



BULLDOG BITES



Nikiski Middle/High School

December 14, 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL - MR. CARSTENS

IN MEMORIUM

As we head into the holiday season, I've found many reasons to hug my kids a little tighter, show my family a little more love and have a little more patience for those who may not understand me like I wish. A primary reason for those thoughts at this time is the passing of one of our students, Tylor Campbell.

Although Tylor had many physical limitations in his life, his mind was sharp, he enjoyed his friends and he loved football. In fact, he was one of the only students I could talk with about our football team as we enjoyed watching the Bulldogs from the top of the bleachers. He would say, "I think they're going to pass this one," and of course I would say, "No way...this is a running down for sure!" Well...with that sharp mind of his, he was usually right, at least 75% of the time. He was such a pleasure to have as part of our school community and will be dearly missed.

Tylor was just granted a wish from the national organization, Make a Wish Foundation. He was chosen to fly down to Dallas, Texas, and watch his favorite football team, The Dallas Cowboys, play in Cowboy Stadium. This was definitely going to be an exciting moment for him. I'd like to think that he will be watching that game from above in the best seat he can think of while playing catch and running around a big green field. Thank you, Tylor, for being a part of our school family for the past year and may you rest in peace.

So take the time right now to hug your kids a little tighter, show your friends and family some extraordinary love and have patience with others around you.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year.

Dan Carstens



VICE PRINCIPAL - MR. BOSTIC

A Time to Reflect

We are fortunate to live in a close knit community that fosters the growth of future generations by mentoring and fostering the ideals that characterize dynamic and progressive thinking. Our children see firsthand the right way to solve problems, support those in need and challenge actions that may encroach on our well-being. In the halls of Nikiski Middle High School, students are friendly and helpful while giving special attention to those that may need an encouraging word. Staff members share advice through personal experience and guide students to meet their potential. We have a hidden gem here in Nikiski that continues to show through accomplishments in the community and the schools.

- Graduates that share their successes that have been built upon the solid academic foundation that they made at NMHS
- Local groups that provide scholarship support for our High School Seniors.
- Triumvirate Theatre North recent opening
- A Recreation Center that serves as a Social Hub for Nikiski
- A new Senior Center
- Locally Owned Businesses that support all of the above.

A parting quote from Dr. Seuss' Mr. Grinch...

"And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

May your Christmas mean a little bit more

Mr. Bostic

PTSA: Get involved with your local PTSA today! Support Nikiski Middle High School by joining the PTSA. For more information contact PTSA President Samantha Moore at samskidsr@gmail.com.

NURSE GLYNES

There are always illnesses circulating in the community. In our district we currently have some reported cases of pertussis (whooping cough), mononucleosis and strep throat. Here are some ways that you can help protect your families from these diseases:

- Make certain students as well as other family members are fully immunized
- Be vaccinated for the flu
- Wash hands
- Practice cough etiquette
- Avoid direct contact with saliva from another person through sharing of utensils, touching tissues, etc.

Some of the reasons to consult your healthcare provider include:

- ⇒ the child has difficulty breathing or swallowing,
- ⇒ the child has a sore throat with a fever or rash
- ⇒ the child has a sore throat that is not improving or a sore throat with spots in the back of the throat
- ⇒ the child is not taking in enough fluids,
- ⇒ the child is lethargic, irritable, does not want to be held
- ⇒ the child has paroxysms (fits) of many rapid coughs followed by a “whoop” sound that is high-pitched
- ⇒ the child throws up during or after coughing
- ⇒ the child is exhausted from coughing

If your child is ill, keep him/her home. Children with fever must be fever free for 24 hours without Tylenol or Advil

Children who are prescribed antibiotics need to take the antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school

Here are some resources:

CDC - Hand washing

<http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/wash-your-hands-fact-sheet.pdf>

CDC – The Flu: A Guide for Parents <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/fluguideforparents.pdf>

CDC - Cover Your Cough <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/infectioncontrol/cover/gen/cybcgeneng.pdf>

Please remember that I am always available to answer your questions. My school hours are 7:15 – 2:15 every school day. My direct line is 776-9420.

I hope that you all have a healthful and wonderful winter break. See you in the New Year.

