

Bulldog Bites

Nikiski Middle/High School

May 8, 2014

FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

Unlike spring of 2013, this spring is actually looking like a real-life spring with no snow on the ground save the small rolling hills surrounding the soccer fields. Our spring sports have even had seasons this year and MS track was not condensed into three meets in one week. And I have even started to get the traditional Alaskan farmers tan that I look forward to every year.

This year brought many great opportunities for us to showcase our staff and what we do for students. We were able to shine through our accreditation process and the accreditation review team pointed out some aspects of our school that we are quite proud of. When the team presented to our staff, they wanted to make sure to mention the positive relationships the staff has built both with the students and with each other. There were many other positive components to this, and I would welcome anyone to stop by and discuss them. We also have areas we can improve upon and next year's early release collaboration days will focus on five different areas of possible improvement.

With the end of a school year, come the good-byes that need to take place as well. Leaving us this year are the following fine staff members:

Sharon Thompson – after many productive and wonderful years in our school, Sharon has decided to retire, but...she's not leaving the area

Terry Durrant – after 30+ years of teaching in the state, Terry will be retiring as well

Clyde Swaby – a difficult good-bye to a quality teacher; Clyde will be pursuing a regular teacher certificate, which he hopes to put into play quickly

Holly Jones – with the prospects of starting a family, Holly and her husband have decided to return to Colorado

Jake Hoekstra – after coming on board in February as our tutor, Jake has decided to accept a position closer to where he lives

Thank you for the service you provided to students.

Of course with the exit of these fine folks, we have some new staff members coming on board. Our new people include:

Megan Fowler – new intensive needs teacher; Megan comes to us from Nome where she worked in a similar position

Barry Hartman – new welding/CTE instructor; Barry comes to us from Skyview High School

Jennifer Hornung – new 6th grade math/science teacher; Jennifer comes to us from Wyoming where she has 13 years of math and science teaching experience under her belt

Darren Zibell – new HS social studies/English teacher; Darren comes to us from Noorvik up in the interior of the state where he will bring a new perspective to AK Studies

Sherry Gladden – special education/IN aide; Sherry comes to us from NNS

Counselor, 2 special education aides, 2 tutors, 1 custodian – we are still in the process of hiring these positions

I hope all of you have a wonderful summer and we will see you in August!!

Dan Carstens, Principal



MR. BOSTIC - VICE PRINCIPAL

A New Beginning and Saying Good Luck

In the same week at Nikiski Middle High School, we were able to see how the Seniors had grown over the last 6 years and the potential that our 5th grade students will have in the next 7. The Seniors had a post-secondary Decision Day Lunch, where they were able to celebrate the next step in their educational career with the most amazing Career Counselor, Ms. Tasha Thompson. In the same week we also saw the future of NMHS, when the 5th grade students visited for Step Up Day. They were able to see their new school and get a taste of a great lunch. The end of the year is fast paced and filled with the excitement of those adventures yet to come. May the sunshine warm your face and the fish tug on your line this Summer. Take care and see you next year!

As Dr. Seuss would say..

“Congratulations Seniors!

Today is your day.

School Year 2014 is over!

You’re off on your way!”

Congratulations Class of 2014

Mr. Bostic



**NIKISKI HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2014**



SENIORS



SENIORS

Kelly Reilly Photography

MS. THOMPSON-COLLEGE AND CAREER

We have had a great year working on college and career training! For those who don't know, this was a two-year position, so I will not be returning next year. I'm off to law school at William and Mary instead. I promise to do my best helping to select my replacement, though, and I encourage everyone to get to know him or her early on! The community at Nikiski is so supportive, and I am very grateful for everything that we have been able to accomplish together.

This month we celebrated Decision Day on May 1st for all those seniors who have applied to and are pursuing some sort of further education. Please help me congratulate those who have taken steps toward accomplishing their plan!

