

The Rocket News

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Captain's Log – Star Date: 10-2014

When I was a kid I loved playing video games. In fact, I think there's still an Asteroids game out there with the high score initialed "RSW." I wasn't the only kid that liked video games, most of my friends enjoyed playing video games as well. My guess is that your child enjoys video games too. So what is it about video games that is so compelling? I believe that video game designers have figured out that kids are most motivated and learn best when they are appropriately challenged. Think about it. The first level of a video game is pretty easy. The intent is to make the player aware of the objectives of the game and provide some simple opportunities to play. Most everyone can pass the first level of the video game. The next level is slightly more challenging, but doable if the player works at it. The levels gradually get more challenging and the player gradually gains more skill and ability.

At BMSA we embrace a similar philosophy as video game designers to ensure we appropriately challenge our students. We accomplish this in several ways. The first way is through Project Based Learning activities. In project based learning, children are presented with a real-world problem to solve. Students will go about solving these problems in a way that is appropriately challenging for their ability. Some students will come up with highly complex solutions, while others will come up with less complex solutions. All solutions are celebrated, shared, and learned from.

Another way we appropriately challenge students is through our daily "Tool Time" sessions. Tool Time is an evolution of our Zone Time program from last year. During this 60 min. time frame each day, students are grouped with like-learners and focus on acquiring the math and reading skills that will equip them with the tools they need to solve the problems we are asking them to solve. We are fortunate that we are a Title 1 school as this federal funding provides significant monetary and personnel resources that provide additional instructors, technology, and instructional resources that can be employed during Tool Time and throughout the day.

Lastly, teachers use instructional strategies and various forms of technology to tailor learning for each child in their classroom to ensure their students are appropriately challenged. Many of these web-based learning tools are available at home, as well as, at school. I encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher about how you can partner with us in our efforts to appropriately challenge your child academically.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wilhite - Principal

Upcoming Events

October 8 & 9

Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 9 & 10

No School

October 14

Coder's Club informational mtng. 4:00 – 4:30 PM

October 16 & 23 & 30

7 Habits of Happy Kids parenting class 6:00 – 7:30 PM

October 27 – 31

Red Ribbon Week

October 29

School Picture Day

October 31

R.O.A.R Assembly 1:15

**No Costumes at School*

November 7

4th Grade Star Night

BMSA Club Update:

In last month's newsletter I wrote about the 3 clubs we are starting at BMSA this year. I am excited to announce that all three will be up and running by the end of October. Our Engineering club (Wed. 4-5) is off and rolling and the students start programming their robots this month in preparation to compete in the First Lego League competition later this school year. A big thank you to the Hettingers and the Hunkovics for facilitating our Engineering Club.



We have a good group of students that are participating in our Chess Club (Thurs. 4-5) learning game strategy and critical thinking skills. It's not too late to sign up. If your child is interested feel free to contact Julie Nahlen with Masters Chess Academy (#562-9785 or email: chessanyone@integrity.com)

Lastly, we have an informational meeting for our Coder's Club set for Tuesday, Oct. 14 from 4:00 – 4:30 PM. I have secured some Coders from local industry to help teach the children basic programming skills, but am still in need of some parent volunteers (with or without coding experience) to help facilitate this club. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the school (#855-4430) or email me at: wilHITE.ryan@westada.org



BMSA Garden Update:

Our School Garden proposal has been submitted to the West Ada School Board for their consideration and approval. Once we have approval we can begin the process of securing funding and resources to get the garden built. We're hoping to be able to use the garden this Spring. This is going to be a wonderful project based learning opportunity for our students and 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!

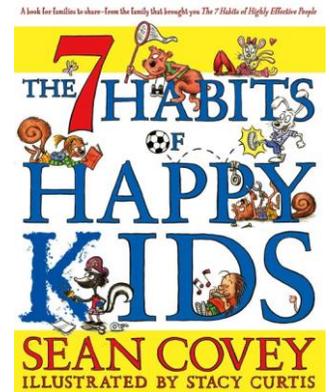
Search for Barbara Morgan STEM Academy

Help Us Win \$4000 Dollars to Fund Our School Garden!:

Our PTO President, Molly Mills, submitted our school garden project to a contest sponsored by the Frigo Cheese Company. BMSA was selected as a top ten finalist out of 1500 entries nation-wide! We will be awarded \$1000 dollars toward our school garden project for being selected as a national finalist. Better yet, starting Monday, Oct. 13th through Oct. 31st you will have the opportunity to vote for our school's project on FaceBook. The finalist school with the most votes will receive an additional \$3000 dollars toward their project! I will be sending out more information on this contest soon!

