

BULLDOG BITES

Nikiski Middle/High School

December 12, 2013

FROM THE PRINCIPAL - MR. CARSTENS

With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas in front, it is a great time of year to reflect on the blessings we share as a school and community. It has been amazing how many people make a point of saying how positive our school is for the students here. I have heard it described as more than just a team of people, it is a family away from home. And like any family, we work hard behind the scenes to put our best foot forward and have a united front.

One main announcement that we do have for this newsletter is the installation of many new security cameras. These just recently came to our school and replaced the older ones we have been using for a number of years. The main goal for the security cameras is to provide safety to the staff and students of Nikiski Middle/High School. The following pages include a message from our superintendent, Dr. Steve Atwater, and a map of all the cameras we have in our school. If you have any questions or concerns, I welcome you to contact us at the school.

In the spirit of Christmas (mixed with a little bit of education), I hope you enjoy my little poem. Remember, I'm usually a math guy who likes to dabble on his creative side.

‘Twas a few weeks before Christmas, and all the kids said:
“I just can’t wait to stay in my bed!!”
The lockers were primed with notes for their tests
In hopes from the teachers they would all do their bests;
Some students started dreaming throughout all their classes,
With visions of A+’s for all of the masses,
And Bostic with his red beard and I in my tie,
Are standing firm still before kids go awry-
When out of the lot there arose diesel motors,
I rose and looked out, but it wasn’t chopper rotors.
I gazed out my window and realized what it was,
A long line of busses and a red car just because.
The students filed from school after the faculty show,
With their hopes of Christmas break starting to grow;
Kids looked up to the red car and stopped when they saw,
A jolly old elf with fluffy white on his jaw;
The sound that came from the red car without flaw,
Was “dash away, dash away, busses and all.”
So the kids dashed away while the staff bid adieu,
We will see you next year with energy anew!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you from all of us at Nikiski Middle/High School!!

Dan Carstens
Principal

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

A Time to Reflect

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

- Academic achievements that allow students to choose their destiny
- Local groups that provide scholarship support for our High School Seniors.
- Triumvirate Theatre North recent opening
- A Recreation Center that serves as a Social Hub for Nikiski
- A new Senior Center
- Locally Owned Businesses that support all of the above.

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

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

May your Christmas mean a little bit more

Mr. Bostic

MRS. BARROWS - MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE

7th & 8th graders in the Language! program finished reading Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbit and watched the movie recently. In this story, the main character must decide whether eternal life is a blessing or a curse. We spent some time comparing and contrasting the book with the movie. The students were surprised at the differences between the two. They were also asked to write a paragraph on whether or not they would like to live forever.

6th graders in the Language! program finished reading and watching Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson. This book tells the story of how sometimes, friendship can change your outlook on life. The students watched the movie after completing the book and spent some time comparing and contrasting between the two.

Students are encouraged to read and discuss books, newspapers, or magazines. This will help to build vocabulary and make them stronger readers.

MR. SWABY - WELDING

This year is off to a great start. The welding facility is finally starting to function like a shop. We have built all kinds of items this past semester. I thought it was wonderful to be a part of the Triumvirate North project. If you make it over you can see examples of some of the students work around the stained glass windows in the entry way as well as the light hangers in the theatre.

MR. JOHNSON - INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Hello. My name is Christina Gonion and I am currently in the Cad-Cam 2nd hour class where there are a lot of opportunities to make anything and everything we please. This class exposes us to all of the machines this school provides us in the Industrial Arts. We used the Plasma-Cam and Shop Bot the first quarter to learn and refresh our brains. In the second quarter, we busted out the Versa-Cam that creates vinyl self-adhesive graphics for just about anything. Currently, I am working on an outdoor vinyl graphic for the super-duty truck of our teacher, Mr. Johnson. Working with the Versa-Cam is a great and fun way to gain patience and gracefulness. Corel x6 is what our class uses to create our models, like this one. It is a vector editing program that can take our skill level to the highest achievable level possible.