For those who aren't yet graduating, a quick reminder that if you're traveling this summer, campus visits can be quick and make a big impression on your student! No matter how young or old, even just seeing a college campus makes this idea of college more real, and the more tours you go on, the better idea the student will have of what they do or don't like in a school. Enjoy your summer!

MRS. JONES - COUNSELING

It has been a great year for the counseling department!! Students are wrapping up their peer tutoring/mentoring, my last middle student success skills small group is going strong, student course requests for next year are in, and we've had a large number of juniors sign up for the ACT or SAT this spring and take the Myers Briggs Personality and Career Sort. As far as other more recent highlights, our Seniors who applied to a post secondary institution were just celebrated through 'Decision Day' which was put together by our College and Career Guide, Tasha Thompson. We had 28 Seniors who celebrated. However, that number will surely increase as we have a few more Seniors who are following up on their post secondary plan this week. We also have 21 juniors and seniors taking an AP Test this week, which is a great number of our students. I am glad to see students taking advantage of opportunities. Nikiski offered AP Calculus and English Language Composition this year. In addition, Mr. Swaby and I took a group of high school students to Construction Career Day on Tuesday where students were able to make connections with individuals in the industry and get some hands on experience. It was a fun day and definitely time well spent. Lastly, Mrs. Carstens has been working very hard getting Seniors ready for the graduation ceremony and organizing the award ceremony, which are wonderful celebrations and recognition for our our amazing students we have here in Nikiski. Looking forward to it!

Have a great summer everyone!

MRS. ZIMMERMAN - 6TH GRADE

Wow, it does not seem possible that summer vacation is right around the corner. I know it is tempting to stay up late because we have more daylight, but remember, school doesn't end until May 21.

6th LA: Our writing genre for 4th quarter is research. Students chose their topics and started researching April 7. Students are required not to rely solely on sources from the internet, but need to be using encyclopedias and books. A minimum of five sources is required for this assignment. I will be guiding students through the reference or bibliography page process at school. Your student may ask you to take a trip to the Kenai Library if she/he did not find a book in our school library. These research papers are DUE MAY 9. Students also just finished up their third and final round of Ed Performance testing in reading and writing. Oral book reports are DUE on May 12. Oral reports will be given the week of May 12-16. May Reading Logs are DUE on May 19! Please remember to keep journaling and reading over the summer.

6th SS: In sixth grade SS, students are learning about the continent of Antarctica. We will not have a final test on Antarctic. Instead, students will be writing a reflection of what they have learned about the continent. We have been watching documentaries about Antarctica and students are truly amazed at what they are discovering. Test your student! Ask them about Antarctica. Students also continue their daily geography and Jr. Scholastic (current events).

7th LA: Our writing genre for 4th quarter is research. Students chose their topics and started researching April 7. Students are required not to rely solely on sources from the internet, but need to be using encyclopedias and books. A minimum of five sources is required for this assignment. I will be guiding students through the reference or bibliography page process at school. Your student may ask you to take a trip to the Kenai Library if she/he did not find a book in our school library. These research papers are DUE MAY 9. Students also just finished up their third and final round of Ed Performance testing in reading and writing. Fourth quarter book reports are DUE on May 12.

MRS. DURRANT-SIXTH GRADE

As I planned ahead to the last Science unit of the year I was reminded of the theme for a 1960's TV show Star Trek. The show opened with the words, "Space, the final frontier". That describes not only the student's last 6th grade Science Unit but also the last lessons I will be presenting as a teacher with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Together the students and I will finish with our thoughts way beyond the clouds out in outer space. The students will be learning the characteristics of stars and planets. They will explore composition of planets and stars, seasons and lengths of years, brightness, parallax, and relative distances. The unit will close with a big bang. We will build our own rockets and launch them from our parking lot the last full week of school, weather permitting.

Math finds the 6th graders working on functions, equations, and inequalities. As I reminisce about my own learning of math, I am amazed at what we ask our eleven and twelve year old students to know. The students are learning about graphing functions, linear equations, rate of change, and slope. I was not exposed to this type of math until later on in high school. But then again, I have been in school a very long time and things change.

