Volume 16
Issue 4

Shooting Star Scoop

April 2021

The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/schools.aspx

Principal Points

Important Dates

April 1st– 5th grade PEAKS testing

April 2nd- Vacation Day/ No School

April 5th & 6th– 4th grade PEAKS testing

April 7th & 8th– 3rd grade PEAKS testing

April 9th– 14th—PEAKS testing makeup days

April 16th—Testing Celebration

April 21st– Early Release/ Students are released at 2:20

April 27th— 5th grade Step Up Day- visit NMHS

April 30th– Site Council application due

One year – What a year 2020 has been! I look back on the newsletters from last spring and it is hard to even believe all of the things that have transpired since last March. Thank you so much for your patience and your trust as we work together to provide the best education for your child!

Site Council – NNS has a Site Council that meets 4 or 5 times per year with meetings lasting about an hour. We need parent representatives to serve on the Site Council. Please call the office and let us know if you are interested in serving as a parent representative on the Site Council for the 2021-2022 school year.

NNS Fundraiser Jog-a-thon – We will be having our school fundraiser jog-a-thon this year Last year, we were not able to have the event due to Covid. We are looking forward to this fun opportunity for students to be active as they are providing a service for their school. All money raised from the fundraiser goes to providing money for field trips as well as other instructional activities at the school.

Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year – KPBSD will be asking parents to take a short, 3 question, survey indicating what the parent plans for their student's schooling next year. The survey will be sent out to the public and will run from April 5-16. Parents will have an opportunity to give input regarding the school the child will attend and their comfort level with masks. Please complete the survey and ask that your friends and neighbors with school age children do so as well. The information gathered is used to staff our schools for the upcoming school year. If you have any questions please let us know in the office.

NNS Masonic Outstanding Student – Each year our school selects one 5th grader as the Masonic Outstanding Student for the year. Students are nominated by staff members for demonstrating exceptional behavior in the areas of safety, responsibility, respect and caring. The following 5th grade students were nominated this year: Ryenne Douglas, Sadie Porter, Raniy Jenness, Lorelai Kimbell, Emerson Bostic, Regan Kunkel, Darren Powell, Adalyn Choate, and Jacob Isabell. CONGRATULATIONS to our Masonic Student for 2020-2021, Ryenne Douglas!

Spelling Bee – Congratulations to our top spellers in this year's spelling bee! Ryenne Douglas – 1st place, Lorelai Kimbell – 2nd place and Emily Porter – 3rd Place.

Jog-a-thon

FUNdraiser

PLEDGE
PLEDGE
PLEDGE

Please join us to raise funds for

Nikiski North Star Elementary School.

May 7th-14th

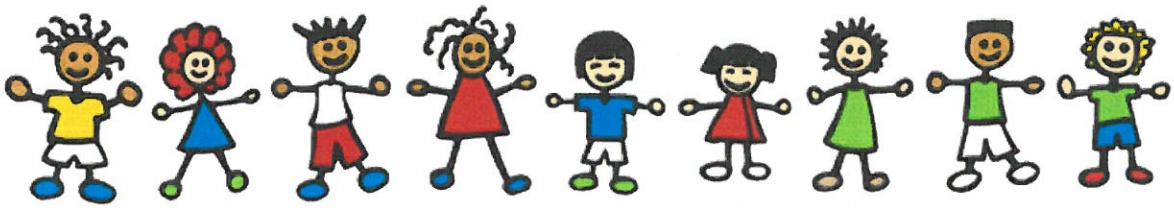
This year our students will be participating in the Jog-a-thon during their PE class.

Prizes for TOP Fundraisers!

FUN for the Entire family!

Kindergarten Registration

ONLINE!



If your child is going to be five by September 1st, now is the time to get them registered for Kindergarten! It only takes four clicks to get started:

1. **www.KPBSD.org**
2. **Student/Parents tab**
3. **New-to-District Students**
4. **New Student Registration**

Call Nikiski North Star at 776-2600 if you have any questions.
Once you've completed the registration paperwork, we will contact you for further information and to invite you to kindergarten visits and meet the teachers.

Title I Pre-K 2021-2022

Nikiski North Star Applications

KPBSD will be holding the Screenings for the 2021-22 School Year Title I Pre-K Program this Spring

Applications can be found at KPBSD.org under Department> Federal Programs, Title IA, and can be submitted via EMAIL ONLY to *Adrea Burman at ABurman@KPBSD.k12.ak.us*

Screenings will be held May 5th & 6th so get your applications in now!

Parent Input Form 2021-22

Each spring we give parents the opportunity to provide input into the classroom placement of their child for the following school year. This input can be very helpful to the school staff when placing students into classes. This form will be used by classroom teachers and the school's Intervention Team to assist in making these placement decisions. If you have questions about the placement process, please see Mrs. Gilman.

So that your input may be considered during the placement process, this form must be returned to the school office no later than **Friday, May 7th at 4:00 p.m.** Forms returned after that date **will not** be considered in the placement process.