Nurse Glynes

MR. NELSON - PE/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

This semester has been full of activity, accomplishments, and a little bit of sweat! Life Activities has been learning a variety of games such as, table tennis, flag football, ultimate frisbee, and pickleball. We also had a fitness unit and are currently going into our final, where the kids will teach a game themselves. Lots of learning for lifetime activities! Physical Conditioning has been hard at work. We did very well at the SST competition, bringing home many first place awards. Ask your kids about the 12 Days of Christmas workout, it was one of their favorites!

MRS. ZIMMERMAN - SIXTH GRADE

6th LANGUAGE ARTS: Most students are finished with their practice expository piece. I still have students who have not completed this assignment. Please talk to your student about this. The second quarter writing assessment is upon us and students need to practice what they will be doing. Our focus is on quality writing! We use the 6 traits of writing: ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. Make sure you ask your student for the Monday newsletter that goes home with your student. This newsletter can also be found on Power School.

6th SOCIAL STUDIES: We continue learning about current events through our Jr. Scholastic. Students are learning about Christmas traditions in other countries and comparing them to their own traditions. Your students should have given you a note about the week of December 19. We will start the Asia continent unit after we return from Christmas vacation.

8th AMERICAN HISTORY: We have been studying Pre-Revolutionary War information. Students have a test on Friday, December 9. I continue to post assignments and due dates on Canvas. If your child is absent, they can always go to Canvas for the assignments as well as check Power School.

Have a very Merry Christmas and may the new year bring you peace and happiness.

MR. DOTH - MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

Things are rockin' in middle school science and I super excited at how far we've all come. 6th graders are ready to take on earthquakes, volcanoes, and even plate tectonics with their amazing earth science class. They can even navigate by map and compass in the wilds of their back yard. Many thanks to this 6th grade group for helping learn about and manage our menagerie of plants and animals in the room. I cant wait to see how they're remodel of the 75 gallon vivarium turns out!

7th graders are neck deep into the inner workings of the cell. With some heavy duty lectures and some serious microscope time, I think they're ready for the next level!! Highlights of the quarter include the Osmotic egg lab, Human cheek cell investigations, and the world of microscopic life forms. So excited for the final quarters to come!!

8th graders are becoming amazing science students as they chew through the world of chemistry. They have risen to the challenge and are already drawing atoms, reading the periodic table, balancing chemical reactions, and more. Hang in there folks, this group of kids are doing some amazing things! I cant wait for our engineering projects to take flight (literally), and the laminar flow project to finally come to an end!

Thanks for checking in faithful readers and stay tuned, there's a lot more to come from middle school science!!

MRS. BARROWS - MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE

Students in Language Arts Fundamentals have been working hard to improve their reading fluency and comprehension skills! We are half-way through the Language! curriculum and also recently finished reading the book *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbit. Students then watched the movie and were surprised at all the differences between the two! Next semester we will continue working through the Language! curriculum and reading books to increase comprehension but will also shift some of the focus to improving our writing skills.

Please continue taking the time to read with your child at home each night. The benefits are huge!

MR. SMITH - SIXTH GRADE

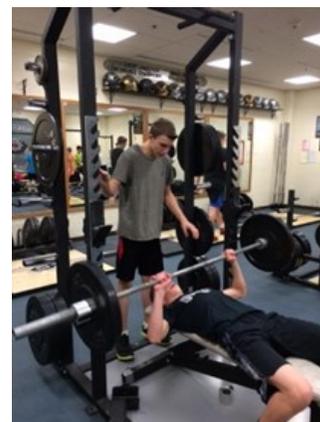
It seems unreal that the school year is nearly half-way over. My first year at NMHS is flying by and I am loving it here. On a personal note, I am enjoying my new found free time after school now that football season is over. I love coming home to my wife and son and hanging out with them more. My wife and I just bought a house in Nikiski, and we are very happy to be a part of this community and this school.

