



# FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## January 7, 2021 Newsletter

### A NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANDY JOHNSON:

Welcome back! I find it unbelievable that it is 2022. On New Year's Eve my wife, Evelyn, and I enjoyed the fireworks over Dollar Mountain in Ketchum as we waited for our son to finish work as a ski patroller (fortunately there were no injuries among the 500 skiers on Dollar that night!). Our daughter was working at a coffee shop in Boise till 0100 and, as you might imagine, met a wide variety of people.



On the 4th of January, Sage conducted an annual tradition of awarding the previous year's graduates their actual International Baccalaureate diplomas. Not all of our 2021 graduates were able to be at this short celebration, but our school leadership and staff made sure to remember their efforts despite these graduates' absence. Earning the Diploma (Diploma Programme, DP) or the Certificate (Career-related Programme, CP) is an achievement worth celebrating commensurate with the effort each graduate put forth to earn these credentials.

At Sage (and soon Forge) we ask each graduate to speak a little about the ways that the DP or CP has helped them navigate university life or to navigate the path they chose after graduating. I really enjoyed hearing them offer advice to the gathered Juniors and Seniors. One former student emphasized that she felt prepared for her university, but more than anything, the experience she had in the DP gave her immediate connection points with other IB graduates at her university. The experiences Sage students have in the DP and CP as they tackle Internal Assessments (essentially, individually planned and conducted research projects), the Extended Essay, internships, projects, a second language, service and exams mean that each graduate of Sage has experiences they share with millions of other students and people. I can imagine the relief this student felt in their first days at college, in a new State and far from old friends, how reassuring it was to connect with another person over their shared experiences in International Baccalaureate programs.

Shared experiences in rigorous (and absolutely do-able) college preparatory programs make a Sage (and soon Forge) experience different from every other college preparatory experience you can get in a publicly funded school in Idaho. I invite you to reach out to our heads of schools, division directors and program coordinators for more information.

Finally, both of my children earned the Diploma Programme diploma. Jack reports to Fort Benning in March to begin training as an Army infantry officer and Edie is heading into her second semester at DePaul in Chicago. Their experiences in the IB, I know, prepared them extraordinarily well for university and life after high school.

All the best,

Andy Johnson



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

**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:

Dear Forge Families,

We have had such a wonderful 5 months together. Our students are making wonderful academic gains, our attendance rates have stayed over 90% during the most recent part of the pandemic, and morale is high. Finding time to have your child read for fun, work on math while you bake, inquire and explore nature on family walks will be a great way to continue the love of learning we work to instill in our students.



January's learner profile attribute of the month: **OPEN-MINDED**

Students who are open-minded understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values, and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view and are willing to grow from the experience.

How parents can help develop students who are open-minded:

1. Model open and accepting behavior for all humans.
2. Nurture, respect, and love for all living things.
3. Expose your child to a variety of cultural experiences.
4. Visit children's museums to "travel" around the world.
5. Read and tell stories from around the world.
6. Watch movies that show other cultures.
7. Read and write different forms of poetry.
8. Listen to a variety of types of music.
9. Learn about how different cultures celebrate holidays.
10. Prepare and taste foods from other countries.
11. Explore the following places:

- [Middleton Public Library](#)
- [Star Branch Library](#)
- [Eagle Public Library](#)
- [Caldwell Public Library](#)
- [Emmett Public Library](#)
- [Treasure Valley YMCA](#)
- [Ballet Idaho](#)
- [Caldwell Ice Ribbon](#)
- [Warhawk Air Museum](#)

**January 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!



### Mark your Calendar:

- January 11 - PTO Meeting - Forge Gym
- January 13 - End of 1st Semester
- January 17 - MLK Jr. Day- No school!
- January 22 - PTO Movie Night #2

The 2022-2023 School Year Calendar has been approved and can be found [HERE!](#)

### We are Hiring !

We have job openings that support our school in BIG ways!



- Kitchen Assistant @ Forge (\$12-14/hour)
- Maintenance & Custodial Supervisor @ Forge (\$17-20/hour)
- Technology Support @ Forge & Sage (Part-time \$16-18/hour)



[forgeintl.org](http://forgeintl.org)

Visit above site, then click Human Resources



We are in **GREAT** need of help in our Forge Kitchen! If you or someone you know are able to volunteer, please email Monica at [monica.harshman@forgeintl.org](mailto:monica.harshman@forgeintl.org).



## Nurse Blew's Health Corner:

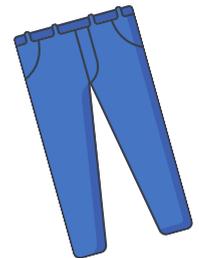
The CDC has released new guidelines for Isolation and Quarantine timeframes for the general public. Unfortunately, these guidelines continue to be altered, so we will determine the isolation and quarantine protocol on a case-by-case basis. If your family or child has been exposed to COVID, or has a positive or probable case of COVID, please contact the school nurse Lorinda for guidance on the protocol for your child. We have to follow CDC guidelines, as well as what we deem necessary for the health of our students. Our goal is in-person learning and it takes the cooperation of all to maintain that. In order to excuse a COVID-related absence, we must have communication between the parent and RN Lorinda. My email is [lorinda.blew@forgeintl.org](mailto:lorinda.blew@forgeintl.org).



[Here's a link](#) to the CDC to help assess for COVID Symptoms. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students and staff healthy so that we can continue with in-person learning!

-----

Along with the occasional bladder "accident", and kids getting soaked by water puddles and snow, I am often asked if I have dry clothes to loan out. I have quite a few shirts, but if you have any pants that your children have outgrown, that are in good shape, I would gladly take donations. It's especially helpful to have stretchy types like sweatpants. That way they may fit a size up, or down. Also consider putting an extra pair in your student's backpack.



