



Volume 9
Issue 9

Shooting Star Scoop

May 2014

The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
[http:// www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/schools.aspx](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/schools.aspx)



Important Dates

- May 1**
PTA Meeting
Lounge - 3:45 pm
- May 5 - 9**
Teacher Appreciation Week!
- May 9**
Parent Input Forms Due!
- May 12**
Site Council Mtg.
La Casa - 3:45pm
- May 13**
NNS/NMHS Band Concert
NMHS Auditorium - 6:30pm
- May 14**
Tie Dye T-shirt Celebration
- May 15**
Floyd & Matson Retirement
NNS Library - 3:45pm
- May 16**
Hershey Track & Field
NMHS Track - 9 am
- May 19**
5th Grade Promotion
NNS Gym - 9:15am
- May 20**
PreKindergarten Graduation
NNS Gym - 9:30am
-
- NNS Talent Show
NNS Gym - 1:30pm
- May 21**
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL !
EOY Awards Assembly
All School Picnic

Principal Points

It's hard to believe it's almost the end of the school year. We have been busy with Pre K screenings, Kindergarten round-up and completing our spring benchmark testing. It was so nice to meet with our incoming kindergarten and PreK parents. Involving yourself in school is a great gift to give your child. At 9:15 a.m. on Monday, May 19 we will have our promotion ceremony for 5th grade students.

We are so fortunate to have beautiful sunny weather as we close out the school year. We'll need it for the school-wide T-shirt Tie Dyeing Celebration on May 14th. Please send \$1 in with your child to help pay for the t-shirt. Many classes have planned field trips and special outings as part of their classroom instruction. Please make sure your student has permission slips turned in and the gear needed for the trip. We welcome all Nikiski North Star families to the end of the year barbecue on Wednesday, May 21st.

June, July and August are a wonderful time to refresh and spend time together as families. As you enjoy your summer activities please make sure to make reading and math part of the picture. Reading to or with your child and listening to books is a great way to build literacy skills. Talking about numbers and math as you cook, shop, fish and camp is a wonderful way to help with numeracy skills. If you need help with access to books for summer reading please let the office staff know and we can help with that.



Gavin Ley reads to his classmates!

I very much want to thank the Nikiski North Star community for such a warm welcome and wonderful support you have shown me this year. It is my pleasure to serve as your principal and be able to witness such growth in your children.

PTA News

- The NNS PTA is busy preparing for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5th thru the 9th. Shannon Biamonte is chairing this event, so if you would like to help volunteer please let her know. Also, on May 21st is our annual NNS End of the Year Picnic. Michelle Maguire is chairing this event, so if you would like to volunteer please contact her.
- We would like to give a great big thank you to our PTA Board members, Trina Stichal, Treasurer, and Sheri Yeager, Vice President, for all their dedication and hardwork they've given NNS and the PTA this school year. Both Trina and Sheri will be stepping down from their positions on the PTA board next year, so if you see them make sure to say thanks for all the time they gave to help NNS and our students!
- We would like to announce and welcome our 2014-2015 NNS PTA Board members; Samantha Playle, President; Misty Cole, Vice President; Michelle Maguire, Secretary; and Jennifer Chamberlain, Treasurer.

State PTA Reflections Winners

Photography

- ◆ Cooper Stock

Visual Arts

- ◆ Aiden Quiner

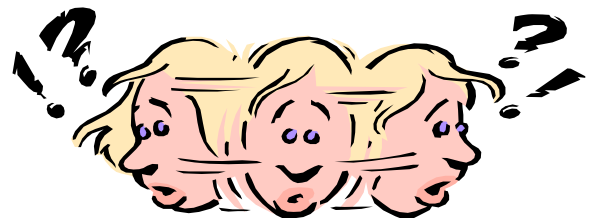
Literature

- ◆ Telan Fallon



Mr. Floyd's class were recently sent on a "Mission" at the Challenger Learning Center.

Please Check Lost & Found



Items not claimed by
Wednesday, May 21st
will be donated to charity.

Happy Retirement!

sherry Matson
Wayne Floyd

Thursday, May 15th
Nikiski North Star
Library at 3:45pm

*Join us to celebrate these folks
who together have dedicated over
53 years to our children!*

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

2014-15 Districtwide Calendar- Revised

C School Closes	O School Opens
E End of Quarter	PN P/T Conference
H Legal Holiday	V Vacation Day
IS Inservice	W Teacher Work Day

July 2014							August 2014							September 2014							October 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4 H	5						1	2		1 H	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12 IS	13 IS	14 W	15 IS	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17 IS/E	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18 W	19 O	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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# of Student Days:							# of Student Days:							# of Student Days:							# of Student Days:						
# of Teacher Days:							# of Teacher Days:							# of Teacher Days:							# of Teacher Days:						
November 2014							December 2014							January 2015							February 2015						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22 V	23 V	24 V	25 H	26 V	27	18	19 V	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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March 2015							April 2015							May 2015							June 2015						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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# of Student Days:							# of Student Days:							# of Student Days:							# of Student Days:						
# of Teacher Days:							# of Teacher Days:							# of Teacher Days:							# of Teacher Days:						

End of Quarter		Inservice Dates		Legal Holidays & Vacation Days	
1st Quarter	42 days	Teacher First	August 12	August 12-13	Independence Day July 4
2nd Quarter	40 days	Teacher Last	May 21	August 15	Labor Day September 1
3rd Quarter	41 days			October 17	Thanksgiving November 27-28
4th Quarter	47 days	Student First	August 19	October 30, 31	Winter Break Dec 22-Jan 2
	170 days	Student Last	May 20	December 19	Spring Break March 9-13
				February 5, 6	Vacation Day April 3
				March 6	Memorial Day May 25

Inservice = 3 Outside School Year, 7 During
 Total S/T = 170+10=180/188

Board Approved: 12/3/12
 Revised: 1/22/14



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.*

