

# Bulldog Bites

Nikiski Middle/High School

February 22nd. 2012

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

The third quarter is quickly drawing to a close as the days get longer and the temperatures are actually starting to rise, and before we know it spring will be here. It has been quite a year for the staff and students at Nikiski Middle/High School with the different changes that have taken place, but I must point out the resiliency and integrity of our staff and students to not just push through these changes, but to embrace and own them. This community has definitely persevered through this school year.

We do have some exciting news happening during this spring semester. Currently the district has put a lot of emphasis on CTE (career and technical education) classes and how best to implement this concept into individual schools. At this time we are offering a couple of different after school academies including culinary arts, taught by Gary Wiebel and Marilee Johansen, construction, taught by Paul Johnson, and graphic arts, team taught by Chris and Carla Jenness. We also have a local industry expert, Ed Parsons, teaching a welding class within our school day through the same program. This program is giving many of our students some extra opportunities to gain additional graduation credits and skills they can use beyond high school.

The district is also soliciting some community input regarding their next strategic plan. On the district website, a survey is on the front page welcoming input from all stakeholders. I encourage all of you to examine the survey and provide input from our community.

And finally, a few positive notes from our students:

Jeanelee Stock was our school's spelling bee champion and will represent our school at the district level

We had four individual champions at the MS Borough Wrestling Championships: TJ Cox, Nathan Carstens, Rory Hoeldt, and Luke Johnson all won individual championships

Have a wonderful spring and make sure you look at our calendar for upcoming events, including state testing during the first full week of April (3 – 5).

Dan Carstens  
Principal

## SCHOOL CLOSURE MAKE-UP

Due to a school closure on November 16, the Aurora Borealis, *Nikiski Middle/High*, KCHS, Kenai Middle, Mountain View, Kaleidoscope, Kenai Alt. and Sterling Elementary schools have revised their 2011-12 calendars and will now have school on April 20. The revised calendar is on line at [http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/students\\_parents.aspx?id=22876](http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/students_parents.aspx?id=22876) .

### OFFICE INFO:

- **ABSENCES & TARDIES:** If your child has been absent from school or is coming in late remember to send a note or call the school to excuse his or her absence.
- **BUS PASSES:** Students planning on riding a different bus should bring a note from their parents/guardians to the front office. This should be done PRIOR (before school/lunch) to the end of the school day.
- **POWER SCHOOL:** Remember to sign up for Power School. This is a great way to keep track of your student's grades and attendance as well as keep up with school news through the daily bulletin. If you have any questions or problems please call the office staff at 776-9400.



# VICE PRINCIPAL—MR. BOSTIC

*"Perfection is not attainable. But if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence."* Vince Lombardi

As the Spring Quarter approaches, we will persevere together with words of wisdom from Hall of Fame coach Vince Lombardi. A few events that are coming up that will create opportunities for the future:

*"There's only one way to succeed in anything, and that is to give it everything. I do, and I demand that my players do."*

## **Alaska Standards Based Assessments (SBA's)**

Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> will be testing

In an effort to further support student needs, individual SBA results will be reviewed with a data protocol and be used to place students in classes for the 2012-2013 School Year.

*"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will."*

## **High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE)**

10<sup>th</sup> Grade and any retakes

2012-2013 schedules will be modified in response to supporting students passing the HSGQE.

*"Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit."*

## **Current Classes**

Students need to focus at finishing strong in their current classes to ensure that they receive credit for graduation and are eligible for grade level promotion. Be sure to pass all of your classes so you can be eligible for Spring and Fall Sports. Please check PowerSchool and contact teachers with any questions.

*"Mental toughness is many things and rather difficult to explain. Its qualities are sacrifice and self-denial. Also, most importantly, it is combined with a perfectly disciplined will that refuses to give in. It's a state of mind – you could call it character in action."*

## **Attendance**

Be Here and Be on Time...

The two most important skills for future work and higher education opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events at Nikiski Middle/High School.

Shane L. Bostic

Vice Principal

## PTSA NEWS

PTSA meets the second Thursday of each month that school is in session. Next meeting is March 8, 2011 at 5pm in Mrs. Thompson's room. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

PTSA is currently working on a Health and Wellness Grant to help our 6th grade students learn to make and keep healthy choices lifelong and reduce kids' screen time.

Last month PTSA provided funds to the music department for new music stands, donated to the Shayna Pritchard Scholarship Fund and "The Hunger Games" movie.

PTSA is gearing up for elections. This is a great way to help give back by giving of your time and talents. Positions currently open are Secretary, Membership Chair, Student Representative for Middle and High School levels just to name a few. Positions up for re-election are President, Vice President and Treasurer. Those interested simply need to contact myself, Michele Carver, via e-mail: [michele\\_carver4@yahoo.com](mailto:michele_carver4@yahoo.com) or phone 776-8559. Get involved. Stay informed. Thank you.

CHECK OUT THE SPIRIT SHOP AND STOCK UP ON NIKISKI GEAR. SWEAT-SHIRTS, T-SHIRTS, HATS, UMBRELLA'S, SWEATPANTS AND MORE!!!

# ALERT NOW-F.A.Q. FOR PARENTS

Below is an overview of common questions and issues regarding AlertNow broadcasts.

