



Volume 8  
Issue 7

# Shooting Star Scoop

## March 2013



*The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary*

*Kenai Peninsula Borough School District*

[nikiskinorthstar.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us](http://nikiskinorthstar.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us)



### Important Dates

#### March 1

Read Across America  
*In honor of Dr Seuss' Birthday*

Mr Popper's Penguins  
Family Movie Night  
7:00pm

#### March 2

District-wide Forensics Meet  
*Tustumena Elem. - 9:30 am*

#### March 4

Site Council Meeting  
3:45 pm - Lounge

#### March 5

CCI SOM Pizza w/ Principal  
*Room 13 - Noon*

#### March 8

NO SCHOOL  
*Teacher Inservice Day*

#### March 11 - 15

NO SCHOOL  
*Spring Break*

#### March 18

PTA Meeting  
3:45 pm - Lounge

#### March 20

Spring Pictures  
*Library*

#### March 21

Parent Class - "A Primer on  
Home Ownership"  
6:45 - 7:30pm

#### April 2 - 4 & 9

Standard Based Assessments  
*Grades 3 - 5*

### Principal Points

It's hard to believe we'll be starting our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of school in just a few weeks. The year has flown by fast with this past month being one of our busiest yet. Our recent Family Science Night was a great success and we want to thank Brianna Redfern, Monica Heath, Michelle Green, Thor Jones, Emily Mayberry, Heidi Berg, Katy Settlemyer, and The Challenger Center Staff for their great work putting on that program for our community!

We have much to celebrate about our staff and students! Congratulations to Mrs. Sherry Matson on being selected a state finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She (along with her students) are now up to their elbows in cinnamon roll dough, performing hands on activities while focusing on real life applications of job skills, math fractions, reading, and science.

We also want to congratulate Shannon Pitt who became our NNS Spelling Bee Champion!

This Friday night we host our annual One School One Book Family Movie Night beginning at 7:00 PM. All NNS families are invited to attend.

PTA has some great people considering being officers and committee chairs for next year's PTA board! They still need a few more volunteers willing to throw their names in the hat and join them. Please contact Brianna Redfern at 776-2644 if you are interested!

Thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers who have been so active in our school this year! You've truly made a difference in our students' learning with your creativity, hard work, and countless hours. I've seen volunteers still working after our students and staff have left for the day. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DO!!! If you haven't yet volunteered in our school and want to know what you can do to help out, please, please, please feel free to give me a call and I will point you in the right direction to do something that helps our kids and that you will enjoy too! ☺



*The Ehler family conducts an experiment together at last month's Family Science Night.*

## A Note from the Nurse

To All Fifth Grade Parents -

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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

## Spelling Bee Champion Shannon Pitt



Here are the official results and facts from last month's exciting school spelling bee. Sixteen finalists attempted 127 words (one of the longest in school bee history)! The top four finishers all lasted 15 rounds or longer (Shannon won in the 17<sup>th</sup> round). This is the first time a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girl has won the school spelling bee!

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: **Shannon Pitt** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: **Samuel Berry** (5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: **Jakobee Anderson** (5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
4<sup>th</sup> place: **Alyssa Nunley** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)  
5<sup>th</sup> place (tie): **Martin Cox, Emelia Stroman, Alex Johnson, Kyle Malston**

Also congratulations to these other participating school finalists: Michael Eiter, Trey Sanguinetti, Trista Apted, Olivia Easley, Sam Smith, Savannah Ley, Rocky Bright, William Ryan.

## February Character Counts! Students of the Month

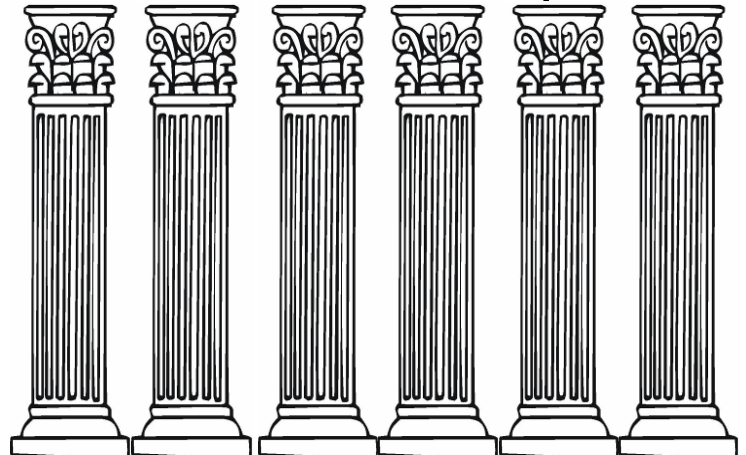


Alisia Elias  
Austin Freeman  
Averi Wolf  
Blaze Kirsch  
Braylee Smith  
Candace Simpson  
David Weathers  
Erica Mistecka  
Gavin Ley

