

Mountain View Elementary School

"Kenai's Neighborhood School"

September 2, 2022
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IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, September 5
LABOR DAY
NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 6
PTO Meeting
4:00 PM
In the Library

Friday, September 9
EARLY RELEASE
FOR STUDENTS
Students will be
dismissed
90 minutes earlier
than normal

Thursday, September 15
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
5:00-6:30



Thursday, September 22
SITE COUNCIL MEETING
4:00 PM
In the Library

Friday, September 16
PICTURE DAY!



Creating a Climate for Learning

Mountain View Elementary's longest running school climate initiative is our **Positive Responses to Conflict Program** or, as students call it, the **Conflict Wheel**. Recognizing that students in conflict (whether with fellow students, teachers or family members) cannot learn, Mountain View staff developed the conflict wheel and grade level lessons to support it.

The **Conflict Wheel** addresses six specific strategies to respond to conflict in a positive manner. Conflict Wheel posters are in every classroom, in the hallway, and on a large sign on the playground as well. A poster that defines bullying behavior and when to ask an adult for help always accompanies it. Recess duties carry these resources on a lanyard. Staff actively encourage and help students use these strategies. The concept is that solving conflict in a positive manner can prevent the behavior from becoming repetitive, and maintain healthy relationships. Teachers use these strategies as well when they are in conflict with students.

Teachers dedicate the first six weeks of school to teaching each of these strategies in grade appropriate manners to all our students.

We started last week with **Positive Questions**. This strategy teaches students to ask simple questions to determine intent. "Did you mean to ___?" or Did you know that ___? Often times the individual did not mean to harm or annoy you, and this opens the door to solving the conflict with a simple apology.



This week's focus was on the strategy of "Let it Go". This strategy teaches students to examine the potential conflict or problem and decide if it is simply something that can be forgotten. Maybe it's not really a big deal and by letting it go less attention will be drawn to it and it will not happen again.

Discuss these strategies and the upcoming strategies as they are taught with your students at home. Our families have found that the skills students learn in these areas at school are easily transferred to the home environment. Attached is a half-page Conflict Wheel with basic instructions (and the dates the strategies will be taught) on the back for your use at home.



Key changes to student meals in the 2022-2023 school year beginning in August:

Discontinuation of Universal Free Meals: USDA is ending the universal free meals for the 2022-2023 school year. For the 2022-2023 school year, families can apply for free or reduced-price meals starting July 1.

Online Application: Parents or guardians must reapply each year for free or reduced meal benefits. This year, all applications will be accepted online through the new state portal at <http://mealapp.kpbsd.org>. If someone does not have access to the internet, each school will have a few paper applications in the school office.

Meal benefits from the 2021-2022 school year will carry over until September 28, 2022, but a new application must be received by KPBSD Student Nutrition Services by then, or the student will revert to a paid meal status.

Opt-In form required to charge meals up to two days of meals: Students will not be permitted to charge any meals this year until parents or guardians have signed an Opt-In form for their child. The Opt-In is included in the online packet, and SNS needs a form completed for each student that a parent gives permission to charge. When completed, students will be allowed to charge up to two days of meals, and no further charges will be allowed until the amount is paid back.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

If you would like to volunteer in your child's classroom or participate in a classroom field trip, you must apply for a background check. Please find the link on the KPBSD website (www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/). All volunteers are required to pass a background check before volunteering at school or going on a field trip. If you have any questions or need help

with this process, please call the office at 283-8600.

Volunteers are very important and appreciated here at Mountain View Elementary!



PTO CORNER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi! My name is Sarah Douthit and I am the new PTO President, as well as the mom of Clark (1st), Sawyer (4th), Jackson (8th) and Dain (10th). I am so excited about this school year and all the events we're going to have. I am ready to bring new ideas, new energy and help our students have the best educational experience here at Mountain View! I would love your help achieving these goals and having fun along the way!

Contact me:

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