Mr. Johnson's middle school students have the opportunity to take Occupational Technology or Woods classes. In Occupational Technology Mr. Kornstad Senior teaches our middle school students how to use the programs used in Cad-Cam, while teaching himself in the process. In these classes our students have the opportunity to make shirt designs, automotive graphics and almost anything you can think of.

MR. BAILEY - QUEST/SIXTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Quest students have been participating in a wide assortment of 2nd quarter enrichment or creative pursuits which are connected to individual students' strengths, personal interests, or collaborative problem solving challenges. Quest enables students to build upon their existing abilities and explore creative opportunities available outside the regular curriculum. Some examples from this past quarter have included:

*Multiple draft revisions and submissions into the annual Peninsula Creative Writing Contest

*Design and production of a short film for the annual KPBSD Film Festival

*Personal interest topics (Eiffel Tower) - research with Prezi online project presentation

*Research and draft composition for DuPont Science Essay Competition

*LEGO League Robotics Challenge – This year's theme focuses on natural disasters, with robotic missions and research project components. A team of Quest 6-8th students from NMHS spent numerous weeks during 2nd quarter preparing for the Kenai Qualifier tournament. A huge component of Lego League is to utilize collaboration and creative thinking to help solve a community-based problem.

6th grade social studies students have been exploring the various continent regions of the globe during the first couple quarters. 6th grade social studies is largely focused on world geography, so students have gone from North America to South America, on to Europe, and are currently at Asia in their global tour! Besides world geography and cultures, students also routinely discover and review principles of geography associated with map reading (weekly geography questions), and read/discuss current events from their Junior Scholastic magazines or noteworthy events in the news. As the year progresses, social studies students will continue their geographic exploration of the remaining continents, and also dive into some additional projects and presentations which enable them to share their learning with others.



Congratulations to the Nikiski Quest team of Jamie Yerkes, Melanie Sexton, Sarah Nash, Katerina Sinenko, Thomas Halliday and John Bright for their 1st place Robot Performance award at the Regional Qualifier LEGO League robotics tournament at the Challenger Center on Saturday, December 7th. The team, led by Melanie Sexton and Jamie Yerkes in the final round, beat out all other peninsula teams for the highest point total with their programmed robot missions. With their winning performance, the team has now officially qualified to participate in the state robotics tournament in Anchorage next month. The winner of state goes to California!

MR. KORNSTAD, SR - MIDDLE SCHOOL CAD/CAM

Last year Paul Johnson initiated an introductory CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacturing) class for middle school students. He began mentoring Vern Kornstad. The collaboration that ensued has created an opportunity for middle school students to get hands on experience in the CAD/CAM lab, an experience that enables them to see firsthand if they are interested in pursuing this further in high school.

Recently the CAD/CAM class created team T-shirts for the middle school boys' basketball teams. In addition to the wide format printer/cutter (Versa Cam) that produced the T-shirt graphics, the students learn to operate the Shopbot and the Plasma Cam. The Shopbot is basically a programmable router with a four foot by eight foot table. Projects that can be produced on the Shopbot include wood, metal, glass, and stone engraving and carving. The project that all middle school students complete on the Plasma Cam is an animal silhouette. New projects are being added every quarter as the teacher and the students gain experience and expertise.

Before learning to operate the different machines it is necessary for all students to learn the software required for each particular machine. The software the students learn to use include: PartWorks 3.5, Adobe Illustrator, CorelDraw, and each machine has proprietary software that uses the files generated by these programs. Students also need to learn to manage their files on the server. Learning all of the processes involved in fairly simple projects is preparing the students for an advanced experience with CAD/CAM in high school.

MR. DOTH - MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

Middle School Science is full tilt boogie once again and excited with the projects we have up and running. The Creation of the Pakistani vivarium is still under way but proving to be quite a complex set of problems to solve. We have many students up to the task however and we hope to have some major renovations and changes made by the vacation. We are also enjoying the laminar flow project going on as well. With a motivated design team and capable set of engineers, we have the plans laid out for a spectacular fountain design that aligns water at the molecular level!!!! When shot from a spout this water will have the ability to conduct light as well as information similar to a fiber optic cable. More to come dear readers and as always.....Best Fishes!