My 6th and 7th grade math classes have settled into a good rhythm learning, I believe. After trying some new things and techniques with them, it seems we have found a groove that works for our classes. After implementing a rotating station system with each class and making some adjustments along the way, students are more engaged with me, each other, and the concepts we are learning than I saw during 1st quarter. It's cool to see each of my classes take on unique personalities and grow together. I have appreciated all of my students' patience as we have tried new things. Tony Jackson, Kellie McCaughey, and Colleen Wik help me out a great deal in my math classes in 2nd and 4th periods. NMHS students are blessed to have caring, knowledgeable adults to help teach them. Currently, my sixth grade classes are getting into decimals and fractions, which is what my 7th grade class just finished. My 7th grade class is learning about rates and proportions.

Science class has been a blast the past few weeks and will continue to be through 2nd quarter. We just finished our unit on rocks and minerals. The students did some neat labs with all kinds of rocks and minerals, as well as online learning activities and class projects. Currently, we are studying plate tectonics and will soon get into earthquakes and volcanoes. I have enjoyed learning from my students as well-many of them share facts about the earth that I didn't know or haven't thought about before, which has led to some good class discussions about what things are made of, how they form, examples, and personal stories and experiences with different aspects of earth science.

MR. ANDERS - MIDDLE SCHOOL PE

There is a lot happening in Physical Education grades 6, 7 and 8. On Mondays we are continuing the weekly mile run and many personal records are being beaten. Strength and conditioning workouts are a focus during the 2nd class of the week. During the second quarter there has been an emphasis on ultimate Frisbee and some basic basketball skills. In December we will begin our mid-year fitness testing. Eighth grade strength and conditioning students are leaning some fundamentals of lifting and getting fit! Most students are doing a good job of bringing their PE clothes and athletic shoes every day. Keep up the good work. Happy Holidays!



MR. JACKSON - ALGEBRA READINESS/STUDY SKILLS

Redefining Grades: I know, I know. The way that they graded when you were in school worked just fine. I've heard that sentence from many parents and grandparents alike. I'm not really arguing that it *didn't* work, but what if there were a method of grading that was even better? What if there were a way that gave you more information than a simple letter or percentage?

There is a big push across much of the country to change the way your local school reports grades. It is my philosophy that this isn't a bad thing, just different, and like many issues people are very reluctant to change.

Let's look at an example; a group of students are working on a new math skill, one they have never even been introduced to. For the sake of this article, let's say it is the skill of comparing rates. This is a skill that anyone that has ever done some comparative shopping has used. So, the teacher prepares and introduces comparing rates as a lesson, the students have an opportunity to practice the skill and right off the bat a few of the students are able to correctly answer every problem. There is little doubt that you see this as an A. there are, per typical class, a handful of students that are starting to grasp this concept and are finding some success at it, actually more times than not; these are your B and C students. Then there is a group of learners that are trying to make sense of what is going on. They may get a few of the problems correct, this is your group of students who are earning D's or F's. All of these grades are going to be based simply on math, how many correct answers out of a total amount of problems.

So, let's take a look at the same scenario, but rather than a grade scale breakdown of 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C) 69-60 (D) and 59 and lower being an (F), this time we look at the same group of students and apply a grade scale of a 0-4, where 0 is indicating that the student has not yet even attempted to try the skill. That small group of students that is able to correctly answer every problem we score them a 4; indicating that they have already mastered that skill. The larger group of students while practicing, but not yet having demonstrated mastery may get a 3 or a two, depending on their level of understanding. That shows they have practiced and understand some of the skill. They smaller group of students, while they are making an attempt to learn, have found very little success in correctly answering the math problem, have a 1; showing that they have been trying, yet there is room for improvement in the skill set at hand. It is unlikely that there would be many students at a 0, as they would have all been practicing to some degree of success.

Students that have not yet demonstrated mastery in meeting that standard, should have the option to go back at any time and prove that they in fact have reached that level.

Grading like this requires that a teacher takes a new way of looking at student's work, it also requires that parent's take a new look at how the view grades. One of the potential pitfalls is that a parent would view a 2 on the scale as a 50%, and while the math is correct, 2 out of 4 is 50%, it does not equate to an F on the other grading scale. Typically the breakdown would be something like this:

Percentage	Mark	Meaning
90-100	4	Advanced, exceeds stand-
80-89	3	Meets Standard
70-79	2	Partially proficient
1-69	1	Not yet proficient

As I venture into the world of Algebra readiness with students, I want them to know that they are going to be graded based on what they can demonstrate they know and can do in math. If it takes a little longer for a skill to cement in and figure it out, that is ok, we do not all learn at the same rate. If a student is giving me their best, and that means they can only answer 59% of the problems correctly, I will not view that as failing, but rather as not yet proficient with the opportunity to practice and hopefully improve.

