



FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

December 1, 2021 Newsletter

A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON:

We live in a beautiful place. A significant reason that my family and I chose Idaho after transitioning from a long career in the Army was the beauty and accessibility of the outdoors. We have spent countless hours hiking, backpacking, running, fishing, hunting and relaxing in the mountains of Idaho. I love being in the mountains - no matter what I am doing.



I feel very fortunate that both Sage and Forge have outdoor programs. In fact, I believe that they are more than programs. I think they are fundamental to the experience of many of our students now and in the past. I helped lead Forge's first overnight backpacking trip in August of 2021 and it reminded me (after a long Covid break from school trips in the outdoors) of the power that shared experiences in the outdoors can have on a child's (and adult's) sense of belonging at school.

We are striving at both campuses - across our network - to offer opportunities to get outdoors at levels that match each person's comfort and ability. Please read through our newsletters carefully and notice that both schools have upcoming life sports opportunities at Bogus Basin. These are accessible, affordable ways to introduce children to the mountains in winter.

December 11th is the United Nations International Mountain Day. I was elated to discover this. Mountains are absolutely essential to our lives in Idaho. They are wonderful places to visit; they provide much of the water in our reservoirs; they sustain trout-filled rivers and they attract tourists who support small businesses in mountain towns. As a member of the Sage International Network of Schools, I take seriously our responsibility, as our mission urges, to ask questions, to learn and to take action locally and globally to protect fragile ecosystems such as our beautiful Idaho mountains. Please take a moment to explore International Mountain Day at this link.

All the best,

Andy



PARENTS: There is no supervision before 8:00 am. To ensure your child's safety, please do not drop off your student until then.



Mark your Calendar:

December 20-31 - Holiday Break - No School!

January 13 - End of 1st Semester

January 17 - MLK Jr. Day- No school!

January 22 - PTO Movie Night #2

The 2022-202 School Year Calendar has been approved and can be found [HERE!](#)



December in the Forge Kitchen:

[Breakfast Menu](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

Other than school-wide emails and newsletters, [our website](#) is the best resource for general info about Forge. You can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram!](#)



OUR MISSION:

FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ENGAGES STUDENTS WITHIN AN INCLUSIVE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY. CHALLENGING ALL MEMBERS TO TAKE RISKS AND CONTRIBUTE LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY THROUGH OPEN-MINDED INQUIRY.



A NOTE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL, DARCI STELZNER:

Hello, Forge families! As we are gearing up for PYP (grades K-5) authorization, I thought I would take a moment to share how important and exciting this is for our students, teachers, and parents. It will be a good refresher for our veteran families and great insight for our new families.



What is an IB education?

"Imagine a worldwide community of schools, educators and students with a shared vision and mission to empower young people with the skills, values and knowledge to create a better and more peaceful world. This is the International Baccalaureate (IB)."

"Each of the IB programmes (PYP, MYP, CP, DP) reflects a central desire to provide an education that enables students to make sense of the complexities of the world around them, as well as equipping them with the skills and dispositions needed for taking responsible action for the future. They provide an education that crosses disciplinary, cultural, national and geographical boundaries, and that champions critical engagement, stimulating ideas and effective relationships."

What is an IB education? outlines our educational philosophy. It also explains how this philosophy shapes the four IB programmes, which can be implemented independently or in combination: the Primary Years Programme (ages 3–12), Middle Years Programme (ages 11–16), Diploma Programme (ages 16–19) and Career-related Programme (ages 16–19).



At Forge, our PYP team is awaiting the authorization visit from IB; this is scheduled to take place during the first part of 2022. MYP has applied for, and has been granted, candidacy and the next phase is to apply for authorization. We should be on track to apply for candidacy for our CP and DP programs by the end of 2022 or beginning of 2023. Once we have successfully gone through authorization, we will be able to call Forge an official IB school in the PYP (with the other programs not too far behind). For more information on the IB, please click on the 'What is an IB education' link above.

