

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🌐 sms.bsd7.org/

