



FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 3, 2022



Dressing for the weather: Winter is coming! Please be sure your student comes to school dressed warmly enough to be outside during breaks and lunches, which includes a warm coat and perhaps gloves and a hat! We take advantage of the fresh air in all but the most extreme conditions, so please prepare accordingly.



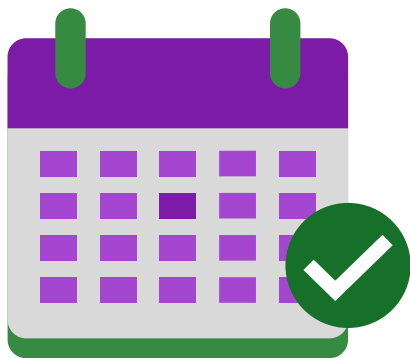
November Lunch Menus: [Breakfast](#) and [Lunch](#)



Enrollment: While we are at **record enrollment**, 🙌 we still have openings for more students in most grade levels! We have had great interest at recent open houses and would love for you to share this opportunity with your friends and help build our Forge community. They can learn more [HERE!](#) Please also follow us on social media, any posts that you like or share help us reach more families. Thank you!



We value the health & wellness of our students & staff and therefore review our **wellness policy** yearly. [Click here](#) to see our latest policy.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 5 - Forge PTO Harvest Party

November 11 - PTO Movie Night

November 17 - Forge Day of Gratitude

November 21-25 - Thanksgiving Break- No school!

December 16 - Jan 1 - Holiday Break, no school!

January 12 - Last day of first semester

STAY IN TOUCH



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

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 MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON:



Dear Families and Staff of the Sage International Network of Schools,

I hope this note finds you all well. I am going to focus this note on veterans, Veterans Day and the mission of the International Baccalaureate Organization that, in part, seeks to “create a better and more peaceful world.”

On the 11th of November, every year, in America, Canada, the UK, Australia, Poland, Belgium, and France, we stop and remember the sacrifices made by so many people during the First World War. That war ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of November 1918. The day is variously known as Veterans Day (USA), Armistice Day (France), Remembrance Day (UK, Australia, and many other Commonwealth countries), and Poppy Day (South Africa). In Germany, a day of mourning (Volkstrauertag) for all those lost to war, is observed on or about the Sunday closest to the 11th of November.

This observance is important to me personally. I served in our nation’s Army from 1983-2007, including a dangerous and difficult year in Iraq during 2005. I led a small group of soldiers in a mission to rebuild a branch of the Iraqi police forces. I lost two soldiers in that effort - one wounded and blinded in an improvised explosive device attack and another mortally wounded at a Baghdad police station. I remember the sacrifices of both men and their families every single day.



My call to action on this and every Veterans Day, is to follow Sebastian Junger’s suggestion that he offered in his book *Tribe*, to listen to veterans tell their stories. You can do that in a variety of ways:

- Explore stories of service in your own families (recognizing that for some/many veterans it is very difficult for them to share the hardest memories).
- Read *War** by Sebastian Junger, *The Good Soldiers** by David Finkel, *The Fighters** by CJ Chivers. *Places and Names: On War, Revolution and Returning* by Elliot Ackerman
- Watch *Restrepo**, by Tim Hetherington and Sebastian Junger

**These suggestions contain graphic descriptions of and real depictions of combat.*

Finally, an excellent way to access and learn about some veterans’ experiences and their efforts to make sense of those memories is the short (20 min) documentary, [Adventure Not War](#), on REI’s Youtube channel. This film chronicles the journey of three combat veterans to Iraq years after their deployments to ski in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan as a way of finding closure and healing. It is a gripping story and one that helps illuminate the challenges faced by some veterans of any war, the power of outdoor adventure to heal and bring people together and to illustrate the importance of the International Baccalaureate’s (our) mission to create a better and more peaceful world through cultural understanding.

In remembrance and for a more peaceful world,

Andy Johnson
Executive Director

A NOTE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL, DARCI STELZNER:



Happy November! This month, we will be focusing on the learner profile attribute KNOWLEDGEABLE. Students who are knowledgeable explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In doing so, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

How can parents help to develop students who are knowledgeable at home?

- Encourage your child to be aware of current events by watching the news or reading news articles when appropriate.
- Explore connections between the area of interest and other topics.
- When your child asks a question, encourage them to seek the answer out rather than giving them the answer.
- Ask your child about what they are learning in school and engage them in conversations about it.
- Foster areas of interest that your child displays through books, outings and activities.

