

Bulldog Bites



Nikiski Middle/High School

March 6, 2013

FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

I was reading the newspaper the other day and noticed the question for their weekly survey revolved around whether or not people are ready for spring or want more winter. I must say, the longer days with more sunlight make me anticipate warmer weather and the prospect of summertime activities. That being said, spring brings a whole new focus to our school. The Alaska Standards Based Assessments are right around the corner and we have been focusing our attention this year on diving deeper into content, which should correlate into higher scores. It is, however, always an anxious time since those tests are what we are “graded” on each year. I look forward to our students taking these assessments and showing the gains they have made throughout this school year.

On another note, we are in the process of modifying our schedule for next year to allow for more instructional time in the classroom. We were recently able to have a community meeting regarding our plan where many positives were shared and many questions regarding challenges. Here are the positives we came up with:

- More individualized opportunities for younger students
- Maximizing learning time: less time for set-up/wrap-up; more opportunities for differentiated instruction
- Less transition time in the hallway
- Will not affect credits for high school students coming in or going out
- Student travel with activities will rarely affect longer class periods
- Bulldog block at middle school will allow for an intervention class instead of during electives

If you have any other questions regarding this, please stop by the school.

We are continuing to push ahead with a few different initiatives in the school this year. Most notably is our differentiated instruction focus through staff collaboration. Our goal is to meet the needs of each individual student. We also have Mr. Morin and Mr. Kornstad Jr. in the middle of implementing iPads into their classroom with a shared cart between them. The good news is that we now have another iPad cart on the way and will be able to expand this initiative to other classrooms. We are looking at other technology options as well. Overall it has been a wonderful first three quarters. Have a wonderful spring break and we look forward to having a strong finish for the fourth quarter.

MR. BOSTIC - VICE PRINCIPAL

Finishing Strong

As we move into the fourth quarter, you will see a busy school house at Nikiski Middle/High School. The following events can be game changers for you and your student. Please take a moment to review the following list with your student.

- ◆ During the week of April 1st, students in grades 6th through 10th will be taking the Alaska SBA (Standard Based Assessments) tests to determine their level of readiness for the following year. The results of these tests are used to help the Nikiski Middle/High School staff in assigning classes at the student's instructional level and to develop a schedule that meets their personal needs. A great resource to learn more about the SBA's is: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/sba.html>
- ◆ Getting involved in a Spring activity is important to your child's overall development and success. Research shows that students in activities have a more positive self-esteem, achieve higher academically and have better attendance. Here are only a few of the amazing opportunities this Spring:
 - ⇒ Join the Track or Soccer team
 - ⇒ Support the Spring Musical
 - ⇒ Help decorate for Prom
 - ⇒ Join the strength and conditioning class before or after school
 - ⇒ Attend a Dance
 - ⇒ Volunteer at an Event
 - ⇒ Attend Graduation

The transition from the elementary to middle school and middle school to high school is an amazing time. I look forward to watching your student have opportunities that will bring out their best. We will be hosting a 6th grade and Freshman transition night later this Spring. Hope to see you and your student there! Be sure to discuss with your child any questions that they might have and have them write their questions down. A few good question starters:

- Next year I want to be involved in...
- I have a question about...
- My greatest strengths are...
- Some careers I would be interested in are... (Never too early to start thinking about the future 6th graders!)

Shifting gears a bit... I was reviewing an article in Forbes Magazine from last April that was focused on Jeff Bezo, the CEO of Amazon, and thought about how Nikiski Middle/High School relates to his Top 10 leadership lessons. I will share the first one from the article.

“Base your strategy on things that won't change”

In education we have the basic skills that each child must know in order to be ready to learn at the next level. The first set of skills that come to mind are reading, writing and arithmetic. The second includes work habits such as attendance, work completion, and organization. The third are the intangibles of empathy, honesty, and integrity. With the focus on these basic skills our students will be able to reach their goals.

Have an amazing Spring Break!

CALLER ID

Each day the office fields several calls from parents who see a missed call from 776-9400 and call back. There are over 50 phones in the school that will show this same number on caller ID. Remember that Administration, teachers and the nurse will leave a message if they need to reach you. If it is your student calling, please assume he/she will try again if it is important.