## **The message started playing and then stopped. Why?**

AlertNow utilizes the industry's most Advanced Answering Machine Detection (AAMD) software. The system starts the broadcast immediately upon telephone pickup; simultaneously, it is listening for interruptions. If the system is not interrupted by noise or someone speaking within the first 3.5 seconds, the message is delivered. If the system detects a greeting longer than a few seconds, the system treats this as an outgoing message from an answering machine and will stop playing, wait for silence (usually after the beep), and then start the message over so that it can be recorded in its entirety. While the software is 98% accurate in distinguishing live vs. machine, errors can occur if the person repeatedly says "hello" or answers in a noisy environment (i.e. traffic, children playing, loud music or television, dog barking, etc.). Generally in these situations, the system stops playing the message. It is waiting for silence to start the message over. In a noisy environment, where silence is unattainable, call recipients can press the number 1 on their telephone and the message will play from the beginning without interruption.

## **What if the line is busy or there is no answer?**

The AlertNow system will make up to four attempts (depending on account settings) to reach each number, with three minutes in between each call. If the message is not delivered by the fourth attempt, the school is notified of such in the delivery report.

## **Why is my answering machine recording only half of the message?**

If the answering machine greeting is sporadic with various periods of silence or does not start playing within 3 seconds, the system may read this as a live person and begin playing the message before the machine has started recording. This will result in a recording of silence (if the AlertNow message finishes playing before the machine begins recording) or of just the last portion of the AlertNow message. Parents can simply re-record their outgoing message so that there are no pauses. Alternately, if the answering machine is set to record for a specific amount of time (e.g., 30 seconds) and the AlertNow message runs longer than that, this will also result in message cut-off. The recommended solution is to have parents set their machines to record for a longer period. For answering machines or voicemail systems where it is necessary to enter a mailbox number, AlertNow is unable to leave a message.

## **My caller ID showed that the school had called, but there was no voicemail. Why?**

The system will ring a line up to six times. If your answering machine is set to pick up on seven or more rings, the message may not be delivered to your machine. Therefore, we encourage you to set your machine to six rings or fewer. Another possibility is that there is a break or a substantial silence in your machine's outgoing message, causing the AlertNow message to play prior to the machine actually recording. Please make sure that the greeting is seamless to facilitate successful message delivery.

## **Why doesn't the school's name and/or phone number appear on the caller ID?**

AlertNow passes the caller ID information to the local telephone carriers, but it is up to those carriers to pass it along to their customers. Furthermore, different local telephone companies process caller ID information differently. Some provide the name associated with the number, while others do not. For example, a telephone company may require an individual to subscribe to "Advanced Caller ID" in order to receive the school name along with the phone number. Unfortunately, we have no control over this feature.

## **Will the system call phone numbers with extensions?**

The AlertNow system is capable of dialing extensions, but we cannot guarantee the success of such a call. First of all, strict rules must be followed when entering the number in the AlertNow system. It must be formatted as ten digits, a space, a lower case x, then the extension number. Secondly, if the phone system on the recipient's end requires menu navigation (such as, "Press 1 if you know your party's extension") AlertNow will not be able to deliver the call.

## **I have a telemarketer screening device or service. How will that affect the call?**

Devices such as TeleZapper and services from the phone company such as Privacy Manager or Privacy Director are specifically designed to prevent "unknown" calls from progressing to the customer's phone. Unless the district has chosen otherwise, emergency calls launched through AlertNow display 411-000-0000 on the caller ID, which is a nonstandard, "unknown" number, triggering most privacy manager services. AlertNow's software is designed to distinguish between a live answer and an answering machine, not to navigate through privacy management services. Parents can contact their phone company and request that 411-000-000 be added to their list of allowed callers.

# HONOR ROLL

## High School - 1st Semester Honor Roll

### 4.0 Honor Roll

**Eleventh Grade:** Ashley Epperheimer, Annaleah Ernst, Ciara Farrow

**Tenth Grade:** Michael Hollinger

**Ninth Grade:** Calvin Carpenter, Ben Carstens, Marilynn Davis, Jade Elsey, Laura Hufford, Dylan Jackson, Bryce Jensen, Brady Malston, Katelyn Sexton

### 3.5 Honor Roll

**Twelfth Grade:** Colton Anderson, Kaden Spurgeon, Cydney Spurgeon, Corey Green

**Eleventh Grade:** Caleb Alkire, Lincoln Johnson, Brittany Sexton, Emily Berry, Ruscia Colton, Orren Hyatt, Ty Shoemaker, Keagan Whitcomb, Lauren Countryman, Helen Gonion, Shaylee Rizzo, Rebecca Wheeler, Katherine O'Brien, Joshua Croze, Dylan Griffith

**Tenth Grade:** Seth Carstens, Hannah Tauriainen, Jodi Cook, Alyssa Darch, Hannah Halliday

**Ninth Grade:** Christian Riddall, Jacob Williams, Erin Cox, Rachel Thompson, Nicasio Castro, Augustus Gaetke, Jenna Hansen, Erin O'Brien, Jayton Rizzo, Mira Solmonson

### 3.0 Honor Roll

**Twelfth Grade:** Tekoa Dixon, Kelsey Williams, Garrett Coreson, Jordan Taylor, Minna Bogard, Jessica Dauwe, Jakelynn Oliva, Eddy Gomez, Savannah Griffel, Brittany Scott, Justin Shaw

