



DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER

SEWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL



December 1, 2017

GENERAL NEWS



There are only have 3 weeks left in the 2nd quarter. Progress reports were mailed home November 21st. If you have any questions about grades or assignments talk with your teacher.



Our school is now taking online payments for student fees and donations. You can access the online payment system through PowerSchool, under Student Fees, through the KPBSD website, under the Students/Parents tab or through the KPBSD app, under online payments. There is a 3.61% per transaction fee for the service, not a source of revenue for the district. Food services payments are accepted online also.

If you do make an online payment for activities only please let the office know.



Parents if your child is going to be absent more than 3 days have them stop by the office and pick up a short term checkout form to take around to teachers. Please return to the secretary to copy once completed and signed by parent so their absence can be excused.

For questions on attendance refer to the Parent/Student Handbook beginning on page 9 : <http://bit.ly/KPBSDParentStudentHandbook>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

December:

December 12th—Drama Production 1:30-2:20

December 22nd—No School, End of 2nd quarter. Staff in-service.

December 22nd -January 6th—No school Winter Break.

January :

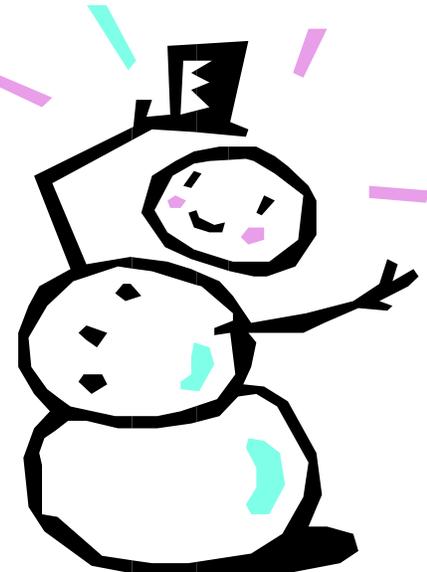
January 9—School in session

January 9—Nordic Ski, Wrestling & Volleyball start

January 16—Vacation Day—No School



*Check page 3 for sports events



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Student Activities

SLT kicked things off in November with a Penny Wars competition that brought in over \$750 in loose change. The class competition challenged grade level and staff categories where pennies counted as points, and silver and paper counted against. It was a hard fought battle with the 6th grade clearly in the lead based on tonnage. However, upon further inspection, SLT found many high value silver pieces, and over \$100 in paper currency within the 6th grade jug alone. And who put that \$100 bill in the staff container? With only 25% of donations accounted for, anything goes at this point, and every grade level has a shot. The winning class will receive a root beer float party at Mr. Rothenberger's expense. Next up, Elves Unleashed.

Basketball is wrapping up their season with a final tournament game against Skyview 8 on December 9 at home. We have been fortunate to have so many home games this year. Seward will also host the borough championships on Saturday, December 17, beginning at 10am. Based on how we've been playing, our boys team has a great shot at bringing home the biggest trophy this year. Their hard work, and practice during the summer months has definitely paid off!

New Hires

Walter Kloepfer has recently been hired as our new special education teacher, as Logan Schulz's long term sub contract has come to a close. Mr. Kloepfer recently retired out of Homer High School in 2016. He also retired out of the military before the start of his teaching career.

I am also excited to announce the hire of Kalani Woodlock, as our new special education aide. We are happy to have both Mr. Kloepfer and Ms. Woodlock as new additions to our resource team. Welcome aboard!

Safety

On Thursday, December 1 at 10:24, students and staff of Seward Middle School will participate in an emergency intruder drill. The goal of this event is to coordinate with local emergency services, and train ourselves in procedure in the event of this type of emergency. We plan to accomplish this goal by:

Talking and thinking through different emergency responses from the ALICE protocols in ways that are appropriate to the students' developmental levels, given various locations in the building and the location of the threat.

Engaging staff and students in rehearsing different responses during an emergency using ALICE protocols.

Engaging students and families in rehearsing an evacuation and partial dismissal from the alternate gathering point (Seward baseball fields). (During an actual event, the Safeway parking area will serve as our gathering point).

Student Behavior

Lastly, I'd like to take a moment and celebrate our students. We've got a wonderful group of students here who are thoughtful, respectful, and full of spirit! Normally before a break, like the week of Thanksgiving, a principal will see a few office referrals for squirrely behavior, mostly due to an irregular work week. I didn't see a single one last week, which illustrates our positive groove, and great wave!

Have a safe and restful break this holiday season, and enjoy your family!

Andy Rothenberger





TEACHER

Parents/Students please take time to visit the teachers sites below. If absent this is where your child needs to check for assignments.

