

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: 4-2015

I am writing to you on the last day of Spring Break. I have enjoyed the opportunity to spend additional time with my family and friends and have taken the opportunity to rest in anticipation of much work yet to do to finish out our school year. I hope that you too have been able to enjoy this week together with family and friends and are well rested for the busy days ahead.

Spring brings an excitement and culmination to our school year at BMSA. Most fittingly, our curricular focus centers on “life and the nature of living things.” This is so easily accomplished as we are readily able to see life bursting forth all around us. There is much to wonder about as children observe the returning of the leaves, the flowers pushing up through the ground and newborn cattle in the fields. Our teachers have planned wonderful opportunities for our children to explore life both in and out of the classroom over the next two months. I invite you to join us in our efforts to Wonder, Investigate, Share and Extend about the living things around us.

Along with the study of living things, the spring season presents opportunities for us to assess all that we have learned throughout the year. In a later segment in this newsletter I will speak to the specifics of the assessments your child will be taking this spring, but in general would invite parents to partner with us in our efforts to position your child to be proud of their performance on these assessments. Testing can be stressful for kids. I would ask that parents work with us to reduce the hype and gravity of these state and district assessments and simply encourage your child to relax, take their time and do their best. This is a chance for them to shine! Here's to a fun and rewarding Spring at BMSA!

Mr. Wilhite

Principal

Upcoming Events

March 30 – April 3

BMSA Lockdown Drill Window

April 7

PTO Mtng. 4:30 PM

April 9

1st Grade Music Program 3:00 PM

April 10

Parent Input on Class Placement forms due.

April 10

Class Picture Day

April 15

No School – In-Service

April 22

Earth Day – School Garden Ground Breaking!

April 24

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast 8:00 – 8:45 AM

April 27

ROAR Assembly 2:00 PM

Spring Lockdown Drill:

The West Ada School District partners with the Meridian Police Department twice a year to conduct lockdown drills at all schools to ensure staff and students know what to do in the case of an emergency. Effort is made to balance the teaching of safe practice, while not creating undue stress or panic. Our lockdown drill is scheduled for the week we return from Spring Break. An email will be sent on the day the drill occurs. Some of our students that ride a bus, may also be participating in an emergency bus evacuation drill sometime in the coming weeks. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the office or see the attached brochure on District Lockdown protocol.



BMSA School Garden Ground Breaking April 22nd:



A year's worth of planning, dreaming and fundraising to build a community garden at BMSA will culminate this month at our garden ground breaking event to be held on April 22nd. This will be a very appropriate way for our community to celebrate Earth Day! I would like to thank our students, staff and parents for all of their hard work

over the past year to make this dream a reality. We are also thankful to our community partners that have helped to provide funding and resources for this project. A special thanks to: Home Depot, City of Meridian, the Idaho State Dept. of Education, News Channel 6, Frigo Cheese Company, the Whole Kids Foundation, and the University of Idaho's Master Gardeners program. Our community garden will be a rich learning resource for our students and our community.

Parent Survey Data:

Thank you to all parents that took the time to complete the Parent Survey that was sent out in February. The feedback was very positive, with some constructive feedback as well. Our Leadership Team is analyzing the data and considering how we can use the feedback to better serve our families.

Treat Fridays

First Friday of Each Month. Treats .25 cents & BMSA wristbands \$1

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

Spring Testing Schedule:

Over the next 7 weeks your child will be participating in one or more of the state/district required assessments. Your child's teacher will inform you of the specific dates that your child will be testing. Please help position your child to do their best on these assessments by encouraging them to relax and do their best. Parents can also help their child be successful on these tests by making sure your child is well rested and eats a good breakfast on the day they test. The following is a summary of the tests that will be given and links that will provide more information if interested:

