

# BULLDOG BITES

Nikiski Middle/High School

December 14, 2017

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

To our Nikiski Community...the traditional Christmas time tune  
(it works better if it's sung to "Jingle Bells")

Dashing through the halls, kids excited left and right,  
Into the rooms they go, it's really quite the site;

3-D printers run, making spirits bright,  
Doth's got those students working to, Make the drones dog fight;

Oh....Learning sounds, learning sounds  
Learning all the way  
Oh what fun it is to head  
To Nikiski High all day, hey!  
Learning sounds, learning sounds; learning all the way  
Oh what fun it is to head  
To Nikiski High all day!

A day or two ago, we just got the news,  
Hooper's beard pull showed up, On the Channel 11 news!

Thank goodness we have tile, when Kornstad pops the corn,  
Otherwise the custodians, Will really look forlorn;

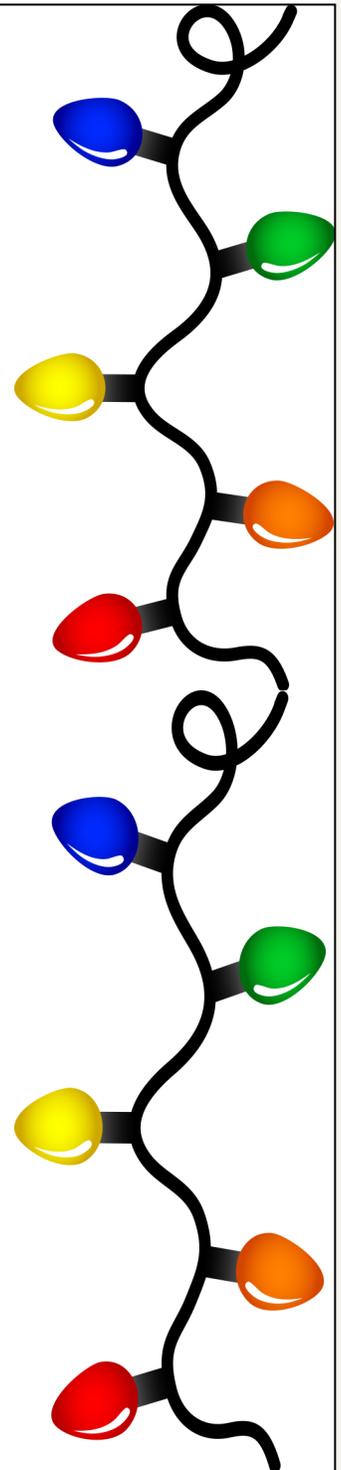
Oh....Learning sounds, learning sounds  
Learning all the way  
Oh what fun it is to head  
To Nikiski High all day, hey!  
Learning sounds, learning sounds; learning all the way  
Oh what fun it is to head  
To Nikiski High all day!

Now the halls start to empty out, while Bostic walks around,  
He always does his best, To make us safe and sound;

Fi-nal-ly we've come, to the end of the year;  
But we'll be back again, so you shouldn't shed a tear!

Oh....Learning sounds, learning sounds  
Learning all the way  
Oh what fun it is to head  
To Nikiski High all day, hey!  
Learning sounds, learning sounds; learning all the way  
Oh what fun it is to head  
To Nikiski High all day!

Merry Christmas and we will see you in the New Year!!  
Dan Carstens  
Principal



# VICE PRINCIPAL—MR. BOSTIC

As the sun rises just over the horizon and snow begins to blanket the countryside, it is a perfect time to reflect upon the success and celebration that has been bestowed upon Nikiski Middle/High School. Each day brings the little celebrations of holding a door open, greeting a stranger in the hallway, telling someone that they look nice, and smiling just because. These little celebrations build the cultural components of compassion, integrity, courage, respect, and happiness. A positive culture builds success, prosperity, and harmony. We at Nikiski MS/HS would like you to know what our culture has built:



- Student led EdCamps that included all students 6-12 where they were able to share their talents and explore new academic endeavors.
- A Homecoming Week filled with positive activities and school spirit.
- 54 students with a 4.0 GPA.
- A Volleyball team that earned the Highest Combined GPA Award for 3A Volleyball.
- A very moving Veterans Day assembly where veterans were able to share their experiences and the importance of serving our country.
- National Honor Society inducted 6 new members.
- An assembly that included the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band Determination, a motivational speech by Mr. Porter, and a performance of the school song by the choir and band.