PTSA

Join PTSA today!

eScrip—Support Nikiski Middle High School PTSA through eScrip. Safeway Club Card number is needed to enroll. Enrolling is easy online @ escrip.com. Search for Nikiski High School PTSA and enter your info. Safeway donates a percentage of our members total amount purchased back to our school. This is an easy way to give back to Nikiski High School. Please enroll today.

Contact Michele_carver4@yahoo.com with any questions.

MS. THOMPSON-COLLEGE AND CAREER

What can you be doing to get ready for life after high school?

Seniors: There are simple steps to complete, no matter your school or vocation of choice.

1. **Testing:** Take your SAT, ACT or placement test (such as the ACCUPLACER or TABE test). You can register for most tests online, or call your school to figure out where you need to take it. This **does not** need to happen before you apply, but it is helpful to schedule as soon as possible.
2. **Apply.** The school's website will have an application you can fill out. Some of these may require essays. You should have this done by now, or very soon.
3. **Apply for scholarships.** Most institutions have a separate general scholarship application or a separate additional information application for specific institutional scholarships. They often have earlier deadlines, and many have passed. Information about institutional scholarships can be found on the school's website, usually under Financial Aid. You can also search private scholarships on Onestop [onestop.kpbsd.k12.ak.us].
4. **Apply for financial aid.** The first step to applying for student loans, grants, or the Alaska Performance Scholarship is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need tax information and can fill it out at fafsa.gov.
5. **Apply for housing.** Most schools that haven't already will send out housing information sometime this month. Be sure to fill out all the forms as soon as you get them for the best selection of housing. If you are not living on campus, be sure to call the admissions office at the school when looking for apartments; sometimes, they have deals set up with local apartment companies and/or at least know the area and where most students live.
6. **Register for classes.** You should get a notification of when registration opens for you, and it probably won't happen until April. You may be required to meet with an academic advisor over the phone before registering. In the meantime, be sure to review the requirements for the degree or certificate you are pursuing, so you have an idea of what classes you'll need to take.

Juniors: There are a few things you can do this semester and over the summer to ease the stress senior year.

1. **Testing:** Take the ACT and/or SAT this semester (or even in June). That way, if you need to retake it, you have time senior year. There are study resources available for all students and fee waivers for qualifying students – just check with the counseling office.
2. **Research schools:** Start thinking about where you want to apply, what program you want to take, and narrow down your lists so you don't miss any deadlines next year. Bigfuture.org is a good place to start.

For juniors and below: Use your summer well! Summer jobs are great, and they are even better if you can work in an industry you might want to be part of someday. Even better than summer work is participation in summer academies or camps. Some deadlines have already passed for registering, but be sure to check out activities that interest you. Well-used summers can make the difference in college applications, and really set you apart from the crowd.

Everyone: Enjoy spring break! I will be out of the office March 5th through the 22nd for a variety of reasons, so if you need to reach me I am always available over email. Even better, like me on Facebook for events, updates, and tips, or to ask me questions.

We will also be starting College Club when I return, which will be a workshop time Wednesdays after school and available to any student who would like to work on planning for their future, from discovering interests to filling out applications.

MR. HOOPER - SCIENCE

In Physical Science we recently did a lab in the auditorium where we utilized a variety of pulley systems using rock climbing equipment to lift students and teachers into the air. Students measured the amount of rope we needed to pull and the force required to lift people with 3:1, 5:1 and 7:1 pulley systems. We took the opportunity to discuss how science can be used in real world applications.



MRS. ZIMMERMAN-SIXTH GRADE

In 6th grade Language Arts, we are following the writing folder model from *The Write Tools*. It is a program the district has adopted and I have to say, it is absolutely wonderful! It makes students think about their writing and is very easy to follow. Last year, many of the elementary teachers used this program as well, so students are familiar with it. I like to call it their "Writing Game Plan." This will be a VERY useful tool because Ms. Niemczyk will be using the same program. I have already seen a positive difference in writing.

