



February 1, 2018

SEWARD SILVERS

February Newsletter



Kindness...
- in words creates confidence.
- in thinking creates profoundness.
• in giving creates love.
Choose kindness!



General News



Conferences will be on Thursday, 1/8 from 8am-7pm and Friday, 1/9 from 8am-12pm.

6th grade conferences will be student led please make sure your child attends.

Ms. Gal will be setting up conferences directly and Ms. Bauer will have an open door during conferences.

Please take time to sign up for conferences. If you are not sure which teachers to sign up with; ask your child which teachers they have or check PowerSchool: [PowerSchool](#)

Sign up Link: [Seward Middle Parent/Teacher Conferences](#)

You can also sign up through our school blog: [Seward Middle Blog Conferences](#)

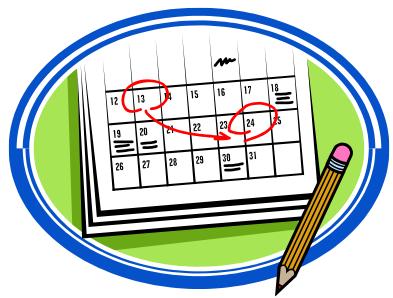
Any questions please call the office at 224-9000.



**We are happy to have Mrs. Liljemark back in her classroom and amongst our staff.
Welcome back Mrs. Lil!!!**

Important Dates for February

- ⇒ Thursday, 2/1: Site Council Meeting 6:30pm at Seward Middle School
- ⇒ Wednesday, 2/7: Early Release for students at 12:50pm
- ⇒ Thursday, 2/8: No School -Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ⇒ Friday, 2/9: No School -Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ⇒ Tuesday, 2/13: Public Budget Meeting at 5:30pm
Seward High Library
- ⇒ Check out Sports News on page 5



From The Principal's Desk

The first semester came to an end, and we have started running into Spring. I appreciate all the hard work our staff and students are doing. We have an amazing team at Seward Middle! I especially want to recognize what our students are doing with the leadership roles they are taking on. Sources of Strength students are encouraging friends to be thankful and recognize strengths in one another. They are also starting a new topic of who the trusted adults are around them. Our Student Leadership Team planned activities to give back to the community for Elves Unleashed, and now they are engaged in a Penny War to raise funds to continue to bring joy and comradery to the student body. Various students read with 6th graders last quarter, wrote kind messages to one another on a poster down our gym hallway, and are taking an active role in making our announcements engaging. Way to go!

As we keep moving forward in our Personalized Learning initiative throughout the district, our teachers began learning more about what this can look like in their classrooms with our students. Seward Middle School is a part of "Wave 2", and what that means is that we have just started our journey down this path. Teachers are attending trainings after school, during Early Release and other Professional Development (In-Service) days to learn more about how instruction can be personalized to each student to help them take more ownership in their learning, which will make it more meaningful to them as well. We had a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with other teachers from around the district this past week when they visited our school. Since we are so small, it helps for us to feel connected to someone else teaching the same subject matter to the same age kids, and this is exactly what happened this week.

We finished up a book study as a staff that explained personalized learning called, Personalized Learning Playbook. We were reminded to set goals for our teaching. It's hard to get away from "teaching to the middle" or letting go of control, but it is so worth it as our teaching turns into a more personalized focus for our students. We were encouraged to rethink the classroom environment. Do we have a space for small groups? Projects & collaboration? Individual time? We were reminded that starting something new must be done slowly. If we try to tackle too much at one time, we can get overwhelmed, and it can feel too difficult to get control of. We witnessed others' success and what that can look like for us. We want to engage students and one another. Our world is constantly connected, and if we're going to be successful, we must connect with one another as well. We saw how personalized learning engages our students and ourselves differently. In a real-time world of connections and information, we have to find ways to help our students find the information they need quickly and appropriately. We have to move away from an assembly-line model. We must foster creativity, collaboration, and experimentation. Discussion among our students must be a regular occurrence. In our environment, we don't do what feels best for us, but we do what's best for kids. I am excited to see how this process plays out. Positive changes are coming!

Jenny Martin

Principal, Seward Middle School

Teacher News

Parents/Students please take time to visit the sites below. If absent this is where your child needs to check for assignments. To access canvas and PowerSchool icons press Ctrl and click on icons.