- Mrs. Liljemark class pages: www.lilqlobalvillage.com
- Mrs. Nichol Canvas class page: <http://bit.ly/2bQkvi4>



- Ms. Walker LA 7 Canvas page to access homework, upcoming assignments, and expectations: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/33703> or with a QR code reader on your smart phone:



- Ms. Walker LA 8 Canvas page to access homework, upcoming assignments, and expectations: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/33701> or with a QR code reader on your smart phone:



- Mrs. Scrivo: www.scrivosuperstars.com
- Mr. Barnwell: <https://sites.google.com/a/q.kpbsd.org/mr-b-s-6th-grade-09-10/>
- Ms. Hammer: <https://ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/public/home.html>
- Mr. Skraba Reising: Algebra: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/33292>
Geometry: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/33102>

SCIENCE

Next week Seward Middle School will be participating in the Hour of Code in Mrs. Nichols' class! Hopefully this will be the beginning of a yearly tradition! If you are interested in volunteering please contact Mrs. Nichols cnichols@kpbsd.org or 224-9022.

DRAMA

The second quarter Drama Production of *The North Pole Chronicles* will be performed Monday, December 12th from 1:30-2:20 in the auditoria. All middle school classes and parents are welcome to attend!



myYearbook

YEARBOOK

Seward Middle School Yearbooks are on sale! For just \$23 you can purchase a yearbook to help you capture the memories of the 2015-2016 school year. The book is designed by students in the yearbook exploratory, and the cover features original art of a Seward Middle School student. If you are interested in making this purchase, bring \$23 (cash or check - made out to Seward Middle School) to the front office by December 23.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Liljemark - 907-224-9024 or mliljemark@kpbsd.org

SPORTS NEWS



Basketball Schedule:

Start Date: Oct. 3
End Date: Dec. 17

Friday, December 2

Exhibition Game vs Kenai @ Kenai 3pm

Friday, December 9

Skyview 8th vs Seward @ Seward 3pm

Tuesday, December 13

First round of borough tournament - TBA

Saturday, December 17

Finals of borough tournament @ Seward 10am

Wrestling Schedule:

Start Date: Jan. 9
End Date: Feb. 25



Friday, Jan. 20 @ Kenai Middle 3pm

Saturday, Jan. 28 @ Skyview 9am

Saturday, Feb 4 @ Nikiski 10am

Friday, Feb 10 @ Homer 10am

Saturday, Feb. 18 @ Seward 10am

Saturday, Feb. 25 @ Homer 10am
Borough Tournament.



Volleyball Schedule:

Start: Jan. 9
End Date: March 4

Saturday, Feb. 4 Jamboree @ Skyview 10am

Tuesday, Feb. 7 @ Seward-3pm

Wednesday, Feb. 14 @ Kenai-3pm

Friday, Feb. 17 @ Seward-3pm

Saturday, Feb. 18 @ Nikiski-11am

Saturday, Feb. 25 @ Seward-Noon

Tuesday, Feb. 28 First Round of Boroughs -TBA

Saturday, March 4 @ Nikiski 10am Finals Borough tournament

*Homer vs. Seward will be at central peninsula location during 1st round of the borough tournament.

Ski Schedule:

Start Date: Jan. 9
End Date: March 4



Friday, January 27—Kenai Invitational 3pm.

Friday, February 3—Skyview Invitational 3pm

Friday, February 17—Homer Invitational 3pm.

Friday, February 24—Seward Invitational 3pm

Saturday, March 4—Borough Tournament @ Skyview 10am.

Reminder: The \$60 fee for sports is due on the first day of practice. If your child has not played a sport all paperwork is due on the first day of practice also.

*SPORTS SCHEDULES Are also available through our school blog:
<http://sewardmiddleschool.blogspot.com/k12.ak.us/wpmu/sports-schedule/>

Silvers Of The Month

Silvers of the month demonstrate quality character through school achievement and academic citizenship.

Makaira Williams
8th grade



Chynna Stanley
7th grade



Aly Guernsey
6th grade



Cody Bryden
8th grade



Joseph Foutz
7th grade



Ashton Simpson
6th grade



NURSES NEWS

Help Locally

Miss Liljemark recently had a speaker who was a paramedic who volunteered in Greece helping Syrian refugees come talk to us in Seward. The word "helping" seems like such an inadequate word for what she did. She passed out hugs and lollipops to kids and adults alike. She bought groceries out of her own pocket to feed as many hungry people as she could. She would periodically leave her own family who supported her efforts in this human crisis. Those of us fortunate enough to see, hear and feel one-tenth of what she experienced helping the Syrian refugees walked away inspired by her and amazed at the human struggle to survive at all cost. Once you know a Syrian refugee as a person with a name who lost family, lost home and lost dignity, it is hard to turn your back. One question from a middle school student was "how can we help". Her answer was simple and to the point. Help in your own backyard.

Wishing you all peace.

