

# BULLDOG BITES

Nikiski Middle/High School

December 11, 2019

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL-MR. CARSTENS

*A*s we head into the holiday season,  
I always try to set the mood with a play on a favorite  
Christmas Carol...try this to "Let it Snow"...

Oh the weather outside is dreary  
and the kids are a bit weary  
but since the break is coming up  
we all yell: woop, woop, woop!

The excitement is a growin'  
And the FCS will be a showin'  
And the spotlight is turned way up  
We all yell: woop, woop, woop!

When we finally head home that night  
Hopefully there will be no rain  
But if you could just see the site  
When we come back we'll all be sane!

The teachers are audibly sighing  
As the kids are doing their goodbye-ing  
And their love fills everyone's cup  
We all yell: woop, woop, woop!

Have a wonderful holiday season with all of your loved ones.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



# VICE PRINCIPAL—MR. BOSTIC

## It's the Little Things

I hope the Winter 2019 NMHS Newsletter finds you well with family and friends during the Holidays. We have worked hard to continue to build a solid learning environment based upon strong relationships and relevant learning.

During Thanksgiving Break I made contact with several recent graduates of NMHS to see if we are building a solid foundation that correlates with future opportunities and success. Across the board I heard phrases that included: "I really miss the people at NMHS... I am sure glad that someone guided me to take the classes that I did... I felt like the staff really knew me... I am doing great at college... When can I come and visit..." As society uses technology to over communicate and quantify a quality education with a myriad of statistical indicators, we must not forget that schools are a place to facilitate human potential, build life-long relationships, and measure our success one moment at a time.

As we go into the Christmas Break, please take some time to slow life down by doing a puzzle, building a snowman, telling stories, or making a batch of cookies. Thank you for your support and trust. May your holiday season be blessed with family and friends and filled with wonderful memories.

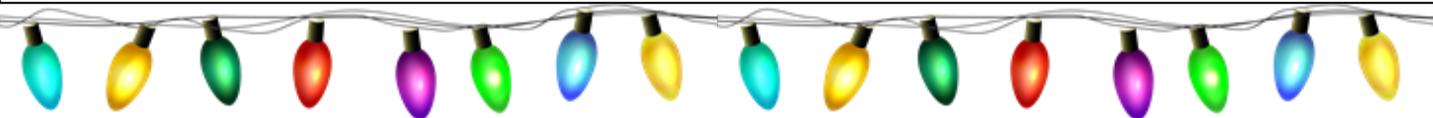


## MR. HOOPER - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/ HIGH SCHOOL MATH

It is an exciting time of year for many of our student athletes. Both our boys and girls middle school basketball team are entering the borough tournament in Homer this week. Our high school wrestling team is competing at the Region tournament at Redington this weekend and in the State tournament at the Alaska Airlines Center next weekend. And last, but not least our high school basketball teams have started their seasons and are preparing for their holiday tournaments. The Varsity teams will be playing in the Kenai River Challenge on Dec 19-21 at Kenai Central High School.

## MR. ANDERS - MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

There is a lot happening in Physical Education grades 6, 7 & 8. On Mondays we are continuing the weekly mile run and many personal records are being beaten. Strength and conditioning workouts are a focus during the 2<sup>nd</sup> class of the week. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter there has been an emphasis on some basic basketball skills. In December we will begin our mid-year fitness testing. Strength and conditioning students are leaning some fundamentals of lifting and getting fit! Most students are doing a good job of bringing their PE clothes and athletic shoes every day. Keep up the good work. Happy Holidays!



