

# Fireweed Academy Newsletter

March 31, 2014

## **Monday Math Club:**

Math Club will continue through the rest of the year.

## **Standards Based Assessment:**

Students will be taking the Standard Based Assessments this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please help your child prepared to be the best he or she can be ...

- Play outside and get some exercise
- Get to bed at a reasonable hour
- Stay hydrated (drink water!)
- Wake up on time
- Have a healthy meals, especially breakfast
- Get to school on time (8:25)

Additional information and ideas are at the end of this newsletter.

## **Spring Field Trips:**

May 7, 8, 9: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Big Fireweed: Yukon Island (2 overnights)

May 6, 7, 8, 9: 6<sup>th</sup> grade students: Swanson Lakes

More information and permission slips coming soon. We will be looking for male and female chaperones, but space is limited on both trips. Please contact Stephanie for the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip if you are interested in chaperoning. Please contact Kris for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip if you are interested in chaperoning.

## **AASB SURVEY:**

Our district is scheduled to participate in the School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) for students in grades 5-6. We do this every year. It is an online survey. You will be getting a parent info letter regarding this via email. You may opt your student out of this survey. If you wish to do so, please contact Kiki.

**Open Enrollment:** Open enrollment is done but we still have space for more students so let your friends and neighbors know....it's not too late. Have them call me-Janet 235-9728

## **Upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> grade -6<sup>th</sup> grade Big Fireweed Dates: Mark your calendars!**

April 1 - 3

**Standards Based Assessment Testing for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Please do not schedule vacations, medical, etc. on these dates. Make-up dates: April 4 - 10

April 8	Standards Bases Assessment - Science (4 <sup>th</sup> grade only)
April 11	Bear presentation with Guest speaker Simrya Taback 1:30
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Early Release Day
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	No School
April 23-25th	Leave No Trace-Guest speakers from HoWL
April 25th	Bear Safety discussion with Simrya Taback and 6 <sup>th</sup> graders 2pm

## **Alaska Standards Based Assessments**

All students will be taking the Alaska Standards Based Assessments next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. In order for a school to meet “AYP” or annual yearly progress, participation levels must be met. Because of this, it is very important that your student participates in these assessments. Without 100% participation, we may not meet AYP requirements.

Students who are sick will be given the opportunity to make the tests up the following week. Generally, students seem more comfortable (and successful) testing during the main testing period. So consider carefully before keeping a student home from school next week. Please do not schedule any doctor or dental appointments on these dates (April 1, 2, 3).

Parents: It is important to provide healthy snacks for your student on testing days next week (Well actually, all the time... just especially on testing days next week!) Consider sending in a healthy snack for the whole class as well.

## **Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests**

Remind your young learner that these kinds of tests are part of the educational routine. Reassure them that results offer a “snapshot” of them and do not define them as a person. They simply relay how they were doing on this day and with this set of questions. It is also important to remember that standardized tests are more than simply about your child. They provide relevant data points and can do much to help your child and others when used as a tool for improvement. Rather than being used as a judgment for your child's ability, these tests can help teachers improve instruction. For instance, if a significant number of students are challenged by the same materials, we may need to make some changes in the way certain concepts/skills are taught. This is called data-driven instruction and can help to improve learning and achievement in our school.

Students have been working hard at school to prepare for the Standards Based Assessments. There are important ways that parents can also help in terms of “being ready.” Your child needs to be well-rested and well-fed when test time arrives. They should also be mentally prepared. They should be aware that it is a testing day and should get to school on time. Be sensitive to any anxiety. Some kids need to talk about the test and need reassurance that tests are simply a source of information for their teachers, their parents, and themselves. It provides feedback to all of us that can help guide instruction and student goals.

For some kids, talking about the test may cause more stress which will negatively affect results. Instead, think of ways to diffuse the anxiety. Take a brisk walk, plan a game of tag football, or draw a long, hot bath. And, because standardized testing can sometimes go on for as long as a week, build in physical activities and downtime throughout the test-taking period.

See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.

Make sure that your child eats a good breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.

Most of all, encourage your child to do his/her best!

Grade level specific guides to test interpretation for parents and students are available at:  
[http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/SBA\\_GTIIsPS.html](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/SBA_GTIIsPS.html)