



Volume 19

Issue 8



Shooting Star Scoop

April 2024

The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

[http:// www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/schools.aspx](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/schools.aspx)



Principal Points

Important Dates

April 1st– NNS report to the Board at 6:00 PM at Borough Assembly Chambers

April 2nd– Girl Scouts meeting at 3:45 PM

April 6th– 3rd grade basketball game at NNS at 11:00AM

April 12th– EARLY RELEASE School dismissed at 1:55PM

April 12th– School Spirit Day- “Be a great Classmatey”. Dress as a pirate!

April 13th– 3rd grade basketball game at NNS at 11:00AM

April 16th– Girl Scouts meeting at 3:45 PM

April 20th– 3rd grade basketball game at NNS at 11:00AM

April 25th– 5th Grade “Step-up” to NMHS field trip

April 25th– NNS Spring Showcase– Talents, projects, games at 5:00-7:00 PM

April 30th– Girl Scouts meeting at 3:45 PM



Masonic Outstanding Student Award: Our fifth grade teaching team, with the help of NNS staff input, considered candidates for the Masonic Outstanding Student Award. The goal of this award is to recognize students for their dedication to learning, participation in school activities and their strength of character. A big congratulations to our Masonic Student for 2023-2024, James Brewer!

Input Forms: Our staff works very hard to place students based on the needs of all children in our school. Staff spend a lot of time discussing and planning student placement and developing class lists, as we strive to balance classes based on a variety of beneficial characteristics. Please note that teaching staff can change over the summer, as well as teaching assignments/grade level configurations due to enrollment.

Placement decisions for each student will be finalized by the school principal, classroom teachers, and the school’s Intervention Team. Input forms for parents/guardians with regard to classroom placement for the 2024-2025 school year are due no later than Friday, April 26 at 4:00 pm.

AK Star & Alaska Science: Within the next few weeks, our third, fourth, and fifth grade students will participate in the AK Science (5th grade) and AK Star Assessments-ELA & Math (unless they have an active Opt-Out). Please reach out to your child’s teacher regarding specific dates/times that your child will test.

Alaska Reads Act & 3rd Grade Waiver: In this newsletter, third grade parents will find information that discusses grade progression and the 3rd Grade Waiver, which includes sample questions to ask the school. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions!

Your Feedback Matters: As we continue to end the year strong, while planning for next year, families are encouraged to visit: <https://kpbsd.org/communications/surveys/> and complete the variety of surveys that exist. Your input is greatly appreciated and supports the growth of our team.



