



Volume 13
Issue 1

Shooting Star Scoop

September 2017

The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

nikiskinorthstar.blogspot.kpbsd.k12.ak.us



Important Dates

September 4

Labor Day Holiday
NO SCHOOL

September 6

School Picture Day!
Sibling pictures at 3:30pm

September 7

PTA Meeting
3:45pm - Lounge

September 11

Concert and Modern
Band Begins!

September 13

Early Release Day
School out at 2:00pm

September 18

Choir Begins!

September 20

Bus Evacuation Drill
3:20pm

September 26

Title I Family Reading Night
6:00 - 7:00pm - Gym



Principal Points

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year! We particularly want to welcome PreK, Kindergarten and new to Nikiski North Star families.

Here are a few important additions and reminders as we start the new school year:

End of the Day Plans – Please be sure your child and the child's teacher knows what their normal end of the day plan will be. NNS will use this as the default plan if there is any question. If you have a change in plans, please provide a written note so we can document the change. If there is an emergency, please call the office and we can let the child and teacher know.

Dropping Off and Picking Up – If you are transporting your child you have a couple of options for drop off and pick up. Some parents prefer to park and then walk their child into and out of the school. If you prefer not to park, please use the parent drop off and pick up lane which is closest to the school building. We appreciate your assistance with this as safety is the number one priority.

Communication – Nikiski North Star uses Facebook to update families on events and happenings so please "like" our page if you are a Facebook user. In addition, KPBSD also has a Facebook page and a free KPBSD app which provides you with district and school notifications. If you are looking for the lunch menu, it can be found on our web page as well as the KPBSD page and the KPBSD app.

Personalized Learning – Nikiski North Star is focusing on developing a personalized learning experience for each student. Personalized Learning focuses on individualizing using four core components – Integrated Digital Content, Targeted Instruction, Data Driven Decisions, and Student Reflection and Ownership. I look forward to sharing more about this process with you as the year progresses. Please see the link on our school webpage for Personalized Learning to access more information.

Join PTA – Our Parent Teacher Association will have the first meeting of the school year on September 7 @ 3:45 in the staff lounge. Joining PTA is an excellent way to get involved with your child's school, meet new families, and help with activities that add so much enjoyment to our school.

We have had a great start to the year! As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns I am available at 776-2600.

Margaret Gilman



Benjamin, Morgan & Mackenzie
enjoy playing with something
that isn't snow!

NASAExplorerSchools

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 and the office 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. If you've never done it before, you'll want to visit the District's web page at:

www.kpbsd.org

Click on the "Volunteers" tab

Click on "New Volunteer Application"

Click "Volunteer- Nikiski North Star, Apply"

Click "Start"

Should you have any questions regarding the volunteer and/or application process please contact Laurie Wood (907) 714-8844. We appreciate your interest and look forward to assisting you with the application process!

Family Reading and Game Night!

Sponsored by Title I

**Everyone is welcome!
Read Aloud
Family Reading Time
Play a game with your family.
Enjoy an ice cream sundae!**

**September 26, 2017
6:00-7:00 pm
In the Gym**

**Title I Committee Meeting will
be held during this time.**

Preparing for the 2017/2018
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES

FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM (NSLP)

Student Programs Applications for 2017/2018 SY

Households with income: Households with income are encouraged to submit a KPBSD Student Programs Application (even if income is over the Income Eligibility Guidelines), because certain Federal programs base funding on the total number of students applying for benefits. Parents can submit an application (one application per household) for their household BEFORE school starts - Please allow 10 working days for processing by the Student Nutrition Services Office.

2017/2018 STUDENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS (cream with blue printing) will be available for pick-up by August 08, 2017 at all Kenai Peninsula Borough Schools, Public Assistance / Job Service and KPBSD Central Office.

Households receiving Public Assistance Benefits: Households receiving Public Assistance benefits (Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance) DO NOT need to fill out a Student Programs Application IF they have received and turned in a School Meals/Direct Certification Notice from Public Assistance. The Department of Education and Public Assistance will coordinate efforts to implement the Categorical Eligibility Process by also sending names of qualifying households directly to KPBSD / Student Nutrition Services (SNS). Once your student's name has been received and processed, SNS will send you a letter notifying you that benefits are available.

30-DAY GRACE MEAL BENEFITS: Students qualifying for free or reduced meal benefits on the last serving day of the 2016-2017 School Year (May 23, 2017) may receive meal benefits for up to the first 30 school days of the 2017/2018 school year (August 22 – October 3, 2017). The 30 day grace period allows students to qualify for school meals while their new application, School Meals or Categorical Eligibility Direct Certification Notice is being processed.
NOTE: If a student changes schools, a delay in receiving 30 day benefit may occur.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH PRICES: Elementary breakfast \$2.00 and lunch \$3.00. Middle/High School breakfast \$2.00 and lunch \$3.50. Students qualifying for free/reduced meals, breakfast free and lunch \$.40.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Picture Day

Wednesday, Sept. 6th



Siblings at 3:30pm

Physical Address Needed

Dear Parents:

To assist the school in planning for possible critical incidents and in evaluating our bus transportation routes, it is vitally important for the school to have your physical address in addition to your mailing address. If you have not provided a physical address to the school or your physical address has changed, please assist us in updating our school records by calling the school office at 776-2600

Your assistance is appreciated.





KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

Sean Dusek, Superintendent of Schools

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-9132

August 2017

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s), and Students:

Each school day close to 8,000 students attend our 43 schools. While at school, the safety and security of your child(ren) is always our number one priority. As a way to ensure this, the school district and the borough have installed security cameras at your child(ren)'s school. This letter is written to advise you that the cameras are located in public areas inside and outside of the school buildings. Please note that no cameras are placed in areas where students, staff, or community members have a reasonable expectation of privacy, e.g., a bathroom or a locker room.

School security is the main purpose for the cameras. However, recordings may be used in disciplinary proceedings. In addition, matters captured by the cameras may be referred to local law enforcement, as appropriate.

For more information, view [Board Policy 3515 School Safety and Security](#).

Please feel free to contact your school principal with questions regarding the cameras.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Dusek".

Sean Dusek
Superintendent of Schools