



3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter September 26, 2016



Community Building with Little Fireweed

On Friday, we went to Little Fireweed for some community building time. We started with an all school recess. After that we continued on to a song time lead by Stephanie. We sang some Fireweed favorites like Kindergarten Wall and Banana Slug. After that, we were lead into an exploration and community time by Kim. Students chose an area to be in, and mingled with their peers in all grade levels. Our students enjoyed revisiting this 'old favorite' activity of exploring many different things together with friends. From playing game boards and building gnome homes to exploring centers, construction and art materials, it was a joy-filled afternoon!



Theme Groups!

We have officially started our theme group rotations. Each theme group rotates amongst the teachers spending 1-2 weeks in a class that connects to our theme.

In Hannah's room students are studying and exploring the reconstruction period after the Civil War. What an interesting time in our country's history! So many different types of communities emerged based off of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments as well as the Jim Crow Laws. A great discussion presented itself when students were talking about feeling "guilty" about slavery. We collaborated on the idea of feeling guilty and why. We concluded that we shouldn't feel guilty about something our ancestor may have done. Knowing we'd never do it,

should make us feel secure in our character. We've also done simulations for sharecropping and tenant farming, to convey how landowners in the South perpetuated slavery without calling it slavery.

In Jon's room students have been taking a look at communicable diseases, which have had (or continue to have) an impact on communities. We have explored the difference between outbreak (localized), epidemic (broader) and pandemic (nation-wide or global) as the descriptor for an illness' spread within a community. Students brainstormed a long list of diseases. Groups chose one of interest, conducted research on its history, spread, signs/symptoms, treatment and prevention through many websites including the Center for Disease Control. Then a presentation was created using Power Point or Prezi.

In Stephanie's room students are diving into the understanding of community that students have constructed "the exchanges that link living things together". Students are brainstorming the common characteristics of all living things. Students will then explore the relationships that occur when two living things interact. Students will research these symbiotic relationships and classify them as mutualism, commensalism, or predator/prey/parasitism... Finally students will explore how energy moves through communities of living things and their ecosystems. Students will reveal and organize the important roles of each of the community's members.



ANCHOR RIVER COHO EGG TAKE NEXT WEEK



We will be heading to the Anchor River for a program hosted by the AK Department of Fish and Game. We will learn about the life cycle of the Coho salmon and return with fertilized egg for our classroom incubation tank.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY... October 14th

If you missed picture day this is your opportunity to order pics.

If you do not particularly like your child's photo, bring the WHOLE packet in for a trade in.



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.

Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

September 30 th	Guest Speaker: Matt Steffy on our Natural Community (3 rotations)
October 6 th	Anchor River Salmon Egg Take
October 7 th	Guest Speaker: Matt Steffy on our Natural Community
October 14 th	Guest Speaker: Matt Steffy on our Natural Community
Friday Oct 21 st	End of The Quarter - No School - Teacher In service Day
Wednesday Oct 26 th	Early Release Day - School out at 1:45
Thur./Fri., Oct 27 and 28	Student led parent teacher conferences

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

Volunteers-required screening

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 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.