In Social Studies, we have been focusing on current events through our Jr. Scholastic (JS). Students are always excited to share current events as they come up in our daily lives. My hope is to make students more globally & culturally aware. On Wednesdays, we dedicate our time to CC! (Character Counts), where we discuss the 6 pillars of character, along with topics such as bullying, feelings, strategies to help themselves and others. I am very excited to welcome 2 guest speakers to our classroom who will be talking about making good choices throughout life. Officer Sarah Herrin, KPD and Officer Alana Martin, both graduates of NMHS will be in our class to discuss choices. Fourth quarter, we will be starting our APA research projects, so please be looking for information that will be coming home OR check LA or SS on Power School. I post important information for students and parents.

If your student missed our movie and game night on February 22, we are trying to schedule another one before the year is out. 3rd quarter celebration is coming up: Grade eligibility checks were done on February 27, permission slips were given out on February 28 to all eligible students, paperwork and \$10 are due MARCH 5 and March 7 we are snow tubing, and broom ball playing at Solid Rock. This is a very busy time of the year! Please make sure you keep checking Power School. If you do not have internet access, and you have a smart phone, you can check your child's grades there!

MRS. DURRANT-SIXTH GRADE

In 6th grade math the students have begun the review of prime and composite numbers, Greatest Common Factors, and Least Common Multiples. They have reviewed how to make sure a fraction is in lowest terms by simplifying it, and they have made equivalent fractions. All this is getting the students ready to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions with unlike denominators.

In Science the students have been doing a variety of activities to learn about the Physical Properties of Matter. They will be learning about Chemical Properties and Chemical Changes of Matter. After Chemical and Physical Properties of Matter, the 6th grade students will be studying Animals Kingdoms.

With the light returning and the weather starting to get warming, the students have a tendency to put homework aside to do later and then never get around to finishing it. Checking PowerSchool will let you know if your child is missing any assignments. There is also a missing work list posted daily in both 6th grade classrooms so your child can check it to see what assignments need to be handed in.

MRS. BROWN-MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

Middle School Celebration for Quarter 3: Solid Rock Camp 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 Solid Rock Camp for a day of snow tubing, boot hockey and indoor climbing fun. To be eligible to attend the field trip, the students need to have all C's or higher in their classes for the 3rd quarter. We will do an eligibility check on Wednesday, February 27th. The students who have earned grades in all of their classes above a D will receive a **permission slip** on Thursday, Feb.28th. Please sign the school **permission slip** and send a **payment of \$10.00** for the Solid Rock Camp with your eligible child no later than Tuesday March 5th. Permission slips and money need to be turned in to the students' 5th hour homeroom teacher no later than Tuesday, March 5th. We will be using a conference room at the Solid Rock Camp 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: boots, jackets, hat, gloves, snow pants, and warm socks.

Lunch: cold lunch

Good Attitude: Be ready to have some fun

MR. BAILEY-QUEST & 7th SOCIAL STUDIES

Quest: Middle school Quest students have been busy with Future Problem Solving, the Stock Market Game, film making projects, and writing challenges during the past couple months. Seventh graders researched, practiced, and then completed a state qualifying problem for FPS (Future Problem Solving) – centered around the topic of Megacities. 6th and 8th graders researched company stock performance and built diversified portfolios (using their team’s fictional \$100,000) while participating in this spring’s 3-month statewide Stock Market Game. Quest students have also been working on digital film projects (planning, storyboarding, shooting) which some hope to submit to the annual KPBSD Film Festival in April. The state FPS future scenario writing contest and national DuPont Science Essay contest were also challenges attempted by some Nikiski middle school Quest students.

Social Studies: Middle school 7th graders in my social studies class have recently been learning about Judaism and Hebrew culture, and are currently involved in exploring the civilizations of Ancient Greece. The geography of Ancient Greece, earliest Greek civilizations, Athenian government history, and Greek mythology and literature has been our focus lately, and the class will continue to dive deeper into Greek history in coming weeks before we turn our attention to the Roman world for a good portion of the 4th quarter.

