

# 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Fireweed Academy Newsletter

## August 23, 2016

### WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

#### First Days of School

Welcome back Fireweed students and families! Also, welcome new students and families to the Fireweed community. The first day of school was packed full of excitement, learning, and community building activities. In the afternoon the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students met in Stephanie's room. They went over whole group procedures and expectations. The older students were great role models for the new/younger students. We then spent time completing a name game skit for a community building activity. It was a great first day!

#### NURSES AND IMMUNIZATION UPDATES:

#### **VERY IMPORTANT\*VERY IMPORTANT\*VERY IMPORTANT**

**ALL STUDENTS** must have current, up-to-date immunization records on file with Fireweed Academy or a current, notarized religious exemption PRIOR to the first day of school. Our Secretary, Janet Bowen, is a notary and has the exemption forms. Students without proper immunization documents will have to leave school and return when they have the proper documentation.

#### ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC) MEETING

**Monday, Aug 22**

All are welcome to our monthly APC meetings. The APC is the governing body of the Fireweed Academy and is always open to the community. There is an opportunity to address the APC at the start of each meeting during the Public Comments period. This meeting will be held at 4:30 PM in Room 104 at Big Fireweed (located on the North end of West Homer Elementary).

**Karen Hornaday Park** On Friday Big Fireweed and Little Fireweed will be meeting at Karen Hornaday Park for a picnic to celebrate the upcoming school year. It will be a great opportunity to meet new students, families, and teachers. Families are welcomed and encouraged to come. It's a potluck style picnic so feel free to bring a dish to pass. Jon Kulhanek will provide salmon that he caught on his boat this summer!

\*We are also looking for two grill masters. All you have to do is watch the salmon sizzle until ready! **Contact Hannah if you are interested in this position.**  
[hsnow@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:hsnow@kpbsd.k12.ak.us)

Fall 2014



### **Busing information**

If you have any questions regarding busing for your student, call First Student at 235-7513. They can tell you bus numbers, pick up and drop off times, etc.

### **Start of School Packets**

Your student will be coming home shortly with their start of school packet from Janet. It will have a variety of paperwork (emergency contact list, field trip forms) to be filled out and returned promptly to homeroom teacher or Janet.

### **Volunteers-required screening**

#### **ALL INTERESTED PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

If you would like to be volunteering at the school, please take a moment to complete this online volunteer screening. It's easy! So... take care of it quickly and join us in the classroom!!!

#### **Read this...School District News... Mandatory Volunteer Screening**

Anyone interested in being a school volunteer needs to complete an online form and agree to a background check; only criminal activity will be checked. All information will be kept confidential and information can only be accessed by a few members of the Human Resources department. To complete the screening process, visit the District's web page at [www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us) and click on Employment, then click on Volunteer, then on Volunteer All Vacancies, and find the location where you wish to volunteer. Click the 'Apply' button that corresponds to that location, then follow the instructions. Please contact the Human Resources department at 907-714-8888 if you have questions.

### **HOT LUNCH/BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

We have a hot lunch program here at the school. If you would like your child to have hot lunch, they

will sign up first thing in the morning! Hot lunch is \$.40 if you qualify for reduced or \$2.85 full price. Milk is also available for purchase for \$.60. The 'Student Programs' application is what you fill out to see if you are qualified for free/reduced meals. It will be in your first day packet. If your student was approved for free or reduced price meals at the close of the 2015-2016 school year, his/her meal benefits will be continued for UP to 30 days at the start of the 2016-2017 school year. This allows your student to receive meal benefits while a new application is processed. The school district offers a hot breakfast program as well. If your student is on the free/Reduced program, there is no fee for breakfast, otherwise the cost is \$1.75.

**More from the district:**

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District  
STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES  
**FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM (NSLP)**

STUDENT PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS FOR 2016-2017 SY

**Households with income:** Households with income are encouraged to submit a KPBSD Student Programs Application (even if income is over the Income Eligibility Guidelines), because certain Federal programs base funding on the total number of students applying for benefits. Parents can submit an application (one application per household) for their household **BEFORE** school starts - Please allow 10 working days for processing by the Student Nutrition Services Office.

**2016/2017 STUDENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS** (cream with purple printing) will be available for pick-up by August 08, 2016 at all Kenai Peninsula Borough Schools, Public Assistance / Job Service and KPBSD Central Office.

**Households receiving Public Assistance Benefits:** Households receiving Public Assistance benefits (Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance) **DO NOT** need to fill out a Student Programs Application IF they have received and turned in a School Meals/Direct Certification Notice from Public Assistance. The Department of Education and Public Assistance will coordinate efforts to implement the Categorical Eligibility Process by also sending names of qualifying households directly to KPBSD / Student Nutrition Services (SNS). Once your student's name has been received and processed, SNS will send you a letter notifying you that benefits are available.

**30-DAY GRACE MEAL BENEFITS:** Students qualifying for free or reduced meal benefits on the last serving day of the 2015-2016 School Year (May 19, 2016) may receive meal benefits for up to the first 30 school days of the 2016/2017 school year (August 23 – October 4, 2014). The 30 day grace period allows students to qualify for school meals while their new application, School Meals or Categorical Eligibility Direct Certification Notice is being processed.  
**NOTE:** If a student changes schools, a delay in receiving 30 day benefit may occur.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!**

Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>

Fireweed APC Meeting Room 104 4:30 PM @ Big Fireweed

First Day of School 8:15-8:30 arrival

Karen Hornaday Play Day & Potluck Noon-3 PM

