

3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter

January 26, 2015

Invention Theme:

Kris's theme Group: Patents and Trademarks

While a patent is not a requirement for successfully developing a new product or process, it is the key to protecting it. An invention is something new that never existed until someone thought of it, and is considered property. If certain criteria are met, an invention can be patented, protecting the invention/idea from theft. Patents help to protect the inventor from having others make, sell, or use the device or process they came up with. Why teach children about patents during the invention theme?

Throughout the theme, the idea that children have amazing imaginations and creativity, and come up with practical and worthwhile ideas (worth patenting!), comes up over and over. Examples of children inventors include Blaise Pascal, who at 19 invented the first mechanical adding machine, or 15 year old Louis Braille, who invented the system of raised dots that enables blind people to read. There is also a certain cultural responsibility in learning about copyrights, patents, and trademarks. Here are some resources and websites to check out during the invention theme:

- Thinking of Ideas for Inventions: Attached
- <http://www.inventivekids.com/>
- <http://pbskids.org/designsquad/>

Link Up Symphony Orchestra:

This Friday is the Link Up Symphony Orchestra performance. Fireweed 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade students will be singing and playing recorder with the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra at 7:00 PM. Performing students need to be there at 5:30 for rehearsal. Please let Stephanie know if you need assistance getting your child there. This is an excellent opportunity not to be missed!



Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser:

The sixth graders raised over \$400.00 during Friday's spaghetti lunch fundraiser. Little Fireweed came over and enjoyed spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread with us making for a fun and fabulous afternoon. Thanks to all the support from the sixth grade parents. Special thanks to Sharlene Cline for organizing this. The next fundraiser is a bake sale during the Saturday night performance of Jazzline.

Afterschool Math Club:

Math club will continue this semester. Students will meet in Kris' room on Mondays from 3:15-4:15PM. Please contact Kris or Janet if you need a permission slip.

Student Led Parent Teacher Conferences:

There is no school on Thursday and Friday, February 5th and 6th. These days are reserved for our student-led parent teacher conferences. Please call Janet at 235-9728 to sign up for your conference.

From The District:

The KPBSD Board of Education seeks public input into its process to select a superintendent of schools. The school board invites input from everyone interested in schools, including parents, students, KPBSD staff, site councils, PTAs, volunteers, business and community organizations that partner with schools, community groups, and the public. The school board has sole responsibility for the selection of candidates, final interviews, and selection of the superintendent, but would like to consider the views and interests of the public to help guide those decisions.

Visit the district's website, www.KPBSD.org, and follow the link on the homepage to rank attributes of importance in the next superintendent, submit general comments, and for more information about further opportunities for input as the process progresses.

[Superintendent of Schools Search](#) webpage with survey link:

<http://bit.ly/2015SuperintendentSearch>

From the District

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is holding a Public Budget Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Homer High School library. Everyone interested is encouraged to attend. If there are questions, please contact Lassie Nelson at 714-8838.

Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

- January 30th *FREE* Link Up Symphony Orchestra Performance 7:00PM
Mariner Theater (participating students need to be there at 5:30 for rehearsal)
- February 4th -Early Release day
- February 5th-6th - no school for Parent Teacher conferences
- February 9-20th: Ann Margaret Wimmerstedt: Artist in the Schools
- February 20-Soup Bowl Fundraiser
- March 4th- Invention Convention
- March 6th- Teacher In-service/ End of Quarter
- March 6th-15th Spring Break