



# Shooting Star Scoop May 2024

The monthly newsletter for Nikiski North Star Elementary

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

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



Volume 19  
Issue 9  
Summer  
Vacation

Important Dates

Principal Points

**May 3rd**– School Lunch  
Hero Day– Dress as a Super-  
hero Spirit Day!

**May 6th thru May 10th**–  
Teacher Appreciation  
Week/ Spirit Week  
(see flyer for details)

**May 7th**– Girl Scouts  
Meeting at 3:45

**May 7th, 8th, 9th**– CSAP  
Public Workshop days (see  
flyer for time and locations)

**May 9th**– NNS Site Council  
Meeting at NNS at 4:00 PM

**May 10th**– Nikiski Track  
Meet at NMHS

**May 13th**– 5th Grade Pro-  
motion at NNS at 9:30 AM

**May 16th**– LAST DAY OF  
SCHOOL!!! End of year Pic-  
nic provided by the PTO

**Looking ahead.....**

**June 15th**– Come visit NNS  
at the Family Fun in the  
Midnight Sun Days

**August 9th**– Popsicles with  
the principal at NNS at 4:00  
– 4:45

**August 21st**– First Day of  
2024-2025 School year!  
Can't wait to see you!

**2024-2025 Staffing:** NNS will be moving to one teacher overseeing “Integrated Specials” which will encompass P.E./STEAM opportunities so that each grade level will have two teachers, removing the need for multi age classrooms at this time. Moving to the small elementary school model, we will be aiming to have a 1:19 teacher to student ratio within each classroom.

**AK Star Assessment:** Please see the attached letter regarding AK Star Assessment for the 2023 school year. Your student’s Individual Score Report (ISR) is accessible in PowerSchool. To access your child’s assessment reports in the parent portal of Power School, log in and click the “Test Scores” link in the left navigation pane. You will then see the available test result PDF file links. You will also be able to print the reports if desired.

**Staff Appreciation:** During the week of May 6 to May 10, NNS specifically celebrates our exceptional teaching team during National Teacher Appreciation Week, as well as recognizing our entire staff of nearly 50 individuals. NNS is fortunate to have staff that commute from a variety of areas. While many staff are local, others choose to commute from Kenai and Soldotna, and have been for years, simply because of the dedication that they have for our school. From keeping our school clean, safe, and accessible to serving meals, both breakfast and lunch, to working with students in small groups and delivering explicit direct instruction through cooperative learning opportunities, our staff bring their best every day, focusing on positive student outcomes for all. We sincerely appreciate your recognition of the tremendous effort, time, and knowledge our staff devotes to making NNS an exceptional place.

**Schoolwide Communication Platform:** NNS remains committed to family engagement and open communication. Next year, NNS will continue using the schoolwide communication platform, Bloomz Premium. For returning families that are currently using Bloomz, information will rollover into next year!

**BOOST:** Boost Reading provides your child with the opportunity to learn and practice literacy skills within an engaging story world that adapts to each student as they move through the program. This means that you do not need to assist students with their learning. Once your child can log in, they’re ready to start using the program. Boost is available for any K-5 KPBSD student over the summer! Be on the lookout for a Boost Reading letter with specific login information.

**Fun in the Sun:** NNS will once again have a booth at the “Fun in the Sun” event on June 15 from 12:00-4:30 p.m. at North Peninsula Recreation Center. Please stop by our booth!

Thank you, NNS Families! It continues to be an absolute privilege to work with your child(ren). We appreciate your unwavering support of our school!



FIRST FRIDAY  
SPIRIT DAY



# SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY



**DRESS AS A SUPERHERO!  
THIS COULD BE AN ACTION SUPERHERO  
AND/OR REAL-LIFE SUPERHERO!**

**FRIDAY  
MAY 3**



## KENAI PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE OPT-IN



**NEW!** Our KPBSD district schools now utilize the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

To participate in this free service, you must opt-in. Make certain which mobile # is in your child's PowerSchool records, and send a text message anytime of Y or Yes to our school district short code number: 67587.