**Eleventh Grade:** Taylor Calderwood, Lacy Elsey, Devan Berry, Joshua Brown, Haley Conti, Asher Phillips, Stephen Hartley, Jamie Ward, Colleen Dempsey, Morgan Sauve, Morgan Tschida

**Tenth Grade:** Rosabeth Doner, Michelle Fandel, Kerry Ross, Jared Wallis, Cory Carr, Keturah Costello, Summer Handley, Rebekah Krogseng, Abbie Cason, Garrett Feller, Tanar Jackson, Michael Stangel

**Ninth Grade:** Michaela Dean-Apted, Tylor Handley, Tiffany Lopez, Katelyn TumSuden, Chris Becker, Ashley Riley, Heidi Kaser, Melissa Roza

## Middle School -2nd Semester Honor Roll

### 4.0 Honor Roll

**Sixth Grade :** Alex Langseth, Melanie Sexton, Donovan Smith, Hallie Tauriainen, Ashlee Tiner, Gavin Wallis

**Seventh Grade:** Kathryn Darch, Braden Ellis, Emily Hensley, Savannah Rizzo,

**Eighth Grade:** Nathan Carstens, Evangeline Cox, Marguerite Cox, Laural Dunham, Matthew Hollinger, Lauren O'Brien, Brittany Perry, Jean-elle Stock, Autumn Walters, Lorilee Whitcomb

### 3.5 Honor Roll

**Sixth Grade:** Sarah Nash, Jamie Yerkes, Rylee Jackson, Treasa Cooper, Jaucia Hamel, Aaron McCollum, Claire Merrill, Marah Meyers, Verity Feltman, Ashlynn Herrington, Hailey Boyce, Jack Sullenger, Emilee Tiner

**Seventh Grade:** Paige Brame, Amber Hill, Skyler Smith, Tirzah Young, Avery Kornstad, Lochlan Quiner, Greg Schmidt, Jr., Abigail Cox, Chase Gillies, Skylynn McCaughey, Delaina Mullins, Amy Porter, Kyle Rosado

**Eighth Grade:** Lillian Denison, Luke Johnson, Hannah Love, Hunter Holloway, Samuel Tauriainen, Haley Wik, Logan Griffel, Bryce Leighton, Aedreana Nicks, Javon Pamplin, Alexa Schmidt

### 3.0 Honor Roll

**Sixth Grade:** Karlie Diehl, Hailey Peterson, Kimberly Schilling, Skylar Freeman, Alysa Smith

**Seventh Grade:** Samuel Madden, Dalton Mullins, Patrick, Perry, Ayla Pitt, Lauren Ryan, Bryan Sledge, Holly Spurgeon, Molly Cason, Brendan Harris, Brandon Hobbs, Isabelle Lopez, Andrew Pennison, Molly TumSuden, Grace Alvey, Silas Buss, Kristen Scott, Brianna Vollertsen, Zacrye Flynn, Seyara Showalter, Mark Weathers.

**Eighth Grade:** Kellijo Crouse-Ayhens, Ireland Gillies, Christina Gonion, Destiny Owens, Aubrey Coreson, Ryder Payment, Justin Berry, Chris Carr, Corin Cooper, Thatcher Boyce, Joannie Kuczmariski

## Middle School Celebration for Quarter 3: Soldotna Sports Center on March 7th

Please encourage your middle school student to continue to work hard this quarter so they can participate in our Quarter 3 Celebration field trip to Soldotna Sport Center for a day of ice skating. To be eligible to attend the field trip, the students need to not have any F's in their classes for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. We will do an eligibility check on Wednesday, February 29th. The students who have earned grades in all of their classes above an F by Feb. 29th will receive a **permission slip** on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please sign the school **permission slip** and send a **payment of \$5.00** for skating with your eligible child no later than Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Permission slips and money need to be turned in to the students' 5th hour homeroom teacher no later than Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be using the conference room at the Sport Center for lunch so students need to come with a sack lunch. Remember that we are not responsible for any lost, stolen or broken items, so think twice before you decide what your son or daughter will bring with them on the bus.

Here is a list of items to remember.

*Warm comfortable clothes with good socks*

*Lunch: cold lunch*

*Good Attitude: Be ready to have some fun*



### MRS. ZIMMERMAN-SIXTH GRADE

The sixth graders are 'chugging' right along. We are winding down our class forensics competition, paper bag book reports, & spelling bee. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter reading logs are due on March 5! Our January Activity Night was very enjoyable. I think the students were most amused with my dancing on the Wii! Our next big 6<sup>th</sup> grade endeavor is planning our first dance! Please ask your student for information. We have been sending flyers home with information regarding these special events. On a final note, just a reminder that you can find school activity, & sport schedules in Power School under NAVIGATION: Daily Bulletin. Wishing you well!

### MRS. DURRANT-SIXTH GRADE

The students are learning about Matter and Energy in Science. The subjects include Atoms, Acids and Bases, States of Matter, and Compound and Mixtures.