3RD GRADE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

PRACTICE

TUE. 4/2/24
WED. 4/3/24
THUR. 4/4/24
TUE. 4/9/24
WED. 4/10/24
THUR. 4/11/24
TUE. 4/16/24
WED. 4/17/24
THUR. 4/18/24

GAMES

SAT. 4/6/24
SAT. 4/13/24
SAT. 4/20/24

***Practice is from
3:45–5:00 pm**

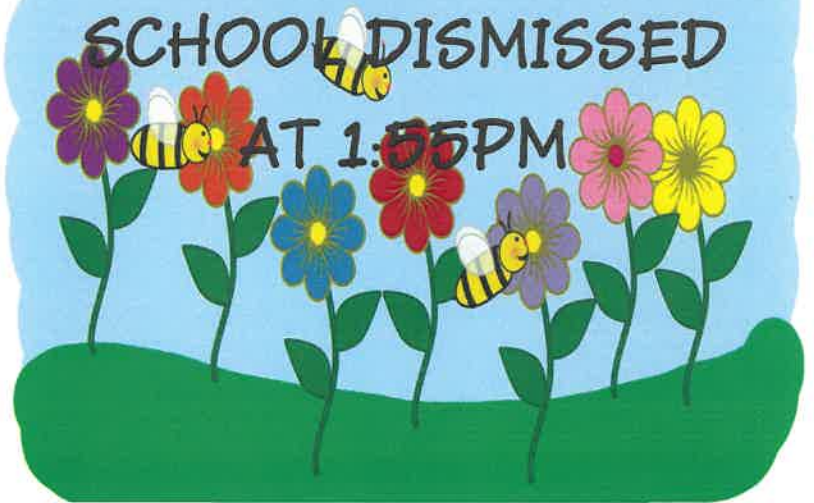
***Games start
at 11:00 am**

EARLY RELEASE

APRIL 12, 2023

SCHOOL DISMISSED

AT 1:55 PM



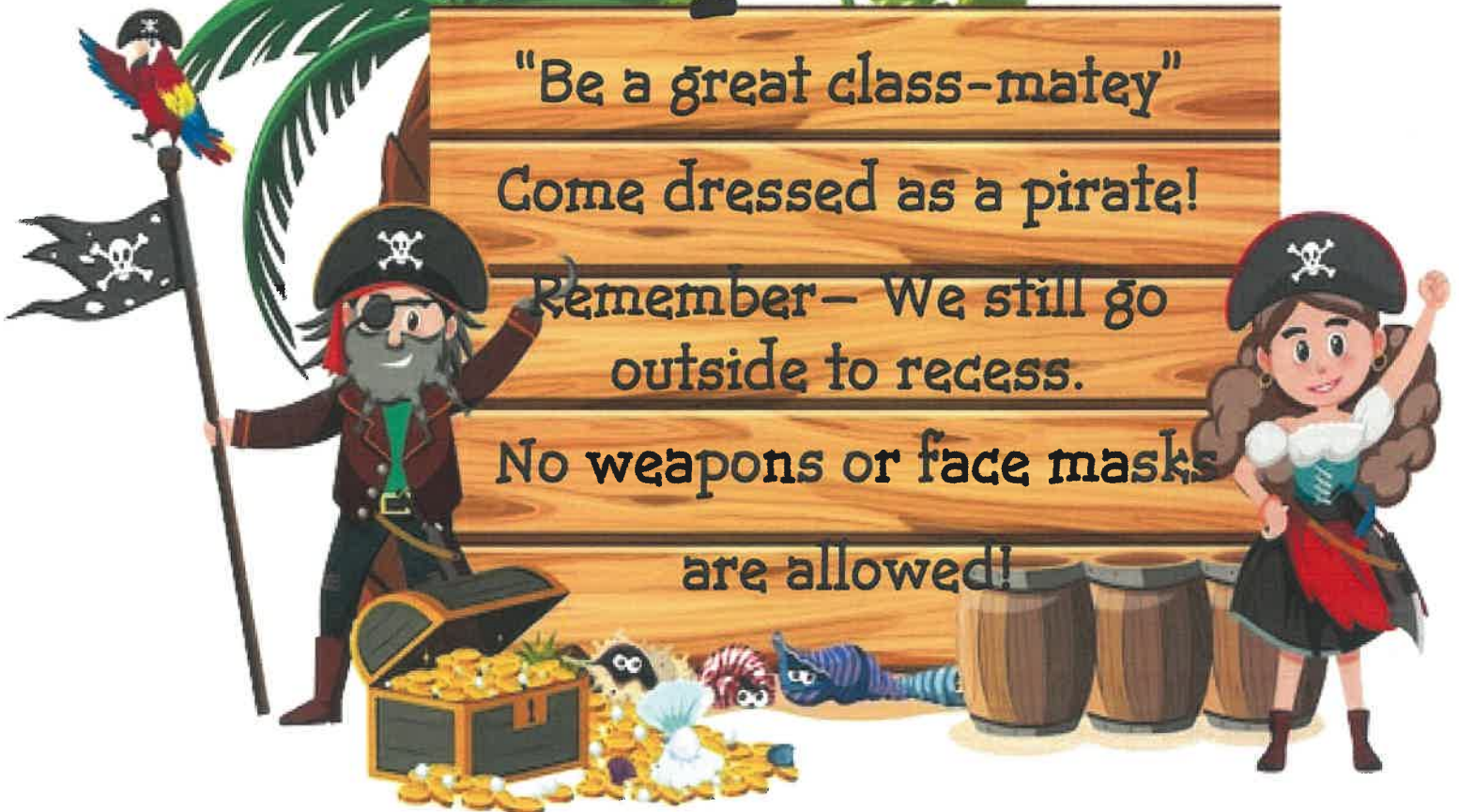
School Spirit Day April 12

"Be a great class-matey"

Come dressed as a pirate!