- **Mrs. Bauer:** <https://ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/public/>
- **Mr. Ellsworth:** Remind: <https://www.remind.com/join/swms6t>

Please join for up to date texts and emails!

Canvas: Science: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/38138>

Math – Red Book: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/48398>

Math – Blue Book: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/48401>

- **Ms. Hammer:** <https://ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/public/>
- **Mrs. Liljemark:** <http://www.lilglobalvillage.com>
- **Ms. Moniz:** <https://ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/public/>
- **Mrs. Nichol's Canvas class page:** <http://scisamurai.com/index.html>
- **Mrs. Walker:** LA 7: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/38118>
LA 8: <https://kpbsd.instructure.com/courses/48824>

- **Mrs. Jurney Scrivo:** www.scrivosuperstars.com

Mrs. Scrivo has set up accounts using the Remind app. Please sign up for the classes your child is in so that you can get reminders about important dates and deadlines. Thank you!

Blue Language Arts: remind.com/join/3h3cbh

Silver Language Arts: remind.com/join/343ka

Social Studies A: remind.com/join/8e2g67

Social Studies B: remind.com/join/bluesoci

Silvers of the Month

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

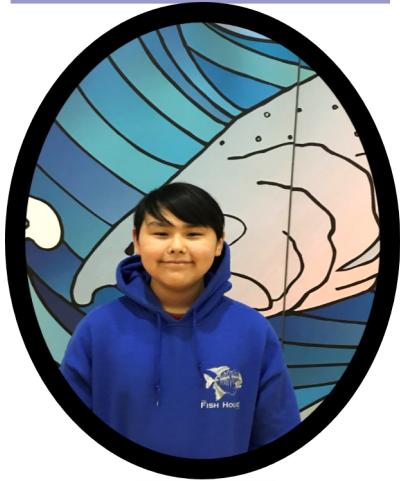
Aaron Smith
6th Grade



Dilthini Dissanayake
7th Grade



Aydon Weston
8th Grade



2nd Quarter A/B Honor Roll

6TH GRADE: BENGIMIN AMBROSIANI, NICKOLAS AMBROSIANI, CASEY BRYDEN, ROBIN CRONIN, ALOSHIA CROSS, STELLA DOW, SAMANTHA INSALACO, MCKENNA MEYERS, MIA NAPPI, AARON SMITH, ETHAN WILLIAMS.

7TH GRADE: AILAINA ARMSTRONG, OZZY DEEL, DILTHINI DISSANAYAKE, JESSICA ESQUIVEL, ALY GUERNSEY*, PAXTON HILL, ISABELLA KENNAH*, ASHTON SIMPSON, DILLON TINKER, ALEXI WALKER*.

8TH GRADE: FISHER ALLEN, GAIA CASAGRANDA, CAITLIN CORRIGAN, KARLYE EBBERSON*, JOSEPH FOUTZ*, JAMES MILBURN, BELLADONNA PROIETTI, HANNAH SCHILLING, SHELBY SIEMINISKI, CHYNNA STANLEY, MIKYA WALLACE, EMILY UNREIN*.

*4.0 HIGHEST HONORS

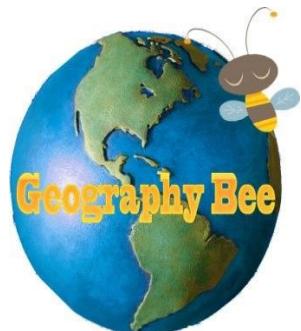
YEARBOOK

It's time to order to your Seward Middle School yearbook! For only \$23 your student can have their very own yearbook to help them remember the fun times they've had at Seward Middle School this year. To order simply bring \$23 cash or check (made out to Seward Middle School) to the front office, or purchase one online at www.inter-state.com/yearbook and enter the code: 22593K. Please contact Mrs. Liljemark at 907-224-9024 or mliljemark@gmail.com for further information.



Geography Bee

Congratulations to Nora Andrews for her 1st place finish at Seward Middle School's 2017-2018 National Geography Bee. Nora's winning answer was for the question: *El Yunque National Forest is the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. National Forest System. This rain forest is on which U.S. – controlled island in the Greater Antilles?* She answered correctly: Puerto Rico. Nora will represent Seward Middle School at the Alaska State Geography Bee on April 6. John Van Buskirk came in second place winning out against tight competition. Congratulations to both students for their performance and dedication to excellence.



