



Volume 9
Issue 3

Shooting Star Scoop

November 2013

The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
nikiskinorthstar.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us



Important Dates

November 7

Thanksgiving Prog App Due
Deliver to NS Methodist Church

PTA Meeting
3:45 pm - Lounge

November 8

Substitute Teacher Training
9:00am - District Office

November 11

NNS Site Council
3:45pm - NNS Lounge

November 19

Holiday Prog Application Due
Deliver to NS Methodist Church

November 20

Early Release Day
SCHOOL OUT AT 2PM

November 28 - 29

Thanksgiving Break
NO SCHOOL

Principal Points

What a tremendous turnout for our fall carnival! The kids were adorable in their costumes, fun was had by all and it was great to see such a turnout of our community. An enormous amount of time, planning, energy, and organization goes into planning events that involve 500 people and we are extremely grateful to our PTA officers and parent volunteers who helped organize and run this event for our school! The PTA uses money raised during this event to support special projects and programs in our school and we are so thankful. We are always looking for ways to improve all of our programs. If you have suggestions for how we can continue to improve this event, please let me know.

Our school had three sets of visitors in the last month. The Nikiski Middle High School cheerleading squad performed for our students during lunchtime. The next week the NMHS football team visited during lunch to show off their giant trophy they won as state champions. They also displayed their plaque which was awarded to them for winning the academic award. Good job bulldogs! It was nice to honor these former students Nikiski North Star students and allow them to act as positive role models for our students. We also had Stanley the Moose from Stanley Ford visit our school as part of the award for our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) program. The kids enjoyed visiting with Stanley and playing with Stanley on the playground.



Former student and now Nikiski High School champion football player, Andrew Sickel, signs an autograph for Marshall Burnett.

I'd like to ask for your help with student safety once again. As winter weather becomes a constant for us we will continuously deal with icy conditions on our roads, sidewalks, and parking lots. We ask for everyone's help in driving slowly and safely in our parking lot and on the road by our school. Just a reminder as well that parents dropping their students off in the morning need to be in the lane closest to the school. Please do not use the parking lot/crosswalk stop as a place to drop off your student. Thank for your continued cooperation in keeping our students safe.

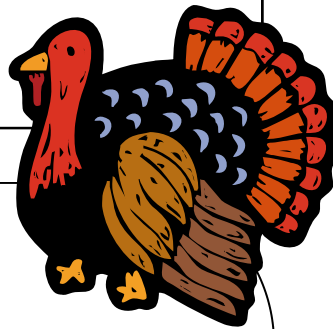
Continued on page 2 . .



Points continued

Winter is officially here so it is time for students to wear warm jackets, boots, hats, gloves and snow pants when the need arises. Students without full winter gear must stay on the sidewalk during recess. Some parents request to have their children stay in at recess as they are recovering from a cold, etc... but unfortunately, we do not have a location to keep them. (The nurse's office is full most days with sick kids so it really is the last place you want your child to be "hanging out".) The KPBSD policy is that ALL students will be sent out for recess until the temperature drops to below minus ten degrees (-10). The exception this year will be if your child has a note from the doctor, we will make arrangements to have her/him sit outside my office and read a book.

Mrs. Gilman



Help Around the Holidays

Nikiski Neighbors is a community-wide, broad-based group of individuals and community groups that put together this program to benefit families who are going through tough times. Thanksgiving food baskets (boxes) are available that include a complete holiday dinner to prepare in your home. The Noel Tree Children's Program is intended to provide two needed clothing items and one item that matches the interests of the child. All families living north of milepost 15.5 can apply, though they request that applicants not apply to other programs for assistance during the holiday season. Applications can be found at the Nikiski Post Office, Nikiski High School and Nikiski North Star Elementary.

*All Thanksgiving applications need to be turned in to the address listed on the application by
November 7th
and the Christmas applications by
November 19th.*

NEW TOYS NEEDED

Mrs. Berg's class uses a play money system for rewarding good behavior and at the end of each week, the students get to have "store" and buy toys, privilege coupons, etc. Our hope is that this gives them a fun, meaningful way of learning how to manage, save, and spend their money. We are running out of inventory! If your family is able and willing to donate any unused toys to Mrs. Berg's class, it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING!

The school district website:

www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us

has surveys to allow you to give us your feedback.

Simply go to the website, click on the "Forms" tab and search for "Survey". There you'll see a Teacher, Principal and School Survey. You can even fill them in online. We want to hear from you!

MIND A-MAZES!

Congratulations to all the Nikiski North Star students who participated in the district "Mind A-Mazes" meet in Soldotna on October 12th!

Students who represented our school with distinction at the meet were the "Duct Tape Carpenters" - Brenden Boehme, Savannah Ley, Aspen Hooper, and Sam Smith - and the "Rubber Band Rappers" - Carly Johnson, Olivia Easley, Jaycee Tauriainen, and Marcus Dunham!

The Rubber Band Rappers were the highest scoring junior level team from Nikiski on the Spontaneous Problem, and had the 7th highest Spontaneous score out of 39 junior level teams.