The 7th grade is working on probability.

To all of you who have had me as a teacher, worked with me as a colleague, or had your child in my classroom I would like to thank you. Thank you for making my job so much more than just work. There is no greater joy than watching a student who has struggled with a concept suddenly understand. The light in their eyes and the joy on their face in that moment of understanding is so very rewarding and uplifting to a teacher because we share in the making of a smarter, more capable person. Thank you for those moments and for the joy and fulfillment of a long and happy career.

MR. DOTH - SCIENCE

Middle School Science is wrapping it up with our last unit under way! The 7th graders are busy creating and designing their own organisms that are suited to live in the fictional, and radically different world of 3015. We are pairing up with Language Arts and working to create an interdisciplinary project that will determine whether or not these mystical critters survive or go extinct!! 8th graders are diving into the world of chemistry and learning how to build matter using the universe's tiniest pieces; atoms. It's the home stretch and we're excited to finish up strong and get ready to enjoy a warm and safe summer! Be well, faithful readers.....

MR. BJORKMAN-MIDDLE SCHOOL HISTORY

Thankfully another school year is successfully and swiftly coming to an end. What an interesting and exciting year we have had! I would like to thank all of my students for their hard work this year. I would like to extend a special thank you to my fellow teachers and staff. I truly believe that I work with the best teachers in the state and our students are blessed to come to school and learn from them and through them each day.

MRS. BROWN-MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

Congratulations to the 71 middle school students who are eligible to attend our end of the year camping trip to Hidden Lake Campground May 19th-20th. Students eligible did a great job all school year, both with their behavior and academically. We will be meeting the next couple weeks during homeroom to plan what equipment each student needs to bring and plan meals for the trip. We are looking forward to another fun trip. Parents of eligible Campers, please watch for the information about camping to come home with your child, sign the parent signature pages, and return them in a timely manner.

MR. ANDERS-MIDDLE SCHOOL P.E.

There is a lot happening at Nikiski Middle/High School in Physical Education for grades 6-8. So far this quarter our classes have participated in track and field events such as the high Jump, triple jump and shot put. We are completing our end of the year Presidential Fitness Challenge. Many students will be receiving a certificate for their efforts by meeting the national award benchmarks. As the days are warming up we are outside more and more and our softball unit is in full swing. Go Bulldogs!



MR. BAILEY-QUEST & 7th SOCIAL STUDIES

Nikiski Middle Quest students have been preparing for academic meets, participating in field trips, and working on creative projects for the past few months. Whether students are practicing math skills to help prepare for a math competition, exploring career options on a field trip, checking their stock market game portfolios, or working on digital film projects, they're all able to explore individual or collaborative pursuits which stretch their creative, problem solving, communication, technology, or presentation skills.

KPBSD Middle School Math Meet & KPBSD Trimathlon - Congratulations to the Nikiski 6th and 7th graders who participated in either the recently held **KPBSD Middle School Math Meet** in Homer (**John Bright and Thomas Halliday**) or the **Trimathlon Math Meet** in Seward (**Jakobee Anderson, Joe Yourkoski, Sam Berry, America Jeffreys, Katerina Sinenko, and Danielle Elsey**). Whereas the middle school math meet challenges students more individually, the Trimathlon featured a 3-part timed math relay for each team, as well as a chess tournament component! Several students learned how to play chess over the past few weeks, going from barely knowing the basics to being able to defeat veteran players!

Stock Market Game - Five Quest students participated in the statewide Stock Market Game this past semester and for the 2nd year in a row, Nikiski Middle Quest students took some of the top places in the state! After building diversified stock portfolios, students monitored their investments to see how well they performed as weeks and months went by. Out of over 70 students from around the state participating (mainly upper middle and high school students), Aaron McCollum (8th grade) and Katerina Sinenko (6th grade) finished 2nd and 3rd overall, both raising over \$7,000 in 'gains' over just a 3 month period! Aaron and Katerina were also 2 of only 6 students statewide who had a portfolio that outperformed the S&P 500 performance index! If you want any investment advice, you might want to ask one of them!

