



Volume 13
Issue 8

Shooting Star Scoop

May 2018

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 2**
Early Release Day
SCHOOL OUT AT 2PM
- May 4**
Tie Dye Celebration
- May 7 - 11**
Staff Appreciation Week
Thanks PTA!
- May 8**
3rd-5th Grade & NNS Choir
Music Concert
NMHS Auditorium - 6:00pm
- May 9**
Nikiski Track Meet
NMHS Track - leave @9:10am
- May 10**
Concert & Modern Band Concert
NNS Gym - 6pm
- May 11**
Parent Input Forms Due!
- May 18**
Jogathon Fundraiser!
Intruder Drill at 2:45pm
- May 21**
5th Grade Promotion
NNS Gym - 9:15am
- May 22**
PreKindergarten Graduation
NNS Library - 10 - 11am
- NNS Talent Show
NNS Gym - 1:00pm
- May 23**
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!
All School Picnic



Principal Points

NNS Jog-a-thon Fundraiser – Our 3rd annual fundraiser will take place on May 18 at NNS. This is our chief fundraiser for the year and an opportunity for students to raise money for our school and get some health exercise in the process! The money raised from the fundraiser will pay for field trips and other special activities for students throughout the year. Students have their fundraising packets and a reminder that any donations are appreciated, large or small. Please encourage your child to ask friends and relatives to support our school rather than soliciting door to door. Students should be bringing home donation forms so we thank you in advance for your generosity.

ALICE drill practice – On Friday, May 18 we will have a practice intruder drill and use the ALICE protocol we have reviewed with students. We appreciate the Alaska State Troopers for their assistance with this practice.

Summer Activity Fair – NNS is going to have a Summer Activity Fair at the same time as our last day of the school year picnic. We are fortunate to have many families join us on this day so we thought it would be a great time to share information about summer activities that are available for children. 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.



You won't want to miss the band performance on May 10.

I wish you a safe, restful summer full of great family memories! See you in August ☺

Margaret



School Garden



It's time to start thinking about preparing the soil for planting our school garden. We are looking for donations of planting soil, gardening tools (hand trowels, hand shovels), seed potatoes, and vegetable and flower seeds (moose proof veggies and flowers). If you think you can donate to our school garden, please call Mrs. Barnes at 776-2651. If I do not answer, please leave a message.

We plan to begin preparing the soil the first week of May. All vegetables will be prepared for our students to eat in early fall.

Trimathlon

Congratulations to the following students who will represent Nikiski North Star at the district "Trimathlon" math meet on May 3rd:

Good luck Kailey Stynsberg, Avery Ellis, James Hemphill, Ashlynn Playle, Ethan Ellis, Athena Henry, Gavin Ley, Jackson Anding, Ethan Anding, Dean Kangas, Cameron Schwin, Madison Nixon!

**Please Check
Lost & Found**



Items not claimed by
Wednesday, May 23rd
will be donated to charity.

Nikiski Youth Track Meet

Wednesday, May 9th
Nikiski High Track
10am - 1pm

*** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ***

Call NCRC Staff for information
776-8800

Early Release Parent Survey

The school district would like your input regarding the early release days. Follow the link below or access the link on the homepage of the KPBSD website:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/1718ParentEarlyRelease>

PTA End of the Year



Wednesday, May 23rd

All families are invited to
join Nikiski North Star Students and Staff
for lunch the last day of school.
(Hot Dogs, chips, fruit, treat, and a drink.)

Only \$2.00 donation
WHAT A DEAL!



Jog-a-thon



FUNdraiser



*Please join us to raise funds for
Nikiski North Star Elementary School.*

Friday, May 18th

Grades K-1 9:30-10:30

Grades 2-3 10:35-11:35

Grades 4-5 1:30-2:30



10 Life Skills to Teach Your Child by Age 10

from *Parenting Magazine*

1. Doing the Laundry

Too many teens head to college with no clue how to clean their clothes. Don't let your kid become one of them. You can begin teaching your child when she is around 6. If you have a top-loading washer, keep a step stool nearby. Walk her through the process—how to measure and add the detergent, choose the settings, and start the machine. Amy Mascott, who blogs at TeachMama.com, taught her three kids (now 9, 10, and 12). She chose cute names for jobs: Wash Warrior, Super-Fly Dry Guy, Put 'Em Away Triple Play. Mascott says there have been snafus, like the time a whole load was folded and put away damp. "But I'm not aiming for perfection. I'm aiming for them to get the job done," she says.

2. Planting a Seedling

Lots of preschoolers learn to plant seeds in class but not how to transfer sprouts into a garden. Whitney Cohen, coauthor of [The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids](#), shares the basics.

- Ask your child to dig a hole that's slightly larger than the container the plant is in.
- Once you remove the plant from the pot and place it in the hole, have her delicately push soil around it and pat it down.
- Let your child water it with a gentle stream from a watering can with a perforated nozzle.

By age 6 or 7, your child can remove a seedling himself. Have him split two fingers apart so the stem of the plant goes between them, then squeeze the outside of the container until the plant comes out. If the roots are wound tightly, he should loosen them a few at a time before planting.

3. Wrapping a Gift

Your child already loves giving presents, and wrapping them makes it even more satisfying. Preschoolers can help cut the paper and stick on the tape, while kindergartners can complete additional steps with your help, like removing the price tag, finding the right size box, and wrapping paper all the way around the gift to make sure it fits before cutting it.