MRS. ZIMMERMAN - SIXTH GRADE

6th grade LANGUAGE ARTS: Students are doing extremely well in Writing Workshop! We've been working on expository writing. Our focus is on quality writing! We use the 6 traits of writing: ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. Students also had the opportunity to submit two essay contests. The VFW sponsors their annual Patriot's Pen Essay Contest and the Elk's Lodge sponsors their annual Statewide Americanism Essay essay contest. I am very anxious to find out if any of the students from our school won. I will keep you posted. 2nd quarter book reports are due on DECEMBER 13.

SOCIAL STUDIES: We continue learning about current events through our Jr. Scholastic. Our current JS discussed the 50th anniversary of JFK's assassination along with the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Our continent maps this quarter are Asia and Europe. I was surprised at how much knowledge the students already possessed about Asia! I am delighted to say that the map skills the 6th graders have been learning are improving steadily.

7th grade LANGUAGE ARTS: This quarter, students have been completing weekly KBAR forms and notebooks. This is a HOMEWORK activity. Students are expected to read for 25 minutes Monday through Thursday and hand in their KBAR forms and notebooks on Fridays. Your student should be asking you to sign the KBAR form in order to verify that they've been reading at home. I still expect students to read on the other days of the week in order to finish their quarterly book report. Students are doing well in Writing Workshop! Our focus this quarter is on expository writing. We use the 6 traits of writing: ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. Students also had the opportunity to submit two essay contests. The VFW sponsors their annual Patriot's Pen Essay Contest and the Elk's Lodge sponsors their annual Statewide Americanism Essay essay contest.

POWER SCHOOL: Parents, if you do not know your access code or are having problems with Power School, PLEASE call the front office at 776-9400 to get the necessary information you need. It is imperative that you learn how to navigate through Power School. You will be shocked with the information you can find out about your child's grades, assignments or lack of, and even how much money is on your student's lunch account. Ask your student to help you log on, they are masters with technology. Students check their grades weekly on Fridays in my class and are required to write them down in their planners so they can track their own progress. Power School is your KEY to being informed!



6TH GRADE MOVIE NIGHT

Have a very blessed holiday season with your family!

MRS. DURRANT - SIXTH GRADE

SCIENCE : Our 6th grade Science students have been hard at work this quarter learning about types of Energy and Classification of Living Organisms.

INTERNET SAFETY : They have just begun a unit on Internet Safety called iSafe. This program teaches students how to be safer while using the internet, gaming and using a cell phone. It addresses keeping your personal information safe, how to protect yourself from Cyber bullying, and how to communicate on the Internet appropriately. Parents can log onto isafe.org to learn more about the program used in our school.

MS. NIEMCZYK

7th Grade Language Arts: It's poetry time in LA 7 right now. Classic poems to more contemporary ones, to just plain silly and fun, we are exploring them all. I feel very fortunate that this year's 7th graders, for the most part, like poetry and many have favorite poems that they have been sharing. The writing focus is on comparing and contrasting poems as well as the early stages of evaluating and analyzing them.

The District wide Analytical Writing Assessment is December 2-6. This will serve as the 2nd quarter common writing assessment and will focus on expository or informational writing. Students should have their scored papers back in mid-January. Second quarter book reports are due Dec. 13th so please remind your student to start working on it early!

8th Grade Language Arts: Right now we are in finishing up our "Perfect World?" unit. Students read one of six possible dystopian novels: *The Giver*, *Hunger Games*, *Ender's Game*, *The Uglies*, *City of Ember*, or *Among the Hidden*. They worked in literature circle groups to explore the idea of utopia, conformity, and the ability of language to shape or influence society. This unit has four main objectives. The first two are content related: analyze literature with a focus on themes and symbols, and compose an expository compare and contrast essay. The second two objectives are just as (if not more) important: time management and interpersonal skills. Students are responsible for completing a variety of assignments and tasks individually and in small groups by a set date. Groups determined their reading schedule, journals, and Community Creation project. I am providing guidance and accountability checks but have left many of the decisions up to the individual groups. It is a great learning opportunity for the students and allows them to tackle new and challenging material/concepts using their individual learning preferences. There is more homework this quarter than last so if you are not seeing your student reading more at home, ask them about it.