Mrs. Hruby and I are excited by the new program we are trying in our Math class. We are using a program called Quality Learning by David Langford. In this program the instruction is about the same as usual, however; the students now become responsible for mastering the subject. No longer can a student claim the teacher "gave me a bad grade" because the student, through a series of steps, must prove to the teacher they have mastered the work. This program also allows every student to earn a 100% on each lesson. Each student has a piece of paper called a Capacity Matrix they must fill out to show they know the work. The final step to earn the A for the subject is to teach one of the teachers how to work a problem from the lesson. If the student makes a mistake in the lesson, they are told to try again and no grade is recorded. Before a student moves onto the next chapter in the book, they must take the chapter test. Some of the benefits Mrs. Hruby and I have seen include the students can prove to us they know a concept, the students are taking responsibility and credit for their own learning, and almost all of the students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math have improved their grades. The final benefit of this process is that the students who learn quickly may work ahead and not have to wait for the rest of the class. This process is working very well, and I am so proud of my students for stepping up and trying very hard to be successful.

## MR. BJORKMAN-SOCIAL STUDIES

Recently in Mr. Bjorkman's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade history classes students have been engaged in a number of different hands on experiences. In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade US History sections we have just completed our unit on the American Revolution. As a part of this unit, students participated in a role playing simulation where their group had to act as governor of a province that was in the midst of a potentially violent revolt against its country. The students had to consider the advice of advisors and also had to apply the wisdom learned from historical revolutions and determine if those situations would help the group decide what decisions to make next. After making a decision, groups input their choice into the computer and the program gave students consequences of their choice - then presented the group with another choice to make.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade World History sections have just completed a unit about ancient China by doing a research project. For this project students researched a cultural aspect of the ancient Chinese and created a hands-on visual to represent their research. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students did an excellent job at researching their topics and creating very creative visuals: extreme dioramas, videos, culturally authentic food, model fireworks and even a cake decorated to portray a scene from the Grand Canal!

Moving into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, all sections will continue to do hands on projects and simulations. I am looking forward to students taking more ownership of the material that they are learning and directing what they would like to learn from the experiences based on their interests.

## MR. DOTH—MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

Middle school science is still rockin'! 7<sup>th</sup> graders are moving on through the amazing world of biology and focusing on the plant kingdom right now. We're looking forward to studying the animal kingdom next and even getting into some cool new dissection demonstrations. 8<sup>th</sup> graders are still bludgeoning on through the wonderful laws of physics and enjoying some of the hands on labs. Flying pigs, laser guided skeet shooting, and hovercrafts seem to keep us all awake through the last push of winter. Can hardly wait for what's next to come!

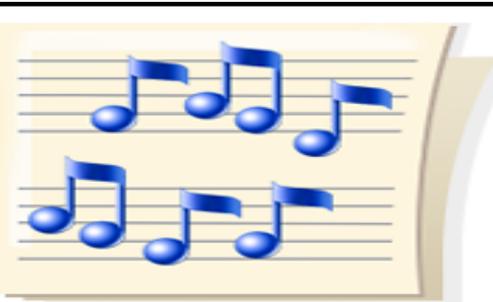
## MS. NIEMCZYK-LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 7: This semester has been all about students taking on more responsibility for their own learning and working on individual areas of improvement. We have been using Reading and Writing Workshops to help achieve goals. Students are writing 2 days a week in a writer's workshop setting where they are choosing their individual topic to write on. We are spending 2 days a week on our current unit of study, poetry, both reading and writing various forms. By the end of the unit, students will have compiled their own book of original poems. The final day of the week is spent on Literature Circles featuring various novels. I have been awed by the kids' ability to take control of small group discussions and lead their groups through the novels. As always, we are continuing to work on their grammar, mechanics, and ability to write for an intended audience. There has been real growth over the last few months in not only writing ability, but also in the students' ability to take responsibility for their own learning! All semester long, the kids have been reading 2 different books simultaneously and managing it with success.

Language Arts 8: Right now we are smack in the middle of our Holocaust Literature Unit. The unit is designed to promote critical thinking about a difficult topic and evaluate primary source material. Students are reading one of five possible novels: *Night*, *The Diary of Ann Frank*, *Daniel's Story*, *The Cage*, or *The Devil's Arithmetic*. All four books are either memoirs or based on actual teens that lived through the Holocaust. They will be working in small literature groups where the students take turns leading the discussion and work cooperatively on small assignments. For the remainder of the unit, we will be running a simulation to help students better relate to that time period and develop a greater sense of empathy. Students studied identification papers from Nazi occupied Europe and created their own set of modern identification papers that they must carry with them at all times. Journal topics, short research assignments, literature groups, poetry, and 2 presentations complete the bulk of this unit. It is difficult material to process and we have spent a great deal of time discussing and writing about how such an event could occur and whether it could ever happen again. The students have shown a great deal of maturity and critical thinking about this topic and you should be proud of your child. I know I am.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS!!!

- March 26 Middle School Track Begins
- April 13 Middle School Track @ Kenai  
Middle Invite
- April 19 Middle School Track @ Soldotna  
Middle Invite
- April 28 Middle School Track @ Nikiski  
Middle Invite



MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MASS CHOIR  
@ KENAI MIDDLE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 17

## MR. ANDERS-MIDDLE SCHOOL P.E.

There is a lot happening at Nikiski Middle High School in Physical Education for grades 7 & 8. Last month students completed units on wrestling or volleyball. Students learned the fundamentals of volleyball or wrestling and completed a skills assessment at the end of their unit. During February students are continuing to keep running logs and participate in strength training. We have just completed our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter presidential challenge fitness testing and now are in the middle of a badminton/pickle ball unit. In March we start exploring the different Track and Field events. Go Bulldogs!!!