Sports News

Wrestling Schedule :

- **Saturday, Feb 3 @ Skyview 9am**
- **Friday, Feb 9 @ Homer 10am**
- **Saturday, Feb. 17 @ Seward 10am**
- **Saturday, Feb. 24 @ Nikiski 10am Borough Tournament**



Volleyball Schedule :

- **Saturday, Feb. 3 Jamboree @ Kenai 10am**
- **Wednesday Feb. 7 @ Homer 4pm**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 13 @ Seward 3pm**
- **Thursday, Feb 15 @ Seward 3pm**
- **Friday, Feb 16 @ Kenai 3pm**
- **Tuesday, Feb 20 @ Seward 3pm**
- **Thursday, Feb 22 @ Skyview 3pm**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 27 First Round of Boroughs -TBA**
- **Saturday, March 3 @ Skyview 10am Finals Borough tournament**



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

Nordic Skiing Schedule

- **Friday, February 2—Skyview Invitational 3pm**
- **Friday, February 16—Homer Invitational 4pm**
- **Friday, February 23—Nikiski Invitational 3pm**
- **Saturday, March 3—Borough Tournament @ Seward 10am**



Nurses News

Smart Technology

I have to admit that I love technology. Top researchers are increasingly utilizing smart technology to help advance medicine. This is not particularly new but what I find interesting is the concerted effort by researchers adding the extra step of giving that valuable medical information in the consumer's hands via smartphone or smartwatches. This gives us as patients more autonomy and decision making power for our health.

For example, Stanford University is working on a deep-learning computer algorithm to diagnose skin cancer. Deep learning for a computer means that a computer is trained to figure out a problem rather than having the answers programmed into it. They made a database of 130,000 skin disease images and trained their computer algorithm to visually diagnose potential cancer. They tested this algorithm against 21 dermatologists and the algorithm matched the clinician's ability to correctly identify malignant and benign lesions. They will need to do further studies to validate results. The developers hope that the algorithm with visual technology can transition to our mobile devices. They want us to be able to use our smartphone camera, take a picture of the suspicious mole and our pocket computer will tell us if it is skin cancer. I see another app in my future.

Other technology is a smart watch diagnosing atrial fibrillation. The watch tracks a person's heart rate to physical activity ratio over several days. When a reading is captured showing a heart rate outside of the person's expected rate for his/her activity, he or she gets an alert to record the ECG. This information then can be sent via the person's smartphone. This has already been approved by the FDA. Omron, the home blood pressure company, has been approved by the FDA for their smartwatch that takes blood pressure reading by a brief occlusion of the radial artery.

I can't wait for a Tricorder and yes, I am a Trekkie from way back with the OG, William Shatner.

Nurse Yoly



Yearbook Photos Needed



The Seward Middle School yearbook team is looking for photos from families and the community of Seward Middle School students engaged in school activities. If you attended sports events or visited our school and took pictures and would like to share them, go to www.lilglobalvillage.com and click on the Yearbook Dropbox button. From there you will be able to upload pictures. Please contact Mrs. Liljemark if you have any questions. mliljemark@kpbsd.org

Seward Middle School Recycling Program



Students at Seward Middle School are now collecting mixed paper, aluminum cans, plastic and glass from every classroom on Fridays. **We would like to thank Safeway** for their generosity in donating a shopping cart for the recycling program.



School Resource Officer News



Good morning everyone. I hope that we have fully recovered from this holiday season. Life is going well on the SRO front. I feel as if I am getting settled in and getting to know everyone nicely. And I am very happy to say the good contacts far outweigh the... not so fun contacts. I know that in my last newsletter, I introduced who I was, so I figured this letter would be an appropriate place to explain how I see myself fitting into the academic world here in Seward. I believe I have three main jobs as the School Resource Officer.

First and foremost, I am responsible for school safety. That is always going to be my priority, just like life safety was my number one priority back on the road. I have a responsibility to the students, staff, and parents to ensure that everyone is safe and protected while at school. I know that parents entrust the schools with their students and that is not a responsibility I take lightly. As such, I walk hallways, drive around campuses, and sometimes even hike the trails around the schools to make sure things are on the up and up. We call these preventative patrols.