Jaycee Tauriainen  
Jessica Perry  
Johnathan Luke  
Kyle Malston  
Parker Boyce  
Rocky Bright  
Sam Yerkes  
Shania Weathers  
Tika Zimmerman

## THE PILLAR FOR MARCH IS...

# FAIRNESS



# Forensic Stars

## 2nd Grade

### HUMOROUS POETRY

Braeden Porter - 1st place

### MULTIPLES INTERPRETIVE READING

Lilly Anderson & Jasmine Durfee - 1st place

## 2nd/3rd Grade

### MULTIPLES INTERPRETIVE READING

Hope Broussard & Carly Johnson - 1st place

## 3rd Grade

### HUMOROUS POETRY

Camry Ellis - 1st place

William Warren - 2nd place

### NON-HUMOROUS POETRY

Braylee Smith - 1st place

Emily Durfee - 2nd place

Bryli Mullin - 3rd place

### SINGLES INTERPRETIVE READING

McKinlee Jeffreys - 1st place

Rollin Watts - 2nd place

### MULTIPLES INTERPRETIVE READING

Cadence Selanoff & Trista Apted - 1st place

## 4th Grade

### HUMOROUS POETRY

Boden Quiner - 1st place

### NON-HUMOROUS POETRY

Trinity Langston - 1st place

### MULTIPLES POETRY

Kalei Biamonte & Faith Bureson - 1st place

### SINGLES INTERPRETIVE READING

Emma Lakin - 1st place

Stephen Foster - 2nd place

### MULTIPLES INTERPRETIVE READING

Sam Smith, Savannah Ley,

Emilee Braun & Karley Harden - 1st place

## 5th Grade

### HUMOROUS POETRY

Angela Druessedow - 1st place

### NON-HUMOROUS POETRY

Joe Yourkoski - 1st place

Jakobee Anderson - 2nd place

### NON-HUMOROUS PROSE

Hamilton Cox - 1st place

### MULTIPLES POETRY

America Jeffreys & Destiny Martin - 1st place

Martin Cox & Brayde Wolfe - 2nd place

### INTERPRETIVE READING

Parker Boyce - 1st place

### MULTIPLES INTERPRETIVE READING

Gabe Hyder & Kaycee Bostic - 1st place

Cecily Quiner, Danielle Eley & Tika Zimmerman - 2nd place

Chase Olsen & Will Ryan - 3rd place

Emily Dunham & Kayle Johnson - 4th place

### STORYTELLING

Katerina Sinenko - 1st place

Spring Pictures!  
March 20th



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# Parents are our childrens' first and most important teachers!

## Here are some tips for helping your child be ready to read and learn.

- ✦ Talk to your infant and toddler to help him learn to speak and understand the meaning of words. Point to objects that are near and describe them as you play and do daily activities together. Having a large vocabulary gives a child a great start when he enters school.
- ★ Read to your baby every day starting at six months of age. Reading and playing with books is a wonderful way to spend special time with her. Hearing words over and over helps her become familiar with them. Reading to your baby is one of the best ways to help her learn.
- ★ Use sounds, songs, gestures and words that rhyme to help your baby learn about language and its many uses. Babies need to hear language from a human being. Television is just noise to a baby.
- ★ Point out the printed words in your home and other places you take your child such as the grocery store. Spend as much time listening to your child as you do talking to him.
- ★ Take children's books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home. This gives your child fun activities to entertain and occupy him while traveling and going to the doctor's office or other appointments.
- ★ Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep books and other reading materials where your child can easily reach them.
- ★ Help your child see that reading is important. Set a good example for your child by reading books, newspapers and magazines.
- ★ Limit the amount and type of television you and your child watch. Better yet, turn off the television and spend more time cuddling and reading books with your child. The time and attention you give your child has many benefits beyond helping him be ready for success in school.

*These tips were provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, Educational Partnerships and Family Involvement Unit.*

# Student Testing Coming Soon!

Spring Break begins in one week. NNS staff will have a teacher inservice day on Friday, March 8 and students will not have school March 8-15. March is a short month for us and Alaska SBA testing week is right around the corner starting the first week of April for students in grades 3-5. We want to take this time to emphasize to all our families how important it is every day and especially during testing that our students get a good night's sleep, a good breakfast, and attend school on time. Students in grades 3-5 will take the tests the first week in April. All students who show up to school on time each of the first three testing days (before 9:00 AM) and take the test, will participate in a celebration at the Nikiski Pool.



*The “handsome” 3/4 Grade Battle of the Books Team Karley, Emilee, Savannah, Jamie & Brenden made us proud at last month’s battle, as did the 5th Grade Team of Tika, Clayton, Joe, Cecily & Kaycee. A special thanks to assistant, Vanessa Lopez.*

## FREE PARENT CLASS! "Primer on Home Ownership"

Good financial decisions start with good financial information. **Primer on Home Ownership**, will help you learn how to gain the financial savvy and confidence you need for success. This is the first topic in a series that makes learning about finances easy with practical tips, step-by-step guidance, and charts. Regardless of your life stage or situation, there’s a topic to meet your needs. You’ve made a good financial decision already by reading this, now it’s time to sign up and get started on a stronger financial future.