I am confident that we all could add even more great accomplishments that are a result of our positive school culture. Thank you for your support and trust. May your holiday season be blessed with family and friends and filled with wonderful memories.

Shane L Bostic

## **MR. HOOPER - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

It is an exciting time of year for many of our student athletes. Both our boys and girls middle school basketball team are entering the borough tournament this week. Our high school wrestling team is competing in the State tournament at the Alaska Airlines Center this weekend. Our Skiers Enjoyed the early snow and are hoping for more to come. And last but not least our high school basketball teams have started their seasons and are preparing for their holiday tournaments. The Varsity Girls will be playing in the Kenai River Challenge on Dec 14-16, the JV Girls will be competing at CIA, and the Varsity Boys will be making a trip to Sitka Dec 13-16. Both Varsity teams will be heading to Kodiak for a tournament the week after Christmas.

## **MR. DOTH - MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE/AERIAL VIDEO**

Hello from the science department in room 113! We are moving right along in both our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes as well as our first ever UAV avionics class. I can't believe how fast this first semester has gone by and that holiday break is almost upon us. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade biology class is wrapping up the world of the cell and have now unlocked countless secrets to life on this planet. I look forward to exploring the animal and plant kingdom when we return. Dart frogs are living and doing well in our tanks and I hope to try breeding them in the spring. Chemistry has opened up the eyes of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and expanded the miniature world of the atom. Stay tuned as we will be finishing up a huge unit right before holiday break. The drone class is flying high despite limited resources and I could not be more proud of the budding new pilots that we are training. The Top Gun trophy is still up for grabs as the competition stiffens. Stay tuned faithful readers and have a great holiday vacation.



## **MR. NELSON - PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Things have been busy in the world of Physical Education. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have played a variety of sports including volleyball and ultimate Frisbee, though the favorite is probably mushroom ball. Play it with your kids, you'll love it!

Life Activities students have been exposed to awesome games such as table tennis, handball, and fitness. We are currently headed into our final unit where the kids have to research, report on, and demonstrate a sport of their choosing. Pretty exciting stuff!

It's been a great semester in Physical Training. All the students set personal goals for the semester. They have been developing their weekly workouts, so it's been really cool to see them develop and progress on their own. We just started testing, so we'll see who met their goals! =)

# MRS. ZIMMERMAN-MS SOCIAL STUDIES/LANG ARTS

**6<sup>th</sup> LANGUAGE ARTS:** Please talk to your student about handing in their late/missing work. This can really make a difference in three weeks when grades are finalized. 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, voice, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. We have started our Daily Oral Language (DOL) practice. This exercise gives students the opportunity to practice all of the grammar skills they learned in the last quarter and a half. It is my hope, these skills will transfer in students' writing. 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 along with other handouts. December 19 is the scheduled Parts of Speech Quiz. Ask your child if s/he has been studying.

**7<sup>th</sup> WORLD HISTORY:** We are finishing up Chapter 2 Beginning of Civilization. Students will be tested on this chapter on December 12. We will then begin Chapter 3 The Fertile Crescent. KUDs are completed in conjunction with the sections read. Remember, students have the opportunity to get a jump start on their homework assignment in class. Parents/Guardians, please check Power School. If your student is absent, s/he can check Power School for their assignments. I post as many handouts on Power School as possible. Check it out!

**8<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN HISTORY:** Students just finished a debate in class. It was the first debate for many. Although they started out a bit nervous, they did a marvelous job. The majority of students wish to do another debate. We have started Chapter 3 Pre-Revolutionary War Era. Since there is SO much information in this chapter, students will be tested half way through chapter 3. Remember, students have the opportunity to get a jump start on their homework assignment in class. Parents/Guardians, please check Power School. If your student is absent, s/he can check Power School for their assignments. I post as many handouts on Power School as possible. Check it out!

**POWER SCHOOL:** This is a powerful informational tool for parents and students. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade continue to check their grades weekly on Fridays in my class & are required to write them down in their planners so they can track their own progress. **Have a very blessed & safe holiday season with your family!**

# MR. SWABY - WOODSHOP / WELDING / CONSTRUCTION



Almost done building our new torch welding stations. Man does time fly when you're having fun. This semester we have rebuilt the stick and MIG booths and are wrapping up the torches. The students have made some good progress this semester and I would like to thank all of the student for their hard work rebuilding these booths. It will be so much more user friendly.