Ask:

- "Why do you think that is important to know?"
- "Can you think of anything that's happening today that might be similar to...?"
- "What does that make you think of?"
- "Does that remind you of anything else you've learned?"

Thank you, families, for encouraging their learning at home!

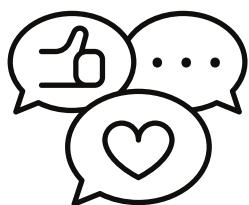
TRAFFIC NEWS

We are excited to share that the stoplight at the intersection of SH-44 and Hartley has been approved by the City of Middleton! This will really help ease traffic to and from our school. Work will begin soon and be complete by August 2023. A big thank you Mayor Rule for his help and for supporting our Forge community!



It's a GO!

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK



We are seeking parent and family input on our Family Engagement Plan at Sage. This is a requirement for some of the federal funding we receive as a public school. But more importantly, it's an opportunity for us to get input from you, the families of our students, about how we'll work together to support your students. We'd really appreciate it if you'd look at the draft [Family Engagement Plan](#), and then take some time to give us feedback through this [online survey](#) or by emailing emily.boles@forgeintl.org. We'd love to hear from you by November 27. Thank you!

A NOTE FROM SCHOOL NURSE, LORINDA BLEW:



Just a reminder that it's that time of year when viruses make the rounds! This year we expect to be dealing with Colds, Flu, Covid, and RSV, which is similar to a bad cold. While "the flu" is used to describe a variety of things, Influenza is primarily a respiratory illness. Children may exhibit some stomach issues along with it, but primary symptoms usually include body aches, fever, headaches, and cough. It usually comes on faster than a cold virus, which may sneak in over a few days. We have also seen some Strep throat in our community and unfortunately, some people are unlucky enough to get more than one illness at a time.



The **precautions** to prevent the spread of all of these illnesses are basically the same since viruses are spread through respiratory droplets that are coughed, sneezed, or wiped on their hands. Please remind your kids to frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer, and properly cover their mouth and/or nose when they cough or sneeze.

Please refer to the "Health and Safety" section in our [Student Handbook](#) for guidance on when to keep your child home. Remember that if they have vomiting, diarrhea, or fever they need to stay home until symptom-free for 24 hours.

I am looking for donations of gently used sweatpants and other stretchy pants in various sizes. I have plenty of shirts, shorts, and jeans for now. If you think that your child may get wet or dirty on the playground, please consider sending extra clothes in their bag.



If you would like to review your or your child's Idaho Immunization Records, The Idaho Immunization Program (IIP) is excited to announce that the Docket® health app is live! You are now able to access immunization records contained in Idaho's Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS) through the Docket® app on smartphones or other mobile devices. You can find more information [here](#).

PTO FALL FESTIVAL

Join us for an afternoon of FALL FAMILY FUN! **Saturday November 5th from 10 am - 2pm.** Wristbands for admission and activities are only \$5! You can find more details [HERE](#).

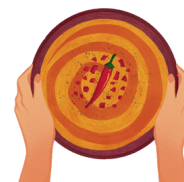


What's included:

- Kid-friendly games
- Face painting
- Bounce house
- Silent Auction
- Local Vendor Booths
- And so much more!

Also Available:

- Food and snacks for purchase!
- Chili & Potato Bar \$4/bowl!
- Coffee Cart!



We need volunteers! You can sign up to help with the fun [here](#).



DO YOU HAVE EXTRA CANDY? We will be handing out candy as prizes, if you have some to donate you can drop it at the front desk, thank you!

LIFE IN THE PYP WITH COORDINATOR NORA STRAUCH

On Wednesday 10/26, 1st Grade went on a field trip to Shindig Farms. All week, they learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin. At the farm, they were able to take a hay ride to see the cycle up close! They also enjoyed the slides, corn maze, jump pad, and zipline too! It was truly a field trip that our first graders and teachers (Ms. Atkins and Mrs. Thorell) will remember for a lifetime!



Thank you to all families who attended our Fall Conferences. It was so great to see all of you and to sit down and discuss your child's progress. We appreciate your partnership in your child's learning journey!

LIFE IN THE MYP WITH LISA MARSHALL

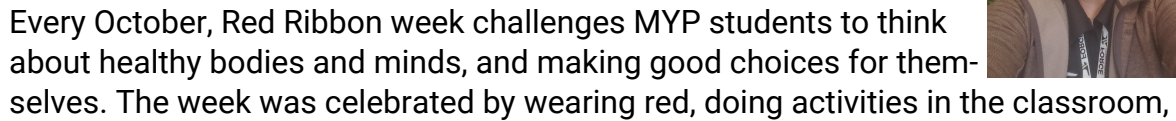
Hello MYP families,

it was good to see you at our student-led conferences. Thank you for your support of our program and our students' success. Please make sure you are checking and signing your students' planners each evening, and that they are coming to school with binders, planners, pencils/other supplies, and charged Chromebooks. Let us know if you need help navigating Toddle!

