

January 14, 2019

## Fireweed Academy's Gryphon Gazette

### In This Issue...

- AIS at Big Fireweed
- Field Trips and Guest Speakers !
- BP Teacher of the Year
- Important Dates !
- Class Activities
- Opportunities for Students
- Don't Miss this Event !
- How to Write a Scientist
- Battle of the Books
- Nurse Notes
- Community News

### We're on a Mission

As I have been sitting in on classroom activities this past week, I have been impressed with how our current theme, Inventions, melds so seamlessly with Fireweed's Mission Statement, "... to develop: Self-Reliance, Cooperation, Creativity, Reasoning Ability, Personal Growth, and Academic Achievement." and our drive to develop problem solvers.

While some inventions are original ideas, most are a result of collaboration, especially in today's world. This is reflected in our school's culture where kids are working daily on creative, rigorous lessons developed by our talented teachers. Through engaging independent and group activities, students develop their ability to be self-sufficient, as well as an effective member of team, where academic and social skills are practiced and enhanced. Fireweed Academy is committed to the success of our students and our community. —Todd



Kim's Kindergarten class invented their own flavors of cookies last week; they were yummy!

### Artists in Schools at Big Fireweed !

Sharlene Cline will be working with BFW students this week. Students are developing their creative and artistic skills while working on a acrylic painting project that is part of the Homer Rotary Club's Peace Project. Jon put together a grant through the Bunnell Street Arts Center to help pay for the residency; thank you Jon!

### This Week's Field Trips / Guest Speakers !

Monday: BFW's Star Lab @ WHE

Tuesday: LFW's Star Lab @ WHE from 8:25 to 10:10

Wednesday: BFW's Star Lab @ WHE

Thursday: LFW's Post Office / Library tour from 9:15 to 10:45

Friday: Sharlene Cline @ BFW Art Gallery Showing at 2 PM.



Macarena moves were on display at BFW's theme launch last week!

## BP Teacher of the Year

BP Teacher of the year nominations are open. Students, parents, and community members are all invited to nominate classroom teachers. Over the past two years, Fireweed staff members have been recognized by BP for their outstanding efforts. Multiple nominations for a teacher is helpful in a teacher being selected for the honor. We would encourage you to make your nomination before the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.



Lots of smiles were visible during last week's theme launch!

Go to <http://bpteachers.com/> to make your nomination today!

### Important Dates !

January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Academic Policy Committee Meeting at @ 4 PM at LFW
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	MLK Day, no school
January 23	<b>Rescheduled</b> Fireweed Frescoes Steering Committee meeting @ 2:30 at LFW
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	NAEP Assessment for 4 <sup>th</sup> grade only
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Early release day, students will be dismissed @ 12:50 (LFW) & 1:15 (BFW)
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Student-led Conferences, no school
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Student-led Conferences, no school



Mattais, Madelyn, Rocco, Evelyn and Austin are inventing confetti launchers as the first challenge for this quarters theme-based classes.

### Opportunities for Students

**Math Club:** Jon's afterschool math club starts meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The math club will be held on Thursdays on the following dates this quarter January 17, 24, 31; February 14, 21, 28.

**Chess Club:** Beginning next week, a chess club will be held after school each Wednesday at WHE/BFW. Depending on the schedule for the WHE Library, it will be held in the WHE Library or Krissy's room. Community volunteers are providing this opportunity.

**Youth Court:** Mrs. Paul from WHE has invited the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Fireweed to participate in the Youth Court program. This year's Youth Court will include a Restorative Justice strand and will begin the last week in January.

### Don't Miss This Event !

This Friday, at BFW we will be celebrating the creativity and artwork created by our student artist at BFW. Parents are invited to our AIS Gallery showing, Peace Project, at 2 PM.

## How to Write Like a Scientist

On Wednesday of last week, Mo's class were developing their skills in writing, with a focus on science. The students were asked to make a prediction on what would happen when raisins were dropped into tap water and carbonated water. The students made observations, collected data, and wrote up their findings as part of the scientific method.



## Battle of the Books

Students at Big Fireweed have been preparing for several months for the Battle of the Books competition. The teams have been reviewing questions about the books during their lunch with Katherine and Krissy coaching. The Battle of the Books for grades 3 & 4 will be on January 30<sup>th</sup>, while grades 5 & 6 will compete on January 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be cheering them on & wishing them the best.

## Nurse News

It is the beginning of a new year. Because many New Year's resolutions involve achieving better health, it seemed like a good time to share this information.

The USDA introduced My Plate in 2011 to replace the food pyramid. My Plate is a simple visual cue to help people adopt healthy eating habits at meal times. On My Plate's website ([choosemyplate.gov](http://choosemyplate.gov)), the USDA emphasizes several important nutrition messages: eat smaller portions, make at least half the plate fruits and vegetables and avoid sugary drinks. It is a simple, colorful tool and it takes the guesswork out of portion sizes IF you use a reasonably sized plate! It is a very simple concept. No points to add up, no expensive pre-packaged meals to purchase, no special drops to take, and it is easy to do if you eat out. Just look at your reasonably sized plate, draw an imaginary line down the middle. Fill half the plate with fruits and veggies, the other half of the plate is split with one half being filled with a lean protein and the other half a grain. Add a small portion of a dairy product and you've got it. Wishing you a healthy New Year! - Nurse Laura

## Community News

As a member of the board of directors for HoWL (Homer Wilderness Leaders), I would like to invite you to our Chowder and Chill fundraiser this Saturday night from 6 – 7 PM in the HHS Commons. We'll have two varieties of chili, Salmon Chowder, Roasted Tomato & Garlic soup (gluten and dairy free vegetarian soup), and bread. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested. Thank you in advance for your support of our organization!