Assessment	What's Tested	Who Takes It	Required By
Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI)	Reading Fluency	Grades K-3	State of Idaho. For more info. click: https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/reading_indicator/
Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)	Math & Reading Skills	Grades 2-5	West Ada District. For more info. click: http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/parents/docs/NWEA-Parent-Toolkit.pdf
Idaho State Achievement Test (ISAT) administered by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)	Math & Reading Skills	Grades 3-5	State of Idaho. For more info. click: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/assessment/ISAT/
Science ISAT	Science Knowledge and Skills	Grade 5	State of Idaho. For more info. click: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/assessment/ISAT/

3D Printer Coming to BMSA:

Our PTO recently approved a proposal from Lauryn Pike (BMSA Parent) to purchase a 3D printer for our Tech Lab! This will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience this new cutting edge technology and will be an opportunity to exercise their creativity, innovation, and computer aided design skills. A big thank you to Mrs. Pike and PTO for helping BMSA acquire this new technology. Check out the links below to see how students are using 3-D printing to increase learning and better the lives of those around them.



Boy gets prosthetic hand made by 3-D printer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGSo_I86_IQ

Educational uses of 3-D printing: <http://3dprintingsystems.com/why-have-3d-printers-in-the-classroom/>

Parent Input on Classroom Placement Due Friday, April 10th:

Although teacher requests are not granted at BMSA, we do provide parents an opportunity to share details about the kind of classroom environment they feel their child excels best in. I've attached the "Parent Input Student Placement Form," to this newsletter. It can also be found on our website. It is due to the front office not later than Friday April 10th. Class placements at BMSA are 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 posted on the front office windows in August the Friday prior to school starting.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, April 24th 8:00 AM – 8:45:

We have nearly 100 volunteers that help out at BMSA in some capacity. Many are parents or grandparents, but we also have high school students, college students, folks from STEM industries, and individuals from the community that just want to give back. We are so appreciative of this help and want to take a moment to say, "Thank you" to all of our volunteers by hosting a special volunteer appreciation breakfast on April 24th from 8:00 – 8:45 AM in the gym. Parents are welcome to bring younger (non-school age) siblings if need be. If you are a BMSA volunteer, please plan on joining us for this great event!



BMSA Red Robin Night: A Huge Success!

Thank you to all that came out to Red Robin last month to support BMSA. We had a great turn-out and raised over \$400 dollars for BMSA! It was fun to see everyone outside of our school environment, enjoying time together as a family.

Are You Helping Your Child Form Good Habits?

Current research is showing that student grades and attendance are some of the most powerful predictors of long-term career success. This may be directly tied to the fact that obtaining good grades and attendance require high levels of hard-work, commitment and perseverance, all of which are critical life skills attributed to long-term success. We do all we can at BMSA to foster these critical life-skills, but we need your help. I have noticed that there is an increasing number of students arriving late to school each day. Arriving late puts your student at a disadvantage, requiring them to catch up on what they missed. It also takes time away from the other students in class because the teacher has to catch the late arriving child up on what was missed. Arriving late is not good for anyone and forms bad habits that will have greater consequences as a child moves into middle school, high school, college and their career. Thank you for partnering with us in helping to form good life style habits that will set your child up to be successful now and for the rest of their life.



SPRING INTO READING

myOn Reading Contest

* The top three classrooms with the most minutes read will win a frozen yogurt party and an Apple TV. The top classroom will also receive a trophy!