Careers Field Trip - Several 8th grade students went on a careers exploration field trip to Central Peninsula Hospital and the new Soldotna Public Library. At the hospital, students got a 'behind the scenes' tour of the technology (IT room), machinery (boiler room), and imaging (CT, MRI, X-Ray) capabilities of the hospital, whereas at the library, students discovered many of the different aspects and components which make up such a newly remodeled facility.

Digital Film Projects - Several students have been working on creative film project ideas over the past several weeks. Some students attended the KPBSD Film Festival in April, and all have literally been putting the many pieces together for their digital projects. The finished products will include live-action films about how to and how NOT to play basketball, what the different definitions of 'nerd' really include, a student parody of the 'Matrix', the formation of a rock band here at Nikiski, and also some stop-motion clay projects which involve hundreds of still shots to create a few short scenes of comedy, action or drama.

6th Social Studies - The 6th grade social studies class I've had this year has been a great group of students. The class has recently finished its 'world tour' with the African continent - after previously exploring the continents of North America, South America, Asia, Australia, and Europe. 6th grade social studies is closely linked to the study of world geography and cultures, as well as discussions and debates regarding current events in the news. Next year, social studies focuses more upon the history of ancient civilizations that arose in different areas of the world. From the various map projects, geography questions, current event debates, articles, and other questions covered in 6th grade social studies, students should have a greater understanding of the world around them and how each place or region is unique. It's been a great journey with this class!



MS. NIEMCZYK-LANGUAGE ARTS

7th Grade Language Arts: As we head into the last few weeks of school, 7th graders are busy completing their literature circle novels and working on an essay that counts in both their LA and Science class. This essay combines elements of persuasion—something we worked on all of 3rd quarter, research skills, and students' creativity. It is also nice for students to apply skill and knowledge learned in one class to other content areas. I know this time of year can be hard for students to focus, especially with the beautiful weather we have been having, but the last couple of weeks provide students with the opportunity to showcase what skills and knowledge they have acquired this year. This school year has flown by and it has been my sincere pleasure getting to know each of your kids and I look forward to seeing them all in August. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

8th Grade Language Arts: William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is my favorite unit of the year. This play challenges students to read and comprehend a story that is 400 years old. It's a story of love, misunderstandings, a teen's desire to be in charge of their own life and fairies that fight over the slightest thing. The majority of this unit is done in class. If your student misses class for any reason, he or she needs to make up the reading they missed using No Fear Shakespeare that can be found on Spark Notes. The kids are giving the play their best and learning reading and problem solving skills that will be serving well next year and throughout life. It has been my pleasure and honor to teach your kids for the past two years. I hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer break.

9th Grade Language Arts: We are wrapping up the year with Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*—back stabbing, betrayal, and civil war. Shakespeare can be a challenge to read and understand but the skills students develop to comprehend his plays will serve them well in the future. It is fun for me to watch them discover that human nature has not changed all the much in the last 400 years and that many of the words they use everyday were introduced into the English language by Shakespeare. This year has flown by and as we head into the summer, I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable break. I have had the pleasure of teaching most of my 9th graders for the past 3 years and have enjoyed watching them grow and mature into the amazing young adults they are becoming.

MR. ERNST-ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

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-schoolers I have in this class. We have a good shot at having every student pass all their classes for the quarter and semester! If they all achieve this we will have another MASSIVE pizza party for the end of quarter 4!

ALT LA 9: In Alternative School LA 9 we have been working on writing this quarter with daily writing journals and the district requirement of an end of quarter research paper. This quarter's projects have focused on how to do effective research and how to use tools like Google Docs to more easily write research papers.