Please note that we do not ask "Which teacher would you like your child to have next year?" There are several reasons for this, including the fact that teaching staff often changes over the summer, as do teaching assignments. As a result of these two factors and many others, the class lists will not be posted until the week before school starts. Be aware that forms returned to the office that request a specific teacher are not considered in the same manner as forms that provide information about the type of desired learning environment.

Factors which we will consider in addition to the parent input form when placing students into classes for next year include:

Teacher recommendation	Academic needs
Student learning style	Behavioral needs
Teacher instructional style	Gender

We place students based on the needs of all children in our school. Parent input is a valuable source of information we take into serious consideration, however balancing the needs of all children is our first priority. Our teachers and staff spend a tremendous amount of time discussing and planning student placement and developing class lists, and we always strive to balance classes so that they contain a mix of academic abilities and other student characteristics such as adaptability, independence, behavior, special interests and gender.

Please remember this form is due back in the office by May 7th at 4:00 p.m.

On the back of this form, please describe the teaching environment you feel best suits your child's needs. Consider things such as: Classroom Structure, Organization and Activity/Volume Level, Split/Combined Classes. A reminder that all comments should be kept positive and focused on student learning. *Teachers will be viewing parent input forms to assist with the best placement for your child.*

Thoughts you might want to consider when giving input:

- A structured learning environment with clear expectations.
- Strong classroom management plan.
- Students actively engaged in hands-on learning.
- A nurturing environment.
- Lots of cooperative learning – students working together to achieve goals.
- Quiet classroom.
- A strong focus on students being organized.
- Male or female teacher.

*If you have additional thoughts you would like to share with **only** Mrs. Gilman, please feel free to contact her.*

Student Name _____ Grade for 2021-22 _____

Parent Name_____ Phone Number_____

PARENT INPUT

Here are questions to consider when responding:

- What kind of learning environment is best for your child?
- What qualities are you looking for in your child's teacher?

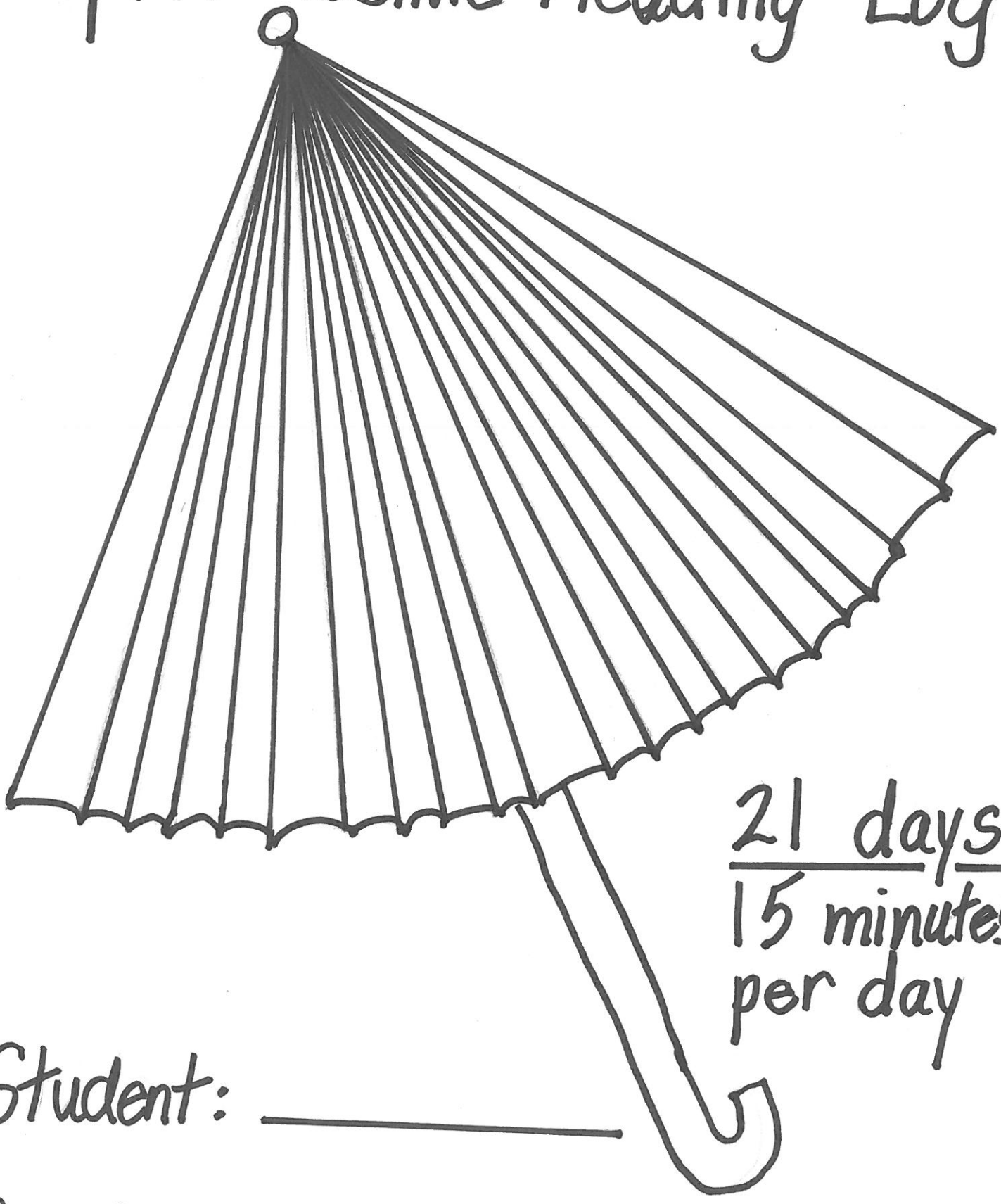
Other information that we should know?

