



Volume 9
Issue 1

Shooting Star Scoop

September 2013

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



Important Dates

September 2

Labor Day Holiday
NO SCHOOL

September 5

PTA Meeting
3:45pm - Library

September 6

School Picture Day!
Sibling pictures at 3:20pm

September 10

Fundraiser Kickoff Assembly
2:45 pm - Primary
3:00 pm - Intermediate

September 11

Site Council Meeting
3:45pm - Lounge

September 12

Bus Evacuation Drill
3:20pm

September 17

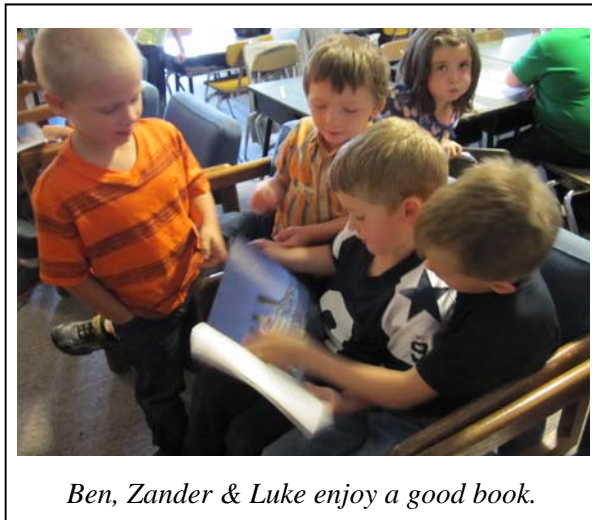
Volunteer Training
9:30am - Library

September 18

Early Release Day
School out at 2:00pm

Principal Points

Welcome to another great year at Nikiski North Star Elementary School! I am very honored and excited to serve as your new principal. My most recent experience was as a language arts teacher at Kenai Middle School but I also have many years of experience teaching students at the elementary level. I look forward to working with staff, students and families at Nikiski North Star to provide a safe, engaging environment where students will rise to new challenges.



Ben, Zander & Luke enjoy a good book.

We have good news to report regarding academic achievement at Nikiski North Star. NNS received a 4 Star rating on the new ASPI (Alaska Standards Performance Index) rating scale. The rating is based on three categories: student achievement, individual student growth, and student attendance for the year. Our students did very well in achievement and individual student growth. Attendance at school is an area where we can continually improve. It is very possible for our school to achieve a 5 Star rating for 2013-2014 if we

achieve a 96% annual attendance rate for students. Please make every effort to assure that your students attend school daily unless they are ill and need to stay home. We appreciate your efforts as families in helping us achieve our goal and in teaching children the importance of being responsible for attendance.

Before school started NNS teachers were hard at work preparing for students and planning lessons that will challenge and excite. One of those training sessions included learning about the new math curriculum materials that have been adopted by our school and district. The math materials are aligned to the Alaska state standards. The teachers are pleased with the new materials and their use in the classroom during these first two weeks. If you have questions about the new math materials please don't hesitate to ask.

Our NNS Site Council will meet on Wednesday, September 11 at 3:45 pm in our teacher's lounge. The site council meets to obtain parent and community input into school and district decisions. Topics to be discussed at this meeting include school academic data, proposals for site council goals for this year, and a review of the NNS parking lot remodel. Parents and community members are always welcome to attend. Parent representatives on the 2013-2014 site council are Travis Moore, Amy Stock and Sheri Yeager.

...continued on page 2



Points continued

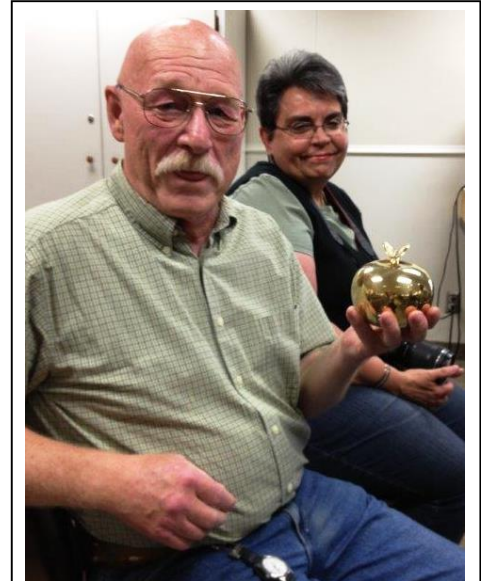
Our PTA executive board has already met to prepare a budget proposal and plan for the upcoming year. Our first PTA meeting for all staff and NNS parents and guardians will be on Thursday, September 5th at 3:45 pm in the NNS library. Joining PTA is a great way to be involved in your student's life so please join us to learn more about PTA and discuss events for the year.