-----

With suicide being a leading cause of death in kids, and a rising number of children with depression and anxiety, I am passionate about learning more about mental health in children. I am planning to take a free 6 hour course called "Youth Mental Health First Aid". It is offered for parents, teachers, and any of us that may be able to make a difference in a youth's life. I'm trying to gather at least 15 people to take this class with me. As a free course, they usually only put it on with that number of participants. The course involves 2 hours of pre-work (homework), then they do a 4 hour Zoom call on a Saturday. You can [find more info here](#). Please email RN Lorinda if you would like to take this important course.



We are excited to announce our **Mind the Gap Annual Forge Fundraising Campaign!** Thank you to those who have donated, so far we have raised \$200 and have a long way to go! As a non-profit school of choice, Forge does not receive any funding from local tax dollars. As a supporter, YOU can help us Mind the Gap between the funding we receive, and the actual cost of operating our awesome school. This year we estimate that need to be \$40,000, which

amounts to about \$100 per student. We know that circumstances are different for every family, especially during this past couple of years, so we just ask that if you are able...consider giving Forge a gift in any amount that feels right for your family. Whether it's \$10 or \$5,000, each and every donation helps us reach our goal and is entitled to generous tax benefits. For example, did you know that you can receive a dollar-for-dollar Idaho Tax Credit for 50% of the amount you donate to Forge? (Credit limited to \$1,000 if filing jointly.) So, if you donate \$1,000 it only actually costs you \$500! Also, check with your employer to see if they match donations, there are MANY generous companies in the area that do and it can greatly increase your gift.

We hope you join in to show your support for our school and our amazing teachers and staff, you can do so **HERE!** Please feel free to share this with anyone that may be interested in supporting our amazing and GROWING school. Thank you for considering a donation to Mind the Gap, and the Future of Forge!



# WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Our school continues to actively pursue simple and effective strategies to safely keep all students on campus with their teachers and classmates. We are seeking feedback from each of you as we plan for the rest of the school year and continue to focus on in-person learning. Please complete **this brief survey** by Friday, January 15 at 4pm. We appreciate your time!

## PYP (K-5) at Forge

Art with Tamara Hallock!

Arts class includes visual arts and music. They are organized around the areas of CREATING, FORMING or PRESENTING and RESPONDING. This fall, the students studied the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and sculpted mini polka dotted pumpkins. Ms. Hallock photographed them in a mirrored room (box) so they looked like one of Kusama's installations. Students also drew self-portraits wearing polka-dotted clothes.



Students were also introduced to printmaking. Students impressed lines and shapes into styrofoam to make a block, and then printed a series of holiday cards. They composed a couplet greeting, which they wrote in one card to be donated to a special community member. These couplets will be used to create and compose a melody they will sing and play.

Please check out the Forge Arts Instagram page [HERE](#). I document student work there, and add fun arts-related posts, as well.

## MYP (6-9) at Forge

Parents and guardians, please make sure your child is bringing pencils to class every day. Headphones/earbuds are other items that all students should always have in their lockers.

With winter MAP testing around the corner, students will be working with their Math and Language & Literature teachers in January to set goals for improvement. We strongly believe in their continued progress!



Forge sixth graders wrote descriptive paragraphs, including sensory details, for their white elephant gift exchange in Lang & Lit class. Students walked away with a huge variety of items!



Seventh-grade Spanish students are finishing research mosaics on animals from Spanish- and speaking countries.



Eighth grade Spanish Planning for sports tryouts poster, and Ancient sports story-writing





## FORGE EXPEDITIONS WINTER OPPORTUNITIES: WITH COORDINATOR MEGAN FURIOUS



### 4th Grade Snow School Experience:

**Who:** All 4th-grade students!

**What:** Opportunity to spend the school day at Bogus Basin snowshoeing and learning about our community's water supply through the Winter Wildlands Alliance!

**When:** March 17, 2022 8:30-3:50pm

More information about this excursion will be sent to all 4th-grade families closer to the expedition date!

### Bogus Basin Life Sports!

For those who registered, this fun opportunity for students in grades 3-9 will take place on Friday February 4th and 11th, you can find details [here](#). All spots have been filled at this time, but we look forward to offering this great opportunity again the future, stay tuned!

### More upcoming Adventures:

March 13-14: MYP- Snowshoeing to Elkhorn Yurt - Information coming soon!

April 8-12 \*Tentative Dates\* : MYP- Through Hike in Hells Canyon - More info coming soon!



### 2022 Gear Drive:

THANK YOU to everyone who was able to contribute items for our gear drive! We are still very much in need of a wide variety of gear for our program, and would still welcome any donations! Items for winter OR summer recreation such as but not limited to: Jackets, skis, boots, gloves, snow pants, backpacks, tents, hiking boots, we'd take it all! The more items we can gather, the more opportunities for our students. Please contact Ms. Furious to arrange drop-off OR pickup!



This **Saturday Jan 8th** is our FIRST race at Bogus Basin! GOOD LUCK to our Forge Racers! You can read more about this great opportunity [HERE](#), pics of races to come!

Other upcoming races are:

Race #2-Snow Dance Party,  
Saturday January 15th

Race #3 - Saturday January 22th

Race #4 - Saturday January 29th 2022

### Boys Basketball

We are SO excited to begin our first season of Boys Middle School Basketball at Forge! Practices started this week and will continue to take place after school Monday-Thursday. Come cheer on our team at the following games:



January 20th- @ home vs Horseshoe Bend at 4:15

January 31st-@ Centennial Baptist at (B team- 3:30, A team at 4:30)

February 3rd- @ TVCA at 4:15

February 7th- @ home vs Wilder at 4:15

February 14th- @ Riverstone TBA

February 22nd-@ home vs Village Charter at 4:30