MR. DOTH—MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

Middle school science is pushing along, steady as the north wind blows! 7th graders are getting ready to examine and dissect even more unique animal specimens in their search for knowledge while the 8th graders bludgeon along with their physics studies. More to come in the waning months of this school year as the weather warms we hope to get outside to study ecology, the chemistry of life, and outdoor survival. The 6th graders of Alaska Outdoor Connections are geo caching and learning how to survive in the wilderness. Snow shoes and shelters made from ice and snow are just a couple of plans for the near future. As always, be well and continue to make good choices! Best Fishes, Jake Doth.

MS. NIEMCZYK-LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 7: Where or where has the time gone? Here we are at the end of 3rd quarter and our unit on persuasive writing. Students are currently finishing up their persuasive essays in which they are incorporating their knowledge of ethos, logos, and pathos. These are the three legs any good argument must have—logic, emotion, and credibility. Looking back over the quarter, I am impressed with the amount and quality of writing that has been completed. Students have been working their writing routine and the consistence of using the 5 steps in the writing process is paying off. When we return from Spring Break we will have a short SBA prep and then dive into our research unit in which the students will work in small groups to create magazines.

Language Arts 8: The new District curriculum has had us focused on persuasive writing this quarter. Students are currently finishing up their persuasive essays—the subjects of which range from having Veteran’s Day off from school to the use of cell phones while driving. We have examined advertisements and political cartoons for persuasive techniques and bias and spent considerable time working with non-fiction text. I feel that it is important for kids to understand how to take apart a textbook or other non-fiction material, summarize the important information and take notes that are useful. With just over a quarter to go before the end of their middle school career, I want to firm up the skills and strategies needed for success in high school. After Spring Break, we will have a short SBA review prep followed by our Shakespeare unit. We will be reading *A Midsummer’s Night Dream* while working on our research unit. I hope you all enjoy the Break!

Language Arts 9: This quarter’s focus was on persuasive writing. We used the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Although the novel uses animals on a poorly run farm to make its point, students could easily draw parallels between the characters and real life. The class was split into 4 “animal” groups, keeping with the theme of the novel. Each group created a political slogan, poster, and delivered a speech attempting to influence their classmates to vote for their group. This proved to be interesting! When we come back from Spring Break we will be moving onto Shakespeare and the play *Julius Caesar* while working on our research unit.

MR. ANDERS-MIDDLE SCHOOL P.E.

There is a lot happening at Nikiski Middle High School in Physical Education for grades 6, 7 and 8. Last month students completed units on wrestling or volleyball. Students studied fundamentals of volleyball or wrestling, depending on their interest. During February and March students continue recording and charting Monday mile runs. Last week we finished a unit on Badminton and mini badminton tournaments. Currently, students are enjoying playing Pickle ball. Later in March we start exploring the different Track and Field events. We will start with Field events like the high jump, triple jump, long jump, shot put and discus. We will finish with track races relays and hurdles. Go Bulldogs!!!

MR. BJORKMAN-MIDDLE SCHOOL HISTORY

In 7th grade World History students just finished up learning about China and experimenting with ancient Chinese technology like making paper and flying lanterns. We had just started to study ancient Greece and how it is has shaped western civilization.

With the 8th graders in US History, we are continuing to learn about our core democratic principles by studying events surrounding Presidents Jefferson and Jackson.

With my 6th grade Alaska Outdoor Connections class we have been making snow quinzees and learning about winter survival. I am very excited for this spring when the 6th graders will be taking hunter's safety!

MR. ERNST-ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Rob Ernst newsletter contribution:

As we approach Spring Break, a lot of exciting stuff is going on out in the Red Portable:

LA 9 / Life Science: This year in the Nikiski Alternative Program we are trying a new combination class that gives students a chance to earn credit in LA 9 and Life Science simultaneously. Phil Morin, Kara Bethune and myself teach this dual credit class, and the students have performed excellently so far. Students start the day in LA 9 with me, where we work on reading and writing skills that will serve them in completing assignments and understanding terminology in Life Science as well as meeting new district requirements for 9th grade writing. This quarter we have been working on writing persuasive essays, as well as on an on-going vocabulary building program.

