

The Rocket News

1825 W. Chateau Dr. Meridian, ID 83646
Phone: 208-855-4430 Fax: 208-855-4439
BMSA Website: <http://www.westada.org/Domain/9>



Captain's Log – Star Date: 4-2016

There is no greater place to be in the Spring than BMSA. This time of year our entire school is focused on studying living things. Our school starts to resemble Noah's ark as students and teachers begin growing all kinds of plants and animals to study and observe. From pea plants to chickens and lizards, one can find it all here in the Spring. I love the hands on approach our teachers take in providing students opportunities to interact directly with the living things around them.

This is also the time of year that teachers and students realize that there is still much to accomplish in a short duration of time. There's an energy that comes with that final push to the finish line that is both invigorating and exhausting. Please help ensure your child is rested and ready to give it their best during this last leg of the journey.

One of April's highlights will be our annual Family Science Night, Friday April 15th from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. This event provides families the opportunity to experience BMSA's W.I.S.E Way method of learning together as a family. This is one of our most popular family events each year and families always have a great time together. I hope to see you there!

There is so much going on in April, May and June. I've listed important April dates on this page and have included important school-wide dates in May and June below for your planning purposes.

It is such a privilege to educate your child and I thank you for partnering with us in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wilhite

Upcoming Events

April 5th:

Kindergarten Registration
1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

April 5th:

PTO Mtng. **CANCELLED**

April 7th:

Prospective Student Tour 9:30

April 7th:

3rd Grade Science
Presentations 6:30-7:30

April 8th:

Class Picture Day

April 12th:

No School – In-Service

April 15th:

BMSA Family Science Night
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

April 18th:

ISAT & IRI Testing Begins

April 22nd: (Earth Day!)

4th Grade Music Program
10:30 AM

Neighborhood Night – MMS

April 25th:

BMSA Food Drive

April 29th:

ROAR Assembly 1:15 PM



BMSA Annual Spring Science Night – April 15th.

BMSA will be hosting its annual Science Night on Friday, April 15th from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. At this event families have the opportunity to explore our W.I.S.E Way method of Wondering, Investigating, Sharing and Extending. Grade levels will be facilitating several different science explorations for the family to enjoy together. This evening is an annual favorite. Save the date and plan to join us!



Summer STEM Camps at BMSA:

We are pleased to announce a partnership with STEMBusUSA.org to host cutting edge STEM camps this summer at Barbara Morgan STEM Academy's campus. STEMBusUSA.org believes there's no better way to inspire a passion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in students than through discovery and hands-on experience. That's why Barbara Morgan STEM Academy is a great fit to help achieve the mission of providing unique, interactive learning environments where K-12 students learn new skills and problem solving through fun, team-oriented activities throughout the summer.

BMSA students receive a 10% discount. The discount code for Barbara Morgan STEM is: **BM102016**. The code does not expire, but cannot be combined with any other offers i.e. the \$10.00 per student registration donation. BMSA PTO will be raffling off 2 Free Camp Registrations! More info. to come on the PTO raffle!

There will be 2 sessions held at BMSA: June 20-24 & June 27 – July 1

Check out this promotional video of the STEM camps: <https://youtu.be/xJhHGIBW98c>

Info. on Camp Class offerings: <http://www.stembususa.org/camps/west-meridian-stem-summer-camps/>

Click here to Register: <http://www.stembususa.org/>

BMSA PTO will be selling raffle tickets for 2 free Summer STEM camps at Family Science Night April 15th! 100% of the money raised goes to BMSA. Buy a ticket and support the school!

State Spring Testing Begins April 18th:

Our annual spring state testing begins April 18th. Our K-3 graders will take the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) which tests students' reading fluency. Our 3-5 students will take the Idaho State Achievement Test (ISAT). The ISAT tests students' math, reading and writing skills (5th graders also take a Science ISAT). More information about these tests can be found at the links below. Your child's teacher will let you know the specific day(s) your child will be testing.

We ask that parents ensure their child is well rested, fed and ready to give their best effort on the day they test. We don't want to create undue pressure for students, but we do want them to do their very best. Thank you for partnering with us in this effort.



ISAT information and resources: <http://idaho.portal.airast.org/students-and-families/>

IRI information : <http://sde.idaho.gov/assessment/iri/files/parent-resources/IRI-Parent-Brochure.pdf>

Parent Input on Your Child's Classroom Placement for Next Year:

We are in the beginning stages of determining class placements for next year. This process is an involved process that we as a BMSA team spend hours on. We consider many different factors when making class placements. One factor we consider is your input. At the end of this newsletter you will find a form titled, "BMSA Parent Input Student Placement Form." Your input is not required, but appreciated. I do not take requests for specific teachers, but I do encourage parents to share about their child's strength, challenges and personality. Forms are due by Friday, April 15th.