On the wood shop and construction side, we have made all kinds of cool projects. Cutting boards, bowls, fish bonkers, rolling pins, tables, shelves, jewelry boxes, and almost completed with a 6-person sauna. Can't wait to see what next semester will bring!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## **MR. SMITH—MS MATH/PERSONAL FINANCE**

Personal finance class is just about finished up with learning the basics of personal finance. So far this year we have covered money management, budgeting, debt, buying a home and car, student loans, paycheck deductions, and insurance. Before Christmas break, we will finish up with investing. Looking forward to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, students will develop their own personal philosophy of finances and even make a board game to demonstrate their learning!

Middle school math classes have just finished up operations with fractions and are getting into proportions and scale drawings. We will finish up the semester with some creative, fun, team-building projects before break. As always, I am constantly getting feedback from my kids and looking for ways to improve math class and personalize the learning opportunities that students have. Looking forward to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter after the break, there will be some more adjustments that we make to benefit students. Stay tuned for more information on how we are personalizing 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade math!

## **MS. VRANIAK-MATH/COMPUTER PROGRAMING**

This quarter in math class we have covered some exciting new topics! One project we have been preparing for is our rocket launch 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 will get 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 year programming with block based JavaScript, then we moved on to a website building language called HTML, and currently they are wrapping up a website project. Students were able to choose an interesting technology topic to design a website around. They wrote each line of code for the website, using the HTML tag structure they learned as well as CSS to format their page.

## **MR. BAILEY—QUEST/MS GEOGRAPHY**

Middle school Quest students have been working on a variety of differentiated projects throughout most of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, partially designed or created by students, giving students the opportunity to personalize their learning opportunities on subjects, projects, or pursuits which they find interesting. The project options which students chose came from a wide variety of areas, including creating and programming LEGO robots, completing an assortment of logic or Hidoku problems, creating film project ideas and shooting film project clips, completing a chain reaction 'Rube Goldberg' type design project, creative photography projects, foreign language exploration, community service project implementation, 'Hour of Code' computer science coding challenges, and creative project pursuits (oriented around research and/or model production objectives). In addition, all students participated in a national computational thinking online challenge (Bebras Challenge), which challenged their higher level critical thinking, coding, and logic skills in a timed online format. Braeden Porter and Nolan Boehme came out on top of their individual grade level categories for our selected school results!

For the past quarter, 6<sup>th</sup> grade geography's main continent focus has been Europe. As part of this unit, students completed large maps of both western and eastern Europe (labeling mountains, rivers, water bodies, country names, capitals), finished various World Atlas activities focused on Europe maps and charts, and prepared for a Europe test using review games and study guide strategies. In the quarters to come, we'll continue our exploration of world geography by focusing on the continents of Asia, Australia, and Africa. We'll also be having our classroom geography bee when students get back from holiday break! Geography questions (typically completed each week) based on provided maps or student World Atlases will also continue to be mixed in throughout the weeks, as well as Junior Scholastic current event map or article comprehension activities. Occasionally, we'll also have some intriguing debates based upon Scholastic articles or current topics where students have often expressed their views orally and/or in written form. 6<sup>th</sup> graders usually have no trouble finding things to talk about! Have a wonderful holiday break! ☺

# MS. NIEMCZYK-MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

6<sup>th</sup> 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 and have just completed their first book report. We participated in the Global Read Aloud where I have been reading the novel *The Wild Robot* aloud. This has allowed us to have some great conversations about characterization and making inferences. Writing for specific purposes and audiences is a major objective for the year. Students write almost daily for a variety of purposes, this quarter focusing on informing. *The Wild Robot* has helped with this. 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.

7<sup>th</sup> 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 constructing an academic paragraph and we are just beginning 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 2-3 times a week at home so if they are not, encourage them to. This will help them to meet their 25 book challenge goals. When we come back in January, we will begin a unit on Persuasion/ Argumentation. I hope you all have a wonderful winter break.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts: Right now we are in 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*, *Life as We Knew It*, 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 their Hero’s Journey project. 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. This has been a fun quarter with an amazing amount of hard work by your kids. I am thrilled with the effort they have put forth. I hope you all enjoy your winter break!