LA 10: LA 10 in the Nikiski Alternative Program this year is focusing on the basics of English grammar to build the writing skills necessary for success in other classes, the filling out of applications for jobs and colleges, and---of course--- meeting the requirements of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam in both reading and writing. Also covered are the basics of writing mechanics including proper capitalization, punctuation, parts of speech and word usage. This quarter we have examined propaganda and advertising in light of a third quarter persuasive writing project.

Study Skills: I teach two sections of Study Skills and things are going along nicely! Students in these classes learn how to study for and complete work in their other classes and develop strategies to keep up with all their assignments. It is always great to see students discover that they have the skills and ability to succeed in school, and this year has started out very strong! I am proud of each of my students!

MR. JOHNSON - INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Industrial Arts is the opportunity to work with different forms of media while learning a skill that can put you to work after high school and be applied to future career choices. Here is what we have been doing:

Cad/Cam We are excited to end the semester with great success. We used the Shop Bot, Plasma/CAM and Versa/CAM (a vinyl printer) to make great things that the school and community can use! This program has expanded significantly allowing students to demonstrate their individual creativity in wood, metal, and vinyl. When you see one of our new banners cheering a Nikiski success or advertising for our local community, another 21st century skill is being demonstrated!



Occupational Technology is our exploration of vocational arts for our younger students. Our middle school students will be working in the wood shop building cheese boards and production projects. Students learn to use tools, equipment safety, as well as leadership and collaborative roles while learning the process for each project.

Woods classes will be styling projects through the joinery, woodturning, and production. These students demonstrate their creative talents and artistic flare while learning the detail behind wood-working. The students are enjoying using the new wood lathes that we have added to the shop over the last four years.

Nikiski Middle High School has offered many opportunities to students to gain employability skills for their future, and we look forward to demonstrating these skills in our community!

MS. WIDMAN-ART

Second Semester art classes at Nikiski Middle/High have taken off with great success. Middle school classes have been learning about Australian culture and art. They are in the process of creating dot paintings that represent their personalities and interests while learning about Australian culture and storytelling.

Sculpture class is finishing up a ceramics unit. They have learned how to use a pug mill to recycle clay and some have started to use the pottery wheel. We are currently creating lanterns inspired by the Chinese New Year celebration.

Teaming up with Mr. J's Versa Cam team, the high school graphics class has been using their knowledge of design to create a series of small projects including bumper stickers, signature stickers, and posters. These small projects are leading up to the classes' finale of sticker coating an entire car!

One of the large posters created in Graphics class is advertising a COMMUNITY PAINT NIGHT! Nikiski Middle/High is fortunate to have a resident artist Justine Pechuzal, this spring. You can check out her work with students and community at justinepechuzal.com. Justine will help us install a full scale mural here at Nikiski High. The goal is to represent the culture and community of Nikiski through art. On March 25th we will provide an opportunity for all community members to come and work on the mural with students.

Looking Ahead, the district art show will be happening the month of April with a first Friday opening at the Kenai Art Guild in old town Kenai. I look forward to seeing to seeing many of you at the art show and community paint night!



Student's practice painting big for the upcoming mural project!

MR. ADAIR-SCIENCE

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. Currently we are in the exciting topics of genetics which will lead into evolution theory. Later students will delve into animal classification systems and organ systems of the human body.

Physical Science is team taught with Mr. Adair and Mr. Brown. Students just finished up their unit on the basic concepts of Physics. This included Newton's laws, momentum, potential energy, kinetic energy, power, work and mechanical advantage to name a few. At the end of the unit students were treated to hoisting classmates into the air using a pulley system and climbing gear which was provided and taught by Mr. Hooper. Currently the students are learning about the mathematical relationships in the Universal Law of Gravitation. Soon we will be studying waves, electricity and magnetism.

Chemistry has been busy and working hard learning and experimenting with topics such as specific heat of substances, enthalpy and heat changes (Hess's Law), Boyles Law, Charles's Law and the Ideal Gas Law. We just wrapped up our unit of gases and their relationships to other variable such as temperature and pressure. Students applied this knowledge when they imploded (crushed) a 55 gallon steel drum! The Chemistry crew will be learning about solubility curves, vapor pressures, chemical equilibrium and Le Chatelier's Principle.

