

K-2 FIREWEED NEWSLETTER
Sept 15th, 2014

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| HAPPENINGS |
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K-2 OPEN HOUSE - WEDNESDAY, 5:00-6:00

Join us for our open house from 5:00 to 6:00 this Wednesday. Your child will share their classroom, favorite activities, journals, etc. with you, teachers will share program and curriculum, the kids will sing a song and Kiki will share important school information. We hope to see you.

1st EARLY RELEASE DAY is this WEDNESDAY, September 17th!

The school day ends at 1:30 PM, with bus kids departing at around 1:20 PM. If your child is to be picked up at school, please plan a pick-up by 1:30 so that we can head right to work! This is a heads up, so you can plan accordingly! Thanks!

WHY EARLY RELEASE DAYS, YOU ASK?

Early release provides teachers with an opportunity to collaborate with each other. This is especially important for our school to develop cohesiveness in our Theme Studies planning as well as to touch base across multi-grade and multi-teacher class configurations. This time is used to address our School Improvement Goals which are:

1. 100% of Staff will demonstrate improved communication, professional interactions and collaboration skills by Spring break.
2. 100% of students will receive differentiated instruction based on readiness, interests, and learning profile by end of 1st quarter.

** Wednesday we will be collaborating on how to create and implement lesson plans that address the many different levels of **readiness** with which students come to school. The shift in the new Alaskan Standards forces us to focus on what students are learning instead of what we are teaching. Some of this is a semantic shift, some a paradigm shift in thinking, or even implementing changes in our practice. By looking at how we can create lesson plans that overtly address differentiation, we will be increasing our professional communication, interactions and collaboration.

We invite all parents to be partners in the School Improvement Process. If you have any questions or input regarding the School Improvement Plan, its Goals, or our action plan for reaching those goals, please contact Kiki, your homeroom teacher or come to an APC meeting.

THEME GROUPS ARE UNDERWAY!

The first round in the exploration of 'the social systems of insects', ecosystems and the mechanical systems of electrical devices was completed! Groups will rotate to the next experience which will have kids either 1) collecting, observing and classifying insects/spiders and then constructing a model with Ms. Deb, 2) familiarizing themselves with the parts and functions within an ecosystem and then creating their own mini-ecosystems with Kim, or 3) Looking at a variety of machines and determining the parts of the system, what runs or disables them, and then dissecting electronics to separate and sort components of the systems and examine their workings.

Needed for Jon's theme group: Any defunct appliances, particularly those with gears (vcrs, cd/dvd players) and circuit boards

NITTY GRITTY INFORMATION

NOTE FROM KIKI

TACKLING THE TARDIES; NEW ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL

Fireweed Academy is committed to providing opportunities for students to grow in six learner outcome areas: Self-reliance, Reasoning Ability, Cooperation, Creativity, Personal Growth and Academic Achievement. Although we understand there are certain unavoidable situations which make attendance impossible, I think it is important for you to understand what a negative effect missing school has on your child. The process of education requires instruction that is based on skill building, class participation, learning experiences, and consistency along a continuum of learning goals and objectives.

At Fireweed, morning is one of the most important times of the day; teachers are laying out their plans, goals are reviewed and the tone of the day is set! Frequent tardies and absences affect not only your child's learning opportunities but others as well since the teacher has to stop what they are doing to bring the late or absent student up to speed. Excessive tardiness and absences put your student at a disadvantage, interrupt the flow of classroom activities, goals and objectives, and interfere with the learning environment for all students.

Fireweed Academy's school day begins at 8:30am; students should be in their rooms at that time. If they are not, they are tardy. If you arrive after 8:30 PLEASE SIGN YOUR CHILD IN ON THE SIGN IN SHEET! If your student is not going to be in school, you need to call Janet at 235-9728 and let her know.

Having expressed this with a sense of urgency, we need to make it clear that we don't want kids coming to school sick! We are trying to deal with chronic tardies and absences due to the inability to get moving and to school in the morning. Thank you so much for your support in your child's education.

CALLING ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS!!!

Somehow we have been surviving without you this year, but barely! We sure do love having you join us in the classroom and working with kids, especially in the mornings. Early in the week is a much needed time though we'll take you whenever we can get you!! There are also early morning short projects if you can just stay for 15 or 20 minutes, in addition to take home projects. Something for everyone! Don't be shy! Thanks to Sarah Banks for her Friday afternoon help!

BREAKFAST/HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

We have a breakfast/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. In regard to breakfast.... If your student is on the free/Reduced program, there is no fee for breakfast, otherwise the cost is \$1.75.

HEARTY THANK YOUS

- A huge THANKS to Holly for all your support in our classrooms!
- Thank you to Kyohei for all your help in the classrooms
- Thank you to Sarah Banks for your Friday and field trip help!!
- Thanks to Hannah Heimbach for your help last Friday in Betsy's Absence
- Thank you to the Salvation Army church for their donation of 4 new coats and 3 new snowpants for kids!! Check with a teacher if you are in need.

Upcoming K-2 Dates: Mark your calendars!

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| Mon. Sept 29 th | Picture Day at Little Fireweed | 9-11 |
| Fri., Oct. 10 th | Salmon Egg Take Field Trip - Anchor River | 1-2:30 |

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. 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.