

3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter

January 19, 2016



Alana Houlihan and Bea Strobel celebrate their graduation from the Homer Youth Court with Ginny Espenshade. Alana and Bea participated in a 6 week class where they studied the three branches of government with a focus on the judicial system, followed by a tour of the Homer Courthouse. They both passed the Bar Exam with flying colors!

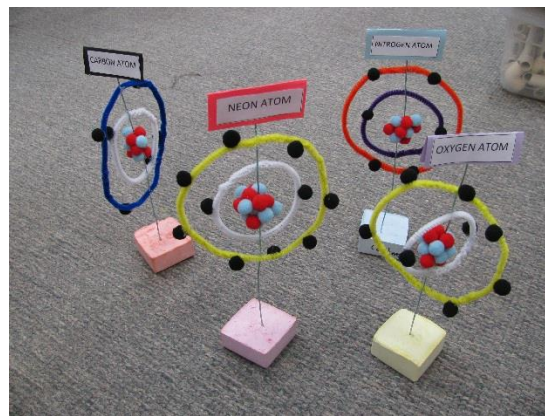


OPEN ENROLLEMNT for FY17

Be sure to get your Intent to Enroll forms to Janet to ensure your student's place at Fireweed for next year. Forms were sent home via email last week. Our best advertisement for new students is word of mouth so let your friends and neighbors know about Fireweed. Call Janet if you have any questions.

Third Quarter Theme: STRUCTURES

Theme studies are underway in all the classrooms. As a part of our study of Physical Science with Stephanie we are comparing models that represent matter as solids liquids, or gases and the changes from one state to another. We took this further to look at the structure of atoms and their properties. Check out the models students made of Oxygen, Carbon, Neon and Nitrogen atoms.



Sea Turtles of Troncones

On Friday, January 8th, Kiki presented a PowerPoint on the capture and release of sea turtle eggs in Troncones, Mexico. The slide show demonstrated how this year's themes of Cycles, Habitats and Structures are connected and inter-related. The video clips of the baby turtles heading for the sea and being engulfed by the waves brought lots of oohs and ahs from students, as well as predictions and inferences about their survival.

Guest: Maestro-Tammy Vollom-Matturro

Kenai Peninsula Orchestra Conductor, Tammy Vollom-Matturro, came in to have a rehearsal with the students before our concert this past Friday. It was a very energetic, fast-paced class. The students were given basic instruction on the structure of an orchestra and the job of a conductor. They were also informed that the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra's concert was to be the premier of this year's Link Up Concert. What an honor for the Kenai Peninsula from Carnegie Hall! *Shortly you should be able to see a video of Tammy conducting in the classroom on the Fireweed Academy webpage.

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Link Up Orchestra Performance: Great Success!

Thank you to all staff and families who helped to support our students!

Here is a note from the conductor Tammy Vollum-Matturro:

"Wow, what a fantastic concert! I was thrilled with everything! The students did an outstanding job on their singing and playing, and they were amazingly well behaved on stage.

Thank you all for your incredibly hard work to prepare the kids for the concert.

I had a great time, and hope the kids did, too!"



Jessica Shepherd from the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

(KBNERR) came in last Friday and explained one of the current hypotheses for the Murre seabird die off. She also had a slide show and discussion of the 7 Ocean Literacies. Finally we all made Ocean Shadow Boxes. We have been invited by Jessica Shepherd to monitor the craft table at the next Discovery Lab at the Islands and Oceans visitor center from 3:00 -5:00 on Wednesday, February 3rd. The Subject of this Public Discovery Lab is *Our Amazing Ocean*. "At this family friendly Discovery Lab examine some of the remarkable creatures that inhabit the ocean, explore how currents, volcanoes and earthquakes shape our shorelines and learn why the ocean is so important to a habitable world."

Kiki will be selecting students who have demonstrated exemplary behavior and effort to serve as monitors at this station. This is an early release day so students will need to have transportation arranged to and from Oceans and Islands. Those students will bring home permission slips on Monday next week.

STUDENT-LED PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

There will be no school on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 4-5, instead we will hold the student-led parent teacher conferences. Please call Janet at 235-9728 to schedule your conference.

FROM THE DISTRICT

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is holding Public Budget Meetings at the following locations:

- Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Seward High School library
- Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Soldotna High School library
- Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Homer High School library

Everyone interested is encouraged to attend one of the meetings. If there are questions, please contact Lassie Nelson at 714-8838.

Upcoming Dates

Jan 29	Adam Sevi Guest speaker
Feb 3	Rarly Release
Feb 4-5	Parent Teacher Conferences - no school