9th Grade language Arts: We are wrapping up our Holocaust unit right now. Students chose Holocaust novels and worked in literature groups to discuss the events and issues that these books raise. It has been an interesting quarter in which students have had to grapple with some serious questions that do not have easy or realistic answers. They will be finishing the quarter by comparing what happened during the Holocaust and events going on today.

The District wide Analytical Writing Assessment is December 2-6. This will be the last time your student participates in this assessment. It will also serve as the 2nd quarter common writing assessment and will focus on expository or informational writing. Students should have their scored papers back in mid-January.

MR. BROWN - STUDY SKILLS

At Nikiski High School, students receive academic instruction and are expected to complete their assignments on their own time. Some students need an extra support net for organization, academic tutoring, and to be taught those extra "study skills" that students are expected to master. Study Skills is meant to give students a focused, academic hour to complete work, to ask questions concerning specific core classes, and to work on the basic life skills that a person needs to be successful. The parent postcard has been a big hit! Each week, the students in study skills complete a post card, outlining their current grades. Then, the students address an envelope to be sent directly to their parents, via the U.S. Mail. This post card is meant to further open the lines of communication between school and home. Many students have stated that they do not own a computer, thus making it impossible for their parents to check their child's grades on Power School.

1st semester could not have gone better! The students enrolled in Study Skills exemplified hard work and focus; earning an average GPA of 3.23! I fully expect that 2nd semester will bring the same high academic results. Way to Go!

MR. ANDERS - PE

There is a lot happening in Physical Education grades sixth, seventh, and eighth. Students have recently studied fundamentals of strength/circuit training and Basketball. On Mondays we are continuing the weekly mile run and many personal records are being beaten. This month there is an emphasis on ultimate frisbee. During December we will continue to learn about strength training. Most students are doing a good job of bringing their PE clothes and athletic shoes every day. Keep up the good work. Happy Holidays!

MR. JACKSON - WORLD HISTORY

History is more than a line of events. It is more than even multiple lines of events. It is more like millions of moments that are intricately woven together like a huge web. Sure, some of the moments are bigger than others, especially if you are looking at the world as a whole. Some of those moments may be the hinge that caused empires to fall. Or possibly it was a moment of sheer engineering genius on one man's part that brought life sustaining water to an entire metropolis. If we can look at many different moments and begin to see how they weave together to make the web of time that we are now in, we can begin to grasp an answer to the question so many people, especially students, ask: why do I need to learn about history?

The reason is at the same time so basic and yet so complex. World History students have recently completed a project that was intended to start the awakening process to the connections or webs that are made from one culture or empire to the next. I asked them to make timelines that were connected to each other; the Chinese, Persians, Egyptians, Phoenicians and others were all doing something at the same time that was both important and likely related. This project was designed to work in small groups as well as collaborating with other small groups. What connection could they find between their empire and any other empires? I heard many times comments that gave insight to the minds of students realizing that these were not independent cultures, but rather the beginning of a global economy.

Not unlike our society today, cultures of days gone by wanted what they did not have readily accessible to them. There were battles, wars, murders, conflict and rivalries on all different levels while each ruler tried to jockey for power. Sending out spies in order to find trade secrets is not a new idea; this has been going on for thousands of year. Sometimes this led to new developments, new technologies, or new alliances or on the other hand, a new enemy.

My goal is that World History students will come away with a better understanding of how every moment, both in the world and in their personal life, is connected to others'. No man is, or ever has been, an island. All actions have a reaction and so it is in the course of humanity too. Make the most of your moments, for they not only add up to create the timeline of your life; they pile up to become webs of life with everyone you interact with.