Back Row: Bryli Mullin, Tika Zimmerman, Lillian Carstens, America Jeffreys, Kaycee Bostic, Savannah Ley, Kaitlyn Johnson Middle Row: Jaycee Tauriainen, Angela Druesedow, Elora Reichert, Emma Lakin Front Row: Maddie Weeks, Rosalie Anderson, Kotori Miyoshi

Congratulations to the Nikiski Volleyball Team for taking 3<sup>rd</sup> at the State Tournament and earning the Sportsmanship Award! Kaitlyn Johnson also received the Best Setter Award and America Jeffreys received the Best Defensive Specialist Award. Kaycee Bostic, Kaitlyn Johnson, and America Jeffreys were named to the State All-Tournament Team. South Central Conference All-Conference Awards: Kaitlyn Johnson – MVP; First Team All-Conference: Kaycee Bostic & America Jeffreys; Honorable mention: Lillian Carstens, Tika Zimmerman & Savannah Ley

# MS. LYKE - SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Happy Holidays from the School Counseling Department!

It's been a great school year thus far and we are so excited for what next semester will bring.

Mrs. Karen Taylor held down the fort until the end of October when Mrs. Lyke returned after having her baby.

We've teamed up with our Student Success Liaison, Mrs. Janell Grenier, this year to keep the Workforce Wednesday program running strong. CAD CAM even designed some awesome WFW t-shirts that we raffle off to students as prizes. The true prize though, is the chance to connect with awesome professionals and learn more about the amazing career options available in our community!

Ms. Jade Mann, the Central Peninsula Career Guidance Liaison (also known as "The Career Lady"), has been in leading our students through Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) activities giving our students yet another way to explore their post-secondary options!

We also had visits from UAA, KPC and UAS during College Application Week this November. UAF will come to host an application day as well in January!

Next semester we look forward to bringing in Ms. Kelly Dietsch to facilitate our annual Alaska Safe Children's Act lessons with our students. These lessons are required by law and are designed to educate our students in order to help prevent sexual assault and dating violence. The schedule for these lessons will be shared once it is finalized. The winter break is an awesome time to rest and reflect on all we have to be grateful for. We certainly are grateful for the amazing staff, students, parents and community partners we get to work with on a daily basis!

Happy Holidays!



# MS. VRANIAK- MS MATH / ALGEBRA /COMPUTER CODING

This year in computer programming there are some exciting things happening! We have been working more with the Raspberry Pi computers, which really expanded the types of projects we can do. One group built and programmed a selfie station that has a button and a screen that populates the photos. Another team built an air quality sensor that we can eventually put on the football field in order to produce an AQI that would indicate whether it is safe to host a game when there is smoke from a forest fire. I'm so excited to see what else they will come up with!

In other news, NHS is hosting the annual Change for Change drive from December 9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. Send your kids to school with some pocket change so they can participate! The winning class gets a movie night at the school on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, and Charlie's Angels is donating pizzas for the event! All of the proceeds goes to the Nikiski Children's Fund to help students in need.

