

3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter

August 25, 2014

We had a great turn-out for the Fireweed Family Barbeque at the park on Friday. Lovely weather, delicious food, and friendly conversation... what more can we ask for? Thanks so much to the Kulhanenek's for the amazing salmon, and to all of our families and staff who provided side dishes. That sure is an easy event to look forward to each year!

FALL CAMPOUT

This exciting tradition is right around the corner. Keep your eyes out for important information towards the end of the week. If you are planning on being a chaperone, be sure you have been cleared by district office. We are also seeking out permanent donations of gear for the annual Fireweed Fall campout. Let Kris know if you can make a donation or just drop it at her classroom.

FIRST WEEK PACKETS

If you did not complete and return all of the forms in the packet, please do so. Packets can be returned to homeroom teachers or to Janet's office.

END-OF-DAY PROCEDURE

- Students are dismissed at 3:15. Those being picked up will wait behind the yellow line until the car picking them up is in the "cone zone." Please don't wave a student across before you are in the space between the cones.
- It would be great for parents to remind their students that they may not cross to parking lot without permission from the staff on duty. It is important that they are careful and look for moving traffic.
- Walkers and student whose parents are parked on the hill should exit the building out the front doors. They need to have permission from the adult in front of the building to walk down the sidewalk next to the building. Then they should cross in front of the bus and travel up the hill toward the fire hydrant.

1st QUARTER THEME

Our first theme for the first quarter is "SYSTEMS". We launched the theme today by classifying a variety of people, places and things into different groups. Tomorrow we will see if and how these groups create a system.

Afterschool Monday Math Club

Stephanie will be offering an afterschool math club for help with math homework, a quiet place to work on math homework or a place to help others with their math. There will also be opportunities to explore more math topics, games, applications... Permission slips will go out this week. The first week is Monday September 8th from 3:15 to 4:15. 3rd - 6th grade students are welcome.

Hot Lunch Program

We have a hot lunch program here at the school. If you would like your child to have hot lunch, they will sign up first thing in the morning! Hot lunch is \$.40 if you qualify for reduced or \$2.85 full price. Breakfast is also available for \$1.75. Milk is also available for purchase. The 'Student Programs' application is what you fill out to see if you are qualified for free/reduced meals-it is in your first day packet.

If you are sending money to be placed on your students account, please give it to our secretary, Janet Bowen (or have your student give it to Janet) and she will give it to Marilyn, the "lunch lady". Janet's office is at West Homer, room 213.

From the District

Preparing for the 2014/2015
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES **FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM (NSLP)**

STUDENT PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS FOR 2014-2015 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.

2014/2015 STUDENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS (cream with blue printing) will be available for pick-up by August 06, 2014 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 2013-2014 School Year (May 21, 2014) may receive meal benefits for up to the first 30 school days of the 2014/2015 school year (August 19 – September 30, 2014). 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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Enrollment

Fireweed Academy still has room for more students in all grades **THIS** year. While we continue to advertise, word of mouth is often the best method of letting folks know. Please, if any of your friends or colleagues are interested, have them call Janet Bowen at 235-9728

Volunteers If you plan on being a school volunteer you will need to complete the volunteer screening process (<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/departments.aspx?id=19556>). The process takes

a few minutes to complete, and all information gathered is confidential. Volunteers include anyone who will be in the school on a regular basis, and field trip chaperones. School visitors do not need to complete the process. Visitors include guest speakers, those attending large group functions, and parents visiting just their own student, for instance to have lunch with them. Also, it is never too early to get your vehicle checked so that it can be used as a support vehicle or for small group field trips.

Upcoming 2-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

- **Sept 4th- 5th** 'Big Fireweed' Anchor Point Campout Thursday & Friday Park
- **Sept 17th** Early Release Day (Student are dismissed at 1:45)