



Volume 9
Issue 8

Shooting Star Scoop

April 2014

The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
nikiskinorthstar.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us



Important Dates

- April 1**
SBA Reading Test - Grades 3 - 5
- April 2**
SBA Writing Test - Grades 3 - 5
- April 3**
SBA Math Test - Grades 3 - 5

PTA Meeting in Lounge - 3:45pm
- April 4**
SBA Pool Party - Grades 3 - 5
Nikiski Pool - 8pm to 9:45pm
- April 7 - 11**
Volunteer Appreciation Week!
- April 8**
SBA Science Test - 4th Grade
- April 11**
Volunteer Appreciation Tea
Library - 3:45 pm
- April 14**
Site Council Meeting
Lounge - 3:45 pm
- April 15**
3rd - 5th Grade Concert
NMHS Auditorium - 6:30pm
- April 17**
Spring Picture Day
Library - Siblings at
- Pre-Kindergarten Screening
Must submit application by April 16 for a screening appt.
- April 23**
Kindergarten Round-up
Library - 9:30am or 1:00pm
- April 25**
Hershey Track Forms Due!
- April 29**
5th Grade Step Up Day



Principal Points

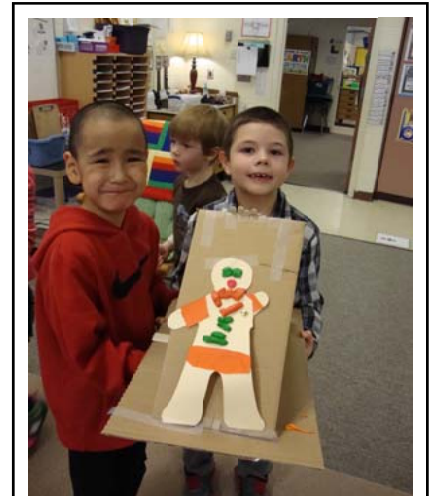
Greetings!

All students in grades three through five are preparing for the SBA testing which begins tomorrow. Please see the schedule below. It is very important that students come to school well rested and with a good breakfast every morning. We very much appreciate your efforts in making sure students arrive to school on time for testing. In fact, there will be a drawing for gas cards for students that arrive on time. If a child comes in past 9:30 a.m., they will not be able to make the test up the following week. Expect phone calls home if your child is not in school by 9:05 a.m. If I need to come pick your child up, I will be glad to do so. Here is the testing schedule:

- Tuesday, April 1st - Reading (3rd - 5th grade)
- Wednesday, April 2nd - Writing (3rd - 5th grade)
- Thursday, April 3rd - Math (3rd - 5th grade)
- Tuesday, April 8th - Science (4th grade only)

All test takers are invited the SBA POOL CELEBRATION on Friday, April 4th from 8p.m. – 9:45 p.m. This is a FREE event with snacks provided by the NNS PTA. This is ONLY for student who complete the SBA. Siblings are not welcome to attend unless a parent is chaperoning and will be in the pool with the sibling. We want to make this a special event to celebrate our students who took the test. Interested in chaperoning? Please contact your child's teacher or myself. We need both male and female chaperones!!

It is my pleasure to announce the Nikiski North Star Outstanding Student for the 2013-2014 year. Each year we choose a 5th grader to represent our school as the Masonic Outstanding Student and this year's recipient is Rosalie Anderson from Mrs. Barnes' class. Other students who were nominated for the award include Emilee Braun, Savannah Ley, Aspen Hooper, Boden Quiner, Alex Johnson, Brendon Boehme, and James Lamping. Congratulations to Rosalie and all students who were nominated. How fortunate we are to have so many respectful and responsible students.



Phillip, Everett & James show off their fine motor skills.

...continued on page 2



Points continued

Site Council Membership Needed

Are you interested in getting involved? Applications are now available (at school and our school homepage) to become a member of the NNS Site Council for the 2014-15 school year. The purpose of the Council is to give input and guidance to the school and serves as a resource, sounding board, and core for communication between the many stakeholders in our school. As representatives, the members are responsible for bringing the information to the Council.

Pre-Kindergarten 2014-15

Pre-Kindergarten Applications are available at the front office and online at the NNS website. Children must be screened to determine if they qualify. Screenings are scheduled for April 17th. Appointments for the screenings will be made when you return your application to the NNS office by April 16th. After the screening, parents of students who qualify will be contacted by the Pre-K teacher, Ms. Pala.