# TEACHER APPRECIATION Spirit Week!

May 6th-May 10th

**MONDAY**



**Hats off To The Best Teachers**



Wear your favorite hat in honor of our teachers

**Tuesday**

**Dress as a teacher or staff member**

Pick a staff member or teacher and  
dress just like them!



**wednesday**

**Be Creative**

Make a gift , write a note, or give an item to  
your favorite teacher/staff member



**Thursday**

**Teachers Favorite Color**

Dress in your teachers favorite color



**Friday**

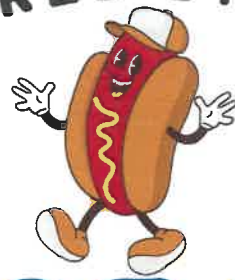


**Book Characters**

Dress as your favorite book character



SPONSORED BY NNS PTO



# END OF YEAR PICNIC

16 MAY 24 | FREE ENTRY

HOT DOGS- CHIPS- DRINKS-DESSERT

K-2nd  
Starts at  
11:40 pm

3rd-5th  
Starts at  
12:20 pm

All families welcome!

Wear your tie-dye attire to  
celebrate the last day with us!

# Popsicles

WITH THE PRINCIPAL



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AUGUST 9, 2024

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4:00 - 4:45 PM

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Playground  
Nikiski North Star Elementary



## AK STAR reports are coming home for students in grades 3-5

You may remember your student taking the AK STAR summative assessment last spring.

The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) is Alaska's state assessment for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. In spring of 2023, AK STAR was administered to students in grades three to nine. AK STAR provides an opportunity for students to show what they know and can do related to Alaska's ELA and mathematics standards, which were adopted in June 2012. For the first time, AK STAR also included a growth component, similar to the MAP Growth interim assessments many districts administer in fall and winter. This growth component provided a RIT score and growth percentiles. This approach allows a student to take just **one** test but receive both a RIT score and a summative score.

The decision to delay the release of AK STAR scores is driven by the ongoing transition and commitment to developing a more effective assessment approach. MAP Growth performance data and a linking study between grade-level percentiles provided new insights into proficiency levels. This information, along with a Policy Review Committee's consideration, led to a recommendation to adjust the current AK STAR cut scores.

Despite the delay caused by the adoption of new cut scores for AK STAR, the results are a necessary component of making data-informed decisions for students, families, teachers, administrators, district leadership, and policy makers:

- For our students and families, assessment results can help determine strengths and challenges, and how to utilize both to continue academic growth.
- For our teachers and school administrators, assessment results can help evaluate progress, find areas for improvement, and focus on what students need most.
- For our policymakers and district leadership, assessment results can ensure resources are allocated to the most vital areas of need.

For more information about the delay of AK STAR 2023 results, please watch this [short video from Commissioner Bishop](#).

The student results from these tests are now available and will be coming home soon. Teachers at your school can help you understand the report if you have questions. In addition, the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) has published a Family Guide for your use. The Guide can be found on [DEED's assessment webpage](https://education.alaska.gov/assessments) (education.alaska.gov/assessments).

Your student's Individual Score Report (ISR) is accessible in PowerSchool. To access your child's assessment reports in the parent portal of Power School, log in and click the "Test Scores" link in the left navigation pane. You will then see the available test result PDF file links. You will also be able to print the reports if desired.

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

*Because everyone deserves to get home safely*

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), with the partner cities Homer, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna, were awarded grant funds to develop a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP).

*Humans are vulnerable and sometimes make mistakes and our transportation system needs to account for this reality.*

## WHAT IS A CSAP?


A CSAP is a long-term strategy for enhancing the safety of the borough's roads through a holistic approach to reduce (and eventually prevent) roadway fatalities and serious injuries borough wide. The CSAP will be structured around the Safe System Approach (SSA) National Roadway Safety Strategy developed by the USDOT.

