

K-2 FIREWEED NEWSLETTER
Early August 2016



Greetings Everyone!

We are getting excited to begin this new school year with you!

HAPPENINGS

FRIENDLY SCHOOL VISIT

2-3 PM Monday August 22nd

Come meet the teachers and visit the school and yard with your child. You are welcome to bring your child's cubby tote and school supplies this day if you would like. School Principal Todd Hindman and Secretary Janet Bowen will be at this meeting to answer any questions.



LUCKY US! GREAT STAFF ON BOARD THIS YEAR AT THE K-2!

A hearty and grand welcome to Todd Hindman our new principal! Welcome back to Betsy, Kim and Mo, who will be our new classroom teacher for the 1st -2nd class. Welcome back to Sharlyn as our new Special Education Aide and Nancy as our ever trustworthy school aide. Welcome to Sally Burns our new Special Education Coordinator and Melissa Miller our new nurse.

1st Day of School

Tuesday, August 23rd

School begins at 8:30am. Plan to arrive between 8:15 and 8:30 ready to launch into our first day.

ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC) MEETING

Monday, Aug 22

All are welcome to our monthly APC meetings. The APC is the governing body of the Fireweed Academy and is always open to the community. There is an opportunity to address the APC at the start of each meeting during the Public Comments period. This meeting will be held at 4:30 PM in Room 104 at Big Fireweed (located on the North end of West Homer Elementary).

Karen Hornaday Play Day and Potluck

Friday, August 26th

Come join the festivities at our annual play day at Karen Hornaday Park. Fireweed provides the main course and we ask parents to bring side dishes, desserts and beverages. Noon-3 PM All are invited... parents and siblings!

NITTY GRITTY INFORMATION

END OF THE DAY AND OR BUS PLANS

- It is super important that you and your child have an end of the day pick-up.
- If your child is riding the bus home from school, please call First Student at 235- 7513 to find out which bus number they need to take. Please make time to fill out a bus note for them so we can be sure to get them on the right bus. Bus notes are available at both boot room doors.

NURSES AND IMMUNIZATION UPDATES:

VERY IMPORTANT*VERY IMPORTANT*VERY IMPORTANT

- **ALL STUDENTS** must have current, up-to-date immunization records on file with Fireweed Academy or a current, notarized religious exemption PRIOR to the first day of school. Our Secretary, Janet Bowen, is a notary and has the exemption forms. Students without proper immunization documents will have to leave school and return when they have the proper documentation.

HOT LUNCH/BREAKFAST PROGRAM

We have a 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 for \$.60. The 'Student Programs' application is what you fill out to see if you are qualified for free/reduced meals. It will be in your first day packet. If your student was approved for free or reduced price meals at the close of the 2015-2016 school year, his/her meal benefits will be continued for UP to 30 days at the start of the 2016-2017 school year. This allows your student to receive meal benefits while a new application is processed. The school district offers a hot breakfast program as well. If your student is on the free/Reduced program, there is no fee for breakfast, otherwise the cost is \$1.75.

More information from the school district:

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES
FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM (NSLP)

STUDENT PROGRAMS APPLICATIONS FOR 2016-2017 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.

2016/2017 STUDENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS (cream with purple printing) will be available for pick-up by August 08, 2016 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 2015-2016 School Year (May 19, 2016) may receive meal benefits for up to the first 30 school days of the 2016/2017 school year (August 23 – October 4, 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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 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.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST at the bottom of this email is the 2016-2017 School supply list for Little Fireweed. It is also available on our website schools.kpbsd.org/fireweed

HEARTY THANK YOUS

- Thanks to the summer garden crew for keeping our beautiful garden blooming and thriving... Amber and Braydan, Toy and Jenna, Susannah and Fox, Rebecca and Izzy, Kristin and Ani, Lynn and Mayzie the garden is beautiful because of YOU!

Upcoming K-2 Dates: Mark your calendars!

Monday, August 22 nd	School Visitation	2-3 PM @Little Fireweed
Monday August 22 nd	Fireweed APC Meeting Room 104	4:30 PM @ Big Fireweed
Tuesday, August 23 rd	First Day of School	8:15-8:30 arrival
Friday, August 26 th	Karen Hornaday Play Day & Potluck	Noon-3 PM

K-2 FIREWEED SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

Individual Supplies:

(All individual supplies should be clearly marked with your child's name)

- Water Bottle (Labeled with name)
- Inside shoes (easy to get on and off!)
- 12 by 16 by 6-inch Rubbermaid style dishpan container for holding personal school supplies in child's cubby
- A sketchbook
- Set of Watercolors
- Large Ziploc bag with a set of extra clothes for your child. Labeled, please!!!!

Materials and Supplies to be Shared:

(Do not need to be labeled with names)

- 1 Dozen #2 pencils
- Package colored pencils
- Package of Colored Markers
- A pair of Fiskars Scissors
- 2 rolls of masking tape
- Elmer's Glue
- \$20 supply fee

Other Materials and Supplies to be shared:

Needed EACH SEMESTER:

- Box tissue
- Box of glue sticks
- 2 Containers of Clorox/generic disinfecting wipes
- Healthy packaged snacks for special needs/activities