



Volume 10
Issue 8

Shooting Star Scoop

April 2015



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

Important Dates

- April 1**
AMP Testing - 3rd Grade
- April 1**
PTA Meeting in Lounge - 3:45pm
- April 3**
Vacation Day
NO SCHOOL
- April 7 & 8**
AMP Testing - 4th Grade
- April 13 - 17**
Volunteer Appreciation Week!
- April 13**
Volunteer Appreciation Tea
Library - 3:45 pm
- April 14 & 15**
AMP Testing - 5th Grade
- April 15**
Pre-Kindergarten Screening
Must submit application by April 14 for a screening appt.
- April 24**
Kindergarten Round-up
Library - 1:30pm
- April 27**
Bus Evacuation Drill
3:20pm
- 5th Grade Family Step Up
Students /Parents 6pm at NMHS
- April 28**
5th Grade Step Up Day
Students 9:30am at NMHS

Principal Points

Greetings:

Students in grades 3 through 5 will be taking AMP (Alaska Measures of Progress) testing this month. AMP is the statewide test that has replaced SBA testing. A major difference between SBA and AMP is that AMP is entirely a computer based test. Third graders will take AMP tests the week of March 30, Fourth graders will test the week of April 6 and fifth graders will test the week of April 13. Please make sure that your child is rested and well fed as that will allow them to be most successful in testing. A big thank you to our PTA volunteers who have offered to assist with providing snacks for testing.

It is my pleasure to announce that Rylee Ellis has been chosen as the Masonic Outstanding student for Nikiski North Star. Each year we are able to select a 5th grader to represent our school for this honor. Our staff chose the student who best represents the guidelines of Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Caring. Congratulations as well to our other Nikiski North Star finalists: Marcus Dunham, Griffin Gray, Rucca Gray, Ami Olsen, Emily Parnell, Ndea Rollins, Madalyn Stichal, Adrienne Stynsberg and Jaycee Tauriainen. We are so fortunate to have many students to choose from for this award.

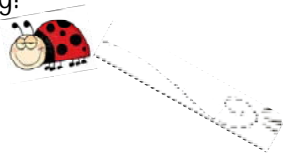


Hunter Greene was Albert Einstein as part of Mrs. Barnes' Wax Museum.

Our school is blessed with many parent and community volunteers who put in countless hours to assist with students and school projects. Nikiski North Star is able to function at a much higher level because of the direct efforts of our volunteers. Our Volunteer Appreciation Tea will be held on April 13 @ 3:45 in the school library. It will be our pleasure to take the opportunity to thank our volunteers for all that they do.

Happy Spring!

Margaret



Science Fair Winners!

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 2015-16 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 2015-16

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 15th. Appointments for the screenings will be made when you return your application to the NNS office by April 14th. After the screening, parents of students who qualify will be contacted by the Pre-K teacher, Ms. Pala.

Student Placement 2015-16

Included in this newsletter is the Parent Input Form. This form is due back to the school office by Friday, May 8th. Please be advised that, as a parent, this is YOUR OPPORTUNITY to give input into this process. Students will be placed 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 8th.



Congratulations to 4th grader Liam Quiner! Liam won the 3/4th school science fair top prize a few weeks back and went up to Anchorage last weekend to take part in the 60th Alaska State Science & Engineering Fair. He impressed the judges, earned a perfect score, and earned a 1st place ribbon in his 'Plant Science' category!

Congratulations also go to McKinlee Jeffreys and Simon Grenier who were the big winners for 5th grade at the school science fair.

Daily Summer Activities

Mrs. Heath is selling a workbook of mind-exercising activities to help students practice basic skills over the summer and retain all that great stuff they learned over the school year! The cost is \$12.99 and any profits will go towards her field trips.

Orders can be placed online through April at:

www.evan-moor.com/dailysummer

Enter coupon code **DSA5003**

Kindergarten Registration & Orientation






Friday, April 24th

NNS Library

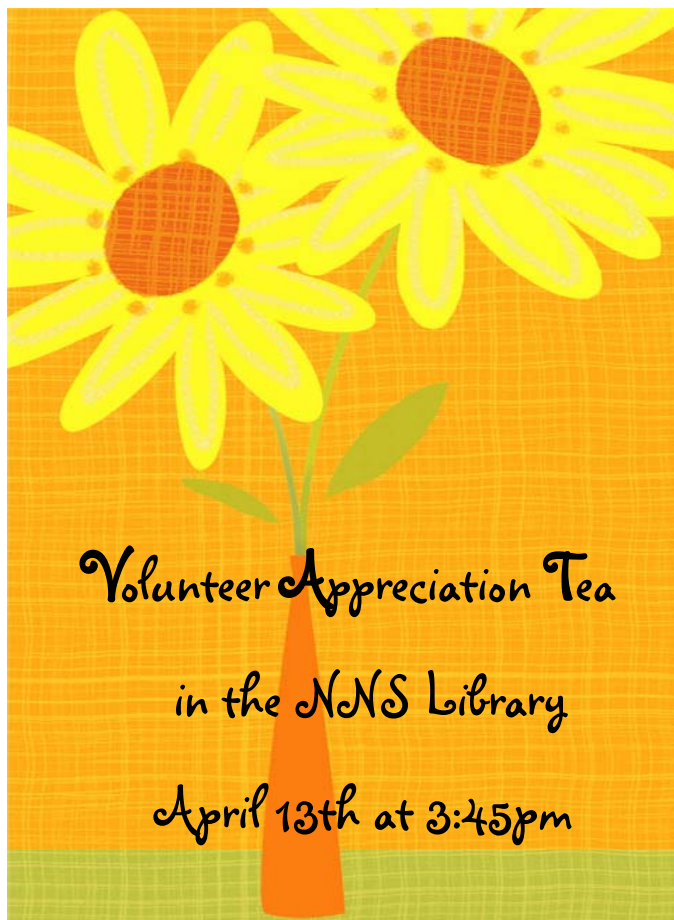
1:30pm



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.



Headsprout Discontinued

The school district purchased the online software program, Headsprout, using stimulus funds approximately six years ago. A multi-year license was purchased and initially access to Headsprout was provided to families who enrolled their children in kindergarten to help provide a jump start on early literacy skills. Use was sporadic and the cost is significant. As a result, we will no longer provide this service to our incoming kindergarten families. Our district's intervention committee is working on developing a list of apps and free websites that parents can access at home to support literacy skills, and once available, we will provide that list for your use.

District Forensics Winners!

NNS was well represented by these wonderful kids at last month's District Forensics Meet:

Braeden Porter: 3rd Place in Storytelling, 4th Grade

Lilly Anderson: 2nd Place in Humorous Prose, 4th Grade

Ami Olson and Trista Apted: 2nd Place in Multiples Prose, 5th Grade

Cadence Selanoff and Diane Nasibog: 2nd Place in Multiples Poetry, 5th grade

Emelia Stroman: 1st Place in Non-Humorous Poetry, 5th Grade:



Title I Pre-K Classes

FREE FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Monday through Friday, half days.

Screening Appointments:

(For the 2015-16 school year)

April 15, 2015



Contact Nikiski North Star Elementary

by April 14th 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, 2015.



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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 2015-16

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 8th 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 8th 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.*