MR. ERNST - STUDY SKILLS/LIFE SCIENCE

Study Skills: We are having a great year so far out in the red portable! Middle school study skills is going great with students working on achieving success in all their core classes. Every day you can stop in and see students focusing on their assignments and getting help when they need it. I am very proud of the hard work of the middle school students I have in this class.

ALT LA9: In Alternative School LA 9 we have been working on writing this quarter with daily writing journals, analytic writing assessment and the district requirement of an end of quarter expository essay.

Life Science: Phil Morin and myself co-teach this freshman required class, and the students have performed well so far. Our current fall project is to create a field taxonomy of all the plants that we can find in the area around the school. The students are currently studying cell theory and the structure and function or organelles within the cell.

MR. ANDERSON - BAND/CHOIR

PEP BAND!!!

Membership is open to all current and past students, faculty, alumni or anyone in the community that has been in a band and wants to cheer on the school! We welcome individuals of all skill levels, and no audition is required. The more the better!! If you are interested in becoming a member, please send an email to janderson@kpbsd.k12.ak.us with the following information:

- Name
- Instruments you play and which you would prefer to play in the band

This year we have updated the music and plan on doing some very contemporary music fused with the classics. Some of these will include songs by Lady Gaga, Beastie Boys, Pitbull, Queen, Journey and lots more!

We will have one practice together in December, and you can come to any of the scheduled basketball games you choose throughout the season! No Pressure!!

Lets Rock!!!!

MR. MORIN - BIOLOGY

The Biology students have started their Caring for the Kenai projects. They are off to a very good start and I anticipate some very competitive entries. The students have been working on their CFK problem and now are continuing their research to further refine their ideas. This is authentic learning at its best. Students will be contacting people in our community and you very well may be one of the people they interview. I trust the students will represent their families, my classroom, our school and the Nikiski community well when they go about their research.

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

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

MS. WIDMAN - ART

The beginning of winter has included a wide range of activities in the Nikiski Art Department. Students in design class have been experimenting with paper making and molding as well as designing logos for activities and businesses. Intermediate and Intro Classes have been making various clay projects including candle holders, ornaments, and puppets. Middle School artists have spent a good deal of time with their ceramics unit. They have made plates, pendants, and totem pole sectionals. Additionally, several students have been challenging themselves in 5th hour advisory by learning to throw pottery on the wheel and recycle clay with the pug mill.

Intro to Art class is looking forward to a collaborative cake sculpting unit with the foods class. The art department is also partnering with the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the North Peninsula Recreation Center to create a community mural at the North Peninsula Recreation Center this spring. Please contact me if you are interested in taking part in the community mural!

My 6th hour team/individual activities class continues to amaze me with their self-motivation, creativity, and willingness to help with my transition into the field of physical education.



Erika Bollig with her totem design



Amy Porter paints a piece of handmade paper

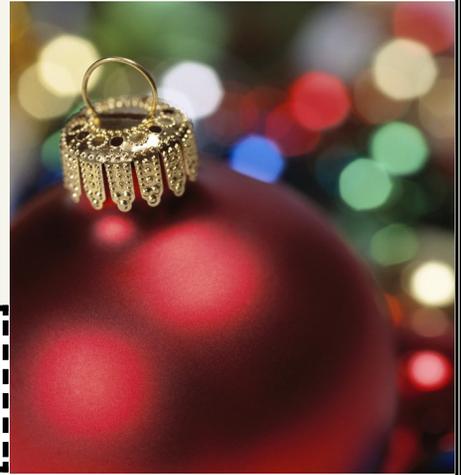
More pictures of student art can be seen on Nikiski's web page. Follow the Art link!

YEARBOOKS ON SALE!

\$50 - ORDER NOW!

ORDER ONLINE AT jostensyearbooks.com

Cost is \$50 until Christmas.