We look forward to our high school accreditation visit from the State of Idaho, which is scheduled for February 14-16, 2022. Stay tuned!

Darci Stelzner, Head of School

Nurse Blew's Health Corner:

Dear Families and Staff of Forge International School,

Albertsons will host a free clinic at Forge to provide protective vaccinations against influenza and Covid-19 on **Friday, December 3rd from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM** for children (aged 5 to 18) and adults. Please bring your insurance cards.



No appointment is necessary. These are not required vaccinations to attend school.

For more information on vaccinations that protect against Covid-19 please see the following link from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. For more information on vaccinations that protect against influenza see this link from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Immunization exemptions are allowed, in accordance with Idaho Code 39-4802, and include medical, religious, and 'other' exemptions. Parents/guardians may check the 'Religious/Other' exemption provided on the immunization requirements form or may include a signed written statement regarding religious/other exemptions.



PYP (K-5) at Forge

It has been so wonderful to see all of the PYP students back at school after their November Holiday. We have 3 weeks of learning together before our Winter Break and we are all looking forward to diving in! Before Break, 5th Grade held a Wax Museum to wrap up their unit: "Who We Are: Building Our Nation". Everyone did a great job!



This week each grade level will be beginning their **third Unit of Inquiry** for this school year. The upcoming Units of Inquiry are listed below. As they begin tuning in to these new inquiries this week and next, ask your child about this new learning!



Kinder- How We Express Ourselves: We express ourselves through our celebrations.

Grade 1- Sharing the Planet: Communities share resources.

Grade 2- How the World Works: Properties cause matter to change.

Grade 3- Where We Are in Place and Time: History informs the present.

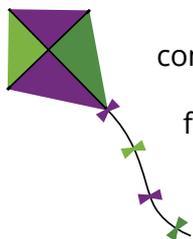
Grade 4- Where We Are in Place and Time: Exploration leads to changes, discovery, and innovation.

Grade 5- Sharing the Planet: Being a World-Changer Requires Action



MYP (6-9) at Forge

For December, our Learner Profile attribute is **Communicator**, which has students aim for understanding and expressing ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. As communicators, students work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others. To help develop their communication skills, students will start Reflection Journals in their advisory classes this month. Students will also continue participating in Circle Time in advisory... and sometimes other classes as well!



Sixth and seventh-grade Spanish students are entering a school-wide kite design competition. They are choosing an animal from Latin America to spotlight on their kite. They will present their design shapes and colors in Spanish and then make up a festival to honor/protect the animal represented in their kite. Be on the lookout for examples of their creativity!

Eighth graders will be researching ancient Latin American sports in Spanish, and ninth graders are depicting the nature and/or landscape of Latin America in a mosaic form.



Toddle Information: Students and families can now access Progress Summaries in their Toddle accounts! The Progress Summary gives an overview of scores and grades in Assessments and MYP Criteria. Soon, we will be able to send out Progress Reports from Toddle. Here's a quick walkthrough of this update, or you can check this link for more information.



FORGE EXPEDITIONS WINTER OPPORTUNITIES: HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MEGAN FUROIS!

I am Forge's new MYP PE and Health teacher as well as the coordinator for our Forge Expeditions program. I absolutely LOVE our school. After spending the last 2 years teaching 3rd grade at Forge, I am so happy to move into my new position to share more of what I'm most passionate about. As a PE and Health teacher, I'm excited to learn with students about how to live a healthy life and find activities that make sense for ourselves and bring us joy. For me, that means being active outdoors. That is why I am SO thrilled to be the coordinator of our new outdoor education program: **Forge Expeditions**.