7 Habits of Happy Kids Parenting Class:

We had a good turn-out for our free parenting class "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids." It's not too late to join! Participants get a free dinner and a free copy of the 7 Habits of Happy Kids book. Meetings are held Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 PM through Nov. 6th. If you're interested please contact the front office for information. #855-4430. (I've also included the informational flyer below.) All resources are also available in Spanish as well.



October Focus on Bullying Prevention and Making Healthy Choices by Saying No to Drugs and Alcohol:



During the month of October, BMSA will be doing several things to promote healthy living and a bully-free learning environment. Our counselor, Mrs. Handley, will be going into each classroom this month to teach a lesson on what students can do to stop bullying. During the week of Oct. 27-Oct. 31 we will celebrate, "Red Ribbon Week," to promote healthy living and a life free from drugs and alcohol. We will have themed dress up days and teachers will be facilitating lessons on living a life free from drugs and alcohol. We will end the month with an assembly on Oct. 31st to celebrate a drug free, bully free school.



Empowering Your Child to Take Ownership of Their Own Learning:



This month's R.O.A.R character trait is "Ownership." I have challenged our students to reflect on what they can do to take ownership of their learning and behavior. I have also challenged our teachers to employ strategies that will encourage student ownership. Many are doing this through student-led conferences. This conference format provides the child an opportunity to share about their own progress and discuss their learning goals for the future. I would like to invite parents to join us in this effort to promote ownership by having conversations with your child about

how they can demonstrate pride in their behavior and their learning. You might ask them what they aspire to be when they're older? What do they need to do now to reach their long-term goals?

What is Title 1?

In my Captain's Log I mentioned that BMSA is a Title 1 school and that this federal program provides our school with significant funding and resources to provide additional learning opportunities for all of our students. For more information regarding Title 1 programs check out the following link: <http://www.westada.org/domain/4402>

BMSA PTO Fall Festival News:



I want to extend a big thank you to our PTO, students, staff and parents on a successful Fall Festival. It was a fun, family event and collectively we raised over \$1600 dollars to support learning at BMSA!

**See PTO's newsletter attached below!*

October 2014

BMSA PTO NEWS

A Huge Thank You!!!!

The Fall Festival and Silent Auction were a great success! Thank you to all the volunteers, teachers and staff for all the help before, during and after the event. A big thanks to everyone that came and supported the event. It was great to see so many families and friends of BMSA. We were able to raise over \$1600! \$1300 of that is going directly back into the classrooms. We hope to continue the tradition of a Fall Festival for many years to come!

Treat Fridays

Just a reminder that Treat Fridays will take place on the first Friday of each month. In addition to the popcorn and licorice, we will be selling BMSA wristbands for \$1. Also, instead of treats being handed out at lunchtime, students will be getting their items at the end of the day to take home with them.

Read-A-Thon

We wanted to let everyone know that the Read-A-Thon will be coming during the month of November. This is a great opportunity for students to show off their reading skills. Students will have the potential to earn great prizes for reading. More information will be coming soon.



Box Tops

Don't forget to send in Box Tops to your child's class. Great job to Mrs. Hecht's Class for collecting the most in the month of September!

Spirit Day

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

Important Dates

- 10/27-31 Red Ribbon Week
- 11/4 PTO Meeting 4:30pm
- 11/7 Treat Friday



- ◆ **Make new friends!**
- ◆ **Have lots of fun!**
- ◆ **Puzzles & prizes!**
- ◆ **Learn new strategy!**
- ◆ **Improve thinking skills!**



...Playing chess pays off in better reading and math skills and higher self-esteem.

"Playing chess makes Kids smarter!"

Chess in Education Research
Dr. Robert Ferguson

Barbara Morgan STEM Academy Chess Program!

Beginners welcome even if you don't yet know how the pieces move...

Tuition: \$30* per student per month includes Registration, Instructional Sessions, Training, Practice and Materials
*Kindergarten – Grade 5 Students welcome!

