

3rd-6th Fireweed Academy Newsletter

March 16, 2015

Invention Convention

The Invention theme closed out with Fireweed's 5th Invention Convention. Projects reflected our school's diverse population, and their increasingly creative, problem-solving skills. Inventions ranged from Thea Person's "Reachover" tool, to Liam Houlihan's easy-on, easy-off ice walkers. Students proudly displayed their inventions and shared the experience of inventing, with peers, adult mentors, and families. Thanks to all for supporting students in this process



MATH CLUB

Kris will be offering Math Club the first two Mondays after Spring Break. Stephanie will then resume hosting the Monday homework support time. Math Club meets from 3:15-4:15.

Open Enrollment

We are done with Open enrollment. However, I am still missing a few forms for students who I suspect are indeed coming back to our school. If you have completed a form, please call me at 235-9728. That said, we are not full in every grade so please continue to let our friends and neighbors know that we have space for the FY16 school year. Thanks-Janet

Class Notes

Do you have a bread machine you can loan to the 5th grade for a week or two? If so, drop at Kris's room. We are hoping to put our fraction skills to the bread making test! We are also seeking out supplies for making root beer (bottles, caps, capper), and yogurt making advice and/or a machine. Our new theme is "culture" and these offer fun possibilities for exploring connections. Drop off or send in supplies in Kris's 5th/6th classroom (102).

Fundraisers

The 6th graders are selling raffle tickets that have two terrific prizes! One is Dinner for 2 at the Homestead Restaurant, www.homesteadrestaurant.net (\$150 Value and donated by Rick and Sharlene Cline) and the other is a Halibut Charter for 1 from Ofishial Charters, www.ofishial.com (\$260 value and donated by Austin Ceccarelli's parents). Each ticket is \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held Friday April 17 at noon in Big Fireweed's Room 102

(Kris Owens room) during our Soup Lunch Fundraiser (our last fundraiser). Winners need not be present to win. The 6th graders have tickets for sale and I have some in my office as well-Janet

Assessment Update

Students will be taking the AMP tests beginning with 4th grade science on March 24th. All 3rd - 6th graders will take the Reading, Writing, and Mathematics sections in April. The following is a brief explanation of Alaska's new standardized assessment tool. The following information is from the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (<http://education.alaska.gov/>).

Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) is the new Alaska assessment for students in grades 3-10 statewide. It replaces the Standards Based Assessments (SBA) that students took in previous years. AMP is aligned to the new, rigorous standards set forward by the state. Like the SBAs, students will take the AMP test each spring to help determine their progress over the course of the year. The test has two sections or subtests, English language arts and math. Each section will take most students between 90-120 minutes, but there is not a time limit. Because there are new standards and a new assessment, AMP scores will not be comparable to SBA scores.

Please feel free to ask questions about the AMP and keep an eye out for additional information.

Upcoming 3-6 Dates: Mark your calendars!

- March 24th Alaska Science Assessment (Grade 4)
- March 30th - May 1st: AMP Alaska Measures of Progress Online Assessment (3rd-6th)
- April 3rd - No School (Easter Holiday)
- April 17th - Soup Fundraiser at Big Fireweed and Raffle Drawing