MRS. JOHANSEN-FOODS



Pictured students from 1st semester FOODS CLASS baked loaves of banana and pumpkin breads with ladies from the community for the Nikiski Community Food Bank, holiday baskets.

We finished our 1st semester off with a creative baking project. Students created from scratch a gingerbread village. Two groups chose to create sugar cube castles. Our village was complete with town square, sugar work trees, signs, and chocolate sleighs. What a fun way to get into the holiday spirit!

Starting off 2nd semester we are studying Nutrition. Each student was assigned a nutrient. They did research and presented to the class the information they learned in the form of a "Wanted Poster" .

The last two weeks

we've explored delicious dishes using fruits, raw and cooked. How does a fruit pizza sound? Students were judged on "Creativity and Presentation" by a panel of 7 judges. I am very pleased with the "Pizzas" they presented!!

The next unit we are learning about is "Yeast Breads" Assorted sweet and savorytypes that can be made.

Encourage your kids to get into the kitchen with you ~ Marilee Johansen

MS. BOYLE-READ 180

The Nikiski Middle School 7th and 8th Grade team was victorious during the District Battle of the Books taking 3rd Place. The winning team would include: Bryan Sledge, Dalton Mullins, and Breanna Meyers. A Special Thanks to Nora Ribbens for her help and encouragement. Also, to Jake Doth for designing a fun Team T-shirt logo.

Reading is often something students resist doing at this age. So, I strive to find novels that will peak their interest and challenge their thinking in ways that they are able to make connections with other books they have read, experiences in their own lives, or things that are happening in the world around them.

We will be starting our sixth novel this year. "The Devils Arithmetic" is a historical fiction piece about the holocaust. Students are able to express their understanding and unique view of this novel through a power point presentation. It is at this time when students can be creative, yet also raise up to the challenging expectations set before them in a rubric.

Students are making extreme growth in the levels of fluency and reading comprehension. We are working on their writing skills as there is still quite a bit of work that needs to be done. Students need to learn to put their ideas into words and to trust that what they have to say has value. They also need to be more aware of the resources at hand and how to use them. As students increase their vocabulary and confidence, I work to differentiate the skills I am teaching in order to meet the individual needs of all the learners I work with.

Talk with your students about what they are reading in class and allow them to share with you what they have learned. In addition, share with them something you have read.

MR. THOMPSON—MATH

Greetings! The days are getting longer and the sun is returning. And it is almost Spring break! 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 beginning 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, and will encompass most of 4th quarter. 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: The two main topics in Calculus are derivatives and integrals. The Calculus class is presently working with 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 have learned how to 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. Student's will next learn how to calculate volumes using integrals; by rotating the area of an integral around some line such as the X or Y axis.

HSGQE Math: The HSGQE Math elective class has been working with measurement for the last month. We have covered perimeter, circumference and area of two-dimensional figures. We followed that with the construction of some 3-dimensional solids such as rectangular and triangular prisms, cylinders, pyramids, and cones. Students had to calculate the volume and surface areas of their constructions. We are concluding our measurement unit with the Pythagorean Theorem, and all of its uses in today's world.

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

"Learn something new every day under the sun. You will never get old if you do." - Lois Bey

MR. RIDDAL-PE

Nikiski High School Physical Education classes are running great. Third quarter is drawing to a close and the students are working hard in their daily participation. The weight lifting classes are attacking their workouts with massive amounts of energy in anticipation of the SST lifting contest between Skyview, Kenai and Nikiski. The contest will be on March 27th starting at 6pm at Nikiski High School. Nikiski High School is the holder of the traveling trophy by winning the spring speed component to the SST program. Students are healthier and in better shape than they were 20 weeks ago. Their cardiovascular fitness levels have improved and students in the weight training classes have continued to increase in their maxes for the bench, squat, clean, snatch, dead lift, front squat, and incline bench. The basic P.E. classes have turned into Health classes for the second semester. The classes are currently covering the effects of tobacco and alcohol use on the body. In the next few weeks the classes will be learning about body systems and be giving power point presentations in front of their peers. Days are getting longer and the sun is beginning to shine. Spring is coming and with it will be many activities that students can engage in to remain healthy and active. Don't stay on the couch, break out of your shell and try something new!