## MRS. RHUBY-STUDY SKILLS

In study skills we have been working on keeping the students grades up and getting work in on time. Once a week, we check grades on PowerSchool and the students fill out a postcard to send home. I go over the grades with each student and talk about how they are doing in each class and the reason for low or high grades. This is a good way for my students to know if they have missing assignments or how well they are doing in their classes.

## MR. BAILEY- MIND A MAZES!!

“The Nikiski Bulldogs FIRST Lego League Robotics team admirably represented Nikiski at the state Lego League robotics tournament in Anchorage on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Out of 50+ teams who qualified for and were invited to state, the only KPBSD public schools participating at state were from Homer and Nikiski, and Nikiski Middle/High was the only middle school from the KPBSD who qualified for and participated in the state meet!”



## **MR. ZIMMERMAN – SPANISH**

February is the month for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter projects for both my advanced and beginning Spanish classes. In Spanish II students will either be writing a one page autobiography in Spanish complete with a family tree labeled in Spanish and ten pictures with Spanish captions, or they will be working with a partner or two to create a unique Spanish television commercial advertising a commodity prevalent in Hispanic culture.

In Middle School Spanish exploratory students are working on creating a travel brochure advertising all the wonderful attractions of their assigned Spanish speaking country. They are required to conduct research on their country and choose the important information they find related to holiday celebrations, food, dance, cultural traditions, geographical attractions, art, history, plants, animals, and music. Details on all of these projects can be found on

## **MR. ADAIR-SCIENCE**

Geology has been studying how and why certain elements bond to others and how this relates to the formation of many of Earth's minerals and natural resources that we mine for profit. Currently students have completed a mineral identification lab and are learning the details on rock formation. Coming up, Geology students will be learning about Earth's structure, glaciers, volcanoes, oil and more!

Physics has been studying some very interesting topics with more in depth detail than your usual high school science class. We just finished a fun unit on simple harmonic motion, sound and waves. The unit included the GI Joe Bungee jump where students calculated: the stretch of their bungee, potential energy of the system, energy of the bungee and finally the theoretical distance / location from the floor their GI Joe should be upon maximum stretch. Unfortunately, Science is rarely perfect and some of our GI Joe's did not survive their thrill seeking endeavor. Currently we are in the middle of our electricity unit which will be followed by magnetism as we head towards spring break.

Biology has been exploring the world of cells and the complex life pathways within. Students have learned the intricacies of photosynthesis, cellular respiration and how cells divide. These topics are very detail oriented and students have been working hard to learn how life works on such a small scale. Coming up will be the exciting topics of genetics, evolution theory and animal classification systems.

## **MRS. THOMPSON-INTENSIVE NEEDS**

Can't believe we are almost heading into our last quarter of the school year. Our classroom has been doing so many things since coming back from the Christmas Break. We did some great cooking here in the Bulldog Café. We have some budding chefs that are coming out of this classroom. We also did a great Valentine Bag that each student took home to their families. They made cookies in a jar, chocolate dipped spoons with a mug and hot chocolate, a great Valentine card and some cute little Valentine decorations. In between cooking and crafts we have been working on writing, money skills and doing some great activities on the Wii and Xbox. We have some that could go on Dancing With the Stars with the way they can bust a move. One of our highlights in February was going to the Rec. Center. Thanks to Tammy Berdahl for letting us come and enjoy a day of Recreation.

Stop in and see what is happening in our classroom.

## **MS. REESE-ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION**

In the alternative program kids are working hard towards meeting their standards for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The freshmen have been reading The Hunger Games for a book report project and would like to extend their appreciation to the PTSA for granting them the funds to go see the movie when it comes out in March. LA10 has been preparing and practicing for the upcoming HSQE's and are showing a lot of potential. For those in career explorations, we have been planning budgets and exploring the amount of income needed to support the lifestyles they choose. In addition to this, we have had a couple guest speakers and will be going to Kenai Peninsula College for a tour on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Look for more information and permission slips in the upcoming weeks.

## MR. KORNSTAD—ALGEBRA

Greetings from Mr Kornstad's Algebra class! We have been recently taking a close look at how we evaluate student learning. We are making a focused effort to ensure that each grade that enters the grade book is a true reflection of what students know about a concept. One key piece to verifying student learning is to define what a particular grade looks like. We have been asking ourselves some difficult questions in order to accomplish this. Questions like: "What does an 'A' look like?" "Is an 'A' excellent?", "What is excellence?", "Can everyone in the class be excellent?", "If everyone in the class is excellent, then does excellent become average?", "Should simply completing assignments be worth points on your grade, and if so how many.", "What does it mean to be average?", "Is it okay to be average?" "Where do you draw the pass/fail line?", and "Does the grade we record truly represent the level of learning that occurred?" These questions have caused us to take a hard look at our grading system and then to evaluate our lessons, assignments, and assessments compared to that system. Creating meaningful learning experiences on a daily basis for approximately 100 students? Its challenging for sure, but we love it!!

Another key piece to verify student learning is to involve the students themselves in evaluating their own learning. When students understand how they are being measured they become curious how they measure up against the scale and in comparison to each other. This curiosity creates a learning environment. This process is stretching and growing us as students and teachers. As we continue to become better and better at teaching and learning I am reminded daily that Nikiski truly is a great place to be! Go Bulldogs!!