Our Nikiski Clubhouse Boys and Girls Club program had a spectacular summer program with exciting lessons in math, art, reading, and science along with field trips fishing, swimming at H2Oasis, and exploring the Anchorage Museum. We look forward to continuing our partnership with them this school year. Please stop by our school or call 776-2668 to find out more about their after school program which includes a "Power Hour" with tutoring and homework help. We are very fortunate to have this program available at our school!

I also wanted to point out the picture of Steve Carter and his wife Terri Carter. Steve has been a very frequent volunteer in Mrs. Burnett's kindergarten classroom where he listens to students read to him. Steve was awarded the Golden Apple award by the KPBSD Board of Education for his service to our students. What a wonderful example of serving the community and improving literacy skills in young children. Thank you Steve!

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Margaret Gilman



*Golden Apple award winner
Steve Carter with his wife Terri.*

Picture Day!

Friday, Sept. 6th*

"Say Cheese!"



*** Sibling pictures at 3:20pm**

Girl Scouts News

Girls and adult men and women, join the Girl Scouts! 9/12/2013 Thursday at Beary Cool Yogurt Place 44322 Sterling Hwy. Soldotna from 6-8pm or by contacting Roslyn Lack 602-8619 rlack@girlscoutsalaska.org For every 10-15 girls 2 adults are needed, time commitment is flexible. Already a GS, come anyway, membership scholarships are available. Yogurt is \$0.50/oz

PARENTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH SCHOOL DEPARTURE

Please make end of day arrangements with your child BEFORE they come to school. Assure that your child fully understands where they are supposed to go and exactly how they will get there. The more consistent this is, the less stress there is for your child. Your child's teacher should have this information also, particularly if they are in grades PreKindergarten to 3rd grade.

Send a note to your child's teacher if arrangements change. This is especially important for younger children. If we do not receive a note from a parent or a phone message, students are required to go home their usual way. Students are not allowed to use the school phone to make social arrangements.

Please limit phone messages for students to true emergencies and unavoidable changes in plans. Call the school prior to 3:00 to allow us time to contact your child. After 3:00 we are busy preparing students to go home and there may not be anyone available to answer your call.

School dismisses at 3:30. Please be on time to pick up your child. We greatly appreciate your support!



Want to Volunteer?



In order to ensure that all students will be as safe as possible, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District requires volunteers to be screened each year. **Anyone interested in being a school volunteer needs to complete an online form and agree to a background check, EVEN IF YOU VOLUNTEERED LAST YEAR.** All information will be kept confidential and information can only be accessed by a few members of the Human Resources department. To complete the screening process, visit the District's web page at:

www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us

and click on Employment, then click on Volunteer, then on Volunteer All Vacancies, and find the location where you wish to volunteer. Click the Apply button that corresponds to Nikiski North Star, then follow the instructions.

We would also like to invite everyone who's interested in volunteering to attend the:

VOLUNTEER TRAINING
Tuesday, September 17
Library at 9:30am

Not only will you learn some of the skills needed for this important job, but there will be people available to help you apply online.



Nikiski North Star Elementary

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Parents/Guardians/Students
FROM: Dave Tressler, Director
Planning and Operations
DATE: Fall 2013
SUBJECT: AHERA School Management Plans

As mandated by Federal Regulation 40 CFR PART 763, known as the AHERA Act (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act), local educational agencies are to notify parents/guardians/students in writing about the existence and location of AHERA School Management Plans for individual school buildings. Also required by regulation is the notification of all related asbestos activities which have occurred during the previous year.

Currently, all AHERA School Management Plans are located at the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District's Operations office and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Maintenance office. Each school's administrative office maintains a copy of its individual School Management Plan. Plans may be inspected at any of these sites.

Below is an update of asbestos activities:

- a. Your school, Nikiski North Star Elementary, has been inspected and there have been no areas of asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) found.
- b. Your school, _____, has been inspected and there have been areas of asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) located in your building. None of the ACBMs present a hazard to any of the building occupants. The Borough Maintenance Department is following all monitoring procedures and instituting an operational and maintenance plan.
- c. During the past year, the following asbestos related activities have occurred in this facility:

If you should have any questions concerning the AHERA School Management Plans or asbestos related activities, as the designated Local Education Agency's Asbestos Coordinator, I can be contacted at the School District's Planning and Operations office or phone (907) 714-8875.

NH 8/2/12