

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

## August 29, 2016

### WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

#### Karen Hornaday Park

We had a fabulous turnout of families and friends for our annual Karen Hornaday Park picnic/play day to celebrate the upcoming school year. Thank you to Jon for providing all the salmon and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders for seasoning it! Also thank you to all families for contributing and helping in so many ways.



#### Community Theme

This quarter our Theme for our studies is *COMMUNITY*. We launched our theme today (Monday). We shared visuals, stories and song.

- Visual: Inspirational video clip about being an community of learners
- Story: "The Last American Rainforest" by Shelly Gill
- Song: "Common Thread" by Pat Humphries

Ask your child to share a part of the video, story or song with you!

#### Picture Day

This Friday Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> is Picture Day for Fireweed Academy. Students will have their pictures taken in the West Homer Elementary art room. Picture packets went home last week in your "Start of school packets". Please give Janet a call if you did not get one.

#### Burning Basket - Community Art Project

Next Tuesday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, Big Fireweed Students will be going to Mariner Park to participate in creating Mavis Muller's community impermanent art project. This year's basket theme is

"Expand". We are encouraging students to begin collecting spruce cones, discarded oyster shells, elder berries, leaves, sticks... to bring in Tuesday morning. These contributions will become part of the labyrinth or basket. Parent volunteers are welcome to join us there on Tuesday morning.

### **Upcoming Field Trip to Anchor Point**

Every year we do an annual fall field trip to build community by applying the concepts of our learner outcomes (cooperation, self-reliance, leadership, creativity and personal growth). This year's trip is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Halibut Campground in Anchor Point. More information and Permission Slips will go out by the end of this week

### **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**

Don't forget to turn in the required forms your students teacher or directly to Janet from the packet your student brought home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school.

### **SCHOOL BOARD POSITION OPENING**

Liz Downing is resigning from the KPBSD School Board. If there are any parents that might be interested in learning more about running for that position. Please contact Liz at [eadowning@gmail.com](mailto:eadowning@gmail.com). The next School board meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Homer High School at 6pm. This position will be on the agenda.

### **Volunteer for the KPBSD calendar committee**

The KPBSD is recruiting members to review the 2017-2018 school calendar and make recommendations to the Board of Education for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. Details can be found here [http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/students\\_parents.aspx?id=688](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/students_parents.aspx?id=688).

Questions? Email Natalie bates at [nbates@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:nbates@kpbsd.k12.ak.us) or call 907-714-8858. Apply by October 3, 2016.

### **Volunteers-required screening**

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

If you would like to be volunteering at the school, please take a moment to complete this on line 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.

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** We are now using **Pre-employ, Inc.** as our background service company. Pre-employ will be conducting more thorough background checks which require DMV searches. **The background checks will take between 5 to 10 business days to receive a result.** Please complete the volunteer application well in advance of when you would like to volunteer. After a background check is started, the volunteer will receive an email from Pre-employ letting them know they are running a background check and it will contain a link to Pre-employ if the volunteer would like to know the status of the background check. They will also receive an email from KPBSD once their volunteer application is approved or notifying them if there are any conditions to their approval.

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!**

Fri Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Picture day at Big Fireweed (forms in back to school packets)
Tue Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	3-6 Field Trip to Mariner Park to help with Community Basket
Mon Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	KPBSD School Board meeting 6pm at Homer High
Thur/Fri Sept 15 and 16	Anchor Point Campout