



Volume 19

Issue 4

Shooting Star Scoop

December 2023

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



Dec. 5th thru 7th— PTO

Penguin Patch Gift Shop

Dec. 7th— Family Game

Night at NNS 5:00- 6:00 PM
and dinner 6:00-6:30 PM

Dec. 8th— EARLY RELEASE

School dismissed at 1:55PM

Dec. 11th thru Dec. 15th—

Holiday Spirit Week

Dec. 12th— Girl Scout

Meeting at 3:45 PM

Dec. 15th— Muffins in the

morning/donuts for
grownups— morning reading
8:00-8:30 AM in library

Dec. 18th thru Jan. 2nd—

NO SCHOOL—Enjoy your
holiday break! We'll see you
next year!

Dec. 30th— Nikiski High

School Community Alumni

Event 4:00-8:00 PM at

NMHS



Penguin Patch Holiday Shop: The holidays are here and we have an exciting program coming to our school! We'll be hosting a Penguin Patch Holiday Shop so that students can buy special gifts for their friends and family members. Students will be able to shop during school for gifts that cost as little as \$.25 and up to \$12 on Tuesday, December 5 through Friday, December 8. Each class will have an opportunity to visit the Shop. A big thank you to the NNS PTO for providing this experience for our students!



Literacy: Our series of tips for supporting reading skills at home, provided by the What Works Clearinghouse, continues! This month's focus is on how to help children sound out words smoothly. While the information notes that these activities are appropriate for children in Kindergarten through third grade, the tips support literacy skills of all ages. Did you know that recognizing and manipulating sounds that are part of words and linking those sounds to letters are necessary skills to prepare children to read words and understand what they are reading?

Family Involvement: December will host two different family involvement events that will take place outside of school hours. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, December 7 for our Family Game Night event from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and dinner from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Also, our first "Muffins in the Morning/Donuts with Grownups" Morning Reading Event, sponsored by Title I, is planned for Friday, December 15, 2023. Parents/Guardians are invited to join us with their child from 8:00-8:30 a.m. in our Library. We will have the entire Library open for you to enjoy light refreshments and reading time with your child. Thank you for joining us for an early morning reading event!

Snow Gear: When the temperature doesn't meet or exceed the -10 degree mark, your child will be enjoying the fresh air outside during recess or even P.E. Your help with ensuring your child is properly geared for the weather is appreciated. We have some items available for students who do not own snow gear. Families can communicate with their child's teacher and we will work to get your child what they need! We are always seeking donations of new or gently used snow gear, especially large boots, snow pants, coats, and warm, waterproof gloves and mittens.

Canned Food Drive: Our canned food drive for the Nikiski Food Pantry brought in 307 items. The party was able to give out 99 Thanksgiving boxes to our community this year and NNS filled 34 of those 99 boxes thanks to all of your generous donations. It was a great effort and helped feed so many families. A big thank you from the Nikiski Food Pantry, Nikiski Neighbors and NNS!





Hey Friends! Did you know December 8th is an **EARLY RELEASE?**

School will be dismissed at 1:55PM. Busses and B & G will run 90 minutes early.

**NO SCHOOL DECEMBER 18TH
THRU JANUNARY 2ND**

Enjoy Your Winter Break!



Happy Holidays!

Holiday Spirit Week

December 11-15th



Merry Monday! Bring your Holiday Cheer!

Wear holiday colors, hats, socks, accessories...
The more, the merrier!



Holiday Workshop Imposters Tuesday!

Dress like you work in a holiday shop! You can be an elf,
a reindeer, a toy, a tree, a gift, etc.!

What Not to Wear Wednesday!

Wear your ugliest holiday sweater!



Warm and Cozy Thursday!

Wear your coziest (school appropriate) PJs! Festivity is Key!

Northern Lights Friday!

Primary vs. Intermediate

Kinder- 2nd grade wear the colors red or blue

3rd-5th grade wear the colors green or purple

Keeping Children in at Recess When to Keep Your Child Home

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Every day a variety of coughs, runny noses and flu are in our school. Each day some students are just beginning to be ill while others are recovering. In this letter I would like to clarify:

- * our general procedure for keeping students in at recess
- * general criteria for keeping your child home

General Procedure for Keeping Students In at Recess

Every day our classrooms are filled with a variety of people in various stages of wellness and illness. Indoor air can be very dry, especially in the winter, and also irritating to the nose and throat. These situations help transmit illness and discourage healing. A child who spends all day in the classroom tends to become drowsy and sluggish and has difficulty finishing his/her work.

Fresh moist air and mild outdoor exercise are better than remaining indoors, even for a mildly ill child, as long as they are dressed appropriately. Our school carefully checks for inclement weather such as strong winds, rain or extremely cold temperatures, including the wind chill factor, right before recess. In these cases all the children are kept indoors or the recess time is shortened as needed.

If your child is recovering from an illness, a note from you is appreciated. We then evaluate your child before each recess. If your child has been acting normally during class time and doesn't appear ill, your child will be instructed to dress warmly and walk around in the fresh air. They may also be instructed to only participate in half of the recess time. If there are other issues that complicate your child's illness, please be sure to discuss these with the teacher and nurse. Our goal is always to help your child be as successful as possible in the classroom.