Teachers should be communicating regularly about units and posting periodic formative assessments to help you gauge how your student is doing in school. Students' performance on formatives can be a glimpse for summative assessments. For more information, you can email MYP Coordinator Lisa Marshall at lisa.marshall@forgeintl.org or check out the **Forge MYP blog**.

MYP Dance - Our students and staff had so much fun at our FIRST dance planned and hosted by our Student Council! Thanks to parents who donated snack and drink donations and Halloween decorations. A big shoutout to our very own IT Specialist Kriss for being the best DJ we could have asked for! We'd also like to thank to our chaperones for all of the help, it was a night to remember!





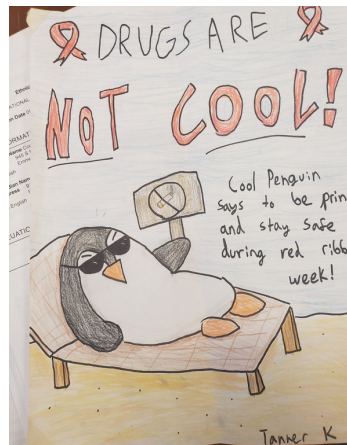
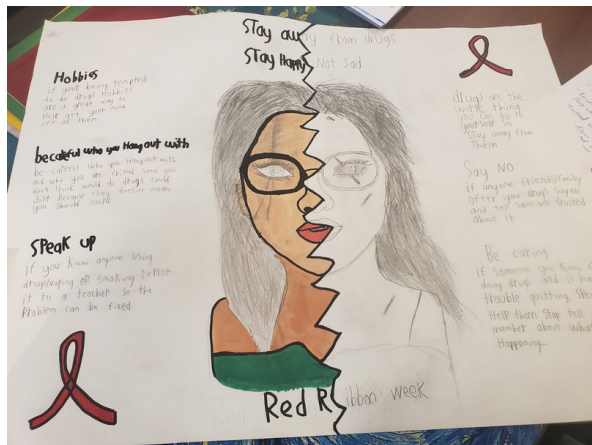
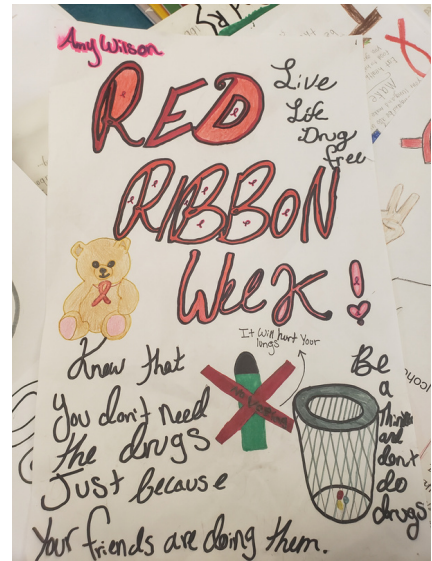
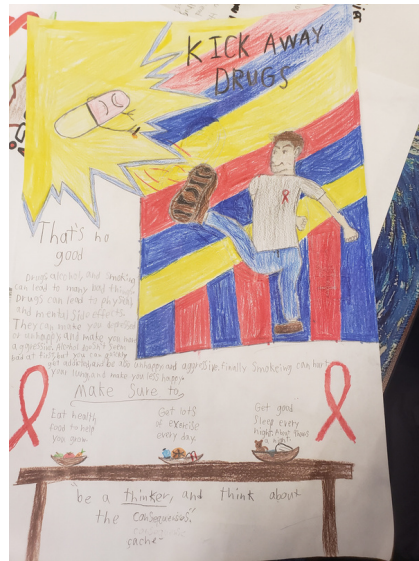
and sporting their Red Ribbons to display their pride in staying safe and Drug-Free. Our middle schools engaged in a poster contest by creating a poster that was preventative in message, but displayed the importance of the

Be Drug Free!
It's Red Ribbon WEEK

Drugs & Alcohol ≠ (o3o)

BE KNOWLEDGEABLE!
Drinking increases your chances of being involved in an accident, placing your life and that of others at risk.