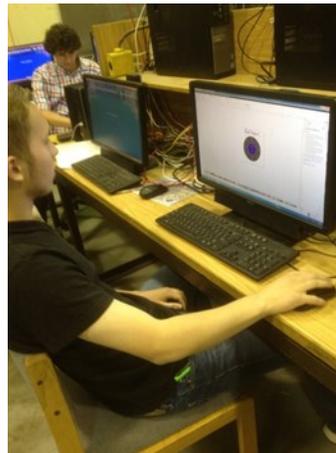
Life Science: Phil Morin and I co-teach this freshman required class, and the students have performed well so far. The students are currently engaged in individualized science projects which they have designed themselves. It's a great way to apply what they've learned this year and have fun at the same time!

World History: Tony Jackson and myself co-teach this sophomore required class, and have really covered the world this year. Quarter 4 has focused on more recent world history. Class discussions are great and Mr. Jackson has come up with many fun, interactive projects to study history.

MR. JOHNSON - INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Industrial Arts is the opportunity to work with different forms of media, while learning a skill that can be applied to future career choices. I have had so much fun this semester watching my students create new things each and every day. Here's what we've been up to:

CAD/CAM: Last year I was very excited to finally introduce my students to the VersaCAM (vinyl printer), and this year we've doubled its usage. T-shirts with personalized logos are flying out the door, and clients keep on coming. This year we made jerseys for an entire 6th grade basketball team, and are in the process of making shirts for a community member. We're ending the semester with a bang with the 2013-14 CAD/CAM sign. While the other signs are made from only one media, three will be used on the new one: Wood, metal and vinyl.



Woodshop: Our semester began with a project my students appropriately named "Crazy Balls." Made from a plethora of different wood, these toys are simply a cup with a handle, and have a small ball attached to the cup by a string. Our next project was bowls. The bowls take roughly around two hours to complete, and with very hard work, my students and I made about 150 bowls this year. With our two main projects done, my 3rd and 6th hour wood turners are now enjoying the freedom of creating their own projects.

Occupational Technology: Occupational Technology is the exploration of vocational art for our younger students. This semester I have very much enjoyed working with Mr. Swaby and Mr. Kornstad Sr. teaching our middle school students how to create sliding lid boxes. It seems my students have really enjoyed our semester together, and I am very proud of their success. I hope to see them all join my CAD/CAM and Woodshop classes when they reach high school.

MS. WIDMAN-ART

Congratulations to the following students for placing in the borough art show: Jade Elsey (1st Drawing), Alexa Schmidt (2nd Painting), Kerry Ross (1st Mixed Media), Lauren O'Brien (3rd Drawing), Alyssa Darch (Honorable Mention Photography) Alicia Bridges (3rd Sculpture), and Matthew Weathers (2nd ceramics). Come see their art on display in the Nikiski Commons!

Check out some of our middle school art students at the Kenai Fine Arts Center this Month as seven artists entered the Peeps Art Exhibit, a part of the Birding Festival. The show opens the first Friday in May as a part of Kenai's first Friday events.

Great Job Artists!



An almost complete mural made for NPRSA by Nikiski students and community members the complete mural is 8' X 28' and will be hung in August! Shaylyn Stroman and Jaala Loftus work on the middle school section of the new mural.

MR. ADAIR-SCIENCE

Physics class has been involved in several labs as we wrap up the fourth quarter of school. Students are using their new-found knowledge on optics, light and lenses to produce real and virtual images and soon will be using the focal length of converging lenses to produce fire! (in a controlled and safe environment of course). Students have been working away on their "Design Your Own Experiment" project that started in February. These are student driven research experiments that will be presented to the class during finals week.

Geology has been learning about karst topography and karst regions on planet Earth. Plate tectonics is always covered in Geology and students have been gaining knowledge of local Geology as well as Geologic anomalies around the world. The class recently wrapped up a very interesting collaborative research project on natural gas fracking and petroleum exploration.