The second in the series is at 6:45pm Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March in the Nikiski North Star Library, other topics including Credit Scoring, and Budgeting to Build Your Financial Future to follow on the third Thursday of each month. Sandwiches and Child Care provided.

## Substitutes Needed!!!

Our schools are in desperate need of custodian substitutes. If you or someone you know would be interested in this position, applications are available at the "Employment" tab on the school district website:

[www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us)

# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

Nikiski North Star Elementary School  
Ms. Lisa Callahan, Principal

## SHORT NOTES



### Picture this

Good readers form mental pictures as they read. To improve your child's comprehension, read a book without letting him see it. Then, ask him to guess what the illustrations look like. *Examples:* How are the characters dressed? Is the setting bright or gloomy?

### Be there!

Regular attendance in elementary school sets up a good pattern for your youngster's entire school career. Show your child that school comes first by trying to keep days off for illnesses and family emergencies. Also, schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or over school breaks.

### Line them up

Sometimes kids get math problems wrong simply because they haven't lined up the numbers correctly. Try this. Have your child work problems on graph paper, using one box per number. Once she gets used to this system, she'll be able to transfer her lining-up skills to regular paper.

### Worth quoting

"Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much." *Blaise Pascal*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Teacher:** Name one important thing we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago.

**Brian:** Me!



## Pitching in

Would you like your child to be more responsible, hardworking, and persistent? Here are ideas for working as a family to help your youngster develop these important traits.

### A group approach

Thinking of herself as a "team player" can encourage your child to be responsible. Explain that your family operates as a team. Everyone must play a part to get things done. *Example:* You take her shopping for her clothes and sports equipment. She chooses her outfit each morning and keeps track of her bat and glove.

### Hard workers wanted

Your youngster probably has regular chores to do. You can motivate her to work extra hard by placing "want ads" on the refrigerator. Choose a challenging job, and offer a benefit. *Example:* Wanted—a hardworking family member to clean



out a corner of the basement. Reward—a place for your child and her friends to play.

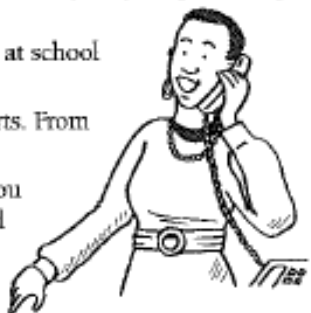
### Sticking it out

Working toward small goals can make it easier to complete a big task. Perhaps your family room needs a fresh coat of paint. Write down the steps (move furniture and lay down drop cloths, prepare walls, roll paint on walls, paint trim). Tell your child you'll take a fun break after each step is done (go to the playground, take a bike ride).♥

## Parent power

There are many ways you can support your child's learning and school. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your youngster brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.
- Tell your child's teachers if you can help them out at school or home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank-you note or an email.
- Contact your youngster's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.♥



**Due to overwhelming demand, we are placing another NNS Shirt order.**

## **NNS Clothing Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ **DUE BY March 22nd**

*Please indicate how many in each size.*

**Hoodie— \$25.00** Total # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ X 25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

YS \_\_\_\_\_ YM \_\_\_\_\_ YL \_\_\_\_\_ YXL \_\_\_\_\_

AS \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_ AL \_\_\_\_\_ AXL \_\_\_\_\_ A2XL \_\_\_\_\_\*

**T-Shirt— \$15.00** Total # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ X 15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

YS \_\_\_\_\_ YM \_\_\_\_\_ YL \_\_\_\_\_ YXL \_\_\_\_\_

AS \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_ AL \_\_\_\_\_ AXL \_\_\_\_\_ A2XL \_\_\_\_\_\*

**Long Sleeved Shirt—\$18.00** Total # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ X 18.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

YS \_\_\_\_\_ YM \_\_\_\_\_ YL \_\_\_\_\_ YXL \_\_\_\_\_

AS \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_ AL \_\_\_\_\_ AXL \_\_\_\_\_ A2XL \_\_\_\_\_\*

Grand Total= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Cash** (*Please provide exact cash*)

**Check** (*Make checks payable to "NNS PTA"*)

- 2XL Clothing—Add \$3.00
- Size Code Examples : YS=Youth small AXL=Adult Extra Large
- Picture examples are on the back of this form



All shirts & sweatshirts are navy with gold imprint. The front of all shirts/sweatshirts are the same.

“I’m a Shooting Star!” will be written across the hood on the hoodie sweatshirts.



The back of the T-shirt says “I’m a Shooting Star!”



“I’m a Shooting Star!” will be printed down the sleeve of the long sleeved shirt.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Brianna Redfern at 776-2600 or [bredfern@kpbsd.org](mailto:bredfern@kpbsd.org)