Starts Thursday, September 11, 2014 from 4 - 5pm at BMSA

Master's Academy K- 12 Chess Tournaments held weekly at:
Master's Academy, Library! Plaza Business Mall
(Corner of Ustick & Cole across from Walmart and Boise Public Library!)
3085 N. Cole Road, Boise, ID 83704

For Tournament info call 208.562.9785 or email: chessanyone@integrity.com

Academy Available during Teacher In-Service Days, Parent Teacher Conferences, Summer Break, Holidays, Spring Break

- **Awesome instruction under nationally recognized Children's Chess Instructor and Camp Director!**
- **Learn incredible strategy and tactics that aid in raised academic test scores... especially math and reading!**
- **Study easy opening principles, amazing middle game tactics, and advanced end game strategy!**
- **Chess Boards/Sets, Clocks, Books etc...Chess Store available for all your chess needs...**
- **We provide all equipment too!**

Julie Nahlen: USA Chess INC., Chess Camp Director and Head instructor; teaching chess around the country since 1996, in cities such as Vancouver, WA, Chicago, IL, Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX, Washington D.C., Somerset, NJ, Nashville, TN, and Vero Beach, FL. Also, initial coach of several multi-time state and national chess champions over her long standing career as a chess coach. Initial coach of Luke Harmon, the recent recipient of the very prestigious Stamps Foundation Scholarship, and most recently coach of 1st Place 2014 Idaho State Scholastic First and Second Grade Chess Champions, James Wei and Jared Wasden! ... and many other state championship title holders.



Additionally, Miss Julie has taught at top schools in the nation such as Hockaday School, Dallas, TX and National Cathedral School, Washington, D.C. She also has experience as a Certified USCF (United States Chess Federation) Chess Coach and Tournament Director, and Founder of *Chess Anyone? Chess Academy* and *Chess Anyone? Chess Club*. Realizing the academic benefits of chess, she has assisted parents and teachers in the creation of new chess programs around the state of Idaho for over 20 years. Look for our 4th annual 2015 Boise Chess Festival on June 6, 2015! Free and fun... www.BoiseChessFestival.info

Designed for grades K and up!



Join the BMSA Chess Program Today!
DON'T MISS THE FUN!
www.MastersAcademyBoise.com
To register or for information call 208.562.9785
Email: chessanyone@integrity.com



**Gratuitas
FREE!**

ONLY 50 SEATS AVAILABLE!

SIGN-UP TODAY! Call 855-4480

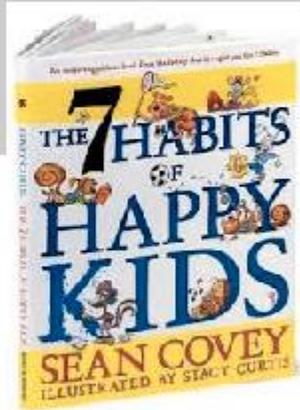
Yo hablo español, por favor llame al número telefónico para información de clases.

Barbara Morgan Stem Academy : Parents as Partners

The 7 Habits of Happy Kids

Please join us for an evening of activity and information to support your children

- *Dinner included for the entire family*
- **Initial Sign up: October 2, 2014**
- **6:00-7:30 p.m.**
- *Please meet in the Cafeteria*
- *Free Childcare Provided!*



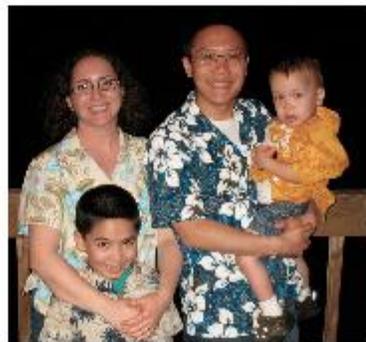
* A book will be provided to families who sign up to participate in *The 7 Habits of Happy Kids* future events.
Oct. 16 – Nov. 6, Thursday evenings

WEST ADA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**For more information
or to RSVP please contact:**

**Phone: Stephanie Reed
855-4480**

**E-mail:
reed.stephanie@westada.org**





Registration for Upward Basketball & Cheerleading is Open!

Whether it's basketball, soccer, flag football or cheerleading – you want to find a kids sports league that encourages your child and is right for your family's busy schedule. With just one practice and one game each week, Upward Sports fits your busy lifestyle while promoting the values that matter to you. Say "yes" today to the program that's fun for your child and right for your family!

Grades: K-6

Cost: \$95 early bird registration through October 28

Basketball includes reversible jersey and shorts, t-shirt, post-season award and more.

Cheerleading includes full uniform, mock turtleneck, poms, megaphone, post-season award and more.

Practices: Start January 5

Games: January 17-March 7

Awards Celebration: March 14

PLAY. FUN. SPORTS.

Register at:

WWW.IDAHOSPORTSFUNDATION.ORG