Physical Science is finishing up their unit on the basics of electrostatics. Students have been enjoying building circuits and learning how to use multi-meters to measure current, voltage and resistance. Coming up soon will be a look into the topic of magnetic fields as well as some geology topics.

MR. HOOPER - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Spring sports are in full swing! Our teams are enjoying this beautiful weather. We have been playing soccer outside and running on our track for a couple of weeks now. It is the earliest in recent memory. Our soccer teams are in the midst of playing 10 games over a span of 17 days. Our track teams have not had a meet canceled due to weather all year, knock on wood. We are gearing up to host a middle school track meet on May 10th, stop on by and watch our Bulldogs run. Middle School football camp is also in full swing.

JUMPSTART PROGRAM

Informational JumpStart meeting for parents Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

Beginning in the fall semester of 2014, high school juniors will be able to take advantage of the JumpStart program that had previously only been available to high school seniors. **Students will be able to enroll in KPC for up to six credits each semester starting the fall semester they become juniors and pay \$55/credit versus the regular rate of \$174.** This could equate to total of 30 credits at the JumpStart rate. Don't miss this opportunity for your student to get a jump start on college. Mrs. Jones will be meeting with all interested students in the current sophomore and junior class during bulldog block on Monday, May 12. In addition, there will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

MR. MORIN - BIOLOGY

The Biology classes are finishing their unit on evolution and are starting the study of taxonomy. We will be using the return of birds and our unique location in the migratory path of hundreds of different kinds of birds to learn field identification and taxonomy. The students have demonstrated enthusiasm for going outside this spring and looking for birds. It might be their new found interest in ornithology, or, just maybe their enthusiasm is a result of the excellent weather we are experiencing this spring. Hard to say, but we're having fun.

The freshmen have begun to demonstrate the self-directed learning behaviors they will need to succeed in their future academic and career paths. It seems to have taken longer than I would have liked to get them there, but I am pleased to report this class has decided to apply themselves these last few weeks and I am relieved to report they are trending towards positive outcomes.

I want to extend my best regards to my students and their families and hope all have a wonderful safe summer.

MR. SWABY - WELDING

It's been a good year, a wonderful year. The students have worked on a large variety of projects. Right now we are putting one of the football sleds back together and working on getting our fire rings finished for the end of the year. Hope the fires go as well as last year. All of the students have their own projects going and are trying to get them done before we are out of here for the summer. I would like to thank everyone for having such a wonderful year.



MR. THOMPSON—MATH

Mathematics

The end of the school year is fast approaching. Encourage your child to strive to do their best until the very end; then they will be able to have a great summer.

Precalculus: The precalculus class has been working on applications of trigonometry. They have learned how to use the Law of Sines and Law of Cosines to solve triangles of any shape and size. They are presently working with vectors, which also is an application of trigonometry. An example problem with vectors would be a plane flying at 230 mph with a bearing of 300° being affected by a wind blowing 30 mph due east. What is the planes actual speed and direction? Most students enjoy the challenge of such problems. We will finish the year with the study of polar coordinates.

Statistics: The Statistics class has been working on calculating probabilities. We have learned about binomial distributions, where we could calculate the probability of an 85% free throw shooter making their next 10 in a row. The class has progressed to working with the 'standard normal curve' and normal distributions. They are finding out the numerous applications of statistics to the real world; whether it is in medicine, business, economics, athletics, etc. We will end the year with 'estimation' and 'hypothesis testing'; using statistics from samples to guide decision making.

AP Calculus: The Calculus class has been busy doing practice exam problems in preparation for the AP exam. After the AP exam, we will finish the year with a general review of the course and a final test. The main focus points of calculus are the derivative and its applications, and the integral and its applications.

Geometry: The Geometry classes have been working on calculating perimeters, circumferences, areas, volumes, and surface areas. They have been exposed to the numerous formulas associated with this strand of mathematics. We will then end the school year with a unit of study on circles and the circle properties associated with lines that intersect circles; such as chords, secants and tangents.

