



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Where kids come first!


Message from Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent

"With the end of the 2013-2014 school year, I want to pause for a moment to thank you for all that you do for our students and to wish you a safe and restful summer. It was a fast and furious year with several unforeseen challenges, thank you for persevering when faced with these. When I speak with our stakeholders, they consistently share their appreciation for your can-do attitude and your commitment to our students. I like to boast that KPBSD is the best district in Alaska; this feedback helps me make this claim.

I look forward to seeing you in August if not sooner, and trust that you will make the most of your summer and recharge your batteries." -- Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent

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KPBSD App

Our new school district mobile app will launch soon! An internal Beta test and bug bash began in May, we're making tweaks this summer, and will launch in August. Throughout the 2014-2015 school year additional features will be incorporated. Teaser: Directory, Events, Emergency Alerts, News, PowerSchool, Bus Routes, Lunch Menus and Balance, Overdue Library Books, and more!



ASTE Teacher of the Year!

Kenai Central High School teacher Greg Zorbas is named Alaska Association for Technology in Education (ASTE) 2014 Teacher of the Year! Mr. Zorbas' work with his students using technology to access classrooms from around the world is inspiring," said Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent. "The learning opportunities that he brings to his class are an excellent way to broaden his students' perspective on the taught content."

[Read more...](#)



2014 Inclusive Practice Award!

The Homer High School Intensive Needs Classroom received the 2014 Inclusive Practice Award from The Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education. The award recognizes outstanding educators who work to ensure students with disabilities have the opportunity for an inclusive education with their peers as part of the general education curriculum.

[Read on to learn who the dynamic group includes...](#)



April Golden



Celebrate Karla Barkman!

Karla Barkman, KPBSD District Librarian and Technology Integration Specialist received the 2014 Linda K. Barrett Service Award. Given annually by the Alaska Association of School Librarians to a fellow librarian who is member of AkASL, Barkman demonstrates service to the school library profession, and provides significant services to both state and local activities. [Read on...](#)



Music Educator of the Year!

Kenai Central High School Choral Director, Renee Henderson, was chosen by the Alaska Music Educators Association (AMEA) as the "Alaska Music Educator of the Year" during the AMEA Biennial State Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska. What motivates a person to do anything for 43 years? The answer, in a word: commitment. [Read on...](#)

Apple award

Brenda Ratky and Delores Benner, Community Members!

"Grandma Brenda and Grandma Dee are fixtures at Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School. It is commonly said that the year doesn't officially start until both of these fine ladies start reading with our students. Many Alaskan kids do not have grandparents who are part of their lives on a regular basis. This is not true for students at K-Beach Elementary. Our kids have two grandmas they see almost every day!" [Read more...](#)

2014 Region III Alaska Principal of the Year



Jason Bickling, Seward Middle School administrator, is named Alaska 2014 Region III Principal of the Year! "Honestly, it's very humbling to be recognized when I know there are a lot of administrators out there doing great things in their schools and making a difference for kids," said Bickling.

"I am pleased to learn that Mr. Bickling's is recognized as Alaska's Region III Principal of the Year," said Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent. "His tireless work to create an optimum learning environment for his Seward Middle School and Moose Pass School students is inspiring." [Read on...](#)



April Golden Apple award

Barbara Ralston, Educator! "Ms. Ralston's lessons are geared toward the needs of all of her students. She is truly a remarkable teacher and willingly shares her knowledge with others. She has taken many a new teacher under her wing and is tireless in providing a patient ear when they need it. She offers ideas for student engagement when another teacher's tool bag is sparse." [Read more...](#)



iNspire!

Freshmen students at Soldotna High School



Appreciation note from two days of music making

"From the moment Alan Fields picked me up at



(SoHi) discovered a new resource to find inspiration: themselves. Soldotna English teacher Matt Walton designed a website specifically to showcase freshmen students who achieve success in academics, sports, or extra-curricular activities, overcome a personal challenge, or perform a good deed. Walton says, "I wanted to design an inspirational website for our freshmen that would be student driven through their own personal success stories. I called the site *iNspire*, as in *I inspire*, which in itself represents the central theme of the website." [Read on...](#)

the airport to the time Renee Henderson dropped me off for my trip home, I was treated with warmth, respect and dignity. If the 300+ students are a cross section of your overall student population, you have much of which to be proud. I asked a great deal of the singers in respect to focus and effort; they did not disappoint. They stayed focused and worked long hours in preparation for our concert. I know that it is no accident when students behave so extraordinarily well. Teachers, parents, administrators, and community mold our kids. "It takes a village." - John Baker, Choir Consultation. [Read more.](#)