# MRS. JENNESS - HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

It has been a busy and rewarding first semester in the Language Arts department! AP Language is finishing up their study of “Death of a Salesman” and realizing that great literature has resonance throughout time. Arthur Miller’s lessons about “having the wrong dreams” still strike a chord today. In LA 11 and 12, students debated current issues and learned the importance of preparation and vetting of sources. LA 10 read “Julius Caesar” and celebrated with a Caesar Salad party. Our Yearbook staff did a great job of meeting their first deadline-the book is looking great! Yearbooks make a great Christmas gift, especially at the bargain price of \$55. They will go up after Christmas, be sure and order yours now at [Jostens.com](http://Jostens.com).

This Christmas Break be sure and take some time to slow down and appreciate all the hard work your students have done. Encourage them to rest and recuperate and come back strong in January! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

# MR. TULLOCH - MS EARTH SCIENCE/ MARINE SAFETY/ WEIGHTS

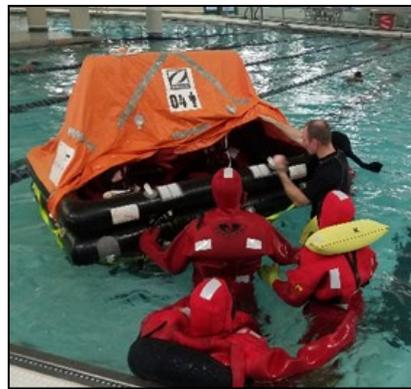
## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science.

We are wrapping up a great quarter of learning about mapping and minerals and will finish the year by digging into the rock cycle and how rocks form. The highlight of the quarter was our week of labs where we identified minerals based on their physical properties. I am really impressed by the growing work ethic in all of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. I'm looking forward to next semester as we will be learning about our Alaskan environment through studies in Water, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes, among other things.



## Middle School Exploration – Marine Safety

We spend much of our recreational and work time on or around the water, but the most important part of this is coming home safely. This class deals with safety on the water in all aspects, from reading the weather, to navigation, emergency drills, signaling, tying correct knots, water and shore survival, and communicating with others. We just completed our water survival training on Nov 30<sup>th</sup> and this was a great success for all involved. We will be finishing out the year by looking at the coast guard requirements for all boaters and learning about emergency signals. Don't forget to visit [www.pledgetolive.org](http://www.pledgetolive.org) to help keep your family safe on the water.



## High School Weight Training

Working hard, increasing fitness and having fun in a safe manner have been our main goals for weight training this year. We are learning how to increase our mobility and strength and how to push ourselves. We have been learning and using a combination of weight room specific workouts as well as bodyweight workouts that can be done anywhere outside the gym. Students have been working on specific goals and have all been making great gains in this area. Ask a student about the 5 minute challenges!



← **Student Council  
Food Drive**

**National Honor Society  
Blood Drive** →



# MS. BOYLE-READ 180/INTERVENTION



## Read 180

Last month students read a historical fiction story with tons of humor and a sad understanding of how things were during the time of segregation. “The Watsons go to Birmingham” by Christopher Paul Curtis. Students mapped out the trip they took from Flint, Michigan to Birmingham, Alabama and the stops and landmarks they saw along the way. This was a great opportunity for students to have a geography lesson as well. Currently, students in this class are working on reading comprehension. We are currently reading “Pictures of Hollis Woods” by Patricia Reilly Giff. This is a wonderful story of a young girl who was an orphan who always ran when things got too difficult, but at the same time she wanted a family. She is an artist and loves to draw pictures of her life as it unfolds. When she has the chance to have a family, an unfortunate event takes place and miscommunication becomes the norm. Christmas is a time for families to forgive and come together. Students will draw pictures that show their understanding and connection with the story. They will later do a comparison and contrast of the movie to the novel.

## Credit Recovery

This is never the ideal situation. When a student finds themselves in credit recovery, it is because they have previously failed that class. Students sometimes think that a computer based program is an easier route but that is not the case. When you are not interacting and asking questions with a teacher who is an expert in that subject, then it is harder. Students have to stay focused and work diligently to complete a course. I am happy to say that 30 classes were made up. One student who had struggled the previous year was behind 6 credits. At the end of the first semester, the student is now on track to graduate on time this year.

# MRS. SINGER—US HISTORY/SPANISH 1 & 2

My classes are finishing up the year with a lot of success!

