

K-2 FIREWEED NEWSLETTER
October 3, 2016

HAPPENINGS!

WYNN NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIP

This Friday's field trip is up to Wynn Nature Center to explore COMMUNITIES!!

COMMUNITY HELPERS IN OUR TOWN!

Friday field trips found us at the Homer Public Library enjoying a story w/ Claudia Haines and at KBBi taking a tour and recording a PSA for the Food Pantry with Kathleen Gustafson. A great day for a sunny tour of some of Homer's helpers!



WELCOME SUSANNAH WEBSTER!

Parental involvement is a crucial component to your child's success in school and parent volunteers help create a vibrant and unified school community. Susannah Webster is our new, first time ever, Volunteer Coordinator, and her job is to streamline the volunteer process.

**There are as many ways to volunteer as there are Fireweed families and we welcome you to contact our volunteer coordinator to find out how you can contribute. We'll work hard to match parents (or grandparents, aunts or uncles!) with work that fits their schedule, time and talents. Please consider joining our volunteer pool today in order to make this process more efficient.

To learn more, email fireweedvolunteer@gmail.com or call/text Susannah at 907-299-4317 And don't forget to complete the online volunteer screening. Start here: https://www.applitrack.com/kpbsd/onlineapp/_application.aspx?starting=true

THEME STUDIES...

Community helper puppets, quilt squares for a school quilt, and symbiosis scientists all busy during afternoon theme group project time!

****COMING SOON TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU... A HARVEST CELEBRATION AND POTATO SUNDAE PARTY!! ****



NITTY GRITTY INFORMATION

- **NEED: Mr. Potato Heads!!!** If you have any Mr. Potato heads or there various and sundry parts can you please send them in to Kim's classroom!



Thanks!

- **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.

- **FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES!** We have our food drive bins in each classroom. If you can find a few extra cans or boxes of food on your shelves to send in with your child, it is much appreciated!! Food drive ends on Thursday, October 20.

HEARTY THANK YOUS

- Thanks to Steve Shannon for bringing Truffula Trees to Betsy's Homeroom. Steve is a parent who is also working on his Elementary Ed. Degree and we're lucky to have him helping in our classrooms.

- Thanks to Emilie Springer for helping out with Literacy Centers in Betsy's Homeroom.
- Hooray to Susannah for the picnic table paint job.
- Thanks also to Meghan Gervais for jumping into the new volunteer pool as a classroom aide in the mornings. It was great to have the support during 5 in a Row reading and literacy time. 😊

Upcoming K-2 Dates: Mark your calendars!

Fri. Oct. 7 th	Wynn Nature Center Field Trip 9:30-12:30 in the morning
Mon. Oct 10 th	APC Meeting- All Welcome-4:30 PM at Big Fireweed
Fri. Oct. 14 th	Picture Retake Day
Fri. Oct. 21 st	End of Quarter/ NO SCHOOL!!
Weds. Oct 26 th	Early Release Day/ School out at 1:30 PM
Thurs. & Fri. Oct 27 th -28 th	Student Led Parent Conferences/ NO SCHOOL!

SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATION

[A Note from the Nurse](#)

October is National Child Health Month

The CDC, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, recommended a month be dedicated to help teach parents about the prevention of childhood illnesses and diseases, and injuries. The CDC recommends the following for children and parents;

-Children should 1) learn to wash their hands to prevent infections; 2) eat breakfast before going to school; 3) not smoke and avoid the smoke of others; and 4) exercise, play safely, and use protective gear.

-Parents should 1) read to and be actively involved with their children; 2) get their children vaccinated; 3) get their children health-care insurance; 4) check for health hazards in their home and eliminate them; 5) place children weighing less than 80 lbs in child safety seats and all others in safety belts in rear seats of automobiles; 6) seek medical advice if their child is slow to learn; and 7) avoid tobacco and drug use and limit alcohol.

None of this information is “new” news. We could all add a few things to the suggestions above. But it is a start. It is an acknowledgement of some of the ways we can take care of our children and ourselves every day and a gentle nudge by the CDC to do more. You can go to cdc.gov for more information.

Flu season is here. Washing our hands, getting adequate sleep, keeping our hands away from our faces, and coughing/sneezing into our sleeves are simple ways to help prevent the spread of illness.

Getting a yearly flu shot is another. We are fortunate in Homer to have many options available for flu shots.

Homer Public Health Center-235-8857: flu vaccine for ages 6 mo – 18 yrs. Available for those who are underinsured. Done by appointment. No longer able to provide adult vaccine.

Safeway Pharmacy-226-1060 (then push 4): They can bill insurance. Call for more information.

Private Providers - Homer Medical Clinic (235-8586), Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic (235-7000), and Seldovia Village Tribe Clinic (226-2228) call for vaccine availability and cost.

Your school nurses, Melissa Miller and Laura Peek

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.