Placement decisions for each student will be finalized by Mrs. Gilman, classroom teachers and the school's Intervention Team. Your input will be available to all of these people.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT

Reminder: This form is due back to school by FRIDAY, MAY 7th, 2021.

April Cosmic Reading Log



21 days
15 minutes per day

Student: _____

Guardian: _____

NIKISKI NORTH STAR ELEMENTARY
SITE COUNCIL

PARENT / COMMUNITY APPLICATION

Term length:
One-year term is from September 1 (current year) to August 31 (following year).

Name _____ Due Date: **Last Friday in April**
(give to front office)

Address _____ Phone _____

I would like to nominate or be a member of the Nikiski North Star Site Council because....

_____

_____

_____

_____

The contributions this individual could to the team would be...

_____

_____

_____

_____

** *The information provided above will be available for voting members to see and read.* **

School Guidelines:
Nikiski North Star Elementary recognizes the importance of the school, home, and community link. The purpose of the Nikiski North Star Site Council, in line with the School Based Decision Making Plan of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, is to give input and guidance into decisions in the school for the improvement of the instructional program. The NNS Site Council, as the site-based advisory group, serves as an overseer, resource, sounding board, and core for communication between the represented constituency groups. As representatives of a specific group, the members are responsible for bringing the information from that constituency to the Council.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Welcome Spring!

First off - your kids are amazing. We have been having so much fun together and although May is right around the corner, I am nowhere near ready to say "so long" for summer!

This spring our K-3 SEL (social-emotional learning) school counseling lessons are centered around friendship. Students are practicing communication skills that are a cornerstone in developing those positive peer relationships!

Our students in grades 4&5 are diving into their Sources of Strength - identifying and celebrating all of those positives things that give us strength and lift us up as we navigate the challenges and the triumphs of life.

Working with your students brings me so much joy.
Please remember that I am always a phone call or email away!

Thank you!
Nicole Lyke

EATING RIGHT AND BEING ACTIVE ARE AS EASY AS...

5 4 3 2 1 go!®

5 SERVINGS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES A DAY

Fresh or frozen, whole or cut-up, fruits and vegetables are natural sources of many important nutrients. Five or more servings of fruits or vegetables a day provide your children with vitamins, minerals and fiber that may help reduce their risk of illness, including heart disease. A serving is one-half cup of cut fruit or veggies, one cup of salad greens or one-quarter cup dried fruit.

Suggestions: Choose whole fruits and vegetables over juice, since these contain more fiber and offer a natural balance of vitamins and minerals without added sugar. Keep fresh cut-up fruits and veggies around for snacks.

4 SERVINGS OF WATER A DAY

Encourage your children to drink water every day to satisfy their thirst and provide fluid for their growing bodies. Four or more glasses of water will help keep your kids healthy and active without adding extra calories.

Suggestions: Give your children water bottles and keep them filled. Keep track of how much they drink, especially during play or sports. Put a pitcher of water on the table at dinner.

3 SERVINGS OF LOW-FAT DAIRY A DAY

Low-fat dairy products provide protein and calcium for strong bodies, bones and teeth. A serving is an eight-ounce cup of low-fat or skim milk or yogurt, or 1.5 ounces of low-fat cheese.

Suggestions: Blend low-fat or skim milk or yogurt with fruit and ice to make a tasty treat. Add low-fat cheese to soups and salads.

2 HOURS OR LESS OF SCREEN TIME A DAY

Time spent watching television, using the computer or playing video games means fewer calories burned and extra weight gained.

Suggestions: Work with your children to select age appropriate shows and turn the television on only for those programs. Limit overall television, computer and video game time. Make TV a reward, not a daily routine.

1 HOUR OR MORE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY A DAY

Encourage your children to participate in 60 minutes of walking, running, skipping, jumping or dancing each day. Physical activity combined with good nutrition will help them stay healthy.

Suggestions: Scatter activities throughout the day. For short trips, walk instead of driving, and take the stairs when possible. Enroll your children in after-school or weekend activities, or plan for active family time.

For more information, visit www.clocc.net or call 312.227.7100

Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children

clocc