SCIENCE - MR. ADAIR

Physical Science has been exploring the subject of Chemistry this fall and will finish out the semester studying the mysterious subject of stars, galaxies and other phenomena of our incredible universe. Also on the horizon will be radiation in the electromagnetic spectrum and exploring the basic principles of electrostatics. Students will be making their own electroscopes, solving for resistance and current as well as building simple circuits online and in the classroom.

Environmental Science continues to push forward with their student-designed Caring for the Kenai projects. In addition, students have been learning about how ecosystems react to man-made and natural disturbances (aka ecological succession) as well as how species interact in nature. Students are now researching the potential positive and negative aspects of the Pebble Mine and Chuitna Coal Mine. Also, we have been learning about new environmental technologies. After Christmas the Geology portion of the course begins. During spring semester we will spend time exploring theories of Earth's formation, geological features and fossil fuel exploration.

Physics has been studying some very interesting topics with more in-depth detail than your usual high school science class. Students are beginning their unit on circular motion and will soon begin using this semester's concepts and equations to design, conduct and prove with data a topic / concept of their choice that we have covered over the last three months. Soon students will take part in the " Barbie Doll Bungee jump" where student will calculate: the stretch of their bungee, potential energy of the system, total energy of the bungee and finally the theoretical distance from the floor their Barbie should be upon maximum stretch. These college-bound students are getting ready to soon study electric circuits, atomic and nuclear Physics as well as Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

MRS. JENNESS - LANGUAGE ARTS/DDF

DDF - The DDF team is selling raffle tickets for \$10. One lucky DDF supporter will win a gorgeous handcrafted queen-size quilt made by Candi Miller. The drawing will be December 19 so if you would like to support the DDF team and perhaps take home a beautiful and snuggly quilt, contact a DDF team member or Mr. Rizzo or Mrs. Jenness. The team is also still selling amazing handcrafted turned wooden bowls for \$100. Thanks to Paul Johnson and his talented woods class for sharing their beautiful bowls with us.

YEARBOOK NEWS - Yearbooks are still on sale for the low price of \$50. The price will go up after Christmas, so go to Jostens.com today and buy a year's worth of memories. Makes a great gift!

MR. ZIMMERMAN - SPANISH

The high school Spanish classes are becoming verb conjugation superstars, with the Spanish I students focusing on present tense and the Spanish II classes focusing on past tense and reflexive tense. The middle school class is beginning our 2 week unit on "Las Navidades", or Christmas traditions in Spanish speaking countries. With just a few weeks left in the semester it is important for your child to be vigilant about doing the right things when it comes to academics. Things like being proactive instead of reactive and staying atop of required homework are great habits which most often will breed success. Another factor that is critical all year round is the idea of attendance in class. Students with poor attendance are put under additional stress and have a more difficult time doing well in class. I hope you and your student will find ample opportunity to relax and enjoy family over the upcoming break and may the forthcoming year bring good health and happiness to you and your loved ones.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER - MRS. JONES, MRS. CARSTENS

As the school counselor, I am responsible for helping students with academic, social-emotional, and career development. We have a wonderful staff here at Nikiski who do a great job of collaborating with the counseling department to meet student needs. Mrs. Carstens assists within these three spheres in the counseling department. Her main focus is student records, scholarships, and scheduling assistance. In addition, Ms. Thompson focuses on helping students with college and career development. She spends a great deal of time working with Freshman in the 9th Grade Career Exploration Class, as well as individual and small groups concerning the process and practical steps to a post-secondary plan. She often sits down with students to walk them through signing up for the ACT & SAT, or to complete the FAFSA.

Happenings in the Counseling Department...

Peer tutors/mentors have been meeting with their students once or twice a week during advisory time. We still have a few tutors available for students who want a peer tutor/mentor. Please contact me if you are interested. Please note that Boys and Girls Club also does academic tutoring after school every day, except for Fridays.

Juniors and Seniors: Do you want to do more in depth career exploration? I am offering a version of the Myers Briggs, which is a widely used international and scientific personality test. It is a comprehensive assessment that helps students learn more about their personality type and also matches them up with careers and colleges in a more meaningful way.