## MS. WIDMAN-ART

The Nikiski Fine Arts department has some awesome activities going on this quarter. The third hour intermediate art class has teamed up with the metal shop and video production classes to create large scale collaborative metal sculptures. The process started in January with six student groups brainstorming ideas. This was followed by designing a cardboard prototype of that idea. Each group then input the coordinates for each piece of their sculpture into a vector program in the shops computer lab. Those pieces are then transferred to the shops plasma cam where the pieces are cut from sheet metal. Currently the groups are bending, grinding, welding, and cutting their pieces while forming them together. The video production class is working hard gathering footage and conducting interviews. The goal is to have a documentary of the process. The large final sculptures will be displayed in the school this spring. This quarter long project is a superb experience of the creative process. Students have to problem-solve and work together every day to have a successful project.

Six art students will have an opportunity to take part in a 4 day stained glass workshop put on by Sandy Stevens. The end product will become a part of the Triumvirate Theatre in Nikiski. Intermediate and advanced art students are planning their final pieces to be displayed in the district show this spring!



# MR. JACKSON-SPECIAL EDUCATION

## Who Are You and Where Are You Going

Sure, plans can change, but the only way they can is if you first have some. So, where are you headed? What is it you want for your life? How can you get there? These are just a few of the questions that we look at and discuss in my 3<sup>rd</sup> period reading class.

Each of us has something that we can identify as a motivator. Some may see theirs as money, some thrive on self-satisfaction others seek recognition and some on power. In my third period class we have been identifying what makes us individuals.

Motivation isn't generally something that changes in a person. We are either motivated from an internal source or we have an outside pressure that causes us to get things done. Each student has completed surveys and question to help them see what it is that motivates them and whether it is intrinsic or extrinsic. Student have been digging into their past, some have gone on quite an emotional roller coaster; dealing with topics ranging from death of a family member to moving and starting a new school with no friends. We have had a rigorous journey of trying to identify where each has come from, how they have become who they are and how that can help them in determining a plan for their own future.

Using your past to determine what needs to be done for a successful future is the approach I've taken in trying to get my students to see for themselves what tools they will need for the future. I believe it is much more powerful for each of them to come to the realization for themselves what is best for them, rather than someone telling them what they need. So take a moment to think about these two things. First, what motivates you, something internal or external? Secondly, where do you want to be in a year?

# MS. BOYLE-READ 180

We have read quite a few historical fiction novels this year. Students are reading a novel a month which is quite an accomplishment for students who struggle with reading. Students have learned about The Great Depression, Pearl Harbor, and the Holocaust to name a few of the events. Students have been actively involved in projects that have shown their comprehension and empathy for such times. They made beaded necklaces in which they were encouraged to put into it good thoughts and give it to a friend as was traditionally taught of the native Dena'ina. Yarn dolls were also made to represent the toys the children played with during economically difficult times. Students are learning the value and worth of material things as well as things that cannot be bought. As we finish reading the Autobiography of Elie Wiesel called "Night", students will be asked to create a unique artistic response to what they have read. Students will be asked to justify their response with excerpts of the story.

On the READ 180 computer program we have had over 23 success zone stories during third quarter alone. Dash Hicks was nominated as Student of the Month for his hard work and dedication to becoming a better reader.

# MR. CLARK-BAND/CHOIR

It's been very busy in the music department already at the start of the year. Our high school students have already been to Mass Band and Mass Choir. The middle school band is already working on their music for Mass Choir, which will be held May 1<sup>st</sup> at Homer Middle School.

It has been a very interesting experience to teach a Health class. I'm very proud of the students in it for being willing to work with me and each other as we've covered various examples of online, computer, and even cell phone safety. I know many of the students are looking forward to continuing working with me next quarter in middle school choir and that I'll be excited to be working with them!

Finally, Musical Theater is going well. We have our scripts, we're learning our music, training our dancers, and casting our cast. George M! is going to be a very exciting production and I can't wait to hear them singing and dancing together.

# MR. THOMPSON—MATH

Greetings! The days are getting longer and the sun is returning. It is a great time of year. The following is a summary of what is being covered at present in the various mathematics classes which I teach.

Geometry        The Geometry class is in the middle of a unit on similarity. Similar figures have exactly the same shape, but are of different size. The angles of similar figures are congruent while the side lengths are proportional. Students have to set up and solve proportions in application problems dealing with similar figures. We will be covering right triangles and trigonometry in our next unit. Topics will include the Pythagorean Theorem, similar right triangles, and the trigonometric ratios of Sine, Cosine and Tangent. Students will use these concepts to ‘solve’ right triangles. Solving right triangles is the process of calculating all three angle measurements and all three side lengths.

Math Analysis        The Math Analysis class is in the middle of a unit of study on Exponential and Logarithmic Functions. Exponential and Logarithmic Functions are inverse of each other. Logarithms are used to solve exponential equations, and vice versa. Our next unit will explore the world of trigonometric functions. We will begin with angular measure in both degrees and radians, and how this correlates to arc length. We will proceed to right triangle trigonometry, and how the sine, cosine and tangent functions are used to solve right triangles. This will lead to the study of the circular functions of the sine, cosine and tangent. After a thorough study of the trigonometric functions, we will tackle some of the trigonometric identities. There are numerous practical applications in the real world where the trigonometric functions apply, such as in waves of any kind and vectors. We will be investigating some of these applications in problem solving.