MR. ZIMMERMAN-SPANISH

February is the month for 3rd quarter projects for both my advanced and beginning Spanish classes. In Spanish II students will be re-searching flora and fauna of the different Spanish speaking countries and they will be conducting research which will culminate in an art project where they will design and create a piñata of a unique animal species found in their assigned Spanish speaking country.

In Middle School Spanish exploratory students are working on creating a few fun arts and crafts mini-projects which include paper sombreros and cascarones. Research and preparation of a traditional dish from their assigned Spanish speaking country is also part of the plan for the end of the 3rd quarter.

My World History classes will begin their 3rd quarter project after spring break. Details for this project will be forthcoming.

MRS. JENNESS— INTEGRATED HONORS PROGRAM

Lots of exciting literature and writing has been happening in Mrs. Jenness' Language Arts Classes. In AP English we just finished the WW II classic *Catch -22*. Everyone empathized with and laughed over Yossarian's travails. We are writing lots of AP test-style essays in preparation for the test in May. In Language Arts 11 we are just finishing up the great American novel by Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*. We are all excited about the Baz Luhrmann-directed film adaptation of the novel starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Gatsby coming out the spring. We have used the novel to talk about the American dream and class divisions that still exist in our society. In my Senior English classes we have been discussing the role that technology has in our lives. Students are preparing debate cases, pro and con, on issues such as "Social Media encourages bullying". They will debate these issues the week before Spring Break.

In yearbook news, books are still on sale at Jostens.com. The book is almost done and it looks great! The yearbook staff did an amazing job.

Please encourage your students to avoid being absent from school for any reason short of having the plague. Older students tend to be truant more often in the spring, and this can have a serious detrimental effect on their grade.

MR. EVELAND-INTERVENTIONIST

This month my explorations students saw a glimpse into the real world and I was incredibly impressed with the outcome. Students were given the task of designing and constructing their ideal dream house with limited supplies and a limited budget. I was very impressed with all the unique houses. The student's personalities really came out in this build.

I am also very thrilled to announce that two more of my students tested out of Math Fundamental. Congratulations to Glinda Armstrong and Makayla Hansen for showing dramatic improvement in both my class as well as Mrs. Brown's class. All your teachers are proud of you!!!

MR. MORIN-BIOLOGY

9th grade Life Science and Biology having been doing amazing this semester. Both classes are working hard on their Caring for the Kenai projects that will be due just before the end of the quarter. These projects will be submitted to a peninsula wide contest against all other high schools in the district. Students have been contacting members of our community as part of their project and many interviews have returned excellent information. After spring break it will be time to finish up genetics and DNA before we hit ecology (just in time to go outside!).

Anatomy has spent the last couple of weeks learning about the senses of our bodies and as part of that got to complete a sheep eyeball dissection. Thanks to Mr. Adair we also had a caribou eyeball to investigate!

MR. KORNSTAD, JR - MATH

Hello mathletes! Mr. Kornstad, Jr. here. I am excited about the things we are going to do in Algebra this 4th quarter. We will be continuing our development of iPads in the classroom. Our main focus so far has been to use them as a way to keep track of our learning.

The main method we use to do this is through an application called [Evernote](#) where students can keep electronic notes inside of a notebook that is shared with me. Students have photographed their work, created notes in Evernote where the text in the photograph then becomes searchable allowing them to stay better organized. In addition to this we are now going to explore an application called Penultimate. This is an application in which students can use the iPads as an electronic tablet. Whatever students write is captured in a note and automatically synced to their notebooks in Evernote, which are shared with me. This will create powerful ways for students to organize, and keep track of their learning while helping me to evaluate what they know. Learning to use devices such as iPads is becoming the norm in the professional world, and we feel that it is important to expose our students to it.

Both Evernote and Penultimate can be downloaded for free on any computer or mobile device with Internet access, or you can simply login to your account from any computer at [evernote.com](#). We are really starting to see students beginning to take responsibility for their learning! Math at Nikiski...it's awesome!!

