



# FORGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 19, 2022



**January Menus** are now posted and can be found [here](#), and you can also find the free and reduced online application as well.



**Mind the Gap:** With 2022 wrapping up and the season of giving upon us, we hope that you consider a gift to Forge to support the opportunities we provide your students. Please take 3 minutes to listen to [this inspiring message](#) from our Chief Financial and Operations Officer, Emily Downey! We would love to have HALF of our families donate in any amount before the end of the year. We are at \$1,400 with 13 generous families donating. Can you help us!? [Click here](#).



**We're enrolling AND hiring!** We have current availability in some grade levels at both our Middleton and Boise schools, and very short waitlists in others. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the Sage family at semester, please send them our way! We will be having an Info Night in Middleton for new and interested families on January 17, see below for more information about enrollment for next year. We are also still searching for an elementary Spanish teacher and paras, you can read about all [job openings here](#).



**Branding Refresh!** We have been working hard on our brand "refresh" and are excited to launch our new name and new and improved website in January! Stay tuned!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

**January 12** - Last day of first semester

**January 16** - MLK Jr. Day - no school

**January 17** - Lottery Info Night 4:30 pm

**January 30** - Re-enrollment for 2023-24 opens

**February 20 - 24** - February Break, no school

## 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,

At the midpoint of the school year and the end of 2022, I am inclined to be reflective and think about where we are as International Baccalaureate World Schools and to be grateful for such strong and supportive communities around our schools.

I am happy to report that nearly 2/3s of the Senior Class of 2023 - the class which started as kindergarteners during Sage Boise's first year of operation - are full [Diploma Programme \(DP\)](#), or [Career-related Programme \(CP\)](#) candidates. I believe that most people can manage either program with the right support and with determination and persistence - support and encouragement they get at Sage Schools.

Our Seniors represent, every year, the support, encouragement and thousands of opportunities they had to learn and grow during their (potentially) thirteen years in IB programs at a Sage school. They should be ready by the time they are 11th Graders to take on the challenges and rewards of learning deeply, stretching themselves and doing hard things with the people around them.

The benefits of participating fully in the IB are legion. Yes, the CP and DP are excellent preparation for post-secondary educational options such as colleges and universities. People who participate in the DP or CP are more likely to persist at college and more likely to graduate within five years. Additionally, more and more universities and colleges are offering credit for IB courses. These credits vary by university or college and can add up to thousands and thousands of dollars in savings and more freedom to pursue courses that are of higher and more immediate interest than entry-level Freshman courses.

Another benefit that I want to point out and is rarely highlighted is the joy of doing hard things with people you care about. Sage's DP and CP students immediately have something in common with each other and with any other DP or CP student they meet on their new campus. They can laugh (or commiserate) about oral exams in French, designing an experiment for their Biology Internal Assessment (IA), perhaps argue whether or not the Araby chapter in Joyce's Dubliners is the basis for the wonderful Irish film Sing Street (seriously, watch it!) or be happy they don't have to take first year calculus because they did HL math.

I encourage you to read more about what research says about the IB's programs [here](#). I also encourage you to speak directly to your child's teachers, their division director or program coordinator if you want to learn more.

All the best,

Andy Johnson  
Executive Director

## A NOTE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL, DARCI STELZNER



During the month of December, we celebrate being communicators. We focus on this IB learner profile by modeling and teaching students how to express themselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We guide them to collaborate effectively and listen carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups. This leads to confidence and independence by doing things on their own and having the courage to take risks.

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

1. Take turns speaking and listening to one another about your daily events.
2. Explore other forms of communication including symbols, signs, and sounds.
3. Read a variety of texts and find connections between the books and your child's life.
4. Discuss the TV programs and videos you watch together.
5. Make books, magazines, and other reading material readily available.
6. Take time to listen to your child when he/she talks with you, by turning off technology and providing undivided attention.
7. Ask questions about what they are saying, ask for explanations.
8. Act out stories, plays, poems, use language in fun creative ways.
9. Sing together.
10. Support other forms of communication via art, dance, music etc.

## ENROLLMENT NEWS



Each year we require you to re-enroll your student for the upcoming school year. While we always guarantee current students a seat, this allows us to plan for our lottery and how many openings we will have available for each grade level in the coming year. This is also an opportunity to review the contact information we have on record for your family.

This year **re-enrollment will be open from January 30th through February 12th**. At that time, you will also have the opportunity to apply for the sibling lottery for any additional students you would like to enroll. Siblings that live within the same household are given priority in our enrollment lottery for any openings that we have available.

Our 2023-24 lottery application for families who are NEW to Sage schools is open for both campuses January 2nd - February 23rd, and you will see information about it posted on our social media and website. You do not need to apply to that lottery. You will re-enroll any current students and add any siblings to the lottery starting January 30th. Please contact Arin at [arin.jeffs@forgeintl.org](mailto:arin.jeffs@forgeintl.org) with any questions.

We do invite you to share the lottery information with your friends who may be interested in attending our school! YOU, our amazing families, are our most valuable marketers and we appreciate you helping us spread the word!

## LIFE IN THE PYP WITH COORDINATOR NORA STRAUCH

Our PYP students are busy working on their third Units of Inquiry for this school year. Our inquiry time in the classroom is also a great time for students to practice being Communicators by sharing their ideas through speaking, writing, drawing and creating.



Here are the third units for our PYP students this year:  
Kinder- How We Express Ourselves: People learn from sharing experiences  
Grade 1- How We Organize Ourselves: Communities share resources  
Grade 2- Who We Are: People choose behaviors that develop personal values  
Grade 3- Where We Are In Place and Time: History informs the present  
Grade 4- (combined) Sharing the Planet and How the World Works  
Grade 5- Who We Are: Perspective influences interpretations

Ask your student about what they are learning about in their Unit of Inquiry!