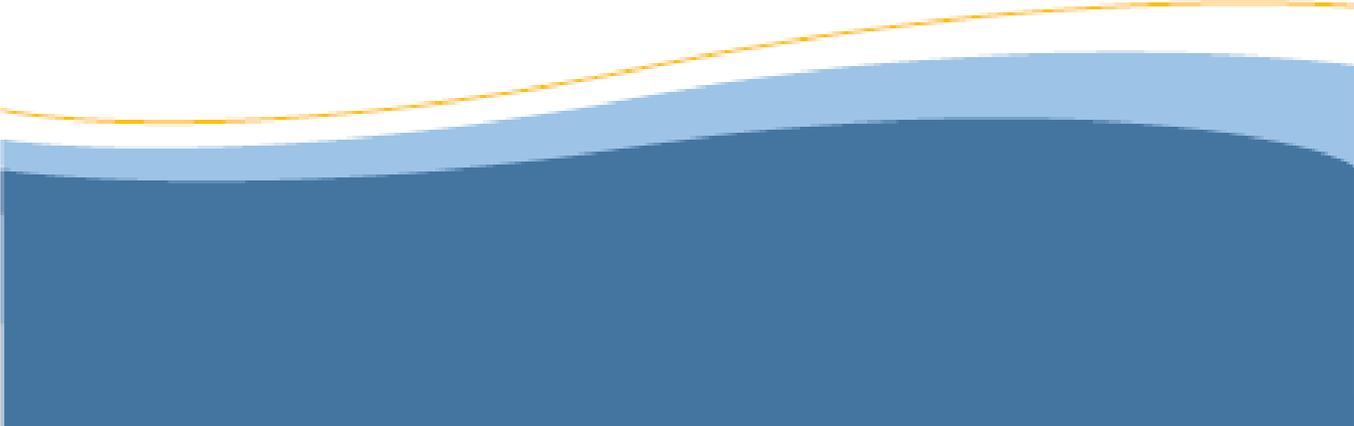
The top two schools with the most minutes read will win an Apple TV. The top school will also receive a trophy!

The top individual reader with the most minutes read will receive a Big AI's Prize Package and a gift card to Barnes and Noble!

March 30 to May 22

Contact Rebecca Quijas if you need help logging on!

myON App available for Apple and Androids



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 posted on the front office windows in August the Friday prior to school starting.

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 10th.**

Student's Name

Current Grade Level

Current Teacher

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> learns better by seeing | <input type="checkbox"/> prefers working independently |
| <input type="checkbox"/> learns better by hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> prefers working in a group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> learns better by doing | <input type="checkbox"/> follows directions 1 st or 2 nd time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is very shy and sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> needs directions repeated frequently |
| <input type="checkbox"/> works better in a quiet environment | <input type="checkbox"/> chooses to read during free time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> works better in an interactive class | <input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____

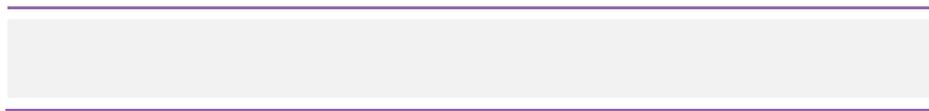
Area of most success at school: _____

Area of greatest concern at school: _____

Medical concerns: _____

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

Parent Signature: _____



In a serious emergency, administrators must decide to evacuate, Lockdown/Shelter in Place

In an effort to keep school staff informed about emergency procedures, this brochure is meant to provide an understanding of:

**Lockdown
Shelter In Place**

School staff is defined as all West Ada employees at the school:

- teachers
- paraprofessionals
- food service staff
- custodians
- safe school assistants
- security officers
- administrators
- bus drivers

Lockdown

Threat is inside or very close to the school or school grounds

Secures the building and safely shelters all students, staff, and visitors inside the school building. School business and classrooms activities cease. A school will go on lockdown if a threat is in the school building or on or near the school grounds and the threat endangers the occupants of the school.

Lockdown Procedure:

Site Administrator or other staff member who identifies the threat signals that the school is in lockdown

Staff calls 911

Lock classroom doors (classroom staff quickly scan hallway and pull students into the classroom)

Turn off classroom lights

Lower blinds

Students and staff move away from windows and out of sight

Staff and students remain down, quiet and out of sight until a member of law enforcement or school administration unlocks the door

Shelter In Place

Threat is away from the school

Shelter in place means to secure the building, providing a safe place for all students, staff and visitors inside the school. School business and classroom activities continue as normal.

Shelter in place is used if a threat is in the schools' neighborhood and does not endanger the occupants of the school. Often, a request to shelter in place will be made by law enforcement when there is an incident occurring in a neighborhood near a school.

Shelter In Place Procedure:

Lock exterior doors

Keep students and staff inside building during recess and lunch
Interior doors do not need to be locked



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.

