



3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter Week of February 26, 2018

News You Can Use...

Intent to Enroll Deadline is this Wednesday!

Fireweed Academy's open enrollment period is closing on February 28th. For the first time in years, it looks like we will be holding a lottery drawing for some grade levels, so getting in your intent to reenroll form before the deadline is very important. I have inserted some information below that Janet sent by e-mail last week. I am looking forward to working with your child(ren) in 2018-2019. -Todd

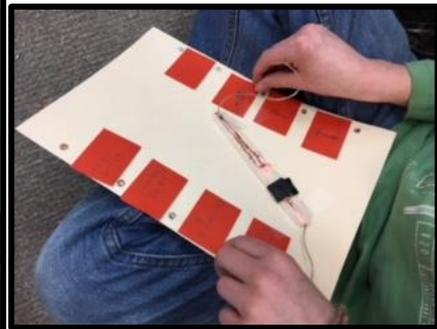
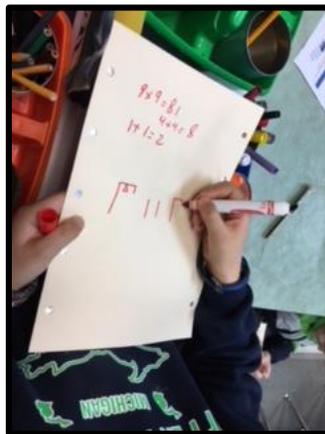
"If more students want to enroll in Fireweed that we can accommodate, we use a lottery system. Returning students do not participate in a lottery however, if you are planning on having your student attend Fireweed academy again next year, we must have an Intent to Enroll form completed and on file with me no later than Feb 28th. This lets us know how many seats are available for new students. **All new OR returning students must complete this form.** If you want to enroll a **sibling** of your currently enrolled student, according to our bylaws they have priority if we have to go to a lottery. However, I must have the Intent to Enroll form on file."



Caden, Mattias, Poppy, and Liam enjoy some art during Project Time.

One Campus ~~Dream~~ Plan !

A couple of more volunteers are still needed...Fireweed is working on becoming a non-profit 501c3 and need volunteers for the board. This is a separate board than the Academic Policy Committee and will be focused on raising funds to unite our two schools under one roof. If you are willing to serve on this board, or know a community member who may have a particular expertise, please have them contact Mo or Todd. Thanks! We can begin writing grants as soon as we have the board and bylaws put together and are approved. mwilkinson@kpbsd.org or thindman@kpbsd.org



Sheryl Sotelo visited on Friday.
Students were treated to another great STEM activity.

Notes from the Nurse

There is so much going on this month. February is Heart Health Month. The American Heart Association has put together a nifty handout that lists "Life's Simple 7"-seven steps you can take to improve your health. A quick synopsis of "Life's Simple 7": get active, control cholesterol, eat better, manage blood pressure, lose weight, reduce blood sugar, and stop smoking! The American Health Association's website is heart.org. One local resource to help with these goals is SVT's Thriving Thursdays program. SVT's contact number is 226-2228 if you would like more information. Also, Homer's Parks and Recreation program has a variety of fun ways to keep active throughout the year. Their website is cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation. The SPARC also has a variety of ways to help keep active. Their website is sparchomer.org. West is also participating in the Jump Rope for Heart program in February. It is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association that

encourages being active and healthy habits along with thank you prizes. More information will be coming home soon.

Here at school, gymnastics and wrestling are going strong. I believe cross country skiing will start soon. Girls on the Run (for 3rd-5th grade girls) began on February 12th. The Mileage Club will start after Spring Break. I will send more information home later.

Homer has a new support for families: Safe Families for Children (SFFC) is a program that provides a safe place for parents to voluntarily place their children in safe homes while facing crisis. The goal of SFFC is that parents who utilize the program will be connected to a healthy support system. This support from healthy relationships is a powerful protective factor for families and children that optimizes a family's ability to live a healthy life now and in the future. For more information, call (907) 277-0925.

There are a variety of illnesses in the community and it is not too late to get a flu shot. To help prevent illness, wash your hands frequently, try to get lots of rest and eat right. Oh, and avoid sick people! *I am reminding families to continue weekly head checks for lice.*

If you have any questions, you can contact me at 235-5788, lpeek@kpbsd.k12.ak.us or stop by my office. Your school nurse, Laura Peek, RN

Math Club

Jon's Math Club continues on Thursdays. This is an opportunity for students to log onto ALEKS.COM or work on paper-based homework. The remaining date is March 1st. Pick-up should be promptly at 3:45. Snack is provided

Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!	
Monday, March 5 th	Academic Policy Committee Meeting @ 4:30 in Room 104 BFW
March 12-16	Spring Break Week
March 19 th	Back to School !
April 2 nd	Academic Policy Committee Meeting @ 4:30 in Room 104 BFW
April 4 th	Early Release, students dismissed @ 1:10 at BFW

Opportunities on the Horizon for Our Kids !

- Students will be completing fish dissections on February 28th, March 1st and 2nd from 1-2:30



Elena, Brightly and Marina enjoy Lego Robotics
Thank you Kevin Co, our parent volunteer for the activity.