Secondly, and probably the most obvious, I am at the school to enforce laws. This does not mean I wander around in the shadows looking to fill some imaginary stat sheet, or that I lurk in the parking lots with a ruler to try and make people's lives miserable. As a police officer I am afforded some discretion in how to handle things. I may choose to allow administration to deal with certain incidents in lieu of pursuing some formal action. But I want to make it clear that there are a few things in which I have zero tolerance for. The use of illegal substances, which for students include marijuana and alcohol, is something that I will give no leeway to. I owe it to everyone I previously mentioned to help maintain a drug free school. I don't say this to try and sound tough or intimidating, I am merely explaining my stance. If someone gets caught, they will be charged. Every time.

Finally, I accepted this position in the schools in order to build relationships with students. This is the biggest and best part of my job. We have some amazing students who come from all sorts of backgrounds. And there are several students who are dealing with some terrible things in their home lives. It always amazes me to see the resiliency that these students exhibit, by simply showing up in spite of what's going on in their lives. I am committed to trying to be an asset to them. My office is always open to talk. My overall goal is to get people to understand that there is a person behind the uniform, and to figure out a way to help students succeed. My favorite part of this position is being able to simply talk with students. I love that I am in a position in which I can advocate for and speak to students. I strongly encourage anyone who needs to talk to come find me. I like to think I am a pretty good listener. And if you have a question, ASK! I do not take offense when people ask me about my job. I find that if we both understand why I do certain things; it generally makes it easier to work together. I have already answered tons of questions about Alaska Statute, police procedure, have taken complaints about situations in the community, and many more. We are all in this together. I know it can be hard to come up and talk to an officer on the side of the road. So come bug me. My office is in the Middle School, first door on the left. And the couch is comfortable. Please stop by, whether it is about something serious, or just to chat.

Again, I would be remiss if I didn't give some sort of safety talk before I ended this letter. Given the little amount of light and the ample amount of rain we have been having lately, I feel like this is an appropriate time to talk about mental health. This is the time of year that generally takes a toll on everyone's mental well-being. I just want to remind everyone of the importance of talking if you have an issue. It is like a splinter. It may hurt initially to dig up the problem, but letting things fester is so much worse. And this is something we have to work together as a community for. If you see someone with a marked change in their attitude, TALK TO THEM. Reach out and see if they are ok. We are all in this together. This is a subject that is extremely important to me. Responding to a suicide is probably the worst kind of call we as police go to. It is not something you ever forget. So I take mental health very seriously. It is incredibly hard to ask direct questions such as "are you ok?", or "are you thinking of hurting yourself?" But believe me, these conversations are crucial. We each have our own circles of influence. Let's keep checking in on each other. And if you are ever concerned about someone, you can talk to me anonymously and I have no problem reaching out on your behalf. If someone needs help, I have resources I can use to get the help to them.

Until next time,
Morgan Woodard
Seward Police Department
(907) 422-7670

Student Climate and Mindset Survey

Important

Schools will be administering the “Student Climate and Mindset Survey” to all students in grades 3-12 in February, 2018. This survey was created in partnership with Hanover Research, and aims to gauge student perceptions and experiences in the following areas: Community and connectedness, school climate, social-emotional learning, student mindset and instructional depth. Opportunity for review of this survey is available at the school office.

The permission to participate survey forms were available at parent/teacher conferences in October and will be available for conferences on February 8th & 9th.

We are needing a 100% return rate on the survey permission form. If you did not complete the permission survey form here is a link to it: [Survey](#). You can print the form and send in with your child or bring to parent/teacher conferences. Forms are also available at the office.

KPBSD budget development meeting

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District requests input from staff, parents, and community members at the districtwide KPBSD budget development meeting, scheduled at the following locations:

- Tuesday, February 13, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Seward High School Library
- Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Homer High School Library
- Wednesday, February 21, 2018 @ 5:30 pm. in the Soldotna High School Library

Thursday, February 22, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Kenai Central High School Library

As new budget information becomes available it will be posted here: <http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/departments.aspx?id=38>. If you have questions, please call Natalie Bates at 714-8888.

District News



Popular Links

[Early Release Days](#)

[Bus Routes and Student Transportation](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[Mobile App](#)

[New-To-District Students](#)

[Parent Student Handbook](#)

[PowerSchool navigation tips](#)

[Safety Protocol at KPBSD Schools](#)

[School Calendars](#)

[School Delays and Closures](#)

[School Development Plan Goals](#)

[School Start and End Times](#)

[Strategic Plan: 2017 - 2022](#)

[Volunteer in a neighborhood school](#)

[Common links for parents and students](#)

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.