Math Lab: The Math Lab will be a study hall the rest of the school year to allow these students to finish work and prepare for tests in their other classes.

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

"Be happy. It's one way of being wise!"

-Sidonie Gabrielle Colette

MRS. RIBBENS - LIBRARY

Library Happenings

We will be doing an all school Book Swap May 14th, 15th and 16th. Here's a chance for you to get rid of books you've already read and swap them out for something different.

Books can be brought to school any time and I will put them in a box until we do the swap. If a person brings in two books then that person can take home two books. On Friday, all books will be available for everyone even if books were not brought in.

Books must be age appropriate for school and in good condition.

There will be a separate spot for the staff book swap.

Talk to Mrs. Ribbens in the library if you have questions.

Students recently had the opportunity to learn how to check out eBooks through our school district Over Drive system. Over 500 titles are available to choose from. These books will be accessible all through the summer wherever you are. Here's a reminder to the steps to get to the books. Books are available to current 7th -12th grade students. Sorry Seniors, once you graduate, this option will not be available to you. However, seniors and others can use the Overdrive system from the Public Library.

Students who have already downloaded the free App follow these directions.

Go to the KPBSD homepage. Click on students and Parents tab.

Choose the overdrive icon, (it's the dark blue circle towards the bottom).

Log in with your school ID and password.

Choose your book and then choose to download to a device or a computer

Ta da! That's all there's to it

For those of you who haven't been to the training yet, simply download the free Overdrive system to your device. You might need to make a free Adobe account if you don't already have one.

MR. ZIMMERMAN-SPANISH

The school year is quickly coming to an end and it brings to mind one of Alice Cooper's classic hits, "School's Out for Summer". I would like to remind all of my Spanish students and parents just how important it is to keep up on your Spanish. Frequent practice over the summer will allow those Spanish I students to pick right up where they left off when they transition into Spanish II.

On PowerSchool I have several links that will allow dedicated Spanish students to stay abreast of their studies. It is essential, in order to effectively pursue a foreign language, to be exposed to the language frequently and in many different situations. Therefore, I also recommend tuning into Spanish radio stations that you can stream from the internet and also tuning into Spanish television stations available with most cable or satellite dish packages.

Changing subjects, I am excited to be teaching Advance Placement U.S. History next year. I will be attending a four day course over the summer which will allow me to offer this challenging course to some of Nikiski's finest students.

I hope your summer months are filled with rest and rejuvenation within the context of continued learning!

MRS. JENNESS- YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks have been shipped and are on their way! It is now too late to order books online, but you can still pay for your book in the office. There is a limited number of books available, so act now to reserve your copy! Books cost \$65 and will be distributed soon.

MR. KORNSTAD, SR - SUMMER SCHOOL

For one reason or another students sometimes find themselves in a situation where they need to make up a class. We have a solution; it's called Credit Recovery. The fundamental piece is an online tool called Gradpoint. Students report that some classes are more difficult than others, but that it has been helpful in catching up. Gradpoint is available throughout the district. Since these "make-up" courses are available online, students have the option to work at home as well as here at school. Many students have taken advantage of this opportunity and have put themselves back on track to graduate with their peers. Gradpoint is also available through the Summer School program (June 2-20). Vern Kornstad and Debbie Carstens work with students in Credit Recovery.

MR. KORNSTAD, JR -BOYS HS BASKETBALL

Support your Nikiski Basketball programs!

We will soon be able to access a new and easy way for you to support your Nikiski basketball programs by partnering with Fred Meyer stores everywhere through their new Community Rewards Program. As soon as we receive our registration number you will be able to link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Nikiski's basketball program by following the link below. Whenever you use your Rewards Card while shopping at Freddy's, you will be helping Nikiski Basketball earn a donation from Fred Meyer at no extra cost to you, plus their donation will not effect the rewards you earn and use for yourself. This is a separate donation made solely by Fred Meyer. If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store. If you need us to bring you an application just let us know. We will even deliver it back to Fred Meyer for you after you fill it out if you need that service.

