

3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter

October 13th, 2014

FROM THE DISTRICT-SUB TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The next sub training for the school district will be held Thursday, October 23rd from 10-12pm in the upstairs District Office Conference room in Soldotna. The training is free but you need to call and reserve a seat. Talk to Randi-714-8888

WATCH FOR IT-FRESH FRUIT FUNDRAISER

We will be participating in the fresh fruit fundraiser again this year.



You will hear more from me (Janet) in a separate email about how this works but I wanted to give you a heads up that it is happening! Included this year, besides oranges will be pear apples and Pomegranates. I expect to receive the order forms sometime this week.

Mind A' Mazes

This past Saturday, four teams of Fireweed students took part in the district-wide, problem-solving competition, "Mind A'Mazes." Their challenge was to construct a device that successfully utilized wind power to travel the farthest distance from a starting point, down a marked lane, while carrying a 1.25 ounce steel hex nut. The problem was challenging but fun and Saturday they were able to test their solutions along with ~40 other teams from around the district. Our teams left with 2 out of 3 awards presented on Saturday, including "Judge's Choice" and 1st place for the spontaneous problem (a problem given on Saturday).

Participants included -

- **Katlyn Vogl, Mary Black, Aiyana Cline, Laura**
- **Courtney Rider, Mira Davoudlarian, Serena John, Alexis Schneider**
- **Coda Wood, Zak Wlyde, Terry Gilliland, Bernie Black, Noah Irons (1st place spontaneous)**
- **Elias Allen, Bea Strobel, Zion Iida-Becerrill, Thea Person (Judge's Choice)**

Congratulations to all of the participants and many thanks to their coaches as well!

Writing Workshop:

We have launched writing workshop in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade language arts classes. This is a time for students to focus on their own, personal writing. We go through the writing process (prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, publishing) thoroughly. The students have really taken ownership of their work during this time. They have done great with the responsibility to work independently so that David Lefton, Dave Davoudlarian, and I can work one-on-one and in small groups with students to focus on differentiated needs. We are hoping to have one finished and published piece for each student to present at parent teacher conference. ☺

Link Up:

Susan Biggs came in on Friday to do an introductory course to recorders for the students. The students learned how to play notes A and B. They also learned how to hold and blow into the instrument for a proper sound. Susan introduced them to a few tunes they would learn on the recorder during her time with them. Many of the students are excited to continue learning how to play this instrument!

THE ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE IS A GREAT PLACE TO SUPPORT FIREWEED ACADEMY!

October is Election Month for the Fireweed APC. There are several vacancies open for the next term: student rep, community rep and parent rep. Please take a moment to think about if this is a good way for you to be part of our Learning Community. It is an active and important way to be at the grassroots level of governing and guiding our school community; working together with Kiki and other APC members to keep it a healthy and balanced system.

Student-led Parent-Teacher Conference:

There is no school on October 30th and 31st, instead it is conference time! I am ready to schedule your child's conference so just give me a call...the sooner you call, the more choice you have! Thanks Janet 235-9728

PBIS:

We are joining West Homer Elementary in implementing a school wide PBI program. "Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is a systemic approach to proactive, school-wide behavior based on a Response to Intervention (RtI) model. PBIS applies evidence-based programs, practices and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture. Schools implementing PBIS build on existing strengths, complementing and organizing current programming and strategies" The kids know this as the "Orca Bucks".

Afterschool Monday Math Club

Math club is on Mondays after school and all 3rd - 6th grade students with a permission slip are welcome.

Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

- October 8th APC Meeting at 4:30
- 10th: Link Up Music instruction with recorders starts
- October 16th: All Alaska Shakedown Earthquake Drill: 10:16 am
- October 17th: End of Quarter Teacher In-service No School for Students
- Oct 29-1:20 : Hamlet
- October 30th and 31st: Student Led Conferences with Parent/Guardians