



January Newsletter

A Note from the Principal

Dear SMS Families,

Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year is that unique time when everything seems to have a fresh beginning. There are new year goals, new year resolutions and new promises to keep! As George Eliot states, “It is never too late to be what you might have been.” I wish you all a prosperous new year to achieve your “might have been”!

Your partner in education and community enhancement,

Ms. Baglien

First Semester Report Cards

First semester report cards will be mailed out by February 1st.

Attendance

Winter always makes perfect attendance somewhat tricky, but I know we can achieve it! It’s important to find a way to get your child to school even when the weather is bad. If you’re having trouble getting to school, we can assist in making alternative plans.

Do what you can to keep your children healthy. Dress them warmly for the cold weather and make sure they’ve got hats and gloves. Encourage them to wash their hands regularly, are eating healthy and are getting plenty of sleep.

Weather

As our weather begins to change, please be reminded of school delay and closure procedures as well as the need for students to dress weather appropriately. The decision on delays and closures is made prior to 5:30 a.m. by district officials and reported to the news.

Important Handbook & Logistics Reminders

- Cell Phones: **Student cell phones are to be off and in lockers during the school day.** There will be a zero tolerance policy regarding phones. If they are out during the day, they will be taken until the end of the day. If a student needs to use a phone during the day, the main office has a phone for student use.
- Early Dismissal: Please have notes sent in as early as possible to assist office staff in ensuring students know of early release or dismissal changes.
- Lunches: Late lunch drop-offs will always be left on the table of the entryway, please remind students to always check there.

Middle School Clubs

Chess Club Chess Club is open to students in grades K-12. Transportation for elementary students will be provided. Please contact Jennifer King for more information: kingjr@mac.com

Math Support 5th-8th grade math support for students in need of extra assistance will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Our 7th & 8th grade math instructor Jonathan Kelly (jonathan.kelly@sisters.k12.or.us), will be running the program.

Sisters Kids Choir (*5th Grade Only*) The Sisters Folk Festival is partnering with the elementary music teacher to offer a 4th-5th grade choir. **The first choir practice begins tomorrow!** The choir will run January-March. The choir will meet on Wednesday mornings at the Middle School (choir room) from 7:30-8:30am with Sara Miller teaching the students six different choral pieces, all in the theme of “Animalia – a Celebration of Animals!” The culmination of their efforts will be showcased at the annual Kids Choir Festival, held at Bend Senior High School in Bend on Saturday, March 16, 2019. If your student is interested in participating, please contact Sara Miller right away at sara.miller@sisters.k12.or.us.

AAUW Tech Trek: Summer STEM Camp

Tech Trek is a science and math camp for girls entering eighth-grade in the fall of 2019. The camp is application based and 48 campers will be selected from the tri-county area. More information can be found at the following website

<https://bend-or.aauw.net/tech-trek-central-oregon/> and applications are available in the school office ..

Roundhouse Enrichment Scholarships

The Roundhouse Foundation is offering scholarships to be distributed to SMS students (grade 5-8) for enriching experiences. The Roundhouse Foundation Enrichment Experience Applications are accepted throughout the school year but must be received no later than 30 days prior to the experience activity, allowing time for processing and consideration. Summer experiences are encouraged, but applications for these activities must be submitted no later than May 15th. A selection committee of SMS staff, Sisters GRO Board members and Sisters Community Leaders will determine recipients and scholarship award amounts.

SMS Parent Collaboration Team

Our school has formed parent council that will allow for parents to actively participate, serve, and contribute to the functioning and organization of the school. By providing a strong and cohesive parent body, the Parent Collaboration Team will support the teacher-student relationship, and the work of the school and its mission. **If you are still interested in participating on the team please feel free to reach out to Ms. Baglien for more information. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 10th at 1:30pm.**

Service Learning Project

Please continue supporting our Sparrow by completing service hours! A Sparrow is a local child who has had a physical and/or medical challenge, and is in need of financial assistance. A donor, The Weitzman Family Foundation, will give \$10 dollars per completed community service hour to help fund medical expenses. We are thrilled to be supporting such a wonderful cause and are thankful to the Weitzman Family Foundation for supporting this family! Our service learning project is being orchestrated by Becky Aylor, please contact Becky for further information: becky.aylor@sisters.k12.or.us

Social Media & Technology Use in the Tween Years

Schools across the country, including ours, continue to see fall out from the early and habitual use of cellphones and social media usage. Please take time to read through some of the articles and resources available to better familiarize yourself with common teen pitfalls as well as advice on monitoring and limiting use.

<https://www.chla.org/blog/rn-remedies/parents-guide-teens-and-cell-phones>

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/signs-you-should-restrict-teens-cellphone-use-4101840>

<https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/children-media-safety/how-to-keep-your-kids-safe-online/#.XDUmmy6NPY>

<https://www.mymobilewatchdog.com/>

Outlaw Character Development Theme of the Month

January's theme of the month is "Fresh Starts." Speak with your student about goal-setting and starting anew in 2109. We believe all of our students are capable of great feats!

Vaping

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 16 at 6:00pm in Sisters High School Lecture room** to learn more about the trends and data surrounding vaping among young people and discuss the health concerns and potential harm associated with use, including the effects on adolescent development. Like many districts across the country, Sisters School District is experiencing an increasing number of students found in possession of and/or are using vaping products. I want to make sure that parents and guardians are aware of what some of these products are, and the dangers that they pose to our students and your children.

Sisters School Board

Please join with me in offering our sincerest thanks and gratitude to Jay, Amanda, Steven, Jeff & Nicki for their service on our Sisters School Board. They put forth a great deal of voluntary time to ensure our students and community are the beneficiaries of exemplary schools.

Notes & Dates

- **Important Dates:**

Friday, Jan. 11: Outlaw of the Month Assembly

Thursday, Jan. 10: Parent Collaboration Team Meeting 1:30pm, SMS Conference Room

Wednesday, Jan. 16- Coffee & Conversation 9:30am, SMS Library

Wednesday, Jan. 16- Vaping Presentation, Sisters High School 6pm, Lecture Room

Monday, Jan. 21- No school, MLK Day

Wednesday, Jan. 23 – No late start, Dismissal at 11:55 am,

Thursday, Jan. 24 – Dismissal at 11:55 am

Friday, Jan. 25 – No School, End of Semester

Tuesday, Jan. 29- Starry Nights, Sisters High School

- **O-Factor:** O-Factor is a variety talent show for all SMS students, **the deadline for sign up is Friday, January 12th**. Comedy, instrument, vocal, digital tech skills, dance, etc.. Auditions will be Wednesday- Friday January 16-18th, mandatory dress rehearsal is January 31st, and O-Factor will be Friday Feb 1st
- **8th Grade Baby Ads:** \$30 for 1/4 page and one photo \$60 for 1/2 page with three photos. Payment to the office. Text baby photos to Aylor's email. These will sell out. **Ad sales end January 31st.**
- **Yearbooks:** **\$25 until the end of January.** Yearbooks are \$30 starting Feb 1.

Thank you!

- Thank you to all students, staff, parents and community members for your contributions towards supporting student success during our first semester!