MS. NIEMCZYK - MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade Language Arts: Sixth grade has been working on building their reading endurance, vocabulary, and ability to pull details from an oral story. To this end, students read for small blocks of time three times a week. We have also been working on Latin and Greek root words. I have been reading the novel *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker aloud. This has allowed us to have some great conversations about characterization and making inferences. One of the main objectives of sixth grade is to master grammar and conventions in writing assignments. Students have been working on their Daily Oral Language to practice their editing skills as well as demonstrate knowledge of grammar rules. Writing for specific purposes and audiences is another major objective for the year. Students write daily for a variety of purposes, this quarter focusing on informing. When we come back from Winter Break, we will move into argumentative writing and reading to persuade. I hope you all have a fabulous break.

7th Grade Language Arts: Second Quarter has flown by! Our second quarter common writing assessment will focus on informational writing using the short story "The Most Dangerous Game". This is a great short story that most students have enjoyed. We have spent a good deal of time this quarter working on fundamental writing skills—particularly sentence combining. Students are learning how to annotate a piece of writing for important information, events, and to discover theme. Going back into a story to find details and evidence is something we began focusing on this quarter and will be important for the remainder of their school careers. Students should be reading at least three times a week at home so if they are not, encourage them to. When we come back in January, we will begin a unit on Persuasion/Argumentation. I hope you all have a wonderful winter break.

8th Grade Language Arts: Right now we are finishing up our dystopian unit. Students read one of thirteen possible dystopian novels: *The Giver*, *The Book Thief*, *Ender's Game*, *The Uglies*, *Among the Hidden*, *The Maze Runner*, *Gone*, *Lord of the Flies*, *City of Ember*, *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, or *Legend*. They worked in literature circle groups to explore the idea of utopia, conformity, and the hero's journey. This unit has four main objectives. The first two are content related: analyze literature with a focus on themes and symbols, and write an essay that explains the relationship between events and themes. The second two objectives are just as (if not more) important: time management and interpersonal skills. Students are responsible for completing a variety of assignments and tasks individually and in small groups by a set date. Groups determined their individual responsibilities for both their Hero's Journey and Community Creation projects. I am providing guidance and accountability checks but have left many of the decisions up to the individual groups. It is a great learning opportunity for the students and allows them to tackle new and challenging material/concepts using their individual learning preferences. There is more homework this quarter than last, so if you are not seeing your student reading more at home, ask them about it.

MRS. JOHANSEN - FOODS

FOODS class has been super busy, and time is flying by. We've made twenty-five recipes. Wow ! I love the "can do" attitude of this class.. We have completed sixty-nine pies for the thanksgiving holiday food baskets for the community and are working on quick fruit breads for the Christmas food baskets. I love that students are willing to share their talents and give back to the community in this way. We have started our student demos, adding family recipes to our cookbooks. I really enjoy this assignment learning more about family traditions through the recipes students bring in and giving each student a chance to demonstrate to the class what they've learned and teach us something new. Enjoy your holidays. Encourage your kids to spend some time in the kitchen with you, it's super rewarding. This is my moms favorite holiday cookie recipe:

HOLIDAY FRUIT DROPS.

- ◆ 1/2 cup shortening
- ◆ 1 cup brown sugar
- ◆ 1/2 cup sugar
- ◆ 2 eggs
- ◆ 1 teaspoon salt
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- ◆ 1 cup evaporated milk
- ◆ 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ◆ 2 3/4 cup flour

Mix all ingredients together then add 2 cups of assorted dried fruits and nuts. (raisins, craisins, cherries, your favorite nuts)

Drop by spoonfuls on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 10-12 minutes makes about 6 dozen cookies. Cool, glaze, enjoy! Makes an awesome gift , if you can stay out of them....





If at first you don't succeed,
do what your industrial arts
teacher told you!

