

# 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: 3 -2017

Our mission at BMSA is to develop life-long learners working together as innovative problem solvers in a global community. To accomplish this mission we know that we have to teach students to remain curious, take ownership of their own learning, equip them to be leaders, and help them develop empathy for others. One of the many ways we accomplish this mission is by fostering leadership skills in our students. We utilize Sean Covey's, 7 Habits of Happy Kids, to equip our students with the skills they need to become confident, skilled and empathetic individuals with a desire to make a positive impact in the world.

This past month I have had the opportunity to witness several examples of our students demonstrating leadership and empathy. The first example is our Student Technology Support Team providing an in-service to our own teachers on how to use some new video recording technology. Another example is our Leadership Team students facilitating guided tours of our facility at our most recent prospective student tour.

Finally, I witnessed two great examples of our students showing empathy to fellow students. The first example was a student that voluntarily participated in fundraiser to raise money to support his friend that has cancer. He shaved his head in exchange for contributions to his friend's cancer support cause. The second was a group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders helping a new refugee student from Rwanda feel at home during his first day at BMSA. In Rwanda students play soccer bare foot. The refugee student instinctively took his shoes off to play the game. Instead of making fun of him, they all took their shoes off and continued the game. I thought this really demonstrated the genuine empathy our students have for others.

I encourage you to partner with us in using the 7 Habits to develop leadership and empathy skills check out this link to learn more:

**Learn More about the 7 Habits here:** <http://www.theleaderinme.org/the-7-habits-for-kids>

Mr. Wilhite

## Upcoming Events

### March 14

EL Parent Meeting 11:30 AM

### March 17

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Program 1:15

### March 24

ROAR Assembly 9:30 AM

### March 20

ISAT Testing Begins

### March 27

ROAR Assembly –  
Responsibility 2:00 PM Gym

### March 27 - 31

No School – Spring Break

### April 4

PTO Meeting 4:15 PM Library

Incoming Kinder  
Registration/Screenings  
1:30 – 7:00

### April 6

Prospective Student Tour 9:30  
RSVP @ 855-4430

### “Like Us” On Facebook!

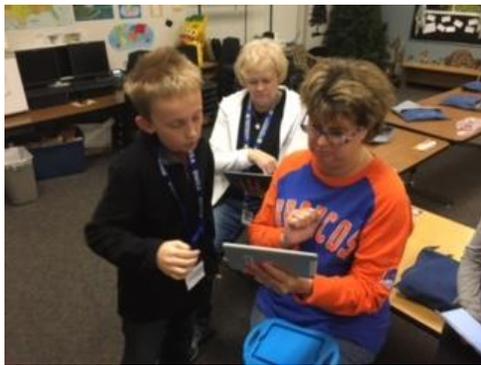
Search for Barbara Morgan  
STEM Academy

## From the Captain's Log - BMSA Students Take On Leadership Roles & Show Empathy:



*Tyler shows empathy by shaving his head to raise money for his friend with cancer.*

*Students help our new refugee student feel at home by removing their shoes to play soccer.*



*BMSA Student Tech Team member teaches staff members how to use new video recording technology.*

**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.)

## Congratulations to BMSA's Teacher of the Year and Classified Employee of the Year 2017:

There is no great honor than being recognized by your peers for excellence. Congratulations to this year's Teacher of the Year and Classified Employee of the Year!



Cathy Adams – BMSA Teacher of the Year (5th Grade Teacher)

Katy Swenson – BMSA Classified Employee of the Year (Secretary)

## Camp Invention Coming to BMSA June 12 – 16 – REGISTER NOW!!



Camp Invention is one week in the summer where your child's creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills are challenged and developed in fun and exciting ways. Our top priority is to inspire future innovators and build their confidence in the natural ability to dream and create. Our very own talented teachers will be facilitating the classes and I'm confident it will be a fun filled week of learning and discovery.

The camp runs from June 12 - 16 (9:00 - 3:30) at BMSA. The camp is open to incoming Kinders through incoming 6th graders. Cost is \$235 for the week. There is an early registration discount of \$25 for those registering by March 20th. Scholarships are available. Space is limited so register soon! Click on the link below to see a short video about what you can expect at Camp Invention.

Register at [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org) or 800.968.4332. Use promo code DISCOVER25 for \$25 early registration discount.

Click here to see a short video promo for Camp Invention: <https://youtu.be/KwaaxwG8SvM>



### PTO Officers Needed for Next Year:

We have an active PTO at BMSA and appreciate all the ways they partner with us in fulfilling our mission and vision. We are in need of parents willing to step into some leadership roles to replace our current leaders that have either met their term limits or their children are moving on to Middle School. We believe in shared leadership and are intentional about not making these leadership roles overwhelming. If you are open to considering a leadership role email Megan at [bmsapto@gmail.com](mailto:bmsapto@gmail.com)

## West Ada Levy – Please Vote!

The West Ada school District is holding a Plant Facility Levy Election on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. I want to encourage all parents to vote. These funds are critical in paying for many facility needs throughout the District, including maintenance of current buildings, supplies to maintain those facilities and purchasing land for future school sites to relieve overcrowding. Voting will take place at your regular polling place.