Middle School and High School Small Groups will be starting up again soon. Popular topics for groups are the following; resiliency, academic & social strategies, and study skills. Please let me know if you or someone you may know is interested in joining a small group. We meet during lunch or advisory once a week for 6 to 8 weeks.

Seniors should be in the process of finalizing their post-secondary plans. I will be meeting with each Senior for their 2nd Senior check-in to follow-up. Check out 'One Stop' for scholarship opportunities... <http://onestop.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/scholarships/default.aspx>. Be sure to check your school e-mail for updates from Mrs. Carstens or myself.

The Job Center will be collaborating with the counseling department to help our Juniors create resumes, receive interview tips, and learn more about work ethics. The Job Fair is March 26th, so the Job Center is helping us prepare our students again this year. Junior Advisory time will be utilized; starting in January. Resumes will be created in AKCIS, or Alaska Career Information Systems.

Tasha Thompson has done an excellent job of assisting Kornstad Junior and Senior in our Freshman Career Classes. Students are off to a great start in creating their PLCP, or Personal Learning Career Plans. Ms. Thompson and I have assisted Freshman with taking an on-line career interest inventory called "IDEAs." They have also completed their 'career clusters' in AKCIS in addition to many college and career focused activities with Ms. Thompson.

PSAT Scores are here. Students will receive a paper copy with instructions on how to go online for further interpretation and understanding of their results. For example, students can login to www.collegeboard.org/quickstart to see correct answers and explanations, get a personalized SAT Study plan, search for colleges, and much more.

The ASVAB will be offered January 15th for interested high school students. Students can sign up in the counseling office. There is no charge. The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. <http://official-asvab.com/>

Students have requested their 2nd semester course choices, and schedules are almost finalized. Mrs. Carstens has done a wonderful job going into the classrooms and getting these requests from students. All students will receive a paper copy the morning of the 1st day of 2nd semester (January 6th). Schedules will then be available on PowerSchool.

Check out 'Counseling Corner' on the Nikiski Website for counseling department related updates... <http://nikiskimiddlehighschool.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/wpmu/counselors-corner/>

Thank you!

Mrs. Jones

School Counselor: Holly Jones Career & Guidance Assistant: Debbie Carstens College & Career Guide:
Tasha Thompson (Ms. Thompson is available for students on Tuesdays & Thursdays)





**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
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**http://
nikiskimiddlehighschool.blogs.
kpbsd.k12.ak.us/wpmu/**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 19 - Jan. 6	Christmas Break		
Dec. 20	Teacher In-service/No School for Students		
Dec. 27	HS Basketball vs. Kenai	@ Nikiski	GJV-10:00 a.m. BJV-11:30 a.m. GV-1:00 p.m. BV-2:30 p.m.
Jan. 4	HS Basketball vs. Grace	@ Nikiski	GJV-11:00 a.m. BJV-12:30 a.m. GV-2:00 p.m. BV-3:30 p.m.
Jan. 6	Back to School Middle School Wrestling, Volleyball and Cross Country Skiing begin		
Jan. 13	Graduation Planning Parent Meeting	Library - 6:30 p.m.	
Jan. 14	Site Council Meeting	Library - 4:00 p.m.	



PTSA - JOIN US FOR THE NEXT PTSA MEETING! THURSDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 6:00 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY.

The PTSA has donated \$600 to the Cross Country Ski Team for help in purchasing new uniforms replacing original uniforms from 1989! The PTSA was glad to help Coach Widman and the team with this update.

PTSA is beginning work on legislative issues and hoping to attend the Juneau Fly In to help advocate for more appropriate funding to schools and to raise the Student based Allocation.

Denise Cox will be heading up the PTSA Reflections program this year. The theme is Dream, Believe, Inspire.

The Shayna Pritchard Memorial Volleyball Tournament raised over \$800.00 with half of the monies allocated to the Shayna Pritchard Scholarship Fund which will be awarded to a deserving Nikiski Senior for college.

FOR MORE INFO CALL: MICHELE CARVER 776-8559 or email- michele_carver4@yahoo.com