MR. BJORKMAN - HISTORY/AK STUDIES

7th Grade Ancient Civilizations - Students in 7th grade Ancient Civilizations have been exploring different riverine cultures. Lately we have been studying civilizations surrounding the Indus River valley. Students continue to make comparisons and draw conclusions about similarities of successful civilizations. We also are studying why civilizations faced decline. Students are doing an excellent job with seeing similarities that all cultures have as well as the many factors that make them unique. We continue to look at the ancient religions of these cultures as well. Students have done a remarkable job at identifying the importance and rationale of religion in ancient cultures and then drawing parallels to modern religion and their own beliefs.

9th Grade AK History - Recently we have been learning about the impact of WWII on Alaska and the resource development that shaped the later territorial period of our state. Students are continuing to work on their online timeline projects which connect historical events and characters to one of four geographical systems (lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere).

10th Grade World History - Students have been studying the philosophers of the Enlightenment and how they have framed modern political thought. Students have done a great job at understanding some complex concepts surrounding natural rights and reforms to protect them. Students have been making important connections between the past and what is happening in our contemporary world. Students have been learning many foundational ideas about our US government while learning about many topics from world history.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

MR. PORTER - HIGH SCHOOL MATH

The mathletes up in the mathnasium are doing some pretty great things. The geometry students are proving their understanding of proofs and seem to really be grasping the concept. The personal finance kids are tackling taxes and the algebra kids are functioning well with writing and graphing functions. All the while, the calculus kids are maximizing their understanding of extrema. We are having a great time doing it too!

MS. VRANIAK - ALGEBRA/COMPUTER CODING

This quarter in math class we have covered some exciting new topics! One project we did was launching rockets with Mr. Doth! In my class students learned how to use their geometry skills to calculate the height of the rocket, and in Mr. Doth's science class students learned about the scientific principles that caused the rocket to launch into the air. Then, in groups, students got to launch their rockets, collect data, and calculate the height of the rocket.

We've also made great progress in my high school Computer Programming class. We began the quarter programming with block based JavaScript, and currently are mastering a new language; Python! Python is a text based language, so students are memorizing and using commands in order to make their programs run correctly. Their most recent program was a trip advisor. Students wrote code that asked a user to input a city they would like to vacation in, the number of days they want to be there, and the number of days that they would need a rental car. With that information entered, their program calculated the total cost of the trip!

MRS. JENNESS - LANGUAGE ARTS

Yearbook

Yearbooks make a great Christmas gift! Give your student the gift of memories that last a lifetime. Go to jostens.com today and buy a yearbook before Christmas and lock in the low price of \$50.00.

Language Arts

Mrs. Jenness' Language Arts classes have been preparing debate cases on current events and other topics. Parents, talk to your kids about what is going on in the world, discuss current issues together and look at things from all sides. Encourage thoughtful research and preparation.

MR. MORIN - BIOLOGY

This freshman class has done a commendable job transitioning from the Middle School format to the more rigorous High School climate. I attribute this to the excellent work of the Nikiski High Middle School team of teachers. They are top notch and their training is obvious when working with this freshman class. Another critical factor in a child's educational success is parental involvement. I commend the parents of my students for their positive support and effective child rearing. Teachers are told we are the primary factory in a student's success. I disagree; I think parents are the most critical factor in a child's success. Soon, teachers will be evaluated on the test scores of their students. If parents do not impart a strong work ethic, positive attitude towards learning and self-discipline at home there will be a lot of excellent teachers getting poor evaluations. Teachers can adjust a student's attitude, but we cannot instill the requisite basic character traits necessary for a student's academic success.

The Biology students have started their "Caring for the Kenai" projects. The first step in this process is to go to the Caring for the Kenai webpage and read all the information provided. The students then need to identify a problem they are willing to pursue based on the prompt: "What can I do, create or invent to better care for the environment of the Kenai Peninsula..." or help better prepare for Natural Disaster.. This is often the most difficult and challenging step. This is authentic learning at its best. Students will be contacting people in our community and you very well may be one of the people they interview. I trust the students will represent their families, my classroom, our school and the Nikiski community well when they go about their research.