Nurse Yoly



ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Topic	Procedure
Attendance	
When does tardy end and absence begin?	<p>At the start of the school day students are considered tardy during a fifteen (15) minute window beginning at the sound of the tardy bell or start of the school day. If the student is more than fifteen (15) minutes late, then the student is considered absent from class. Schools taking attendance twice daily only, will follow the same 15 min window for am and pm attendance.</p> <p>At the Secondary Level: At the start of the class period, with the exception of the first period of the school day, students are considered tardy at the sound of the tardy bell. If the student is more than five (5) minutes late to class, then the student is considered absent from class.</p>
How is an excused absence determined?	BP 5113: Absences may be considered excused when the parent/guardian provides a note or calls the school, is pre-arranged, when the school is contacted by an agency, and with approval from the site Administrator.
Is there a cut-off time at the end of the day when a student would not be considered absent?	At the Secondary level, attendance is recorded by the teacher by class period, which accounts for student tardies and absences throughout the school day.
Use of a Pre-Arranged Absence form	Pre-arranged absence forms should be used if the student anticipates being gone for more than three (3) consecutive days of school at the Secondary level. Pre-arranged absences will be recorded as (P) in PowerSchool.

ELVES UNLEASHED



ELVES UNLEASHED!! Volunteers Needed for a Day of Fun Yes! The **ELVES WILL BE UNLEASHED** at Seward Middle School on December 21st! We have a day of fun planned for middle school students mixed with a bit of mistletoe and sprinkled with a dash of giving. If you would like to be a part of the holiday cheer, we are in need of a few volunteers to help bake the sugar plums, exercise the reindeer, and deck the halls! If you are interested in helping out between 7:50 am and 12:30 pm, please contact Terri Carter at 362-3613 or tcarter3@kpbsd.k12.ak.us Let the holiday fun begin!!!

WINTER BREAK READING CHALLENGE



Don't let your brain go to mush during winter vacation... accept the winter break reading challenge! You will have fun and expand your medulla oblongata at the same time!

Students who complete the tasks in at least 15 squares will earn a prize, with a special bonus prize for students who complete all 20 squares! For each square, you must spend *at least* 30 minutes reading and have your parent or guardian initial the square when you've completed it. Complete as many squares as you can, and then return this form – *with parent/guardian initials* – to Mr. Rothenberger by January 10, 2017 to redeem your prizes!

READING CHALLENGE LOG

Read while listening to music. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read aloud to a friend. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read a science web site. Web site: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read in the tub. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____
Read a newspaper article about another country. Title/Date: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read in bed. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read instructions for an electronic device. What: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read a comic book. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____
Read the subtitles while watching a movie. Movie: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read while wearing someone else's shoes. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read instead of watching a favorite TV show. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read silently while surrounded by at least 2 other silent reading friends. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____
Read a magazine article that includes a graph. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read a recipe and then make it. Recipe: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read one full novel. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read aloud to someone younger. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____
Read instructions to a game and then play the game. Game: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read in your favorite chair. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read out loud to a pet or plant. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____	Read on a plane, train, boat or in a car. Title: <i>Initials:</i> _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Please initial the square when your child successfully completes the task. Students should read for *at least* 30 minutes per square.



Seward Middle School
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Check out our school blog:

<http://sewardmiddleschool.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/wpmu/>

THANK YOU

Seward Middle School
 would like to thank
 The Seward Rotary
 Club for donating
 Coats for Kids certificates.



Parents, many students are coming through the lunch line without money on their account. Lunch is an important part of their day in order for them to be able to focus. Did you know that you can now pay for your students lunches on line? **You can access the online payment system through PowerSchool, under Student Fees, through the KPBSD website, under the Students/Parents tab or through the KPBSD app, under online payments. There is a 3.61% per transaction fee for the service, not a source of revenue for the district.**



DISTRICT NEWS

Funding for KPBSD schools – Learn. Get Facts. Act: KPBSD counts on the state and borough to fund public education, and if there is a further reduction in funding, our classes and quality of education will suffer. But, we can be part of the fiscal solution, and it starts with learning, facts, and conversations with friends, neighbors, schools, and elected officials. Please become involved now, and assist with solutions to the fiscal crisis in the State of Alaska. KPBSD community budget meetings took place throughout the district at 30+ school sites in October, and resources are now online. Please act now: [learn more, and share your thoughts, concerns, and solutions online](#)

Key Communicators: [KPBSD Key Communicators](#) help people in their local communities learn more about KPBSD, while also assisting the school district to learn and understand more about what people in our schools and community think, feel, and know. [Click here to learn more or become involved.](#)

Apply for Free or Reduced price meals: NEW—you can now apply online! It's safe and secure. KPBSD provides free and reduced-price meals for children served in the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs. Every year the results from students qualifying for free or reduced price meals results in significant funding for the school district. [Please take five minutes to complete the online application—click here.](#)

Apply Now! [Review open positions, apply online](#) and visit our employment web pages with helpful information.



KPBSD Mobile App

Free, the KPBSD app provides you direct access to the district's most sought after information in the most convenient format—your mobile device. You can find Kenai Peninsula Borough SD in the app store. [Get it now.](#)

Tip: [Watch this video](#) to learn how to personalize your app by subscribing to specific KPBSD schools for calendar events, PowerSchool, more!