If you would like more specifics on the levy click on this link:

<http://www.westada.org/cms/lib8/ID01904074/Centricity/Domain/7202/Plant%20Facility%20Levy%20Newsletter.pdf>



## Personal Devices Creating Some Challenges:



BMSA loves technology and it plays a vital role in our teaching and learning. With that said, technology is a little bit like fire. In the right settings, fire can be extremely beneficial. In the wrong settings fire can be extremely damaging. Technology is the same way. We are experiencing increased instances where technology that students are bringing from home are causing distractions to their learning and/or the learning of others. More and more students are coming to school with watch phones, smart phones and tablets. Students are allowed to use these devices with teacher permission on relevant academic tasks. The difficulty comes when students use these devices without permission for non-academic things. We encourage you to partner with us in teaching your child

appropriate use of technology. I have provided the West Ada District "electronic device" policy to help guide your conversations.

*Page 34 of the West Ada Elementary Handbook states:*

*ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE Students will use electronic communication or data devices only in a manner consistent with instructional and testing activities in the classroom. These devices include, but are not limited to; hand held calculators, digital devices of all types, cell phones, music playing devices, one-to-one computing devices, cameras, and laptop computers. Use of these devices must not violate any district policy or cause classroom disruption nor may they be used in the access, creation, or possession of inappropriate materials (i.e. pornography). Use of electronic devices in the classroom is at the discretion of the teacher and/or building administrator. Use of electronic devices outside of the classroom is at the discretion of the building principal. Parents or students who bring any electronic device to school or to a school activity do so at their own risk - Joint School District No.2 and its schools assume no liability for damage, theft, etc. Recording or taking pictures is prohibited on district property (including buses) unless approved by building administration. If the policies are violated, administrators will determine consequences based on the severity of the incident. Additionally, on the first offense the device may be confiscated until a parent/guardian retrieves it from the front office/administration.*

## ISAT / IRI Testing Beginning Soon:

It's time to shine! Your child and your child's teacher have been working very hard this year to acquire and apply new knowledge and skill. One of the ways we assess knowledge and skill is through the Idaho State Achievement Test (ISAT) in grades 3-5 and the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) in grades K-2.

We would love for parents to partner with us in ensuring your child accurately reflects what they know and can do by doing the following:

- Encourage your child to give their best effort on these tests.
- Help your child understand that their performance on these tests helps educators tailor instruction for them that is appropriately challenging.
- Ensure that your child is well rested and fed prior to testing days.



Your child's teacher can provide you with specific testing dates.

## BMSA 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Have a Blast at Bogus Basin:



Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders had a blast skiing and boarding and our annual Bogus Basin Ski Night. Many students learned to ski for the first time and will no doubt continue this fun and healthy past-time for the rest of their lives. A big thank you to Mr. Stivison, Mrs. Brown, Ms. Katy, Nurse Jen and Mr. Clark for all of their help in putting these trips together. If you have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader that will be a 5<sup>th</sup> grader next year, I encourage you to check out the "Passport" deal that allows your 5<sup>th</sup> grader to ski free at several Idaho resorts. See more information on the Passport program here:

<http://www.skiidaho.us/5th-grade-ski-or-ride-free-passport>

## We Are Increasing Your Child's Safety:

Your child's safety is our primary concern. We are constantly evaluating ways in which we can increase safety for your child. This year we have added surveillance cameras, doors that automatically lock down major sections of the school and will soon be adding some additional fencing to make the pick up and drop off loop safer and more efficient. We continue to work in conjunction with our local police and fire departments to ensure we are embracing best practice in training our staff and students how to respond to a range of emergency situations. As a Principal, the question I constantly ask myself is, "Is the safety and learning at BMSA what I would want for my own children." I am happy to say that I can confidently answer "Yes" to that question and am both pleased and proud of all we do to provide your child with the safe and effective learning environment.

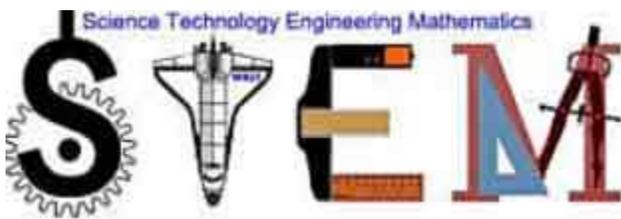


## BMSA STEM Lab Update:

### Exploring Life Science in STEM!

You can keep up to date on STEM class activities and upcoming events using the link to my webpage/calendar or scan the QR code below.

(<https://sites.google.com/site/mrsshaftersstemclass/>) Life science will be the focus for third trimester with some engineering and computer coding weaved throughout the units.



### Kindness Challenge

We are taking some time this first week of March to have the students write letters of gratitude to our armed forces in STEM class. I am working in conjunction with our counselor Mrs. Wright and the students are creating some truly kind, thoughtful and colorful letters to send to our troops. I'm truly enjoying watching them practice empathy as they brighten other's lives and help each other create these letters.