The last item I would like to mention is to have parents continue checking on their child's notebooks, grades and discussing their school work. Remember, there is homework in my class every day; students can always work on their Caring for the Kenai Project. And, as always, attendance is critical--absences can seriously hamper a student's success. Thank you and have a very joyful Christmas.

MRS. HORNUNG - CHEMISTRY/PHYSICAL SCIENCE

As we count down the days until Christmas, we also count down the days until final exams! Both classes that I teach, Physical Science and Chemistry, will have cumulative finals during the last week of school December 19th, 20th, and 21st. Just as we are preparing for Christmas, students should be preparing a little each night to be ready for these exams. Below is a list of things to remember about my finals.

On Friday, December 16th, I will be giving back all tests previously taken so that students can use them to study from. The tests cannot leave the classroom, so students need to be in class to have this opportunity.

I will be addressing questions that come up about topics for those finals on Friday the 16th as well. Therefore, students should show up with questions in mind.

All KUD's (Know Understand & Do) that have been handed out this semester are also on Canvas, so students should access those documents to begin studying.

Some helpful web links for both classes are as follows:

This is a site with quizzes organized by topic good for both Chemistry and Physical Science.

<http://www.sciencegeek.net/Chemistry/taters/directory.shtml>

This is the same site as the one above only it takes you to powerpoints for review which are also organized by topic.

<http://www.sciencegeek.net/Chemistry/Powerpoints2.shtml>

This is the link to Canvas where I have a lot of previous information and videos also organized by unit.

<https://kpbsd.instructure.com/>

This site is where I get most of the worksheets, labs, and activities I use in class. There are great tutorials and help for students.

<http://www.mrphysics.org/MrGuch/chemfiestanew.html>

Study, study, study! Finals are another chance to show what you know! Merry Christmas.

MR. BROWN - STUDY SKILLS/TEAM TEACHER

We have had a great 1st Semester! My 1st and 7th hour study skills classes have made some great progress this year. One of my main goals is to not only teach good study skills, but to exemplify how those skills could help them in life.

Each Tuesday, my class sends home a postcard addressed to their parents. On the card, they have outlined their current grade and percentages. This gives parents a quick snapshot of how their child is doing in their classes. Many of my students don't have home computers, thus, rendering PowerSchool ineffective for many working parents. I was surprised to have the students so committed to consistently sending the cards home. On several occasions, when I would walk in my classroom, the kids would already be at their computer, accessing PowerSchool and completing their post cards. Again, we set up a solid routine, the kids bought in, and now it is an automatic response!

The same can be said in life. Once you establish a positive routine (exercising, paying bills on the same day, eating healthy foods...), it becomes a positive life skill. The kids in study skills classes have established a great study skills routine. I only hope that some of those skills translate themselves into their lives.

MRS. WOLFF - INTENSIVE NEEDS

Hello and Merry Christmas! Students in the Structured Learning Group have been steadily gaining proficiency using assistive technology to communicate their wants and needs. Our Middle School Life Skills students have been learning life skills and job skills. They have done an excellent job of staying on top of their academic work load.

MR. HOOPER - ALGEBRA/PRE-CALC/OUTDOOR ED



This is always a busy festive time of year. In my Outdoor Ed class, pictured left, the students just completed their Hunter Education course that concluded with our field day at the snow shoe gun club. We are wrapping up a great semester of Outdoor Ed by practicing our knots and using them to build tarp shelters. In Advanced Algebra students are learning to solve more complex polynomial equations. And Precalculus is beginning to move into the Trigonometry portion of our class.

MR. ERNST - STUDY SKILLS/ALT ED

Study Skills: My Study Skills class students are working hard every class to keep their grades up and find academic success in school. Families can keep up to date on the progress of the classes of their children by using PowerSchool or Canvas on their home computers.

Alternative Algebra: Dylan Hooper and I teach this standards based math course out in the Blue Portable. The freshman that we have this year are doing a fantastic job producing evidence of their mastery of the state standards in mathematics, and it looks like they will all be able to successfully transition back to the regular curriculum for their sophomore year at the same level or above that of their regular education peers!

