

3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter

September 15, 2014

This Wednesday, September 17th Early Release!

Early release provides teachers with an opportunity to collaborate with each other. This is especially important for our school to develop cohesiveness in our Theme Studies planning as well as to touch base across multi-grade and multi-teacher class configurations. This time is used to address our School Improvement Goals which are: 1. 100% of Staff will demonstrate improved communication, professional interactions and collaboration skills by Spring break. And 2. 100% of students will receive differentiated instruction based on readiness, interests, and learning profile by end of 1st quarter.

This Wednesday we will be collaborating on how to create and implement lesson plans that address the many different levels of *readiness* with which students come to school. The shift in the new Alaskan Standards forces us to focus on what students are learning instead of what we are teaching. Some of this is a semantic shift, some a paradigm shift in thinking, or even implementing changes in our practice. By looking at how we can create lesson plans that overtly address differentiation, we will be increasing our professional communication, interactions and collaboration.

We invite all parents to be partners in the School Improvement Process. If you have any questions or input regarding the School Improvement Plan, its Goals, or our action plan for reaching those goals, please contact Kiki, your homeroom teacher or come to an APC meeting.

NOTE FROM KIKI

TACKLING THE TARDIES; NEW ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL

Fireweed Academy is committed to providing opportunities for students to grow in six learner outcome areas: Self-reliance, Reasoning Ability, Cooperation, Creativity, Personal Growth and Academic Achievement. Although we understand there are certain unavoidable situations which make attendance impossible, I think it is important for you to understand what a negative effect missing school has on your child. The process of education requires instruction that is based on skill building, class participation, learning experiences, and consistency along a continuum of learning goals and objectives.

At Fireweed, morning is one of the most important times of the day; teachers are laying out their plans, goals are reviewed and the tone of the day is set! Frequent tardies and absences affect not only your child's learning opportunities but others as well since the teacher has to stop what they are doing to bring the late or absent student up to speed. Excessive tardiness and absences put your student at a disadvantage, interrupt the flow of classroom activities, goals and objectives, and interfere with the learning environment for all students.

Fireweed Academy's school day begins at 8:30am; students should be in their rooms at that time. If they are not, they are tardy. If your student is not going to be in school, you need to call Janet at 235-9728 and let her know.

Having expressed this with a sense of urgency, we need to make it clear that we don't want kids coming to school sick! We are trying to deal with chronic tardies and absences due to the inability to get moving and to school in the morning. Thank you so much for your support in your child's education

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.

Fireweed Handbook

The handbook went home Friday. Please look it over with your child. You and the student must sign the back and return it to the homeroom teacher or Janet.

Picture day

September 29th is Picture day. We will start at 1:05pm. Siblings are welcome. I will need one parent volunteer to help with this...anyone interested? It takes about an hour to one and a half hours. Call me at 235-9728. Thanks Janet

Spirit Week

A few students have organized a week for school camaraderie and spirit at tribal council. The days and themes are listed below. This is not a mandatory activity. Just a fun thing the students created at tribal council.

Monday - Dress Fancy Day

Tuesday - Hobo Day

Wednesday - Hat, Mustache, Bling Day

Thursday - Twin Day

Friday - Opposite Gender Day

Afterschool Monday Math Club

The start of Math Club begins today, September 15th from 3:15 to 4:15. 3rd - 6th grade students are welcome. Permission slips went home via email by Janet last Thursday. If you'd like your child to participate, print it off and have it returned to Stephanie or Janet.

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.

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 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

- **Sept 17th** Early Release Day (Student are dismissed at 1:45)
- **September 25th** Big Fireweed Harvest Festival and Open House
- **September 29th** Picture Day