AP Calculus: Two main topics in Calculus are derivatives and integrals. The Calculus class is presently learning about the second of these, the ‘definite integral.’ Graphically, a definite integral is the area between a curve and the x axis for some function over a given interval. Students learn to approximate this area using the Riemann sums of LRAM, MRAM, and RRAM. They also learn how to use the calculator to calculate this exact area. They discover that they can also calculate this exact area by finding the antiderivative of the function and calculating the difference of the antiderivative’s value at the endpoints of the interval. This leads to the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, where students will learn the relationship between the derivative and the definite integral.

Advanced Algebra        In Advanced Algebra, we have just completed an extensive unit on quadratic functions. We analyzed quadratic functions in vertex, intercept, and standard form. We graphed quadratic functions that were given in each form; and we solved quadratic equations by factoring, finding square roots, completing the square, and using the quadratic formula. It was a long unit, and the students learned a lot about one of the main concepts of Advance Algebra. In our next unit, we will be concentrating on polynomial functions. After reviewing properties of exponents, we will learn about ‘End Behavior’, the ‘Factor’ and ‘Remainder’ Theorems, the ‘Rational Zeros Theorem, and the ‘Fundamental Theorem of Algebra’. We will also factor and solve polynomial equations.

That’s about it from the world of mathematics in Mr. Thompson’s room at present.

# MR. RIDDALL-P.E.

## Nikiski's Physical Education Classes

The Physical Education classes are working hard since the start of second semester. Basic classes are participating in indoor activities such as soccer, volleyball, flag football, and basketball. The weight training classes have continued to progress through the SST lifting program and will be competing at Skyview on March 7 at 6:00pm. Skyview, Homer, Kenai, and Nikiski will have kids in the contest with the winning school receiving a traveling trophy. SST techniques will be used and showcased during the event. In addition to the lifting contest, the students will be raising money in the annual lift-athon. The Weight Lifting Athlon will be held during the week of March 5-8<sup>th</sup>. It has been a pleasure working with these student's. Many have set personal goals for themselves and have shown tremendous effort as they have progressed forward. Come and support these amazing students.

# MR. MORIN-BIOLOGY

We are in the middle of the Caring for the Kenai project. No doubt, Parents are experiencing the same grumbling I hear. The students have been given all the necessary resources, instruction, and time to successfully complete this project. I think if parents would encourage their students to utilize their time and put their energy towards accomplishing the tasks that have been incrementally introduced, the students would have more success.

Spring is fast approaching and we will be starting our taxonomy unit. This is convenient as we will be going outside as much as the weather allows to study local flora and fauna. I'll be sending out a newsletter detailing the different appropriate attire and tools students should have for these min-field trips.

# MRS. RIBBENS-LIBRARY

**So Many good things have been happening in the NMHS Library. This year we have been fortunate enough to have three Battle of the Books teams. For those of you unfamiliar with Battle of The Books, it is a reading incentive program where students are required to read specific books assigned to each grade level. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team had to read 15 books which is a total of 3049 pages. The MS and HS teams had to read 12 books with a total of 2631 and 3292 pages. This is A LOT of reading! Each student was responsible to read a certain amount of books that we call their expert books two or more times. As a team the kids are expected to know the details for each book so they can answer specific questions about each book. This is really hard to do. Remember, the number of pages of print these kids read?**

**Our kids here at NMHS did an outstanding job this year and I am very proud of them.**

**The MS team won first place for our school district. This means they were able to answer more questions than any other of the 11 schools in the District. This is an amazing accomplishment. It was a very exciting high energy day. The kids had to participate in 5 battles throughout the whole day to answer 80 questions. Now the team will compete for the AK State title on February 28 and will Battle against 32 other school districts around the state.**

**The HS school team took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the district competition. They also had a very exciting long day of Battles. They were able to answer more questions then 9 other schools in the district. I know they are excited to be able to read other books now.**

**The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team took 5<sup>th</sup> place out of 16 schools. They did a great job, especially since only one of them have ever been on a Battle team before. I have high hopes for the kids next year moving onto the middle school team.**

**HS team: Jessica Dauwe, Cory Carr, Dylan Nickel**

**MS team: Margy Cox, Evie Cox, Bryan Sledge and Autumn Walters**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade team: Hailey Boyce, Claire Merrill, Ashlynn Herrington and Karlie Diehl**

# SENIORS TO DO LIST

970-270

Make sure your parents have completed their income tax forms in anticipation of the financial aid applications.

Complete and submit your college financial aid application and the Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) between January 1 and February 15, and check for other financial aid options. In order to be considered for financial aid, you will need to submit these forms even if you have not yet been notified of your acceptance to the college(s) to which you applied. A copy of the FAFSA can be found in the counseling office @ Nikiski High School and also on line [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If you complete the FAFSA you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within two weeks. Make the necessary corrections and return it to the FAFSA processor.

Request that your high school send your official transcripts to the colleges to which you are applying. Be sure to give your counselor the admissions address for the college (s) you would like your transcripts sent to.

Contact the admissions office of the college(s) to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received and that they have everything they need from you.

Visit the <http://onestop.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/> click Scholarships on left of page at least once a week for scholarship updates and deadlines. Students can begin working on their Nikiski Bulldog Scholarship Packets now. The deadline is not until March but it is not too soon to start getting your information together – especially those letters of recommendation. There are also many website links that would be of interest to all parents of Nikiski High School students.