Remember – We still go
outside to recess.

No weapons or face masks
are allowed!



Save the Date

Thursday, April 25th

5:00– 7:00 PM

See what's been happening in

STEAM this year

Spring Showcase!

Be on the lookout for more information.

From the Nurse-

Weather can be unpredictable in Alaska in April and we still have snow and muddy spots on our playground at NNS. Please make sure you still send your students to school with appropriate outdoor gear for the weather.

This would include;

Coats

Hats

Gloves

Boots

Snow Pants



Parent Input Form 2024-25

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. Fabian.

So that your input may be considered during the placement process, this form must be returned to the school office no later than **Friday, April 26th 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 can change over the summer, as do teaching assignments and grade configurations. As a result of these 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 April 26 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. Fabian, please feel free to contact her.*

Kindergarten

Parent Orientation

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

6:00 PM

in the NNS Library

Come tour the school and kindergarten classrooms
from 5:30-6:00 PM

Kindergarten "signing" following orientation!

If your child will be entering kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, come visit us at NNS to meet the teachers, principal and specialist. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear about a typical day in kindergarten at Nikiski North Star.

**Your child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2024*

Registration is done online at www.kpbsd.org

Kindergarten visitation for registered students

April 26th from 1:00-2:00 PM

(Must call to schedule your visitation)

Questions?

Please call (907) 776-2600



Alaska Reads Act for Parents

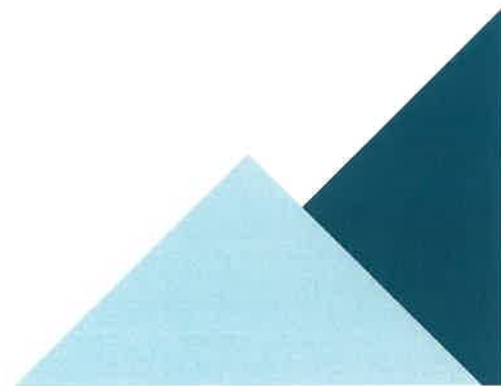
Explaining the 3rd Grade Waiver

2024

What is the 3rd grade waiver?

At least 45 days before the end of school, using the end of year or spring mCLASS screener data, you will be updated if your student is high risk for a reading deficiency and describe the difficulty this could present to their academic success in 4th grade. Following the meeting and looking at all the information, you will decide if your child continues to the next grade.

In Alaska, a parent/guardian can request that their child be promoted to the next grade regardless of reading proficiency. In 3rd grade, 20 hours of reading intervention will be available on the summer to your child. While the parent has the ultimate authority about grade promotion, it would be best to talk with the student's teaching team to create the 20 hours of summer intervention which best meets the needs of your child. You will be then asked to sign a waiver that you have received all the information. Here are some sample questions a you can ask the school:



Parent Questions to Ask the School 2024

1. In addition to the Literacy Screener, what other reading assessments were given this year and how did my child score?
2. What reading supports did the school give my child this year and what progress has my child made?
3. Can you describe how my child's Individual Reading Improvement Plan met their reading needs?
4. What are the core skills that my child needs to work on to get back on track?
5. How have my child's reading skills impacted their other academic subject areas?
6. If I choose to have my child move up to grade 4, what reading supports will my child receive next year?
7. What can I do to support my child at home with learning to read?
8. What resources, tutoring programs, or other afterschool programs are available for my child? Have these local resources helped other children with similar learning needs?

