

3-6 Fireweed Academy Newsletter

Week of March 4, 2013

Notes on Fireweed Mission and Methods

Principle #1: Posing Problems of Emerging Relevance

At our staff meeting this week we discussed how my messages through the newsletter could be more user friendly... limited in edu-speak. When I looked back at the previous piece I found the most complex part to be: *The key is to begin with a good problem. Problems that have little relevance can be made relevant through teacher mediation. They do this by avoiding: giving them more info than they need, avoiding simplifying the complexity, and avoiding isolating the variables.*

Last week Kris was one of 200 folks statewide participating in a webinar regarding the new Alaska Math Standards. The facilitator was talking about math story problems. He said he removes as much information as he can from the problem before presenting it to the students. The example was filling a hot tub. He takes out the dimensions of the hot tub from the problem. So the presentation was simply a video clip of a hose filling a hot tub. The problem: *How long will it take to fill the hot tub?* Thus the students had to identify the information and steps they needed to answer the problem. The result: increased engagement and relevance!

Talent Show

This week students will have the opportunity to prepare and practice for a school talent show. In addition to songs, skits and other performances, students will also display visual art that they have created. We invite parents to come see the art and performances on Thursday from 2:00 - 3:00.

Afterschool Math Homework Help

Stephanie will continue Math homework on Mondays from 3:15 - 4:15. All grade levels.

Afterschool Film Club

Stephanie will continue afterschool film club on Wednesdays. Pick up time is at 4:15.

Afterschool Skiing

Stephanie and Kiki will continue afterschool skiing on Thursdays through March 7th just before Spring Break. [Please check the newsletter after the break to see if we will be able to extend skiing after the break.](#)

Volunteers Welcome in 2-4 Literacy

Volunteers are welcomed to join literacy in the mornings from 8:45-9:50 for 4th grade and 10:10-11:15 for 2-3rd grades. Ways to help include reading or writing with students, helping students type their stories, organizing our classroom library, sharing a story with the class, or just coming in to visit. Please R.S.V.P. -Mindy

Absent students

Parents: Please, please Call Janet at the FWA office (235-9728) to let her know if your student will be absent from school for any reason.

Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

March 8 th	No School - Teacher In-Service
March 11 th - 15 th	No School - Spring Break
April 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th	<u>Standards Based Assessment Testing (please do not schedule vacations, medical appointments, etc. during this time)</u>
April 19 th	No School - Vacation Day