This program applies to Fred Meyer stores in any location so tell all your friends and relatives around the country that they will soon have a great opportunity to contribute to our program that won't cost them anything above what they are already spending.

For questions or more information email: rkornstad@kpbsd.k12.ak.us . You may also find out more about this and other details regarding our programs by liking us on Facebook. Just search for "Nikiski Boys Basketball"

http://www.fredmeyer.com/company_information/FM_Community/Pages/community_rewards.aspx

WE WILL GET THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON FACEBOOK IN ABOUT 2 WEEKS with further instructions on how to link up. Thank you! Go Bulldogs!!

MRS. THOMPSON-INTENSIVE NEEDS

A Final Goodbye!!

With this being my final newsletter for Nikiski Middle High School I wanted to share pictures from over the years. I have so many fond memories and these pictures don't even touch on all the memories that I have had over the 14 years here at Nikiski Middle High School. I would like to thank all the staff, students and the Nikiski Community for the great times that I have had for many years. So many individuals have touched my life and the life of my classroom. Each and every student that has passed through my doors will never be forgotten. Retirement will be a joy but also a sadness.

Thank you Nikiski Middle High School for all the memories, I will always have that Bulldog Spirit in my Heart!!!! I love you all!!! Mrs. Thompson



MR. JACKSON-HISTORY

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

Most everybody knows that change comes hard. Many do not like it; some even take it a step further and proclaim they despise change. Have you stopped to consider, that in the context of the history of mankind, not much has changed? There are six main threads we have continued to look at that never change in a civilization or society. These six constants are: religion, culture, science/tech, economics, agriculture/geography and government.

As we have progressed throughout the year in our studies in World History, we have focused on how those threads look within many different time periods and geographic areas, be it the ancient worlds or modern eras. Most recently, we have dove into the recent time periods that have been what got us to where we are in the world. Some of these bigger issues include the Rwandan Genocide, Chernobyl Meltdown, Iranian Hostage Crisis and the Lebanese Civil War to name a few.

As we have studied these different events, we try to look at how world events can affect change both in the area that the event occurs but also what is the impact it has had on the United States. There have been many eye opening moments in World History during this last quarter in regards to political scandals, ethnic cleansing and nuclear meltdowns. We have taken these opportunities to ask questions and analyze rationale behind decisions that were made. Scandals and bureaucracies have driven societies for centuries.

As we wrap up the year in World History, we will look at events of the sixties and seventies that eventually lead to wars, protests and continued uprisings in many countries, including our own. These wars and protests are always able to be tied directly back to one of the six threads; things change, but these things remain the same. My goal for my students is that they are able to go on in life with the ability to apply these questions and see what threads are being sewn into the global culture we are now a part of.

**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



YEARBOOKS STILL AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE AT THE NMHS OFFICE

\$65.00

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

May 9 & 10	HS Borough Track @ Skyview
May 10	MS Track @ Nikiski Invite
May 13	NNS & NMHS Band Concert-7:0p.m.
May 14	JumpStart Parent Meeting-6:30 p.m. library
May 14-16	Book Swap in the library
May 15	Senior Awards Night-7:00 p.m.
May 16-17	HS Region Track @ Palmer
May 19-20	Middle School Campout
May 20	Graduation-7:00 p.m.
May 21	Last Day of School for Students
May 22-24	Soccer Regions @ Palmer
May 23-24	State Track @ Diamond HS
August 4	HS Football Begins
August 8 & 11	Registration 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
August 11	HS Volleyball Begins
August 18	6th grade Orientation-1:00 p.m.
August 19	First Day of School for Students

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SENIORS:

May 15	Senior Awards Night-7:00 pm
May 20	
8:00 a.m.	Walk Practice
11:00 a.m.	BBQ
7:00 p.m.	Graduation
9:00 p.m.-midnight	After Grad Party
May 21	
1:00 p.m.	Seniors vs. Staff softball game