Alternative LA 9/Alternative Life Science: This is a great hybrid freshman class that combines the skills of writing and close reading that are the subject of language arts with the scientific information and investigative skills of life science. We are working on developing vocabulary knowledge to enhance close reading while learning how to write in a variety of forms and for many purposes.. Currently we are working on the expository writing form and answering life science worksheets using complete, grammatically correct sentences. Our current topic in life science is on the world of plant and animal cells.

MS. WIDMAN - ART/DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY/PE

In my own classroom I have been having a wonderful time introducing students to Medias many of them have never used. Classes have been displaying art at music concerts as well as parent teacher conferences. These community displays boost student confidence and finalize their creative process. Sharing art work with peers, teachers, and community members is also a great way for the audience to better know and understand the artists. Most recently, one of my middle school classes finished their ceramic mug project. We collaborated with the culinary arts class in order to have homemade hot chocolate in hand built mugs. Pictured right is Michelle Stormer enjoying homemade hot chocolate in her handmade mug.



MR. BAILEY - QUEST/6th SOCIAL STUDIES/GEOGRAPHY

For much of the past quarter, many Quest students have been working on various components of this year's LEGO League robotics challenge. Coordinated by FIRST (Foundation for the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), each year's FIRST LEGO League (FLL) season focuses on a different scientific, technology, or community issue. The 2016 "Animal Allies" season will include over 80 countries, 32,000 teams, and over 255,000 children (grades 4-8)- all attempting to complete a research project presentation and robotic programming missions! The research project component for this year's theme involves brainstorming a problem which affects animals (domestic or wild), researching existing solutions, creating a new solution to address the problem, and preparing an engaging presentation to share with professionals and tournament judges. The robotics portion of FLL involves building LEGO mission models for a large table 'field', learning basic NXT robotic programming, and developing a robot and programs which attempt to perform various missions during timed rounds. The Nikiski Bulldogs Quest FLL team has been busy preparing a visual, creative project presentation, as well as robotic missions, with the hope that they'll qualify for a state FLL tournament in January!



Students not participating in LEGO League have helped to develop and create individual projects focused on some of their personal interests, hobbies, or abilities. These projects are oriented toward subjects that students find relevant or projects which allow them to achieve predetermined goals on a scheduled timeline. From cooking pursuits to '2016 Year in Review', these projects can be quite diverse!

6th grade Social Studies/Geography students have spent the past quarter or so focused on the geography and characteristics of both South America and Europe. Each student completed large maps of each continent which required determining the accurate location and label for both political characteristics (country names/boundaries, capitals, cities), as well as many physical characteristics (rivers, water bodies, mountain ranges, etc.). Including first quarter's emphasis on North/Central America, the following semester will then focus primarily on the three major remaining continents of Asia, Africa, and Australia. Discussing and completing weekly geography questions is another activity students participate in throughout the year, with the past few weeks emphasizing some of the various ways of depicting the spherical Earth on 2-dimensional map 'projections'. With this 6th grade group, we'll continue to discuss current events, complete weekly geography questions, and further our exploration of the geography and cultures of continental regions around the globe!



**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
SCHOOL DISTRICT
NIKISKI MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

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Nikiski Middle-High



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 22	Teacher Inservice/No School for students.
Dec 23-Jan 8	Christmas Vacation
Jan 9	School Resumes
Jan 9	MS VB, MS Wrestling & MS XC Ski Begin
Jan 16	No School
Jan 19-Jan21	Varsity Basketball Tipoff Tournament
Feb 8	Early Release
Feb 9	P/T Conferences-No School for Students
Feb 10	Teacher Inservice-No School for Students
Feb 23-Feb 25	DDF State @ Anchorage
Mar 9-Mar11	Region Basketball Tournament @ Nikiski
Mar 10	Teacher Inservice-No School for Students
Mar 13-Mar17	Spring Break



From the office:



- ◆ Student Fees can be paid online. Access accounts through Powerschool or the KPBSD website. Please call the office if you have any questions.
- ◆ Please send a note in or call when your child has an absence.
- ◆ Bus Notes: when your student will not be getting off the bus at his/her regular stop please send a note in or call as a bus pass will be required. Please try not to wait until the end of the school day to call in.
- ◆ Just a reminder that office hours are 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thank you!

Please contact the office with any questions: 776-9400