

## 3-6 Fireweed Academy Newsletter

### Week of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

#### **SBA Testing**

Students will be taking the Standard Based Assessments this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please help your child prepared to be the best he or she can be ...

- Play outside and get some exercise
- Get to bed at a reasonable hour
- Stay hydrated (drink water!)
- Wake up on time
- Have a healthy meals, especially breakfast
- Get to school on time (8:25)

#### **Fireweed K-2 "SMALL PART OF THE WORLD" Musical & Forces Videos**

Premiering this week only... at the Homer Family Theater, Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 5:45. Entertainment starts at 6 prompt. Thank you for supervising your children at the movie theater. Your children should be in your sight, care and guidance throughout the evening.

**All are welcome!** Invite neighbors and friends, grandmas and grandpas, community members and more! Donations will be taken at the door!

#### **Notes on Fireweed Mission and Methods**

Constructivist Principle #2: Structuring Learning around Primary Concepts

This principle is so easy to understand! It's the underlying principle behind our Theme Immersion Model of delivering instruction. Working around a common theme gives students a chance to see more. It invites students to participate at different entry points in both interest level and skill level. Looking at big ideas and broad concepts encourages engagement, ownership and accountability for their own learning. And it is really FUN!

#### **Teacher Needs**

Kris is looking for pizza-to-go boxes (on the clean side) and shoe boxes, with or without lids.

#### **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 be having the last day of afterschool skiing this Thursday. We will be back in time (5:15) so that we can all go over to the Homer Theater for the Little Fireweed's presentation of...

### **“A Small Part of the World Folk Songs from Here to There”**

### **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.

<b><u>Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!</u></b>
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<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Standards Based Assessment Testing</u></b> (please do not schedule vacations, medical appointments, etc. during this time)
<b>April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Little Fireweed Presents “A Small Part of the World: Folk Songs from Here to There” - 5:45</b> at the Homer Family Theater
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mike Booz, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.</b> Conservation of our Clam resources.
<b>April 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Standards Based Assessment Testing: Science</u></b> <b><u>4<sup>th</sup> graders only</u></b>
<b>April 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Broomball: 9-11 am. Bring helmets!</b> <b>Annie van Dinther: Polar Bear Conservation and Slide Show from her guiding expeditions.</b>
<b>April 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No School - Vacation Day</b>

## **More on the Alaska Standards Based Assessments...**

All students will be taking the Alaska Standards Based Assessments Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. In order for a school to meet “AYP” or annual yearly

progress, participation levels must be met. Because of this, it is very important that your student participates in these assessments. Without 100% participation, we may not meet AYP requirements.

Students who are sick will be given the opportunity to make the tests up next week. Generally, students seem more comfortable (and successful) testing during the main testing period. So consider carefully before keeping a student home from school.

Parents: It is important to provide healthy snacks for your student on testing days next week (Well actually, all the time... just especially on testing days!) Consider sending in a healthy snack for the whole class as well.

## **Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests**

Remind your young learner that these kinds of tests are part of the educational routine. Reassure them that results offer a “snapshot” of them and do not define them as a person. They simply relay how they were doing on this day and with this set of questions. It is also important to remember that standardized tests are more than simply about your child. They provide relevant data points and can do much to help your child and others when used as a tool for improvement. Rather than being used as a judgment for your child's ability, these tests can help teachers improve instruction. For instance, if a significant number of students are challenged by the same materials, we may need to make some changes in the way certain concepts/skills are taught. This is called data-driven instruction and can help to improve learning and achievement in our school.

Students have been working hard at school to prepare for the Standards Based Assessments. There are important ways that parents can also help in terms of “being ready.” Your child needs to be well-rested and well-fed when test time arrives. They should also be mentally prepared. They should be aware that it is a testing day and should get to school on time. Be sensitive to any anxiety. Some kids need to talk about the test and need reassurance that tests are simply a source of information for their teachers, their parents, and themselves. It provides feedback to all of us that can help guide instruction and student goals.

For some kids, talking about the test may cause more stress which will negatively affect results. Instead, think of ways to diffuse the anxiety. Take a brisk walk, head to the beach, or draw a long, hot bath

See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.

Make sure that your child eats a good breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.

Most of all encourage your child to do his/her best!

Grade level specific guides to test interpretation for parents and students are available at:  
[http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/SBA\\_GTIsPS.html](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/SBA_GTIsPS.html)