

## K-2 FIREWEED NEWSLETTER

August 19, 2014

**Welcome Everyone!**  
**We so enjoyed your kids on the first day!**

### HAPPENINGS

Our theme this quarter is SYSTEMS... come join us. Share ideas.  
What kind of fun projects can we drum up together?

#### **FIRST DAY PACKETS**

1<sup>st</sup> day packets came home today with lots of info and paperwork to be looked at and dealt with. Grab a cup of coffee and have at it parents, and send it back to us completed. There will be a turn-in bin in each homeroom. We need these sooner rather than later so tonight is a great time to take care of this.

#### **KAREN HORNADAY PLAY DAY... this Friday!**

We invite you to come join us on our traditional first Friday field trip! Our K-2 kids will be taking a bus over to Karen Hornaday Park to join the Fireweed 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades for a picnic and sports day. Meet us at the park anytime between Noon and 3 PM. Join us for lunch if you can, or stay the whole afternoon. Fireweed is providing the main course and we are asking for parents to help provide the side dishes.

**\*\*\* Please return all permission slips (coming home tomorrow) including your end of the day plan and special medical updates by THURSDAY \*\*\***

**\*\*\*Need Early Bird Parents (11:30) to Start the Fire, begin cooking food and food table set-up. Call Kim ASAP if you can be one of those parents!**

- **Rainy Day Plan:** Janet will send out an email informing our families around 10:00 on Friday if the trip must be cancelled due to weather. If the weather looks dicey in the morning, please send your child with a lunch.
- **End of Field Trip Plan:** We have a bus scheduled to return any Little Fireweed kids to school in time for bus transfers but you are also welcome to take your child home from Karen Hornaday if you want. Please let us know ahead of time on the field trip form or in person whether your child will be returning to school on Friday to ride the bus.

- **Protocol for Leaving a Field Trip:** When you leave from a group field trip it is important that you check-in/sign out with your child's homeroom teacher before you go so that we know that your child left safely with you. Thanks... this keeps us teachers sane and happy knowing that your children are safe and happily with YOU!

### **PARENT VOLUNTEERS AND THE CLASSROOM AIDE SCHEDULE**

Thanks to folks who have jumped into the wonderful fray to help this first week! There is a classroom aide schedule posted in the hallway by the water fountain. We are looking for regular classroom aides on all days. Thanks!

### **LUCKY US! GREAT TEACHERS AND AIDES ON BOARD THIS YEAR!**

Welcome Back to Betsy Vanek as our Interventionist, Title One teacher and instructional aide. She will be teaching and supporting reading programs in our school and assisting teachers in the classroom. Welcome also to David Davoudlarian who will be assisting teachers as an aide and during theme groups. We are lucky to have these folks on board.

<h3><b><u>NITTY GRITTY INFORMATION</u></b></h3>
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### **OUR DAILY SCHEDULE!!!**

Reminder... School begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 3 PM. You can plan to arrive around 8:15ish in the morning to help settle your child for the school day. Thanks in advance for timely pick-ups in the afternoon!

### **THE GATE and THE PLATFORM**

The rule is "**Side by Side**" or "**Hand in Hand**" when you drop off and pick up your child from school. There are too many cars coming and going for children to be running to greet you in the parking lot or to be running ahead of you to the car. Please be diligent about this!!! Your child must be "side by side" or "hand in hand" when walking to or from the gate or from the platform at the side door. Thanks... we will sleep better at night if every family does this well!!

### **DAILY MORNING SNACK**

We want to remind you to send a healthy morning snack with your child, even if they are having hot lunch! This mid-morning refueling time is important for school success. It can be packed in with your child's lunch, but it is nice for them to know ahead that "this is snack" and "this is lunch" so they don't eat all their main part of

lunch at snack time.

### **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. The 'Student Programs' application is what you fill out to see if you are qualified for free/reduced meals-it is in your first day packet.

### **HEARTY THANK YOUS**

- Huge and overwhelming gratitude to Rhonda Velsko for getting our school clean and sparkling and ready to go for the first week of school. She has worked above and beyond the call of duty and put a shine on the place. Be sure to thank her if you see her!!!
- Thank you to Kiki and the APC and the stars above for the wonderful aide support this year. It will make a big difference!
- Thanks to Mattie... our summer carpenter for putting up the shed and putting a window in Kim's room. He is our hero!
- Thanks to Heather for organizing the library in Kim's room. It's never looked so shiny. The kids so enjoyed their time exploring books today.
- Huge thanks to the summer garden crew: Hannah and Ella, Alisa and Hope, Sinon, Poppy, Angela and Dylan, Brandy and Rio, Katie and River, The garden is beautiful and bountiful and we simply wouldn't be enjoying the flowers and garden veggies without your hard work and attention.
- Thanks to Max Mitchell and Isabel Kulhanek for painting in Kim and Jon's room. Color is abounding in our world.
- Thanks to Maureen Sullivan for her incredible amount of support and time keeping Ms. Deb afloat during this school start-up.

### **Upcoming K-2 Dates: Mark your calendars!**

Fri., August 22nd Karen Hornaday Play Day and Potluck Picnic Noon-3  
Thurs. Sept 4<sup>th</sup> Anchor Point Field Trip 9-1 @ Halibut Campground

### **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](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.

**Preparing for the 2014/2015  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District**

**STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES - FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM (NSLP)**

**STUDENT PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS FOR 2014-2015 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.

**2014/2015 STUDENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS** (cream with blue printing) will be available for pick-up by August 06, 2014 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 2013-2014 School Year (May 21, 2014) may receive meal benefits for up to the first 30 school days of the 2014/2015 school year (August 19 – September 30, 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.

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