Save the Date!

Below are some important dates in May and June. More specifics will be provided in upcoming newsletters and Teacher communication.

May 2 – 6 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 10 EL Parent Meeting (11:30 – 12:30)

May 13 BMSA Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast (8:15-8:45)

May 20 4th Grade Rendezvous & 2nd Grade Music Program (2:00)

May 24 3rd Grade Field Trip to the Nature Center

May 25 Field Day

May 26 First Grade Field Trip to Birds of Prey; ROAR Assembly (2:00) & 4th – 5th Orchestra Program (5:30)

May 30 No School – Memorial Day

June 1 All School Field Trip to the Boise Zoo (Zoo Tour 2.0!)

June 2 Kindergarten Promotions; 5th Grade BBQ

June 3 Last Day of School (Full Day); 5th Grade Celebration

Congratulations to BMSA's Teacher of the Year and Classified Employee of the Year!:



Mrs. Miller – 1st Grade Teacher



Mrs. Waters – Title 1 Paraprofessional

There is no greater honor than to be recognized by your peers as being excellent at what you do. We are very proud of Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Waters. Both do so much to serve the students, staff and parents of BMSA and have played a central role in establishing a culture of innovation, professionalism and excellence at BMSA. We are proud of you and so thankful to have you at BMSA!

We Want Your Feedback:

Dear parents,

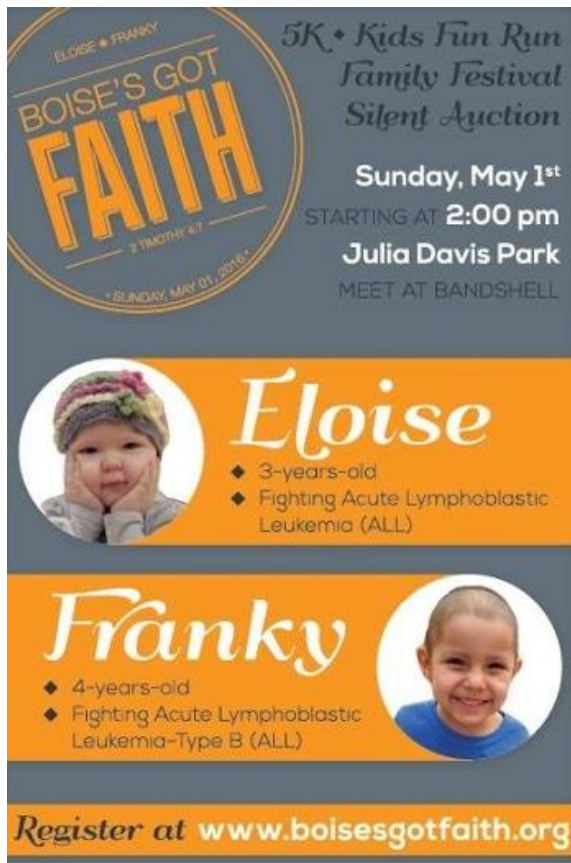
Below is a link to a survey which will help guide our school in planning support for you and your child. We hope that you will take a few minutes to let us know what is working and where we can make improvements. Your feedback on our school support is very valuable and most appreciated. Once you go to the link, you will choose from one of the languages provided at the top and select "Barbara Morgan S.T.E.M. Academy".

Click here to take survey: <https://survey.k12insight.com/k/SsVYRRsQQSUsPsPsP>



Boise's Got Faith Fundraiser May 1st – An Opportunity to Help One of Our Own:

The Lawrence Family has 3 children at BMSA and their youngest, Eloise, will be a Kindergartner at BMSA in 2 years. Eloise has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. We have an opportunity to support the Lawrence Family at an upcoming 5K & Kids Fun Run event called, "Boise's Got Faith." www.boisesgotfaith.org This event is a fundraiser to help support the medical expenses in treating Eloise's leukemia. The event will be held Sunday, May 1st at 2:00 PM at Julia Davis Park. The Kids Fun Run is \$15 dollars and the 5K Run is \$25 dollars. 100% of the proceeds go to help the Lawrence Family. You can register at: www.boisesgotfaith.org. Please consider helping the Lawrence Family by attending this great event.



BOISE'S GOT FAITH
ELOISE • FRANKY
2 MARCH 2016
SUNDAY, MAY 01, 2016

**5K • Kids Fun Run
Family Festival
Silent Auction**

Sunday, May 1st
STARTING AT **2:00 pm**
Julia Davis Park
MEET AT BANDSHELL

Eloise
◆ 3-years-old
◆ Fighting Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)

Franky
◆ 4-years-old
◆ Fighting Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia-Type B (ALL)

Register at www.boisesgotfaith.org



\$15 **Kid's "Crazy Socks" Mile**
Starts at 2:00 pm

\$25 **5K Run/Walk**
Starts at 2:30 pm

100% of all proceeds go directly to the benefit fund of Eloise Lawrence and Franky Campos

Register at www.boisesgotfaith.org

Join Us!

