

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

## September 28, 2015



### Honey Centrifuge

In continuing with our quarterly theme of cycles, Syverine, Kiki's daughter came in last Monday to share her Honey centrifuge with the students. She gave an explanation of how her centrifuge works using centrifugal force to extract the honey from the comb. Syverine also detailed the lifecycle of bees as well. The presentation was followed up by some of Kiki's home-made cornbread topped with honey, yum!

### This Friday

This Friday Chris Fontaine will be our guest speaker. Chris is a Registered Nurse and will be presenting on the medical field. She is currently working with Hannah on what would be the best presentation for our theme of Cycles. It should be an exciting presentation so look for pictures and an update in next week's newsletter!

### School Photos

School photos will be on October 7<sup>th</sup> this year. They will be in the afternoon, starting at about 12:45. Siblings are welcome! Picture packets will be sent home a week prior to picture day.

### **APC INFORMATION AND CHANGES**

Our Academic Policy Committee meeting for the month of October will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> to accommodate some scheduling difficulties. From then on, starting in November, the meetings will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, 4:30-6pm in room 103 at Big Fireweed. All of our meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to participate in the governing of your child's school. We do have a parent rep seat open and if more than one person is interested, we will have a vote during the parent teacher conferences. Please call Janet at 235-9728 if you are interested.

## **Mind A'Mazes: "As the Pendulum Swings"**

"Mind a-Mazes" is a district-wide, problem-solving competition, sponsored by the KPBSD Quest Program. Four (4) students per team work to design a solution to a hands-on "Long Term Problem" and are asked to solve a "Spontaneous Problem" on the day of the event. "Mind a-Mazes" is open to students in grades 4-12. The problem this year is to essentially construct a free-standing apparatus from which a pendulum can be suspended. Once set in motion, the pendulum will have two minutes in which to perform various tasks, such as ring a bell. **An in-depth description of the problem and event is attached to this newsletter.** Copies are also available through Kris, who facilitates Fireweed's participation in the event. Kris's classroom will be available on Monday afternoons (3:15 - 4:10) as a meeting/work-space for teams.



*Team "Nenonobo" was one of 4 teams representing Fireweed in the MAM 2014. Fireweed teams took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the spontaneous problem (District 12, Lost Locos) and the Judges Choice award (Nenonobo).*

## **American Sign Language Club**

Chelsea Carpenter - a sign language interpreter at WHE - is offering a sign club after school on Mondays from 3:30-4:30). This is a great opportunity for students to learn a new language and participate in a whole school (WHE and FWA) activity. Hannah will be the teacher representative, and participating with the students in this fun after school activity! The cost is \$10.00 and parents are welcome to join too!

## **DISTRICT WIDE BUDGET MEETING:**

October 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday @ 6pm at Homer Middle School.

This meeting will be used to provide an overview of our budgeting process and our current plan for dealing with the fiscal realities we currently face. The purpose of the meeting is to gain feedback on areas of our budget that can be reduced, areas that should be expanded and suggestions for legislators about solutions to our shortfalls. This input will then be presented to the board at the November and December board meetings and work sessions.

## **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.

**Volunteers-required screening -This is required by the district if you want to be a volunteer in our school**

**ALL INTERESTED PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

**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.

**Anchor Point Campout Lost and Found**

Is your student missing something from the campout? There is a temporary campout lost-and-found under the table in the hallway. There are plates, cups, silverware, water bottles, clothing, etc. We are hopeful that most of this will get back to the folks who lost track of their items.

**Upcoming Dates**

**Picture Day**

**October 7**

October 15<sup>th</sup>: Great Alaska Earthquake Shakedown:  
10:15 am

October 16<sup>th</sup>: End of 1st Quarter

October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>: Student led Conferences