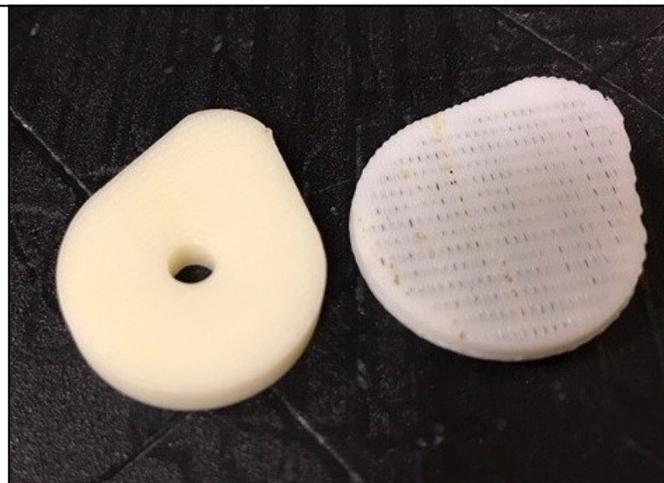
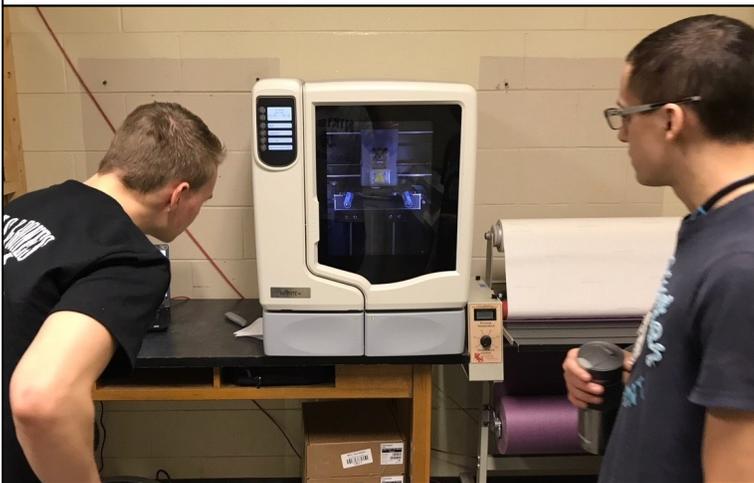
Spanish I / II are now easily writing paragraphs in Spanish and can hold a full discussion with a friend all in Spanish. Earlier in the quarter, I met with Spanish teachers in Homer and Soldotna. We worked on coordinating our assessments and creating a challenging learning environment based on a variety of foreign language instructional techniques. One very cool aspect of our meeting was the instalment of “pen pals” between schools. The students are excited, as am I.

US History is currently exploring the settlement of the western United States and its impact on American Indian culture and environment. The students are correlating many Indian issues of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to current events today. It has led to several spirited discussions. As we progress, the class will continue evaluating the Gilded Age in order to understand many of the social issues still apparent in modern society.

## MR. KORNSTAD—CAD-CAM/MS WELDING

Merry Christmas from the Cad Cam shop! Students have been designing and producing away the last several weeks. We have been creating everything from one-of-a-kind t-shirts to custom phone stands to Christmas ornaments. The kids are getting better and better at their technical design skills as well as their machining skills. It has been fun to watch them build their interest and increase their knowledge and skill in the technical world.

This quarter we have seen the Cad Cam shop enter the world of 3D printing. We have been partnering with Jennifer Hornung's engineering/design class to design parts in Autodesk Inventor and then print produce models in the shop on the 3D Printer. The kids are LOVING IT! Spread the word: Nikiski is a phenomenal place for kids!!



## MR. JACKSON-SPECIAL EDUCATION

Over the weekend I went to the movie *Wonder*. If you have not seen it, I'll give you a quick run-down. The story is of a little boy who has never gone to school because of the facial deformities that he was born with. As he enters middle school, his parents decide that it is time for him to venture into the world of school; academically he excels. However, the issue of dealing with how others treat him is harsh and cold. It takes a while for August to finally make a friend, but once he does, they become great friends because the boy is able to see him for who he is, not what he looks like. Eventually a little girl befriends him and says she wanted to have a nice friend, implying that she was tired of the meanness that the others were so full of.

