

3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter

April 20, 2015

Announcing the winners of the 6th grade raffle:

- Gift certificate for dinner at the Homestead, values at \$150 and donated by the Cline family.....Kiki Abrahamson!
- Gift Certificate for a halibut Charter trip for one with O'Fish'ial Charters, valued at \$260 and donated by the Mathews-Ceccarelli family.... Terry Gilliland!

The raffle made \$452.50, which will be used to help the 6th graders go on their fieldtrip. Congratulations to the winners, thank you to the donors and thanks to everyone who helped sell tickets

Culture Theme

Four weeks ago we began theme group rotations giving students an opportunity to consider "culture" through a variety of lenses. In Hannah's theme group students have been exploring the Alaskan panhandle tribes (Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian). The students have discussed the use of totem poles within these cultures. They've also talked about the misconceptions associated with totem poles when the first European settlers/explorers saw them. Each student drew a totem pole and wrote a story based off their choice of symbols. They then had the opportunity to make a symbol or totem pole out of clay. If time allowed, the group also talked about the use of color in totem poles, and also compared/contrasted differences between the tribes.

3rd-5th Grade Field Trip

The 3rd-5th grade class will be going to Kasitsna Bay on May 13th-15th. Coastal studies will be accompanying us with a planned agenda of activities. Be on the lookout for more information: gear list, permission slip, itinerary etc.

Guest in Math

Last Thursday Sherry Matson joined the 3rd and 4th grade class for some geometry. She taught us how to fold some creative geometric solids



Culturing Yeast in Math

Last Friday the 4th Grade students cultured yeast! They provided sugar for the yeast to feast on, measured optimal growing temperature, used fractions to measure flour and other ingredients as our indicators of CO₂ output and watched it grow. We reused our experiment results to create PIZZA DOUGH! We added some sauce and cheese and slipped it into the oven! Who know math and science could be so yummy.



Aleut Bent Wood Hats

During Specials, students are studying the Aleut culture and making replicas of Aleut bent wood hats.



Stem Club

Calling all students! Math club resumes in Stephanie's room on Mondays from 3:15-4:15, however... Stephanie is transforming Math Club into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Club. Students are invited to work on and get help on homework for the week. Also we will have materials available for building ROVs, Hovercraft, and battery operated wiggle bots, robotics and more!

Assessment Update - AMP Testing Has Begun

In the next two weeks 3rd and 4th graders will be participating in the Alaska Measures of Progress assessment for Language Arts and Mathematics (5th and 6th completed theirs). The following is a brief explanation of Alaska's new standardized assessment tool. The following information is from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (<http://education.alaska.gov/>).

Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) is the new Alaska assessment for students in grades 3-10 statewide. It replaces the Standards Based Assessments (SBA) that

students took in previous years. AMP is aligned to the new, rigorous standards set forward by the state. Like the SBAs, students will take the AMP test each spring to help determine their progress over the course of the year. The test has two sections or subtests, English language arts and math. Each section will take most students between 90-120 minutes, but there is not a time limit. Because there are new standards and a new assessment, AMP scores will not be comparable to SBA scores.

If you are considering the right to refuse that your child test, the required form is attached to this newsletter or can be picked up at school (table between David's classroom and Kris's classroom).

Open Enrollment

We are done with Open enrollment. However, I am still missing a few form for student who I suspect are indeed coming back to our school. If you have completed a form, please call me at 235-9728. That said, we are not full in every grade so please continue to let our friends and neighbors know that we have space for the FY16 school year. Thanks-Janet

Class Notes

The culture theme offers up some interesting and potentially delicious avenues for investigation. Fifth grade math class is looking for one more bread machine so that we can put our fraction skills to work baking bread. We are also still looking for expert advice and supplies for making root beer (bottles, caps, capper) and yogurt as part of our science explorations. Drop off or send in supplies in Kris's 5th/6th classroom (102).

Fundraisers-

FROM THE DISTRICT “Each school day, more than 1,200 KPBSD employees do all that they can to provide a quality education to our district’s students. A part of this work is our continuous improvement process that requires us to regularly evaluate our practices so that we can in turn, make the necessary changes to help our students find success. An intricate piece of our improvements is our professional development for our certified staff. With the need to do more for our staff in this area, for the past two school years we designated six school days as minimum days—with a 90 minute early release for students, while staff works a maximum day in order to deliberately devote time to collaborate and collectively address the learning needs of our students. Now that you are familiar with these shortened student school days, we want to receive your feedback on them. Please complete these questions, and provide your optional comments. Thank you very much for your time.” – Sean Dusek, Superintendent

The direct link is: <http://bit.ly/KPBSDParentSurveyMinimumDays> and a link will also be added to the community interest section on the KPBSD homepage and in the KPBSD website in section: Students/Parents > Surveys at some point Tuesday evening.

This link will be available April 1-24, 2015.

Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

- May 4th Step up day for 2nd graders
- May 13th - 15th 3rd - 5th grade field trip to Kasitsna Bay.
- May 14-19 6th grade fieldtrip to McCarthy
- May 20th End of school picnic and promotion at Kiki's house