Helpful web links

- [KPBSD current employees homepage](#)
- [Redesigned KPBSD employment opportunities webpage](#)
- [Instruction Blog](#)
- [Superintendent Blog](#)
- [KPBSD Departments \(Instructional and Instructional Support\)](#)
- [KPBSD Knowledge Base](#)
- [The Legislature and KPBSD](#)
- [Parent and student common website links](#)
- [Share or contribute a KPBSD school story](#)

May Golden Apple award

Kim Reiersen, Community Member! "Most telling about Ms. Reiersen's commitment to Seward High athletics is that her youngest child graduated from Seward High in 2009. She has remained Booster Club president for no other reason than her love of Seward High athletics and her dedication to the students." [Read more...](#)



June Golden Apple award

Mike Petersen, Community Member! "Mike consistently provides strong, respectful leadership to his team and to Project GRAD schools located in Nanwalek, Niniilchik, Nikolaevsk, Port Graham, Razdolna, Tebughna, and Voznesenka. He is well respected among his peers and the students with whom he works. He takes to heart the Project GRAD goal that "Graduation really achieves dreams." [Read more...](#)



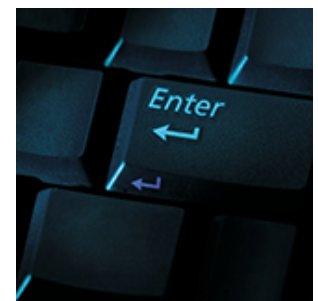
KPBSD celebrates nurses!

These numbers may surprise you! In September, October, and November 2013, KPBSD nurses served an average of 382 students each school day. In addition, viruses and respiratory infections were abundant, and fall sports and football



BP Teacher of the Year!

On April 30, 2014, BP celebrated five KPBSD teachers, and named Barbara Veeck, West Homer Elementary special education teacher, as an "education bridge-builder extraordinaire," and "2014 Kenai Peninsula BP Teacher of the Year!" Barbara has served in many special education projects across Alaska. Her efforts



\$ 5 million per year for state testing

The Assessment and Achievement Institute (AAI) of Kansas will be developing and

injuries always keep school nurses busy. More specifically, nurses improved student time in the classroom with an overall return to class rate of 96%! [Read on...](#)

include special education curriculum development and a program to bring computer technology into the classroom. [Read more...](#)

administering the Alaska state tests for grades 3-11 starting spring 2015 through 2020. The contract provides online assessments like the SBAs for the first two years (with the option of paper and pencil for schools lacking the technology to deliver online). The rest of the contract provides online computer adaptive assessments, similar to Performance Series we currently use.

The contract provides practice tests to let students and educators become familiar with the way questions are presented and an access-for-all approach that will provide accommodations based on a student's Personal Needs and Preferences Profile. [Read the state's press release.](#)

2014 Alaska Distinguished Elementary Principal of the Year



"The Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals is proud to announce our National Distinguished Principal for 2014. **David Kingsland** is the principal of William H. Seward Elementary School in Seward, Alaska. The 2014 NDP Celebration marks the 31st year that the National Association of Elementary School Principals has presented this prestigious award. "I was thrilled to learn that one of our own is being recognized by his peers as a National Distinguished Principal for 2014," said Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent. [Read more...](#)

2014 BP Teachers of Excellence

The annual BP Teachers of Excellence program recognizes five of our teachers who nicely represent all that is good about teaching," said Dr. Steve Atwater. "Please join me in congratulating the five teachers and recognizing all our teachers for the extraordinary job that they do each school day to meet our students' learning needs." Celebrate: Katie Bynagle, 5th & 6th grade, West Homer Elementary School; Terri McKnight, 5th grade, Seward Elementary School; Sheilah-Margaret Pothast, Health, Spanish and American history, Soldotna Middle School; Barbara Veeck, special education resource teacher for grades 3 and 4, West Homer Elementary School; Amy Utecht, 3rd grade teacher, Redoubt Elementary School. [Read more...](#)



Save the date! August 14, 4:00-7:00 PM! KPBSD, the Borough, and Kenai Peninsula College will host a 50th celebration BBQ with live music for the community. Watch for details, everyone is welcome!

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The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.

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