We can see the rewards from making Nikiski High school a more positive place. We begin to see kids treating each other more nicely. Maybe like the little girl from the movie wanted, we can all start to be that nice friend to people. It is not about the time of year, or where you are or your age. We can be nice. Most of my daily observations are of young people that are, but we can all make a small step towards showing more kindness to people. We can make a ripple effect, influencing your sphere of influence will in turn cause others to consider doing the same.

In Study Skills, and every class I am in, I make a point to talk to students, and listen to what they have to say back. Often times what young people really need is someone that is willing to invest in them, if only to listen to a story or a concern. So when you ask your child how their day was, listen to the answer. They may not need any words of wisdom, just to know that you care enough to listen. Remember, just being a teenager is hard.

We cannot control the actions of others, but we can encourage them to look within themselves and decide how they want to act. We can also help young people to remember to treat others with kindness, as Ian MacLaren said, "Be kind; everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."

## **MR. PORTER—HIGH SCHOOL MATH**

*It's that time of year again in the Mathnaysium. It is the week before break and soon all through the school not a student will be stirring, not even the staff. In advanced algebra we are working on polynomials with hopes that St. Hooper soon will appear. The congruent triangles in geometry have all been proven with care, while all the while precalc dreamed of the unit circle and graphing trig functions. Up in room 205 you may have heard a loud clatter. Don't run up too fast to see what is the matter. It's just the algebra kids working on linear functions.*

## **MRS. HALL—MS SPECIAL EDUCATION/ MATH FUNDAMENTALS**

In Math Fundamentals this fall semester, we focused on building our division, multiplication, analog clock and fractions skills. One of the main objectives of Math Fundamentals is to build a strong math foundation. The students in my class worked hard first quarter and earned a pizza party. They continue to be focused and work hard.

In my 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> period study skills class, my students have been learning how to stay organized. They are working hard keeping their grades up. I have been printing out student grades and missing assignments for students to bring home weekly. Parents please continue to check your child's Power School.

I am very proud of all my students!

Have a wonderful winter break!

## **MRS. HONUNG-SCIENCE**

As we count down the days until break, we also count down the days until final exams! All the classes that I teach, Physical Science, Principals of Engineering, and Physics, will have cumulative finals during the last week of school. 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.

1. On Monday, 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.
2. 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.
3. 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! Happy Break!

# 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. Teachers can adjust a student's attitude, but we cannot instill the requisite basic character traits necessary for a student's academic success.

Another issue I would like to reiterate is for parents to 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.

## National Honor Society Induction



# MS. WIDMAN-ART

This December wraps up an extremely productive semester of exciting art classes! Digital Photography has been learning how to combine and manipulate photographs using Photoshop. Middle School and high school art have been doing Mexican and Mayan themed art projects. Many of these have been in collaboration with Mrs. Singer's Spanish class. It has been fun to delve into different cultures while exposing more students in the school to hands-on art production. We are again inviting guest artist Kelly McCaughey to share her inspirational beach art with the Intro to Art students. I look forward to what these last three weeks will bring.

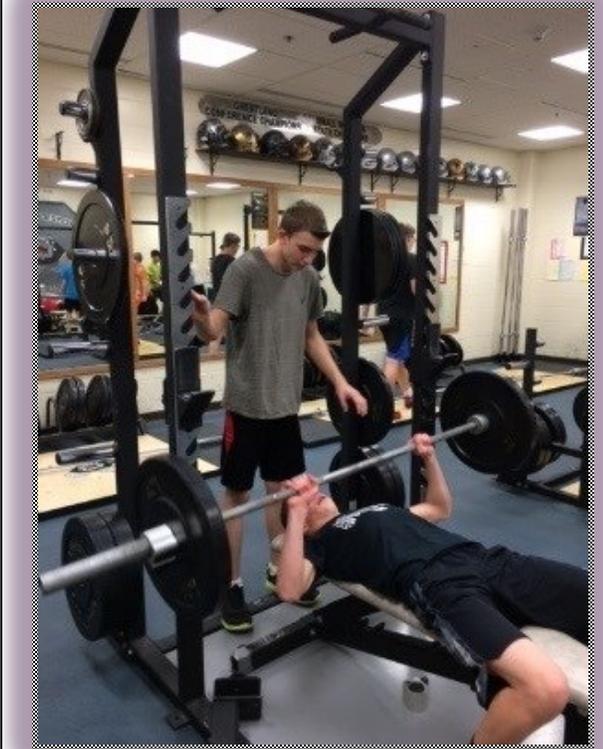


Clockwise: "Oaxacan Alebrijes: Scorpion" by Josiah Lathem, "Cheari and the Onion" by Zina Schwenke, and a collaboration of Middle School and high school ceramic projects finishing a bisque fire.