MRS. THOMPSON-SPECIAL NEEDS



What a great start to the New Year!!!! We have been so busy with cooking, crafts and fun activities!!! Can't believe that we are about to start 4th quarter. We have some great things planned for the weeks to come. We have plans of going to the pool, having a great time at the local Recreation Center and then hopefully having a cook out at Mrs. Thompson's house.

Our final event for the year is centered on our lone senior, Katrina Panzel. We are so excited to celebrate this exciting time with her and her family!!!!



Congratulations Katrina!!!!

MR. JACKSON-SPED

Run the Race

Let us run the race that is set before us. As we find ourselves quickly approaching the end of the third quarter, we realize that like the marathon runner, we are in a long race too.

Education is not something that occurs solely in a classroom; some of life's greatest lessons are learned outside of the school building. However, many of the basic building block lessons are learned in a classroom setting. Some of those lessons are working with other people no matter how similar or different they may be from you, how to be respectful, taking ownership and responsibility for ones actions and words. When we continue to run, just like the marathon runner, sometimes we hit 'the wall', or we fall down and get hurt. Have you ever seen a video clip of a runner falling down during their race? Take the example of University of Minnesota's Heather Dorniden; she was leading the pack going into the last lap of a three lap race in the 2008 Big 10 Indoor Track 600 meter race. You may have seen it, do you know what happened? Heather tripped and fell as the remaining three runners carried on without her. They made it $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way around the track before Dorniden jumped up. She started to run. She knew what she had trained for was to finish this race. She ran with such intent and drive that she came back to win the race. It is a truly great example of perseverance. Of course you can find examples of both results, some lay there on the ground in defeat; others get up and continue to run the race set before them. The best lesson at that point is one in perseverance. All eyes look to the runner with the same question in mind, what are they going to do?

Learning can be viewed the same. All of us, no matter our age, race or gender have fallen down. We may not get the job we applied for. Maybe we were overlooked for a promotion or a raise; denied a loan, turned down on a date or the ever-difficult to handle you were dumped. No matter what situation you have found yourself in, like the runner, you have been knocked down. How are you going to handle it? Perseverance is the best option. You pick yourself up, dust yourself off and continue on.

That is what I try to instill in my students. They may not like the grade earned on a paper, or a quiz or a test. Maybe they failed. Pick yourself up, continue to run. Re-learn the material. Try again. Learning isn't about a grade. It's about finishing a process, from introduction to mastery. Life is the ultimate race, prepare in such a manner that no matter what happens, you have trained to get up when you fall down. You have practiced how to deal with failures, that you know how to turn them into successes.

So if you find that your student has taken a fall, help them to pick themselves up. A decision needs to be made, are they going to lie there and fail, or can they do what Heather Dorniden did, get up and run? Help them to keep running. Run hard. Encourage them to keep learning. Don't give up. Keep learning. (Watch Heather Dorniden's amazing win here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70UF82nysIU>)

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

PO Box 7112
Nikiski, AK 99635

PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

KENAI, AK 99611

NON-PROFIT

PERMIT NO. 23



Check out our Daily Bulletin at
ps.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/bulletin/10

New School Website! Follow link from PS daily bulletin or
<http://nikiskimiddlehighschool.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/wpmu/>

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 7	Sadie Hawkins Dance @ 8:00 p.m.
March 8	Teacher Inservice/No School for students
March 9–17	Spring Break
March 18	Back to School
March 25	Middle School Track Begins
March 27	SST Weight Competition @ Nikiski—6:00
April 2-4	Student Testing
April 9	Site Council Meeting—4:00 p.m.
April 11	PTSA Meeting—5:00 p.m.
April 20	Prom
April 23	Middle School Mass Choir @ Homer
April 26-27	School Play
May 3-4	School Play
May 7	Spring Concert
May 14	Senior Awards Night
May 20	Graduation
May 22	Last Day of School for Students

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SENIORS:

- March 8 –Bulldog Packet Due
- March 19–Parent Meeting 6:00 p.m. library
- March 27—Job Fair
- May 14—Awards Night @ 7:00 p.m.
- May 20—8:30 a.m.—Walk Practice
11:30 a.m.—Senior BBQ
7:00 p.m.— Graduation
- June 30—FAFSA Deadline for APS/Alaska
Advantage Education Grant candidates.