## WHY DO WE NEED A CSAP?

The KPB had **14 non-motorist fatalities** and serious injuries between 2016 and 2021, according to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Alaska Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment. In September 2023, a driver and passenger were killed while slowing in a school zone. In December 2022, a head on collision near Clam Gulch resulted in two fatalities. Also, in December 2022, a pedestrian/vehicle accident resulted in a pedestrian fatality. According to the AKDOT&PF the KPB had 238 fatal or serious injury crashes (both motorist and non-motorist) between 2017 and 2022.

Humans are vulnerable and sometimes make mistakes and our transportation system needs to account for this reality. The CSAP will help the KPB and their partner cities to understand the causes and contributing factors, and recommend countermeasures, creating redundancy and reducing risk. The plan will identify opportunities to improve safety through proactive and systemic programs, policies, processes, partnerships, and projects, especially for areas revealed to be of the highest concern.

A CSAP situates the borough, and partner cities to apply for future grant funds for projects and strategies identified in the plan to address roadway safety problems.



*KPBSD posts flyers as a community service. Such posting does not constitute an endorsement for or against the materials and viewpoints expressed in them.*

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

## WHAT IS THE SSA?

The Safe Systems Approach (SSA) is a framework to help agencies prioritize safety policies, programs, and projects. The SSA principles are:

- No fatal or serious injury crashes
- A transportation system that can accommodate errors in human judgment
- A transportation system that limits speed
- Investments that prevent future crashes
- Engagement and coordination from all transportation and safety agencies
- Investments in solutions across the system, not at individual locations



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You are the users of the KPB roadways as pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, commercial vehicle operators and micromobility and personal conveyance users. Your knowledge and perspectives on issues and opportunities to improve the safety of the transportation system is essential.

### Opportunities to participate:

#### Public Workshop 1

May 7, 2024; 5-7 PM, Homer High School Commons; 600 Fairview Avenue, Homer

May 8, 2024; 5-7 PM, Donald E. Gilman River Center, 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna

May 9, 2024; 5-7 PM, Seward Community Library & Museum, 239 6th Avenue, Seward

Virtual TBD

#### Public Workshop 2

TBD; Fall 2024

#### Public Workshop 3

TBD; Winter 2024/25

## WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

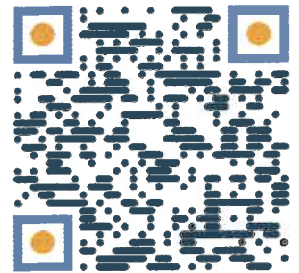
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Project Website

<https://kpb-ss4a-comprehensive-safety-plan-kpb.hub.arcgis.com/>





# KPB COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

*Because everyone deserves to get home safely*

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Kenai Peninsula Borough, with partner cities Homer, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna, is developing its first Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) structured around the Safe System Approach (SSA) National Roadway Safety Strategy developed by the USDOT. Humans are vulnerable and sometimes make mistakes and our transportation system needs to account for this reality. The CSAP will help the KPB and their partner cities to understand the causes and contributing factors, and identify opportunities to improve safety, especially for areas of highest concern.

Please join us for this public workshop to learn more about the KPB CSAP and how you can be involved!

### CSAP PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- **Tuesday, May 7, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Homer High School Commons; 600 Fairview Avenue, Homer
- **Wednesday, May 8, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Donald E. Gilman River Center, 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna
- **Thursday, May 9, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Seward Community Library & Museum, 239 6th Avenue, Seward
- **Virtual TBD**

Come and meet our project team, grab a snack, and learn about safety planning, the project schedule, and share your areas of transportation safety concerns.

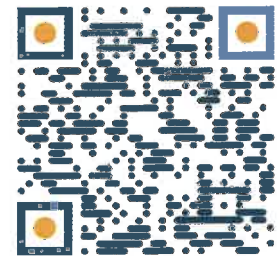
Open house begins at 5 PM and ends at 7 PM. There will be a short presentation at 5:30. Each workshop will follow the same format.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Project Website

<https://kpb-ss4a-comprehensive-safety-plan-kpb.hub.arcgis.com/>



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