## **MR. ANDERS - MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

There is a lot happening in Physical Education grades 6, 7 & 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 2<sup>nd</sup> class of the week. During the 2nd 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!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Anders



## **MR. ERNST - STUDY SKILLS / FRESHMAN ALTERNATIVE CLASSES**

### Study Skills:

My Study Skills 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:

Mark Smith and I teach this standards based math course out in the Portable #2. 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 persuasive writing form in LA 9 and answering life science worksheets using complete, grammatically correct sentences. Our current topics in life science are structure and functioning of the cell and cell theory.

## MR. BJORKMAN - MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

Recently I had the pleasure of accompanying members of Mr. Hooper's Alaska Outdoor Connections class on an educational moose hunt. In partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of Safari Club International and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, seven Niksiki Middle School students were able to go hunting for two days over Thanksgiving break. We were able to bag an excellent cow moose. The following weekend we made over 200 lbs. of moose burger along with sausages and steaks.



Seventh graders in my class have been learning about ancient civilizations in the near east. Students got together in groups and created posters about important influences on the success of the Egyptian civilization. Now, students are studying the ancient Harappan and Indian civilizations. It has been exciting to discover some of the things like language, mathematics and astronomy that our current culture has in common with these civilizations from 1000's of years ago.

In 9<sup>th</sup> grade Alaska History, students have been learning about territorial Alaska. We are studying people like James Wickersham, Ernest Gruening, Elizabeth Peratrovich and many more people and events that shaped the history of the Territory. Also, we will be studying the Alaska statehood compact and how it still has important consequences to this day.

Tenth grade students have been studying the philosophers of the Enlightenment and how their ideas affected the American and French Revolutions. Students are able to consider how the ideas about liberty and government developed during the Enlightenment are still very important in our modern culture. Previously this quarter, students did a great job on a research project in which they were able to explain what they learned in almost any medium imaginable. Students turned in some excellent works of art, rap songs, posters, extemporaneous speeches and posters.

In 11<sup>th</sup> grade students have been studying the Gilded Age and the settlement and expansion of the US into the Western frontier. We have been discussing many of the issues surrounding these periods of time and the hard work, ingenuity and perseverance that was needed to be successful during this period.

All high school students should be busy studying for their finals that are coming up next week. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## MS. WILLIS - SPECIAL EDUCATION

Winter Break! Here is it. Winter Break is a time to relax and be with family and friends. As a teacher I think of what it means for students to continue to grow and develop a sense of self. One aspect of extended breaks and, yes, short breaks, is that of retention of learned skills. When students *break* their routines and academic habits it makes for more adjustments when returning back to school.

This means getting back to school can be more difficult. For students in my classes, I assess student upon return from break. This shows me what they remember from a month ago. It tells me what we need to revisit and what students have gained. Regular sleep and reading at least 30 minutes a day can help your child feel more successful upon return from Winter Break.

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER—MS. GAUNT

Happy December!

First semester has flown by. Here's a look at what we've been up to since the school year started:

## August:

- Freshmen Transition Night
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Step-Up Night

## September:

- Post-Secondary Planning presentations by APICC
- AKCIS lessons on postsecondary education and career planning in grades 7-12
- Post-Secondary Planning Night with KPC & UAA for Seniors
- Suicide Prevention Week - students responded to the prompt, "Who's in your web of support?"
- Launch of Coloring Crew

## October:

- 29 students & parents attended our FAFSA Completion Event, co-sponsored by KPC and Boys & Girls Club
- 25 students took the PSAT
- KPC visited and presented on Process Technology and Instrumentation
- 48 students attended the KPBSD College & Career Fair