@boisesgotfaith
#BGF2016



BMSA's first ever "Launch: Into Next Year" Event:

Wouldn't it be great to have an opportunity to meet the teaching team of the grade level your child will be in next year and learn about what you and your child can expect next year and what your child could do this summer to ensure they're ready? We are planning to do just that. We're still working out logistics, but in May we will be hosting an evening where you and your child can come and hear a presentation from next year's teachers and receive ideas and resources about what your child can do over the summer to make sure they can hit the ground running next Fall. More information will be forthcoming as soon as dates are set. Part of our motivation to host this event is due to our inability to offer summer school this summer. I hope you will take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

STEM Class Update

Mrs. Shaffer

Trimester 2 is off to a great start. Students in various grade levels are working on concepts related to energy, matter, motion & forces.

K = Pushes & Pulls

1st = Light & Sound

2nd = Bridges, Properties of Matter

3rd = Forces of Flight, Simple Machines

4th & 5th = Electrical Energy, Forces & Matter

You can access my calendar, announcements and useful links at:
<https://sites.google.com/site/mrsshaftersstemclass/home>

Discovering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Activities in Idaho

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/Discover-STEM-Activities-Idaho.pdf>

Home STEM Extension

Wonder: Which things in our home require a push or a pull? Are some harder or easier to push or pull?

Investigate: Families can explore their homes for pushes and pulls and investigate ways to make those jobs easier. Can you make a tool or machine to make your pushes/pulls easier?

Share: What did you learn about your home? Are there more pushes or pulls? What type of machine or tool did you design to make your work easier?

Extend: What types of machines do we use in space to push/pull objects? Do they work the same as on Earth?

Neighborhood Night at Meridian Middle April 22nd:

Meridian Middle School will be hosting a "Neighborhood Night," on April 22nd. This is an opportunity for Meridian Middle and its feeder Elementary schools to celebrate our community. This event promises to be a great night out for families in our area. It's essentially a giant block party! They will have music, food, games, activities, information about services and businesses around us, dancing, and other entertainment. BMSA will be hosting an informational booth at the event.



Boxtops

Collected the last week of each month.

Attendance:

Please make every effort to have your child at school every day and on time.

If your child is absent please call the office to verify the absence.
#855-4430

School Start/End

Start: 9:05 (9:20 Wed.)

End: 3:55

Breakfast served:

8:45 (M,T,TH,F)

9:00 (Wed.)

"Like Us" On Facebook!

Search for Barbara Morgan STEM Academy

April 2016

BMSA PTO NEWS

Café Zupas Fundraiser

Thank you to all who ate at Café Zupas last Tuesday! We were able to earn \$336.94 for our school. BMSA generated the most money out of all the Café Zupas in Idaho and surrounding states that night. Way to go!!!

Labels for Education

Please send in your Labels for Education before the end of the year. This program will be ending this summer. If we are able to get enough labels, we will earn \$200 for the school. You can send them in with your Box Tops. Thanks!

Online Spirit Wear Sale

We are trying a new way for ordering Spirit Wear at BMSA. Because we are a STEM school, why not use technology to order Spirit Wear? Check it out because there are some new items than what we have had before. The sale will be from April 1st to April 17th. Shirts will be available 2 weeks after that. Here is the link to web store:

<http://gamefaceathletics.com/vendor/barbara-morgan-stem/>

Staff Appreciation Week May 2—May 6

Please help the PTO celebrate are wonderful staff at BMSA. Check out the following sign ups:

www.signupgenius.com/go/20foc49a8ae2daafa7-door

www.signupgenius.com/go/20FoC49A8AE2DAAFA7-staff1

www.signupgenius.com/go/20FoC49A8AE2DAAFA7-cookie

STEM Bus USA Summer Camp Raffle

STEM Bus USA donated 2 Summer Camp Registrations to the PTO. The cost of a week long camp is about \$200. We will be raffling off these 2 spots during the Family Engineering Night. The cost of a ticket will be \$5 and can be purchased that night.



Box Tops

Don't forget to send in Box Tops to your child's class. They will be collected the end of each month. The class that collects the most Box Tops each month wins a prize!

Spirit Day

Every Friday is Spirit Day! Wear your school shirt, school colors or BSU or other favorite team shirt!