The Duct Tape Carpenters

School District News

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is requesting applications from interested persons to serve on the Budget Development Committee to review development of the FY 2015 budget. Anyone interested in applying should visit the School District website at www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us, Community Interest, for an application and further instructions, or contact Lassie Nelson at 714-8838 if there are questions. All applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m., November 8, 2013.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TRAINING

The school district will be holding a substitute teacher training on Friday, November 8th at District Office.

The class is 9:00am to 4:00pm.

In order to substitute teach you must have a minimum of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours from an accredited college.

If you are interested in being a substitute, please call Randi Broyles at 714-8888 ASAP. This is the last training for this fall.

Helpful Facts about Lice (Pediculosis)



- **Head Lice do not spread illness or diseases.**
- School nurses screen students when or if lice is suspected. They send home all those with LIVE LICE and those with nits within ½ inch of the scalp. They recheck students before allowing them to return following treatment. However, if school nurses are not notified by parents of cases of lice that occur over the weekend or outside of school, then they cannot check the students before allowing them to return to school.
- Cleaning the hair with Lice Shampoos **is only one of the first steps in the process** of limiting lice presence—parents and guardians **MUST** complete more steps consistently over at least a 21 day period. If head lice reappear, it is unlikely the child has been re-infected from another student but rather it is highly likely some nits survived the initial treatment and combings, and then hatched into live lice. Those new live lice likely laid new eggs which will then hatch in seven days if not treated or removed. Finding all the nits is **NOT** an easy process. They are easy to miss.
- Nit-picking is important, time consuming, and difficult, but a critical step toward making sure all lice presence is removed from a person's hair.
- Following lice shampoos by treating hair with olive oil and nit picking, then using the Olive Oil treatment calendar* for a month long process tends to be a very successful method to keep hair clean and prevent reinfestation with lice.
- Parents can be proactive by checking their child or children's hair every week, combing for lice, removing nits, and calling the school nurse if live lice or nits close to the scalp are present.
- Parents can also braid hair and keep it tied up in a ponytail in order to limit potential contact with others.
- Parents are encouraged to have their own hair checked by a friend—adults tend to be less likely to be sensitive to the saliva of lice (thus not feeling as much scalp itchiness) and often do not realize they may also be affected.
- Some options for classrooms, including placing every student's belongings inside student backpacks on arrival to school, or bagging coats **MIGHT** help reduce the likelihood of a child getting head lice from another child in their classroom.
- Sleepovers, day cares, after school programs, movie theaters, and any other places where students gather are likely places for lice to be shared. Community response is not complete without including these settings.
- Student, staff and visitor health related emergent needs like asthma, diabetes, seizures, bleeding, difficulty breathing, concussions, injuries, viral illnesses, TB tests, and so many more must take priority at our schools. Lice cannot and should not become a higher priority than child safety in the home, at school, or in any setting.
- Misinformation about head lice causes anxiety for parents and school staff, and increases the risk of bullying for students identified as having nits or lice.

Remember, neither lice nor nits can survive for a weekend without a human host.

Every Monday, school is clear of any lice until students and community return.

**If parents check hair every Monday for any signs of pediculosis (lice) before going to school,
then lice will not be present in the school setting.**

*Videos, a lice treatment calendar, additional resources, and a PowerPoint presentation given to the KPBSD school board by Naomi Walsworth, RN, BSN, health services coordinator, are located online at the KPBSD website: <http://bit.ly/LearnAboutLice>

CDA content: Building Productive Relationships with Families (12 hours)

Strengthening Families

Core Content

November 9, 2013 & December 7th 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

The national framework of Strengthening Families will be presented and discussed, as well as ideas for embedding the protective factors (parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children) and the program strategies that support the framework into your own early care and education program.

There will be a 30 minute lunch break.


MUST ATTEND BOTH SESSIONS November 9 & December 7

Online Registration and Pricing: \$75.00 (\$6.25/hour)

Call Carol Sinenko to Register 398-1750 OR

register online at www.threadalaska.org

look under the training tab – select calendar – click on the November 9th workshop to register and see workshop details.

Kenai Office 601 Frontage Road Kenai, AK 99611 (907)398-1750 



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to announce that our supplemental reading program, MimioReading™ individualized instruction, is available for home use. Your child may use MimioReading individualized instruction away from school if you have access to an Internet-connected computer and you agree to the guidelines listed in this letter.

Guidelines for Using MimioReading Individualized Instruction at Home

1. Online episodes should be completed in a quiet, positive environment.
2. Children should only complete the number of episodes allowed per week by the classroom teacher.
3. Children should complete the episodes independently, but it is helpful if parents are nearby to offer encouragement.
4. Only the child whose name is on the screen above the green arrow will be allowed to use the program (no siblings, friends, etc.).
5. At-Home Access can be disabled at any time by the classroom teacher.

Test Your System

To find out whether your computer can run the MimioReading program, go online to mimio.com/test and click on "Test Your System." Follow the on-screen prompts. If there are any "thumbs down" on the results screen, please call (800) 401-5062 ext. 7301 for assistance.

Sign Up for At-Home Access

If you have access to an Internet-connected computer that passes the system test and agree to follow the guidelines above, please complete the bottom portion of this letter and sign below. Once At-Home Access is enabled, you will receive an email with instructions for logging in.

-----Tear here and return bottom portion to your child's teacher-----

Student's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Email Address _____

Parent's Signature _____