4. Hammering a Nail

- Give your child a 7- or 9-ounce hammer. Home-improvement stores sell kids' models as light as 4 ounces, but with those it's harder to pound a nail.
- Use a piece of soft wood (such as pine, poplar, or cedar). You can hold it in place with clamps or a vise, or simply place it on the ground.
- Pick nails with a wide head. At first you'll have to "start" each one for him.
- When your child is ready to do it himself, you can push a nail through a small piece of cardboard so it's held in place as he hammers it into the wood. Make sure your child holds the edge of the cardboard instead of the nail (to protect his fingers).

Once he's mastered that method, have him try holding the nail. Be prepared for a sore thumb or two, but before long he'll get the hang of it.

5. Writing a Letter

Toddlers can dictate a letter to a family member (enhanced with drawings), attach the stamp, and drop it into a mailbox. Teach an older child how to address an envelope and the five parts of a letter: date, greeting ("Dear..."), body, closing ("Sincerely"), and signature. You can also have them help with holiday cards, find a pen pal (sites such as [Amazing Kids](#) and [International Pen Friends](#) can help), or correspond with POTUS by having them address a letter to The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20500.

6. Preparing a Simple Meal

Invite your child to help make meals, assign him jobs to do, and stay calm when the flour spills and the eggshells fly, says Christina Dymock, a mom of four and author of [Young Chefs](#). Yogurt with fruit is a good first DIY breakfast. Preschoolers can spoon yogurt into a bowl and add prewashed cut-up fruit. Work with kids 5 and older on making sandwiches and [smoothies](#) (monitor the blender closely). Around age 7 or 8, your kid can try toaster-oven faves like English-muffin pizza, or make a simple salad by ripping lettuce, dumping in croutons, and cutting up tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots. By age 10, kids can use the stovetop with supervision for a grilled-cheese sandwich. Focus on safety and practice, and you might just have a *MasterChef Junior* on your hands.

7. Navigating

If you've ever gotten lost following a GPS's turn-by-turn voice directions, you know why being able to read a map is essential (even if it's one on your phone). These activities will build your child's navigational skills.

- **Hunt for treasure.** Maps seem boring...until you use them to look for booty. Hide toys in your yard and then draw a simple sketch to mark their location. Show your 3- or 4-year-old how objects on the map correspond to those in front of her.
- **Have her lead the way.** Zoos, museums, and theme parks have colorful, easy-to-read maps. Ask your preschooler to track her path, and challenge an older kid to get you from point A to point B.
Take up geocaching. Kids ages 5 and up love this outdoor treasurehunt game, which uses GPS tracking to find containers filled with trinkets. Learn more at geocaching.com.

8. Treating a Wound

Teach your child from a young age not to freak out when he sees blood (and don't overreact yourself). Giving him a game plan will distract him from the pain and come in handy when you're not around to kiss his boo-boos: Apply pressure until the bleeding stops, rise the cut with water, dab on some antibiotic ointment, then apply a bandage.

RELATED: [Fast First Aid Tips for 6 Common Accidents!](#)

9. Cleaning the Bathroom

Keep rags or a sponge handy for wiping toothpaste blobs off the sink. Toilet duties require greater skill. School-age kids can clean the lid, seat, and base with a disinfecting wipe. Make sure they wash their hands thoroughly afterward. Big kids can scrub the bowl with a nontoxic cleaner: Sprinkle the sides with baking soda, let it sit for a few minutes, pour in some vinegar, then scrub with a toilet brush.

10. Comparison Shopping

Teaching kids to be smart consumers takes practice. This three-step approach worked for our family:

- **Explain as you go.** Mention prices out loud and talk about your choices: "I'm getting gas at the other station because it costs 10 cents less per gallon." I tell my kids about some things I'd like to have (Lululemon yoga pants, anyone?) but don't buy because they're not in our budget.
- **Let your kid pay sometimes.** Give him an allowance, and then designate items he is responsible for purchasing. My husband and I don't buy any sweets. That's forced our kids to become savvy shoppers. When the ice pops at our local pool began putting a dent in their cash flow, they pooled their money and bought a box of 12 to keep in the freezer.
- **Play the grocery game.** At the supermarket, challenge your kid to find the least expensive brand of paper towels or tomato sauce.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District 2018-19 District Wide Calendar

C School Closes	O School Opens
E End of Quarter	CI PT Conference/Inservice
H Legal Holiday	V Vacation Day
IW Inservice/Work	ER Early Release Day

July 2018							August 2018							September 2018							October 2018							
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End of Quarter		Inservice Dates		Legal Holidays & Vacation Days		
1st Quarter	42 days	Teacher First	August 14	August 14, 15, 16, 17, 20	Independence Day	July 4
2nd Quarter	40 days	Teacher Last	May 23	October 19	Labor Day	September 3
3rd Quarter	41 days	Student First	August 21	December 21	Thanksgiving	November 22-23
4th Quarter	47 days	Student Last	May 22	March 8	Winter Break	Dec 24-Jan 4
	170 days	PT Conference/IS Days		May 23	Spring Break	March 11-15
Approved: 12/5/2016		November 1, 2			Vacation Day	Jan 21 & April 19
Dept of Ed. Approved: 10/26/2017		February 7, 8			Memorial Day	May 27

Parent Input Form 2018-19

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 11th 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 11th 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.*