Student Placement 2014-15

Included in this newsletter is the Parent Input Form. This form is due back to the school office by Friday, May 9th. Please be advised that, as a parent, this is YOUR OPPORTUNITY to give input into this process. Students will be placed over the summer after a thorough process that starts with input from you. You will not be able to make any requests in the fall. Once class lists are posted prior to the start of school in August, we will not be making changes. We appreciate any and all information you can give us. Your child's current teacher will be very involved in placing your child once we have an idea of what next year will look like. Note that the teachers will be reading the forms you turn in. If you have special concerns, please speak with me before May 10th.

Happy Spring!

Margaret



News from the PTA

The NNS PTA would like to let NNS student parents know we will be needing lots of volunteers for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5th - May 9th, and the End of the Year Picnic on May 21st. Please contact any of your NNS PTA Board members (Samantha Playle, Sheri Yeager, Trina Stichal, Michelle Maguire) and let them know if you are able to help with these events. You may also contact any member of the PTA through the Nikiski North Star PTA facebook page.

The PTA has exceeded their budget for the NNS classroom snack program. We have no more funds for this program for the year, so please bring in snacks for your child's classrooms. Thank you! We encourage all members of the PTA to please attend the PTA membership meeting on April 3rd at 3:45pm in the NNS Teachers Lounge. We will be voting on nominations for next year's PTA Board members, Teacher Appreciation Week, End of the Year Picnic, and more!

Spring Pictures! April 17th



Kindergarten Registration & Orientation






Wednesday, April 23rd

9:30 - 10:30am
or
1:00 - 2:00pm



If your child will be five years old by September 1st, bring them along to have some fun while you enroll them at Nikiski North Star! Don't forget to bring:

-  Immunization records
-  Birth certificates
-  Any legal custody papers

Questions?
Please call 776-2600.

Artwork at the Capitol

Mrs. Burnett and Mrs. Trammell's classes will have artwork of Sled Dogs displayed in the Capitol Building in Juneau during the month of May! The students were sent a state pin of the Alaska State Dog, the Malamute, from Speaker of the Alaska House, Mike Chenault.



You do a "Latte" work!

"Donut" you know how important you are to us?

Give us a chance to show you! Come to the—

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TEA

NNS Library

April 11th at 3:45pm

Call the school at 776-2600 to RSVP

Hershey Track & Field

Register Today!

Track Meet is Friday May 16th, 2014

@ Nikiski High School Track

Boys and Girls 9 – 14 years old

Entry forms at NCRC, NNS, or the Pool

Deadline for Registration

Friday April 25th

Hershey Volunteers Needed!

Please call:

Tammy Berdahl 776-8800

Hershey Running/Relay Practices

@ NNS Elem. 3:30 – 4:30pm

Thurs May 1st – All participants

Tues May 6th – 9-10yr Boys & Girls

Wed May 7th – 11-14yr Boys & Girls

Thurs May 8th – All Ages Boys & Girls

Tues May 13th – All Ages Boys & Girls

A Note from the Nurse

To All Fifth Grade Parents -

On April 17th, your child's class will be covering the health curriculum about normal growth and development during puberty. Boys and girls will be in different groups. Mrs. Matson, Barnes and I will show a video and speak with the girls while Mr. Floyd does the same with the boys. The girls will only see the section of the video about girls' growth and development, and the boys will only see the boys' section. The children will write their questions down so we can ensure that only the appropriate information will be covered.

I will be available in the Nurse's office Monday thru Friday 8:30am-3:30pm if you would like to preview the video.

If you decide your student should not participate, please let me or their teacher know in writing so that we can prepare for and provide him/her with alternate activities during that time.

Sincerely,

Deni Pennison RN
Nikiski North Star Nurse



Emily Hufford, Stephen Foster & Piper Rucker took second place at the District Forensics Meet last month!

District Forensics Winners!

EVERY NNS student who performed at the district forensics meet placed in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd!

3rd Place in 5th grade Multiples Poetry: Karley Harden & Emilee Braun
3rd Place in 5th grade Humorous Poetry: Brenden Boehme

2nd Place in 5th grade Singles Interpretive Reading: Ethan Redfern
2nd Place in 5th grade Multiples Prose: Stephen Foster, Emily Hufford, Piper Rucker
2nd Place in 4th grade Humorous Poetry: Carly Johnson
2nd Place in 4th grade Multiples Interpretive Reading: Olivia Easley & Calie Liebes
2nd Place in 4th grade Single Interpretive Reading: McKinlee Jeffreys
2nd Place in 4th grade Multiples Poetry: Cadence Selanoff & Diane Nasibog

1st Place in 5th Grade Multiples Interpretive Reading: Kalei Biamonte, Travis VanCurler, & Kyle Malston



Title I Pre-K Classes

FREE FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Monday through Friday, half days.