Take SAT or ACT tests.

If you haven't done so already submit your college admission application. Deadlines for colleges are quickly approaching. Also, if you are applying for the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) not all colleges automatically send you the form. You must request this. The earlier you apply for WUE the better. Some colleges that offer WUE are first come first serve. Most colleges require freshmen to live on campus the first year. Residence halls fill up quickly make sure you are taking care of your housing needs as well.

# CLASS OF 2012

Jostens Graduation orders will be available for pick up some time in March in the Counseling Office.

Parent Graduation Committee needs more volunteers for the "After Grad Party" in order for it to be a success. Please contact the counseling office if you can help with any of the following: Chaperoning, Party Decorating, Food, Gym Decorating,

Debbie Falk 776-9400.

## SENIOR

## SWEATSHIRTS

**PICK UP YOUR SENIOR SWEATSHIRT IN THE FRONT OFFICE.**

Please get your sweatshirts paid for and picked up as soon as possible.

## College Board Testing information

ACT & SAT TESTS (9-12 grade)

Testing Center - Kenai Peninsula College

Must be registered by the date in parenthesis

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

(You may still take the test but will pay a higher fee, ask your counseling office)

ACT

April 14, 2012 (Mar. 9)

June 9, 2012 (May 4)

SAT

March 10, 2012 (Feb. 10)

May 5, 2012 (Mar. 25)

**College Information Night** for all Juniors & Seniors and their Parents will be on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the library. Sophomores and Freshman may also attend. School Counselors Gary Wiebel and Christine Snow will discuss the college application process, FAFSA, SAT/ACT tests, NCAA Clearinghouse, college resumes, essays, interviews, and scholarships. Please plan to attend this informative meeting and get a head start on the exciting (and sometimes stressful) process of applying to college.

## Spring SBA / HSGQE Testing

On April 3, 4, and 5, 2012 students in grades 6 through 9 will be taking the SBA test in Reading, Writing, and Math. During these same days the 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam in the same subjects. Additionally, any student in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> who needs to achieve a proficient score in one or more of these subjects will be retesting. A proficient score in each of these subjects is required for a High School Diploma in Alaska. Below is a schedule for the students during the three testing days.

- 7:15 – 7:35 a.m.      **Free breakfast for all students testing**
- 7:40 – 7:45 a.m.      Students will be in 1<sup>st</sup> hour classes for attendance
- 7:45 – 8:15 a.m.      Students will be participating in fun activities
- 8:15 a.m.              Students will be in testing rooms and testing start by 8:30 a.m.

## Construction Day at Soldotna Sports Center

High School students will be offered the opportunity to attend this event on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 to learn about and participate in hands-on activities of various jobs in the Construction field. For more information please see Mr. Wiebel in the counseling office.

## Science SBA

The Science SBA will be given to all students in grades 8 and 10 during the morning of Tuesday, May 10, 2012.

## Workforce Development Center Opportunities

The following after school academies are available for all local high school students and are free:

Introduction to Criminal Justice academy will be starting February 7th at the Workforce Development Center and will end on April 19th. Class days will be Tues. and Thurs. from 5-8pm. Students will learn all of the different careers in the criminal justice pathways: Probation Officer, Parole Officer, Police Officer, Dispatcher, Criminal Justice Technician and more. It's not too late to sign up.

Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) academy will be held at Workforce Development Center (which is located behind KCHS) starting Monday March 19th and will run thru May 3rd. Class days will be most Mondays and Thursdays from 3:15 p.m.—6:15 p.m. and occasional Saturdays from 9-5. This course will cover all areas required to receive certification as an Emergency Medical Technician. The last week of class will be for review and the final exam. If you pass the exam you'll receive your certification and an ETT patch. There will be a construction academy coming up sometime after Spring Break in the Kenai area. Dates and times TBA.

If a student successfully completes any of the 60-hour academies they are eligible to receive a half practical art credit. Transportation may be provided if needed.

To sign up contact your counselor or call Debbie Pearson at 283-2145 or

email [dpearson@kpbsd.org](mailto:dpearson@kpbsd.org)

## MRS. JENNESS—YEARBOOK

Yearbook News!

Yearbooks are still on sale. Just go to Nikiski's (still in operation!) Edline page at [http://www.edline.net/pages/nikiski\\_middle-high\\_school](http://www.edline.net/pages/nikiski_middle-high_school) or else Google "Nikiski Edline" and click on Order your Yearbook. Books are currently \$60.00, and will go up after Spring Break. Act now! The yearbook staff has been working hard to create a memorable book and it's looking great! Don't miss out.

Senior parents, baby ads are still available to honor your special senior. Contact Mrs. Jenness to reserve your space in the book now!

## YEARBOOKS ON SALE!

ORDER ONLINE AT [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com)

Prices go up after Spring Break



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SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NIKISKI MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

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

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 5	High School Soccer & Track Begin
March 6	Site Council Meeting-6:00 in library
March 8	PTSA Meeting-5:00 p.m. in Mrs. Thompsons room
March 9	Teacher InService/No School for Students
March 12-16	Spring Break
March 26	Middle School Track Begins
April 3-5	HSGQE-Student Testing
April 10	Science SBA Testing
April 14	PROM
April 20	School Closure Make-up Day
May 21	Graduation
May 23	Students Last Day

