

K-2 FIREWEED ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

February 1, 2016



HAPPENINGS

EARLY RELEASE DAY ON WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday is an early release day for students to provide for teacher collaboration. The focus of Wednesday's work will be on applying recent professional development regarding best practices in Assessment and Differentiation. We plan to apply concepts from the work of Carol Tomlinson, a leading authority on classroom differentiation, directly to student assessment data we have collected. Remember that buses run 1.5 hours early than typical, and that all students should be picked up by 1:30.

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.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

We were pleased to have Adam Sevi join us last Thursday for a look at how buildings are built to withstand earthquakes. We compared our area after the recent 7.1 earthquake with a 7.0 in Haiti. Adam showed us that we fared quite well, comparatively, due to the use of structural steel and construction methods that help our buildings to stand up to the shaking. This was great and really interesting information!

Cheetah Cubs went on to become "engineers" designing, building and testing different style buildings on an "earthquake zone" of Jello!



OPEN ENROLLMENT 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.

Healthy Snacks Needed!

Thanks to all our dear parents who have brought in some yummy snacks!
Keep 'em coming!

Coming in February! OUR AMAZING OCEAN!

Big Fireweed students 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." We hope that the families of Little Fireweed students will attend!

HEARTY THANK YOUS

- Thanks to parents and grandparents who are helping to spread the word about Fireweed Academy's enrollment period and friendly Friday week.
- Thanks to Adam Sevi for sharing what he knows about earthquakes and structures with our students!
- Thanks to families who have sent in new healthy snacks... we so appreciate it.

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 K-2 Dates: Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, Feb. 3rd	1:30 Early Release - Buses run 1.5 hours earlier than typical.
Wednesday, Feb 3 rd - 3:00-5:00	Our Amazing Ocean at Islands and Ocean - Craft table is being run by Big FW Students
Th/Fri, Feb. 4 th -5 th	Student-Led Conferences-no school: Call Janet to schedule at 235-9728
Fri. March 4 th	Structures Expo at Big Fireweed 1:30-2:30 PM
Mon-Thurs March 7 th -10 th	Little Fireweed Swim Week
Fri., March 11 th	NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-service Day
Mar. 14 th - 18 th	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

ALL INTERESTED PARENT VOLUNTEERS

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.