Screening Appointments:

(For the 2014-15 school year)

April 17, 2014



Contact Nikiski North Star Elementary

by April 16th for an appointment

776-2600

Contact your school to receive an application. Your screening appointment will be made when your application is received by the school. The purpose of the screening is to determine Kindergarten readiness. Transportation is **not** provided to and from the Pre-K program. Students must be 4 years old by September 1, 2014.



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
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(907) 714-8892
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Physical Activity Log

Student name _____
Teacher _____
Start date _____ End date _____
Return completed log by _____
Signature _____

Be active 30 minutes or more at least 3 times per week. Write down your activity or color in the boxes for the days you are physically active for at least a half hour.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday



NIKISKI NORTH STAR ELEMENTARY SITE COUNCIL

PARENT / COMMUNITY APPLICATION

Term length:

One-year term is from September 1 (current year) to August 31 (following year).

Name _____

Due Date: **Last Friday in April**
(give to front office)

Address _____

Phone _____

I would like to nominate or be a member of the Nikiski North Star Site Council because....

The contributions this individual could make to the team would be...

*** The information provided above will be available for voting members to see and read. ***

School Guidelines:

Nikiski North Star Elementary recognizes the importance of the school, home, and community link. The purpose of the Nikiski North Star Site Council, in line with the School Based Decision Making Plan of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, is to give input and guidance into decisions in the school for the improvement of the instructional program. The NNS Site Council, as the site-based advisory group, serves as a resource, sounding board, and core for communication between the represented constituency groups. As representatives of a specific group, the members are responsible for bringing the information from that constituency to the Council.

Parent Input Form 2014-15

Each spring we give parents the opportunity to provide input into the classroom placement of their child for the following school year. This input can be very helpful to the school staff when placing students into classes. This form will be used by classroom teachers and the school's Intervention Team to assist in making these placement decisions. If you have questions about the placement process, please see Mrs. Gilman.

So that your input may be considered during the placement process, this form must be returned to the school office no later than **Friday, May 9th at 4:00 p.m.** Forms returned after that date **will not** be considered in the placement process.

Please note that we do not ask "Which teacher would you like your child to have next year?" There are several reasons for this, including the fact that teaching staff often changes over the summer, as do teaching assignments. As a result of these two factors and many others, the class lists will not be posted until the week before school starts. Be aware that forms returned to the office that request a specific teacher are not considered in the same manner as forms that provide information about the type of desired learning environment.

Factors which we will consider in addition to the parent input form when placing students into classes for next year include:

Teacher recommendation	Academic needs
Student learning style	Behavioral needs
Teacher instructional style	Gender

We place students based on the needs of all children in our school. Parent input is a valuable source of information we take into serious consideration, however balancing the needs of all children is our first priority. Our teachers and staff spend a tremendous amount of time discussing and planning student placement and developing class lists, and we always strive to balance classes so that they contain a mix of academic abilities and other student characteristics such as adaptability, independence, behavior, special interests and gender.

Please remember this form is due back in the office by May 9th at 4:00 p.m.

On the back of this form, please describe the teaching environment you feel best suits your child's needs. Consider things such as: Classroom Structure, Organization and Activity/Volume Level, Split/Combined Classes. A reminder that all comments should be kept positive and focused on student learning. *Teachers will be viewing parent input forms to assist with the best placement for your child.*

Thoughts you might want to consider when giving input:

- A structured learning environment with clear expectations.
- Strong classroom management plan.
- Students actively engaged in hands-on learning.
- A nurturing environment.
- Lots of cooperative learning – students working together to achieve goals.
- Quiet classroom.
- A strong focus on students being organized.
- Male or female teacher.

*If you have additional thoughts you would like to share with **only** Mrs. Gilman, please feel free to contact her.*

Student Name _____	Grade for 2014 - 15 _____
Parent Name _____	Phone Number _____

PARENT INPUT

Here are questions to consider when responding:

- What kind of learning environment is best for your child?
- What qualities are you looking for in your child’s teacher?

Other information that we should know?

Placement decisions for each student will be finalized by Mrs. Gilman, classroom teachers and the school’s Intervention Team. Your input will be available to all of these people.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT
Reminder: This form is due back to school by FRIDAY, MAY 9th, 2014.