KPBSD News

Parents and guardians, school safety is a top priority in the KPBSD. It's important for you to know what to do before, during, and after a school emergency, weather related delay start, or school closure. Kindly read KPBSD [Emergency Guidelines for Parents and Guardians](#). KPBSD regularly practices safety drills in schools, and includes law enforcement in our [ALICE trainings](#) for school emergencies. [School delays and closures protocol](#).

Before A School Emergency

PARENTS NEED TO BE PREPARED

Contact information entered in PowerSchool is used to make emergency contact with parents. So that KPBSD can keep you informed, make sure your child's emergency contact information is accurate, current, and updated as needed. That information may be used during an emergency to generate automated phone messages, emails, or text messages to parents from schools or the district office. **Parents need to go to the school office to update and sign their information.**

- Download the [KPBSD Mobile App](#) so you can automatically receive emergency update push notifications

- Become familiar with the [KPBSD Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) social media sites where emergency information is posted

PARENTS NEED TO BE INFORMED

Familiarize yourself with these KPBSD emergency terms and procedures:

- **Stay Put:** A "stay put" takes place when a potential threat is identified in the school's neighborhood. All school doors are locked but classes continue inside as normal. No entry into or exit from the school is allowed. Students will not be released until the situation is resolved and the "stay put" has been rescinded.
- **Safety Closure:** A "safety closure" takes place when a violent intruder is identified on school grounds or in the school building. The ALICE protocols will be followed. No entry into or exit from the school is allowed. Students will not be released until the situation is resolved and the "safety closure" has been rescinded.
- **Shelter-In-Place:** A "shelter-in-place" takes place when students take refuge in designated areas to be protected from hazardous materials or severe weather. Entry or exit from the schools will be controlled.
- **Evacuation:** In the event of certain building emergencies, students will be relocated to an appropriate evacuation assembly area. Students will be released to parents per district student release procedures.

During A School Emergency

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

- Should **trust** that during an emergency the school and district is first doing what is needed to protect students, and then communicating to parents as quickly as possible when we have full and accurate information.
- Should trust that staff and students are prepared for emergency situations. Schools participate in emergency drills throughout the year, and staff and emergency responders know the best procedures for keeping students safe.
- **SHOULD NOT call or rush to your child's school**
- Phone lines, staff, and local roads are needed for emergency response efforts.
- **SHOULD NOT phone or text your child**
- The sound or vibration from cell phones and phone conversations could put students in danger. Also, students need to be paying attention to the instructions from trained staff. Conflicting instructions from parents may put a child's safety at risk.

After a School Emergency

HOW WILL I BE REUNITED WITH MY CHILD?

Parents and guardians will be directed by school or public safety officials to their child's specific location. This information will be distributed via the previously discussed emergency modes of communication. Students will be released **ONLY** to parents and guardians or other designated individuals who are documented as emergency contacts. All individuals will be required to present a valid picture ID such as a driver's license, military ID, or passport. Please remember to bring your ID with you and inform your child's emergency contacts that they will be required to show proper identification if they are picking up your child.

The reunification process can be time-consuming, so everyone is urged to be patient.

RECOVERY

Following an emergency, we encourage parents to:

- Listen to and acknowledge your child's concerns
- Provide reassurance that your child is safe
- Assure your child that additional prevention efforts are being put in place
- Seek help from school personnel or a mental health professional if concerns persist

Should your child have serious concerns in response to an emergency or crisis, contact your school directly for information and guidance.

Parents as Partners, Volunteer to Help Our School !

I would love to see more parents in the classrooms ! If you would like to be volunteering at the school or on field trips, please take a moment to complete this on line volunteer screening. It's easy! So... take care of it quickly and join us in the classroom!!!

Read this...School District News... Mandatory Volunteer Screening

Anyone interested in being a school volunteer needs to complete an online form and agree to a background check; only criminal activity will be checked. All information will be kept confidential and information can only be accessed by a few members of

the Human Resources department. To complete the screening process, visit the District's web page at www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us and click on Employment, then click on Volunteer, then on Volunteer All Vacancies, and find the location where you wish to volunteer. Click the 'Apply' button that corresponds to that location, then follow the instructions. Please contact the Human Resources department at 907-714-8888 if you have questions.

Hot Lunch and Breakfast Program

Even if your child does not eat hot lunches, please apply for the program. If our qualifying percentage of students is high enough, the school qualifies to receive fresh fruit for snacks in the morning, for everyone!

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 \$0.40 or free if you qualify for free/reduced program or \$3 full price. Milk is also available for purchase for \$0.60. Breakfast is \$2 or free if you qualified for the free/reduced program. The 'Student Programs' application is what you fill out to see if you are qualified for free/reduced meals. It will be in your first day packet. If your student was approved for free or reduced price meals at the close of the 2017-2018 school year, his/her meal benefits will be continued for UP to 30 days at the start of the 2017-2018 school year. This allows your student to receive meal benefits while a new application is processed. The school district offers a hot breakfast program as well. If your student is on the free/Reduced program, there is no fee for breakfast, otherwise the cost is \$1.75.