Important Dates

4/1—4/17 Online Spirit Wear Sale

5/2—5/6 Staff Appreciation Week

5/10 Last PTO Meeting of the year 4:15pm

Suggestions/ Concerns

bmsapto@gmail.org



BMSA Monthly Prospective Student Tours:



Did you know that we give tours for prospective parents and students interested in attending BMSA the first Thursday of every month? Tours start at 9:30 AM and last for one hour. Participants receive an overview from the Principal about our approach to learning and a guided tour of the school. If you have friends or neighbors interested in checking out BMSA encourage them to RSVP for our next tour with Katy in the front office. #855-4430.

Need Assistance Paying for School Lunch?:



Information and online application for Federal Assistance for free or reduced lunch: <http://www.westada.org/Page/14091> Income Eligibility Guidelines: <http://frapplications.meridianschools.org/faq.aspx>

A hard copy of Eligibility guidelines are attached at the end of this newsletter

Free & Reduced Lunch Income Eligibility Information:

	Breakfast Full Pay	Breakfast Reduced	Lunch Full Pay	Lunch Reduced
Elementary	\$1.25	\$0.30	\$2.25	\$0.40
Middle	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$3.20	\$0.40
High	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$3.20	\$0.40
Academy/Charter	\$1.50		\$3.20	
Employee/Guest	\$2.00		\$3.50	

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES [Effective from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016]

Household size	Federal poverty guidelines Annual	Reduced price meals—185%					Free meals—130%				
		Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
48 Contiguous States, District of Columbia, Guam and Territories											
1	11,770	21,775	1,815	908	838	419	15,301	1,276	638	589	295
2	15,930	29,471	2,456	1,228	1,134	567	20,709	1,726	863	797	399
3	20,090	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715	26,117	2,177	1,089	1,005	503
4	24,250	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863	31,525	2,628	1,314	1,213	607
5	28,410	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011	36,933	3,078	1,539	1,421	711
6	32,570	60,255	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,159	42,341	3,529	1,765	1,629	815
7	36,730	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307	47,749	3,990	1,990	1,837	919
8	40,890	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023
For each additional family member add	4,160	7,696	642	321	296	148	5,408	451	226	208	104

BMSA Parent Input Student Placement Form

Class placement is determined through a team effort involving the classroom teacher, specialists, and the principal. In order to provide the best education possible, we consider class size, ratio of boys to girls, student abilities and special needs, personalities, teacher and parent input. The principal is responsible for making the final assignment. Class lists will be available on PowerSchool in August. Training will be provided in the coming months on how to access your child's teacher in PowerSchool in August.

REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC TEACHERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Specific concerns should be addressed in writing to the principal.

Please use one form per student. **Please return to your child's teacher or to the Front Office by Friday, April 15th.**

Student's Name

Current Grade Level

Current Teacher

Please read the following descriptors, and check any that apply to your child.

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____learns better by seeing | _____prefers working independently |
| _____learns better by hearing | _____prefers working in a group |
| _____learns better by doing | _____follows directions 1 st or 2 nd time |
| _____is very shy and sensitive | _____needs directions repeated frequently |
| _____works better in a quiet environment | _____chooses to read during free time |
| _____works better in an interactive class | _____concerns with social interactions |

Have any of your other children had a teacher in next year's grade? _____ If so, who was the teacher and do you think this teacher would be a good fit for your child? _____

Special interests: _____

Area of most success at school: _____

Area of greatest concern at school: _____

Medical concerns: _____

Anything else we should be aware of in creating his/her learning environment: _____

Parent Signature: _____



GEMTEXT
Idaho, Washington, Oregon

Gemtext | Boise, Spokane & Portland | info@gemtextrecycling.com | www.gemtextrecycling.com



Have you ever noticed this Recycling Station?

Did you know that it can be used to raise money for your school all year long?

Here's how:

- Drop off your old clothes and shoes, the school is paid per pound on what is collected.
- Back-to-school shopping means a lot of outgrown or unwanted clothing and shoes. Don't throw them out!
- New Year – clean closets, make room for new toys and clothes.
- Spring Cleaning – don't forget to bring your old clothes to the school bin.
- Watch for summer garage sales/estate sales, bring leftovers to the school bin.
- This fundraiser is operated at no cost to your school.
- The school in your area with the most pounds collected at the end of the school year gets double. Help your school win, it's free!

As textile recyclers, Gemtext can take almost any household textile provided it is clean and dry. 98% of all clothes and shoes can be recycled. Not only does your school benefit, the environment does too!

What Do We Take?

- ALL household textiles* – all kinds/any condition
- Paired Shoes – in any condition
- Towels
- Gloves & Hats
- Sheets
- Blankets, quilts and bedspreads
- Drapes
- Purse & Belts
- Stuffed animals

*We cannot take high chairs, pet beds or bed pillows, cribs, car seats, carpeting or anything wet.