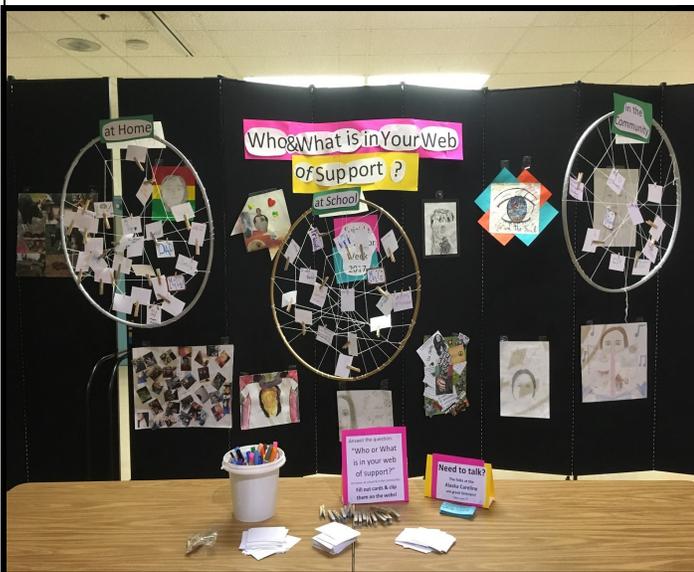
## November:

- College Application Month with special visits from UAA, UAS, UAF and KPC
- 41 students took the ASVAB test
- 13 students took the Accuplacer
- The Alaska State Troopers presented at the Safety Awareness Assembly
- Middle School students attended an Anti-Bullying Assembly by the LeeShore Center

## December:

- Middle School students participated in Conflict Resolution lessons presented by the LeeShore Center

In September we launched Coloring Crew! Coloring Crew is an opportunity for middle school students to get together for lunch on Tuesdays to color with staff members. This month Coloring Crew is focused on expressing gratitude through the creation of a "Gratitude Forest." Students and staff are spending time focusing on the many gifts we have in our lives that don't typically come wrapped up in boxes with pretty bows. Some of the things students have said they're grateful for include: their family, their home, their teachers and for having food to eat. Our team is certainly grateful to be a part of such a wonderful school and community!



Suicide Prevention Week - September 2017



Coloring Crew Gratitude Forest - December 2017

*Wishing you a warm & wonderful holiday season,  
NMHS School Counseling Team*



Kindness is Free #stopbullying

## FINALS TESTING SCHEDULE

**Monday, December 18**—Mon./Fri. Schedule  
Testing Periods 1 & 4

**Tuesday, December 19**—Mon./Fri. Schedule  
Testing Periods 2 & 6

**Wednesday, December 20**—Mon./Fri. Schedule  
Testing Periods 3 & 7

**Thursday, December 21**—Assembly Schedule  
Completion of semester tests if needed—Faculty  
Christmas Show

## Alaska Safe Children's Act

Next semester, in order to meet the requirements laid out by the new Alaska Safe Children's Act, Nikiski Middle/High School will be teaching lessons related to personal safety. These lessons will take place in the form of an assembly and classroom presentations. The content of these lessons is a part of Nikiski Middle/High School's plan to enact the Alaska Safe Children's Act. All materials that will be covered have been approved by the KPBSD School Board.

For more information on the Alaska Safe Children's Act, please visit: <https://education.alaska.gov/SchoolHealth/safechildact>

Details are as follows:

January 31<sup>st</sup> – Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Assembly by the LeeShore Center (HS: 11:45-12:15 // MS (grades 7 & 8): 12:30-1:00)

February 26th - March 7th - Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness/Prevention lessons during 5th period, presented by the LeeShore Center

If you have any questions about the instructional content that will be covered or if you wish to inquire about opting out for your student, please contact the school office.

Thank you for partnering with us as we provide learning opportunities for the safety and well-being of our students.

# YEARBOOKS ON SALE!

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Order online at [jostens.com](http://jostens.com)

Cost is \$55 until Christmas.



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

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[ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/bulletin/10](https://ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/bulletin/10)**

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## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Dec. 15-16	State Wrestling Tournament	@ UAA	
Dec. 14-16	HS Girls Basketball Tournament	@ Kenai	Thurs.—GV-3:00p.m.. vs. Service Fri.—GV-5:00 p.m. vs. SoHi Sat.—GV-12:00 p.m. vs. Eielson
Dec. 14-16	HS Boys Basketball Tournament	@ Sitka	
Dec. 16	Middle School Basketball Boroughs	@ Kenai Middle	10:00 a.m.
Dec. 19	PTSA Meeting	Library	6:00 p.m.
Dec 19	Band/Choir Concert	NMHS Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
Dec 22	Inservice-No school for students		
Dec. 23– Jan. 7	Winter Break		
Jan. 9	Senior Parent After-Grad Meeting		
	Library—6:00 p.m.		