BE CARING!
Doing Drugs can affect mental and physical health. They can permanently damage vital organs and your mental health.



I am so incredibly proud of our students' efforts, and the creativity they brought to this project, and they really brought to life the value of what Red Ribbon week stands for. Forge is PROUD to be Drug-free! ~Joy

Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) provides pre-employment transition services and opportunities for students with disabilities to learn through work and education. Pre-employment transition services include:

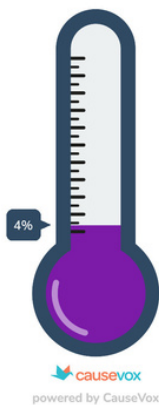


- job exploration counseling
- work-based learning opportunities
- Counseling on post-secondary educational opportunities
- workplace readiness training
- instruction in self-advocacy

To qualify, the student must be **14-21 years old, have a medically diagnosed disability, and be enrolled in a secondary school**. The student does not need to have a 504 or be in Special Education. You can view [this short video](#) about how to receive services from VR using a Pre-Case. For more information, contact Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Lorri Dale at lorri.dale@vr.idaho.gov or 208-465-8414 or Forge Case Manager Susan Kologi susan.kologi@forgeintl.org.

SUPPORTING FORGE

GOAL: \$40,000



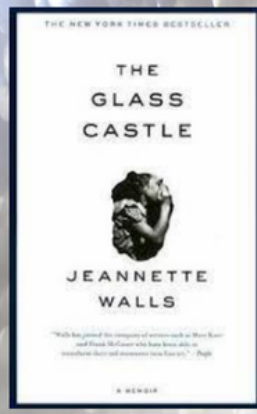
Thank you to the 12 generous supporters who have donated so far this year to Mind the Gap, we have raised **\$1,500 of our \$40,000 goal!** **Mind the Gap** is our annual fundraising campaign where we ask our community to help us bridge the gap between what we receive in funding as an Idaho public charter school, and what our actual operating costs are. We do not receive ANY local tax dollars like local school districts do, and rely on our community to play an important part in supporting Forge. Our goal is 100% participation of some kind, whether it's \$10 or \$1,000! Forge needs YOUR support, and help us spread the word to family and friends to reach our goal! You can find out more about Mind the Gap **HERE**.



FORGE
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

Forge's Parent-Staff Book Club will meet Friday, November 11, from 4:15-5:45 p.m., in Room 136. We will be discussing the [The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls](#). Email Lisa Marshall (lisa_marshall@forgeintl.org) for more information. Everyone is welcome!

*November's
Book Selection*



We are still looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen! You can find the **Signup [here](#)** or email gina.fairchild@forgeintl.org .

ENRICHMENT AT FORGE

Forge Expeditions- Outdoor Education

In October Ms. Furious took 4th and 5th grade students on an adventure hiking the lower section of Dry Creek trail, followed by a picnic and chance to play at Camels Back Park. They finished their adventure with a walk to Hyde Park for well earned sweet treat!



Girls Basketball is off to a great start! They'd love for you to come and cheer them on at one of their upcoming games:

Friday, Nov 4 @ Rolling Hills - 1:30

Thursday, Nov 17 @ TVCA - 4:15

Monday, Nov 28 @ Centennial Baptist - 4:15

Tuesday, Nov 29 @ Horesehoe Bend - 4:15

Wednesday, Nov 30 vs Vision Charter - 4:30

Thursday, Dec 1 Season End Party - 4:30

Boys basketball will be starting soon, stay tuned for more details!



Girl Scouts will be meeting every other Monday starting October 24th at Forge! If you have a girl who may be interested in joining, please contact Heather Renk at hrenk20@gmail.com.

Middleton Music Academy is excited to start their **Youth Choir for children ages 7-13** here at Forge starting in January 2023. Our voice/choir teacher will be at our Fall Festival on Saturday and ready for your child to audition with any song of their choice! You can find more info [here](#).

These group classes are currently offered here at Forge:

- Voice ensemble on Mondays
- Violin/Viola ensemble on Tuesdays
- Guitar basics on Wednesdays
- Brighter Notes Piano on Thursdays



Private lessons are also available at different times throughout the week (Guitar, Piano, Voice, Strings, Drums). Forge students get a discount for any group class and registration fees, and also receive registration preference. Classes are also open to the general public as well and spots are filling up! Please email info@middletonmusicacademy.com to secure your spot!

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Community Opportunities - You can find other activities offered in our community [here](#)!
If you know of anything you would like to add, please email it to info@forgeintl.org.