

3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter

March 23, 2015

Culture Theme

Students participated in the Culture Theme launch lead by Hannah this past week. On Monday students made a graffiti wall of words and phrases around the idea of culture. They were then split into groups and given an article about a threatened culture. They weren't given the name or location of the culture. Based on the information they were given, they had to decide where the culture was most likely located and give it an appropriate name. On Tuesday and Wednesday students presented this information and also started honing in on what defines the culture of Homer, AK. Thursday we began wrapping things up by comparing and contrasting the words culture and stereotypes.

This week we will begin our theme rotations. Each teacher has planned a science or social studies theme class. We are also planning for guest speakers and field trips in the next coming weeks.

Tuesday March 24

Standards Based Assessment Testing: Science - 4th Grade Only

4th grade students will be taking the Science Standards Based Assessment tomorrow Tuesday March 24th. Please make sure your 4th grade student gets to bed early, has a good night's rest, has a good breakfast and comes to school on time. Testing will begin in the morning after homeroom in Stephanie's room.

Friday March 27th

Guest Presenter: Leah Thon, Americorp Volunteer, STEM Outreach Program

On Friday morning Leah Thon with the Alaska Center for Coastal Studies will share with our students the advances in technology through ROV (remote operated vehicles) that allow us to explore and monitor our marine communities. Students will get to design, build and test their own ROV for neutral buoyancy and drivability.



Friday March 27th Early Release Day

School Day ends at 1:45. Bus schedules are adjusted accordingly.

STEM CLUB

After this week math club will resume in Stephanie's room on Mondays from 3:15-4:15
Calling all students! Math club is transforming 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!

Open Enrollment

We are done with Open enrollment. However, I am still missing a few forms 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

Do you have a bread machine you can loan to the 5th grade for a week or two? If so, drop at Kris's room. We are hoping to put our fraction skills to the bread making test! We are also seeking out supplies for making root beer (bottles, caps, capper), and yogurt making advice and/or a machine. Our new theme is "culture" and these offer fun possibilities for exploring connections. Drop off or send in supplies in Krus's 5th/6th classroom (102).

Fundraisers-**Calling all 6th graders!!!! Please pick up your packets from Janet**

The 6th graders are selling raffle tickets that have two terrific prizes! One is Dinner for 2 at the Homestead Restaurant, www.homesteadrestaurant.net (\$150 Value and donated by Rick and Sharlene Cline) and the other is a Halibut Charter for 1 from Ofishial Charters, www.ofishial.com (\$260 value and donated by Austin Ceccarelli's parents). Each ticket is \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held Friday April 17 at noon in Big Fireweed's Room 102 (Kris Owens room) during our Soup Lunch Fundraiser (our last fundraiser). Winners need not be present to win. The 6th graders have tickets for sale and I have some in my office as well-Janet

Assessment Update

Students will be taking the AMP tests beginning with 4th grade science on March 24th. All 3rd - 6th graders will take the Reading, Writing, and Mathematics sections in April. 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.

Please feel free to ask questions about the AMP and keep an eye out for additional information.

Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

- March 24th Alaska Science Assessment (Grade 4)
- March 27th Early Release DAY
- March 30th - May 1st: AMP Alaska Measures of Progress Online Assessment (3rd-6th)
- April 3rd - No School (Easter Holiday)
- April 8th - APC meeting
- April 17th - Soup Fundraiser at Big Fireweed and Raffle Drawing