



The Trident

The eNewsletter of
The Sage School

September 2010

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Hello Friends and Families of The Sage School,

It already feels like September is getting a little long in the tooth, although it also feels like summer is back, which is ironic as we officially enter Fall.

A lot has happened since the last newsletter, mostly in the form of the start of school. The following snippets will provide a glimpse of the work we did in the first two weeks, what was our Orientation Period.

Now we transition into more of a daily routine, and begin our various quests. The Middle School is on the road to autobiography, and learning about the history of themselves (and the world), while the High School is seeking to understand the implications and influence of agriculture from 50,000 years ago until today.

Oh, and there will be plenty of math, and Spanish, and reading, and writing along the way. So, stay tuned, and I will keep you posted.

Harry



Thank You

I wanted to extend a specific thank you and recognition to the following groups and organizations for their support of the school:

The Good Works Institute

We received a three year, \$30,000 grant to outfit and set up our greenhouse

The Marshall Frankel Foundation

We received a \$10,000 Grant to be applied to Technology

The Deer Creek Fund

We received a \$10,000 grant towards our General Operating Fund

The Wattis Dumke Foundation

We received a \$4,500 Grant for our Outings and Field Experiences

Needless to say, this support, at this time, has been invaluable to what we are trying to create.

I also wanted to say that others have given support, and I look forward to

The Bike Project

Assembling (and disassembling) The Fleet

High School and Middle School students spent a portion of the first two days of school tuning up and taking apart the various bicycles donated to the school. The frames were taken to Valley Auto Body and painted (this service and the supplies were donated, so a huge thank you to the owners), and The Fleet awaits reassembly, which we will do this week.



These miniature chariots will be our access to Hailey and destinations near school. Look for the flashy, silvery green bikes around town. Our plan is to continue to work on donated bicycles and to look for ways we might give bikes back to the community.

Middle School Orientation

On climbing, camping, and the ropes course

The Middle School spent its Orientation period at the CSI Ropes Course, the City of Rocks, Wild Horse Creek, and then wrapped it up at Pettit. The purpose of the seven days was to involve students and teachers in a variety of shared experiences that let everyone test their personal limits, think about the year ahead, and get to know one another. Yep, this was all about bonding and setting the stage for the work the Middle School gets to do this year.



High School Orientation

On agriculture and food production

The High School spent its Orientation visiting area farms and food producers, from the Wood River Valley to Fairfield to Hagerman to Twin Falls. We went to local organic farms, hobby farms, University research facilities, fish breeding stations, and places where you



appropriately thanking them in the coming months.

Book Quest

The High School is seeking copies of the following books:

The Omnivore's Dilemma
Guns, Germs, and Steel
Eat Here
Cows, Pigs, Wars and Witches
The Unsettling of America

As several of these were/are hot titles, we were hoping to find some "kindly used" copies for the students. If you have a book you are willing to donate, we would love to come and get it.

can pick watermelons. The goals were to do first hand research on food production, to see the diversity and range of what can be produced in Idaho, and to generate ideas for what we will do in our greenhouse. The Orientation ended with a mini-design charrette where we outlined our challenges, defined our goals, and began to research our next steps.

Pettit Lake Retreat

The meeting of the schools

After their various independent projects, the Middle and High Schools came together for a day and a half at Pettit Lake. The goals of this mini-retreat were to share what each division had done, to look ahead to where we are going, and to spend some time together playing and relaxing as a school. I think all the goals were met, the appropriate flags were captured, Yahtzee! was screamed, and the water was tested.



Oh, and the food was delicious. Once again, a huge thank you to mom (Starr Weekes) for this.

In Conclusion

It is hard to believe year two is fully underway. A lot will unfold in the coming months, and I look forward to staying in touch.

As always, thank you for interest and involvement with the school.

Harry

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