When to Keep Your Child Home

Children should not be sent to school if they have vomited during the night, have diarrhea, have had a fever of 100° or greater during the past 24 hours, or have a frequent, persistent cough. These conditions do not allow your child to participate in the educational environment of the classroom and are usually contagious to the other children and the staff. In addition, if you feel your child needs an over-the-counter cold, flu or pain reliever in the morning due to illness, please don't send him/her to school. In most cases students who have received such medication are not able to remain in the classroom once the medication has worn off.

Thank you for partnering with us to help provide the most healthful environment possible for your child and for all of us in our school.



Winter is here and it's time for gear!

Your student needs to come to school everyday with;

- * Coat
- * Snow pants
- * Hat
- * Gloves
- * Boots

Don't forget to write your name in all your gear. Stuff gets lost all the time!

All children will go outside at recess unless the chill factor exceeds -10 degrees

3 Help children sound out words smoothly

These activities are typically appropriate for children in kindergarten through third grade.

Sounding out a word involves saying the sound of each letter or letter combination one by one until the end of the word, and then saying them all together again quickly. Help children sound out words by:

- Showing how to say each letter sound in a word, starting at the left-hand letter and moving right, and then joining all the sounds together to form the word.
- Stretching and connecting sounds together as much as possible. The box below shows an example of how this might sound.
- Reminding children to check their pronunciation after they connect the sounds together. For example:
 - Ask if the word makes sense or if it is a real word.
 - Ask if they know the word that they said after saying the letters all together quickly.
 - If the word is not familiar, ask them to read the word again to make sure they joined all the sounds together correctly.

Sounding out words smoothly helps children remember and combine sounds to arrive at the correct word. Here is an example with the word *man*:



Adult: How does this word start?

Child: /mmmm/

Adult: Then what's the next sound?

Child: /aaaa/

Adult: And then what sound comes next?

Child: /nnnn/

Adult: What happens when you put them together?

Child: /mmmmaaaannn/

Adult: What is the word?

Child: *Man!*

What skills will this practice help build?

Recognizing and manipulating sounds that are part of words and linking those sounds to letters is necessary to prepare children to read words and understand what they are reading. Children must be able to identify the individual sounds that make up the words they hear in speech, name the letters of the alphabet as they appear in print, and identify each letter's corresponding sound(s). When children know a few consonant and vowel sounds and their corresponding letters, they can start to sound out and blend those letters into simple words.

Jenny's Penguin Patch® KIDS' HOLIDAY SHOP

is Coming to Your School!



Dear Parents,

Your Parent/Teacher Group is excited to announce that your students will be experiencing the Joy of Giving this holiday season.

Students will have the opportunity to select gifts for their loved ones, wrap it up and have it just in time for the holidays. We offer over 100 different gifts starting at 25¢.

Create memories that will last a lifetime!

- 1 Assist your child in setting a budget for each family member with the money envelope provided.
- 2 Join the fun and excitement by volunteering to help during your child's shop.
- 3 Be sure to ask your child why they selected a particular gift... their responses will fill your eyes with tears... sometimes from laughter, but mostly from kindness.
- 4 Be sure to treasure the gift that your child selected for you. Save it and display it proudly... your child will be so proud!

Be sure to ask your child why they chose a particular item... their response will be the real gift!

"Mommy, I know how sad you were when you lost your wedding ring in the sand in Florida. You cried for a long time when we couldn't find it and I wanted to help you feel happy again, so I picked out a diamond ring. Now daddy doesn't have to buy you a new one!"

—Samantha Cooper (Mom to Sadie, Lincoln and Jack in Katy, Texas)

Queridos Padres,

el grupo de padres y maestro esta emocionado en anunciar que los estudiantes experimentaran la alegria de regalar esta temporada festiva.

los estudiantes tendran la oportunity de seleccionar regalos para sus seres queridos ,envolverlos y tenerlos justo a tiempo para los dias festivos. nosotros ofrecemos mas de 100 diferentes regalos empezando desde 25¢

Crea recuerdos que duraran toda la vida!

- 1 ayuda a tu hijo(a) haciendo un presupuesto para cada miembro de tu familia en el sobre de dinero que se te provera.
- 2 Disfruta de la diversion y emocion como voluntario y ayudando a tu hijo(a) durante sus compras.
- 3 Asegurate de preguntar a tu hijo(a) por que selecciono ese regalo en particular... su respuesta te llenara los ojos de lagrimas... algunas veces de carcajadas pero mayormente de generosidad.
- 4 Asegurate de atesorar el regalo que tu hijo(a) a seleccionado para usted. cuidelo y muéstrelolo con orgullo... su hijo(a) estara orgulloso!

Pregunta a tu hijo(a) por que escojen ese articulo en particular... Su respuesta sera el regalo real!

"Mami yo se como te sentiste triste cuando perdiste el anillo de boda en la area en Florida. Lloraste por mucho tiempo cuando nosotros no pudimos encontrarlo y yo quiero ayudar a que te sientas feliz otra vez, Yo escogi un anillo de diamante. Ahora papi no tendra que comprar uno nuevo!"

—Samantha Cooper (Mama a Sadie, Lincoln y Jack Katy, Texas)