One of the great things about being a K-10 school is the great classroom opportunities it presents for our students, such as this 9th grade student reading to Mrs. Johnson's 1st grade class!

Enjoy "Jingle Bells" in Spanish [here](#) with Mrs. Perez's 4th graders!



## LIFE IN THE MYP WITH LISA MARSHALL

Parents, with just a few weeks left in the semester, it is imperative that your student is keeping up with schoolwork. Students should be coming to school with a planner and other supplies, and a fully-charged Chromebook. Please regularly log in to read about assessments and due dates in Toddle. If you need a refresher, you can [find instructions here](#). Check the must-dos written for each class in your child's planner, and please communicate with your child's teachers if you have any questions. Thank you for your support from home!



Our Sixth Grade Lang & Lit students held a Living Wax Museum as the summative assessment for our Greek Mythology unit. We were so impressed with their exhibits and students throughout the school got to visit and learn about them! You can see more pics on [our blog](#).



## A NOTE FROM NURSE BLEW:



### **Cold Weather and Viral Infections**

Some viruses thrive in cold dry weather, while others prefer warmer weather. Most cold weather viruses are spread primarily through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, and talking.

It is well known that being in close contact in crowded rooms increases the risk of transmission of almost all viruses and bacterial infections (such as Strep Throat). For this reason, it is beneficial to have kids play outside as much as possible. However, it has been found that dry air below 20 degrees can affect the tracheal and nasal mucociliary beat frequency, decreasing the body's ability to keep viruses out. For this reason, we will be having indoor recess when temperatures reach that point.

Please be sure that your child has a water-propellant coat, gloves, and boots. A hat is also important in preventing earaches, and heat loss through the head. For the young kids that like to splash in water puddles, please send extra pants and socks. If your family is unable to provide these items, please let myself or Counselor Joy know. We can (confidentially) see if we can find resources for donations of these items.

**The "Tripledemic" of 2022 refers to a large number of cases of Covid-19, RSV, and Influenza. Here is a description of each and the plan for returning to school:**

**Covid-19 symptoms:** Fever/chills, Cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue, body aches, headache, sore throat, runny nose/congestion, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste/smell.

**Return to school:** With Covid, we ask that students stay home for 5 full days from the onset of symptoms. May return on day 6 wearing a mask until after day 10 if symptoms are improving.

**RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) symptoms:** Fever/chills (usually over 102 degrees in young children), cough, rapid breathing, sore throat, runny nose/congestion, ear infection. More severe in children under 2 y/o.

**Influenza (Flu) symptoms:** Sudden onset of fever (102-104 degrees), chills, headache, body aches, sore throat, cough, runny nose/congestion, mild pink eye, fatigue. Occasionally tummy pain with/without vomiting.

**Return to school:** For these and any other illnesses, we ask that students stay home until vomiting/diarrhea free for 24 hours, fever-free for 24 hours (without meds like Tylenol or Ibuprofen) and other symptoms are improving.

Here's an article to help: "[How to know when your child is too sick for school](#)". In order to keep our staff and students healthy, we really need your help to keep students home when sick! Thank you, and we wish you and your family a healthy New Year!

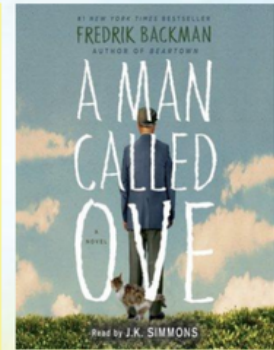


# GET INVOLVED



We need volunteers to help in the kitchen! You can find the Sign up [here](#) or email [gina.fairchild@forgeintl.org](mailto:gina.fairchild@forgeintl.org) .

Forge's Parent-Staff Book Club will meet Thursday, January 19th, at 4:15 p.m., at Casa Mexico in Middleton. We will be discussing the book [A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman](#). Email Lisa Marshall ([lisa\\_marshall@forgeintl.org](mailto:lisa_marshall@forgeintl.org)) for more information. Everyone is welcome!



*Parent-Staff Book Club*

**Sage Family-owned businesses:** We have a wide variety of businesses that are owned and operated by Sage families in the Treasure Valley at both of our Sage schools! We are a diverse and talented group, and you can view the list and more information about each [here](#). If you would like to add your business, please fill out this form [here](#) for it to be added. **A BIG thank you** to the following businesses who donated prizes for our Staff Holiday Party! Ada Therapy Services, Shots by Sylva, Caldwell Transportation, El Señor Pollo, Middleton Smiles, and Rustic Oven!

**Forge Expeditions** has several exciting things planned for our students! 4th grade Snowshoe trip to Bogus on January 25th, the MYP Yurt trip on February 3rd - 5th, and Bogus Basin Lifesports for Grades 3-10 on February 10th. Mark your calendars and watch your inbox for registration information in the coming weeks, we will also post more info on [our website](#).



**Boys Basketball:** Practices will begin on Monday, January 9th! They will run Monday-Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm. Registration Deadline to register is January 5th, you can find more details and sign up [here](#).

**Middleton Music Academy** is excited to start their **Youth Choir for children ages 7-13** here at Forge starting in January 2023. We also have these group classes offered after school: Violin/Viola ensemble, Guitar basics, and Brighter Notes Piano .

Private lessons are also available at different times throughout the week for Guitar, Piano, Voice, Strings, and 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](mailto:info@middletonmusicacademy.com) ASAP to secure your spot!



**Community Opportunities** - You can find other activities offered in our community [here](#)! If you have something to add, please email it to [info@forgeintl.org](mailto:info@forgeintl.org).