

K-2 FIREWEED ACADEMY NEWSLETTER
March 4th, 2013

Thanks for a wonderful art show and celebration at Bunnell Street gallery! A grand time, indeed! What fine artists!

HAPPENINGS

SWIM WEEK STARTS WITH A SPLASH!

Our first day of swimming went 'swimmingly' (I couldn't resist) with all the kids developing a good comfort in the water, building trust with adults and challenging themselves to learn some new skills. These will continue thru Thursday, and a little extra food (lunch and snack) is a good idea as many of them were ravenous after leaving the water. Thanks to the many that have helped us by chaperoning and being "personal floatation devices" in the pool!

"SMALL PART OF THE WORLD" MUSICAL - April 4th

Our musical and dance extravaganza are coming together. We are singing and dancing up a storm and are hoping to share these with you in April at the Homer Family Theater.

OUR NEXT THEME: CONSERVATION

Be thinking conservation as we move into our final theme of this school year. We would love to have you share any expertise you have on topics related to the many facets of this topic!

KIKI'S CORNER

Principle #1: Posing Problems of Emerging Relevance

At our staff meeting this week we discussed how my messages through the newsletter could be more user friendly... limited in edu-speak. When I looked back at the previous piece I found the most complex part to be: *The key is to begin with a good problem. Problems that have little relevance can be made relevant through teacher mediation. They do this by: avoiding giving them more info than they need, avoiding simplifying the complexity, and avoiding isolating the variables.*

Last week Kris was one of 200 folks statewide participating in a webinar regarding the new Alaska Math Standards. The facilitator was talking about math story problems. He said he removes as much information as he can from the problem before presenting it to the students. The example was filling a hot tub. He takes out the dimensions of the hot tub from the problem. So the presentation was simply a video clip of a hose filling a hot tub. The problem: *How long will it take to*

fill the hot tub? Thus the students had to identify the information and steps they needed to answer the problem. The result: increased engagement and relevance!

NITTY GRITTY INFORMATION

REMEMBER:

- **Swim Week:** Return daily with dry and ready to go swim gear and towel! Hair ties also for long hair!!
- If you can, send in \$10 to cover the cost of swim lessons this week.
- No School on Friday... In Service Day for the teachers.

Needed:

- Glue sticks
- Masking tape

HEARTY THANK YOUS

- To Jessie, Mike, Susie, Kiki, Isabel, Solstice, Ray, Kris, Corey, Beka, JoDee and Frida's Grandma for all the swim support!
- To Bridget, Carol, Anthony and Michelle for great swim lessons and safe lifeguarding!
- To our art show curators, Joey and Kammi, also Beka and Pauli for helping to hang the art!
- Thanks also to JoDee for mounting art ahead and Leslie, Paula, Betsy and Carla for typing Artist Statements.
- Kara and Margie for their continued hard work helping to prepare us for the April 4th musical.

Upcoming K-2 Dates: Mark your calendars!

March 4 th -7 th	Swim Week for Little Fireweed 12:30-2:30
Weds. March 6 th	APC meeting @ 4:30 at Little Fireweed
Fri. March 8 th	No School - Teacher In-Service
March 11 th - 15 th	No School - Spring Break
April 4 th	"Small Part of the World" Musical @Homer Theater
Thurs., Apr. 18 th	Family Literacy Fair - 3:00-4:00 at LFW
Fri., Apr. 19 th	No School - Vacation Day