## **BMSA STEM Lab Update (continued).**

### New Menu Items

3rd-5th graders will begin a new menu with items chosen from engineering, life science experiments and game design.

Volunteers Welcome! If you would like to volunteer in STEM class just see me or email me at shaffer.lynnea@westada.org. No science experience necessary. Any extra help for kids doing experiments are always welcome. Volunteers can come in during class or to help prepare labs.

### Do You Have STEM Experience

We would love to have you talk to a class or do an activity. We're always looking for ways to make connections for kids between STEM and careers.

Mrs. Shaffer :-)

## **Counselor Corner with Mrs. Wright:**

### Parent Feedback Needed for BMSA Counseling Program

Thank you for those that have already given feedback. We are collecting data the needs of parents and students. The feedback that has been given so far is very valuable, but only represents a small portion of our families. If you haven't taken the survey yet, please do so now. Thank you in advance!

Please click the link below and see the opportunities we are thinking of offering. If the survey feedback shows enough interest, we will be adding some parent education and student opportunities. Click here to take the survey or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://goo.gl/forms/pAkID7Ley6uVG35X2>

### Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in the school? We have so many different options to fit varying talents and commitment levels. Call or email me at 855.4430 or [wright.kristin@westada.org](mailto:wright.kristin@westada.org) and we'll find the best way to use your talents. Every little bit of assistance you offer helps make our school better!

## Counselor Corner with Mrs. Wright (continued):

### Small Group Update

I am continuing to hold small group sessions for students whose parents have requested and given permission to participate. I feel confident that I will fit every student who has already been given permission to participate into at least one of the requested groups. Thank you for being patient as I try my best to prioritize groups based on highest need and demand. As always, please contact me if your child needs immediate support as he/she is waiting to participate in a small group.

### Toolbox: Teaching Students' Coping Skills for Learning and Life

I want to share my excitement about a new program that we've introduced in K-4th grade classrooms this year. It is called Toolbox. Here is a quote from the Toolbox website explaining what it is:



TOOLBOX™ is a Kindergarten through 6th grade program that supports children in understanding and managing their own emotional, social, and academic success. The foundation of TOOLBOX is 12 human capacities that reside within all of us. Through its simple and profound metaphor of Tools, TOOLBOX brings forward a set of skills and practices that help students access their own inner resilience at any time, in any context.

I began teaching the 12 tools in a few classrooms as a pilot program, but found it to be so successful in helping students solve problems that I have now introduced it to all K-4th grade classrooms. The 12 Tools support students in regulating their emotions and working through conflict. I have heard from several parents that their students are using the tools at home too. The tools support students in being proactive and taking ownership of working through life's challenges. The tools also support the students in practicing the 7 Habits of Happy Kids.

I am planning on hosting a parent night to learn more about the Tools and how to encourage children to use the coping skills at home. If you'd like to give input as to when this opportunity will be offered, please complete the Needs Assessment Survey at <https://goo.gl/forms/pAkID7Ley6uVG35X2>.

### BMSA is KIND Challenge

Thanks to several BMSA students that have shown interest in promoting kindness, we have coordinated a kindness challenge that will extend through the end of the school year. With each challenge, the students are practicing The 7 Habits.

## Counselor Corner with Mrs. Wright (continued):

### February Food Collection

In February, students collected 1,018 items for the Meridian Food Bank! Thanks to all the parents that supported this endeavor. It really was amazing seeing all 10 bins overflowing with food.



### March Military Letters of Gratitude

During the month of March, students are writing letters of gratitude to military personnel. The letters will be sent to Operation Gratitude and included in care packages for deployed service members, veterans, and new recruits. It is a small way to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy.

### Passing on the Challenges

BMSA students have the opportunity to lead and inspire members of our community by passing on the monthly kindness challenges. To learn more about how you can encourage companies and organizations you're involved in, visit <http://www.westada.org/BMSAisKIND>.

### Thank you for Accepting the Challenge

\* We are so grateful that the following organizations have taken the Food Drive Challenge: Park Pointe Management Services, CBH Homes, Premier Mortgage Resources, and the Idaho Banker's Association.

\* The Meridian Lion's Club will present at their next board meeting the idea to incorporate a BMSA-inspired food drive at their annual Rodeo June 24th & 25th. If you want to involve your organization, click [here now](#).





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per sibling when you  
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\*Discounts cannot be combined.

#### Your local Camp Invention site information:

Price **\$235** (before discount) | For children entering **K - 6th grade** | Register at [campinvention.org](http://campinvention.org) or 800.968.4332

**Barbara Morgan STEM Academy** | 1825 Chateau Drive, Meridian, ID 83646

**June 12 - 16, 2017 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm**

Directed by Ryan Wilhite  
[wilhite.ryan@westada.org](mailto:wilhite.ryan@westada.org)

*If these dates/times don't work for you, please visit [campinvention.org](http://campinvention.org) for other locations near you.*

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