



Volume 9
Issue 4

Shooting Star Scoop

December 2013



The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

nikiskinorthstar.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Important Dates

December 5

PTA Meeting
NNS Lounge - 3:45pm

December 6

PTA Reflections Entries Due

December 10

K-2 Holiday Concert Practice
NMHS at 9:00am

December 10

K-2 Holiday Concert
NMHS - 6:30pm
(Performers - 6:00pm)

December 13

Yearbook Orders Due

December 20

Teacher Inservice Day
NO SCHOOL

December 23 - January 3

Christmas Break
NO SCHOOL



Principal Points

Happy Holidays! I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and are able to enjoy some restful time with your children over this weekend. It's a busy time of year so it's always nice to take time to relax and enjoy.

MOOC or Coursera – This is an exciting learning opportunity that NNS is embarking on and I wanted to make you aware of it as well. MOOC stands for Massive Online Open Courses. MOOCs started about 8 years ago. The original idea was that groups of colleges (at this point it's more than 500 universities) would join together and offer their courses online, for FREE, and open them to anyone with internet access. When the concept started it truly was just learning for learning sake. As the concept has progressed, MOOCs are now being offered by universities and students can earn a certificate of completion or in some cases college credit. Coursera happens to be the largest server of MOOCs and it is through Coursera that the NNS staff is taking a class called "Effective Classroom Interactions Supporting Young Children's Development". In January I would like to expand the invitation to the Nikiski North Star community and set up the library for use as a site for us to partake in the class together. The class would be offered through Stanford University and is titled, "Child Nutrition and Cooking 2.0". The class each week is divided into two parts; the first part is information about childhood nutrition and the second part is a "hands-on" cooking demonstration. I invite anyone who may be interested to go to the website <https://www.coursera.org/> and do a little exploration. Please spread the word about the learning opportunities available for parents and community members at NNS.

Nikiski North Star students have been enjoying the snowy weather during our recess times. Please be sure your child has their first and last name written on each of their snow gear items. For their snow gear, the students need to have winter coats, mittens/gloves, hats, snowboots, and snowpants when they come to school. Thank you to everyone who is building those few extra minutes into your busy morning routine to make sure the children leave your house with these items. We know it takes extra effort every day in the winter and we truly do appreciate all you do to teach your children responsibility and to make sure they are dressed for our Alaska winters.



Charlie, Mrs. Settlemyer & Marina enjoy reading AND Moustache Day!

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Points continued

We are almost finished with the first semester and at this point the new parking lot transition seems to be going smoothly. I very much appreciate your support as we have made these changes to ensure the safety of our children. The only reminder I have is that parents in the drop-off lane in the morning should have their children ready to exit the vehicles so that the line can flow smoothly and quickly. If you need extra time in the morning drop-off the better option is to park and walk your students in.

It is a joy for me to see your students every day and watch them as they learn new skills. As I visit classrooms I see students mastering new concepts and happily engaged in their learning. It is that time of year where we are able to showcase our PreK through 2nd grade students as they perform in our winter concert at the Nikiski Middle High School Auditorium on Tuesday, December 10. They have been practicing hard and are ready to put on a great show.

There are MANY opportunities for parents to volunteer this month in our school. Please check with our PTA and your child's classroom teacher to find out how you can get involved this month. There is no school on December 20 so the last day for students will be Thursday, December 19. Teachers the following day will be participating in teacher workshops and working on report cards.

I wish each of you and your families a very happy holiday!

Margaret



NO SCHOOL
Dec. 20 - Jan. 3