At Forge Expeditions, our mission is to provide access and opportunity for rural Idaho students to become knowledgeable wilderness adventurers and protectors. We've already had opportunities to take students ranging from 4th to 9th grade on outdoor adventures, and have so many more excursions planned ahead, **which you can read about [HERE!](#)** On these excursions, we learn valuable lessons on how to safely recreate in the outdoors, how to practice resilience in the face of challenges, and how to protect the spaces that we visit. We serve students through our Action Friday trips: day trips that may involve biking, hiking, and snow adventures. We also take on larger adventures with overnight trips, like backpacking, snowshoeing to yurts, and through hiking. We are focused on keeping our expeditions equitable with providing gear and scholarships for our Forge Families to ensure everyone has opportunity to learn and grow in our amazing outdoor spaces. To learn more about our program and see our upcoming trips, please visit our website! To see how you can support our club, contact Megan Furois at megan.furois@forgeintl.org!



SAVE THE DATE - Forge will be having a **gear drive** in support of the Forge Expeditions club. Mark your calendars for the week of **January 3rd**, we will be accepting donations of any outdoor gear that you no longer need (or replaced at Christmas)! This can be old snow pants and boots that no longer fit your children, to helmets and backpacks! Stay tuned for details, and contact megan.furois@forgeintl.org with questions!



Forge Snow Team!



Registration is NOW OPEN for Forge's first-ever snow team for MYP students in grades 6-9. Under the organization of Bogus Basin Ski Education Foundation (<http://bbsef.org>), Forge offers the opportunity for students to take part in Alpine, Nordic, and Snowboard competitions. The team offers students the opportunity to better their skills, practice sportsmanship, and meet other racers. Their first race will take place on January 8th at Bogus Basin. Please find more info [HERE](#) to see if the snow team would be a good fit for your MYP student! **The registration deadline is December 3rd!**

Boys Basketball

We are SO excited to begin our first season of Boys Middle School Basketball at Forge! Boys in **grades 6th-8th** of all ability levels are welcome. Practices will take place after school Monday-Thursday beginning January 3rd. The boys team will be coached by Jarret Ellsworth and Arin Jeffs, who both have years of experience and have just finished a GREAT season coaching the girls!

Planned Games:

January 20th- @ home vs Horseshoe Bend at 4:15
February 3rd- @ TVCA at 4:15
February 7th- @ home vs Wilder
February 9th @ Rolling Hills at 3:30
February- @ Riverstone TBA



The deadline to register is December 10th, you can find out more information [HERE](#). Come join us!





We have many Forge students in Grades 3-8 that have signed up to participate in this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee! Forge will send one student finalist to the regional spelling bee in February. Study lists are being distributed to students who would like to participate.

Wish them luck!

We had so much fun with our "Door of Gratitude" Door Decorating Contest, sponsored by the PTO. Officer Robbins of the Middleton Police Department was our wonderful judge, and she took her job very seriously.



We were SO impressed by all of the beautiful doors our kids created. The winners were:
4th grade- Ms. Masters and a combined effort by 5th grade- Ms. Taggart and Ms. Jillian!



Idaho Battle of the Books (IBOB)

participants have been busy reading this year's books, forming teams, and naming their teams! IBOB teams will be selling

concessions at upcoming basketball games to raise money for team t-shirts. Please help and support their efforts!

We are in **GREAT** need of help in our Forge Kitchen! If you or someone you know is interested in joining our fun team, you can find more information [HERE](#). If you are able to volunteer that would be helpful as well, it is such an important and integral part of our school. Please email Monica at monica.harshman@forgeintl.org.



Worried about how screen time is affecting your kids and the rest of their generation?

Forge's Parent-Teacher Book Club is meeting Friday, December 10, from 4:15-5:15 p.m., at the coffee shop in the Ridley's in Star. We will be discussing Chapters 7-10 of the book *Glow Kids: How Screen Addiction Is Hijacking Our Kids - and How to Break the Trance*. If you haven't read it and still want to join, please do! Email Lisa Marshall (lisa.marshall@forgeintl.org) for more information.



Parent-Teacher Book Club



THE FORGE KITCHEN IS HIRING!

Starts at \$14/hour with excellent benefits!
Come join this fun and IMPORTANT team!