# MR. KORNSTAD - CAD - CAM / MIDDLE SCHOOL WELDING

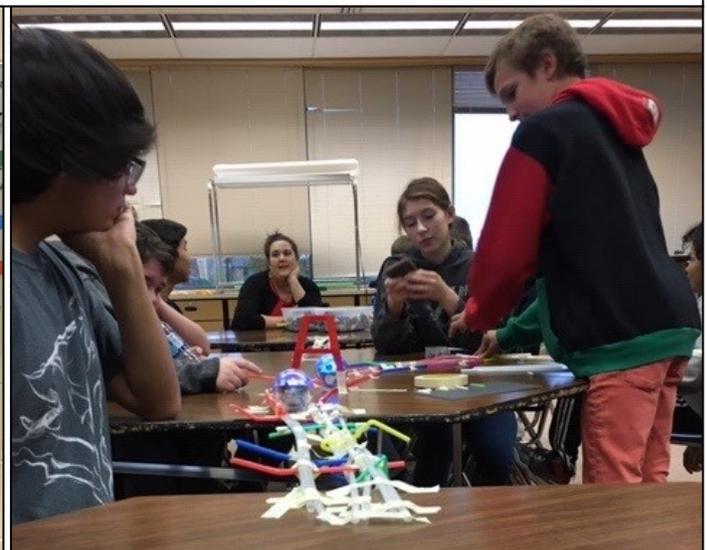
Hello from the Industrial Arts world at Nikiski Middle/High! We are quickly coming to the end of another semester full of practical learning experiences in the shops. Students in the Cad Cam shop have learned to create products in the digital world and produce them in the physical. We are proud to report that we have had a safe year free from major accidents! A safe attitude produces a safe environment!! Students have learned the basics of two software programs that design their various projects to be run on 4 different machines. Students have become proficient in utilizing some of the basic design tools in Corel Draw and Partworks to create projects on each one of the 4 machines in the shop. Projects created in Partworks were produced on either the ShopBot or on the Plasma Cam. The ShopBot is a computerized router mounted on a large rectangular table used to engrave, mill and cutout. The plasma cam is a plasma cutter controlled by the computer and mounted to a large square table. It cuts metal designs out of steel and aluminum. Projects created in Corel Draw were produced on either the Versa Cam or on the Laser machine. The Versa Cam is a large printer that prints and cuts out designs on rolls of various vinyl-type materials up to 28" wide. The Laser machine engraves, etches, burns, and cuts all kinds of materials from paper to plastic to glass to metals. Students have worked well in the shop and enjoyed learning employable skills relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century!



The Industrial Arts center is also now producing two 10' x 12' greenhouses, and a shed. Spread the word, the greenhouses are for sale, and should be completed late this spring. Be ready for the growing season and order yours now. Contact the office if you're interested or know someone who is.

# MS. BOYLE - INTERVENTION / DANCE / CREDIT RECOVERY

Students from Nikiski Middle High School grades 6-8 just finished reading the short story "Towers Falling" by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Many students were not aware of that part of our history, or the impact that it had on our entire nation. They knew only parts and pieces of what had happened. Although the story itself was fictional, the events were based on actual things that happened. Students worked through research and personal exploration to come up with what it means to be an American to them, and designed their own concept maps to express their ideas. All the students shared common themes, like freedom and liberty. Realizing the level of sacrifice firefighters and police officers are committed to making every day - putting their lives on the line for others -our students were moved, realizing how close to home these ideas really are. Wanting to show their appreciation for feeling safe within their homes and community, they decided to write thank you letters to the first responders and deliver them personally over the holidays. It was nice to see the students engaged and working together with a common goal and purpose in mind. It is easy to take for granted all that we have to be thankful for in our lives, some are more fortunate or less fortunate than others are. Things that happen affect us all differently and influence how we see and interact with one another in our world. Our experiences mold us into the people we become. We can show support, kindness and compassion to others.



## MS. WIDMAN - ART / DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

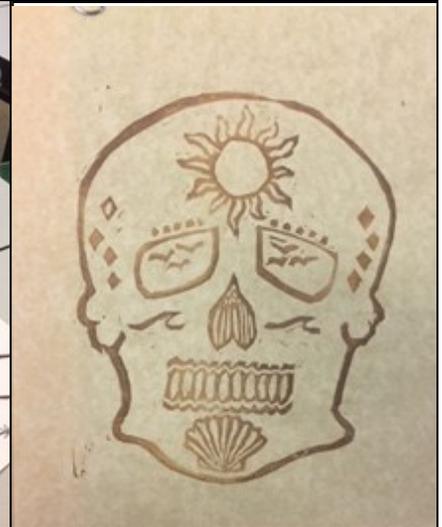
This season has brought some exciting lessons to the art and photography department. Digital Photography is working on a photo-journalism piece documenting a community member. Advanced art students have been researching contemporary artists and making art inspired by that artist. In preparation for our December 11<sup>th</sup> trip to the museum students have been analyzing the piece *Blueberries* by contemporary, Alaska artist James Schoppert and creating their own cultural work based on something they harvest in Alaska.

I am excited to announce that the NMHS art department is exhibiting at The Compass coffee shop in Nikiski, AK during the month of January! We will also be hanging art on the 17 of December at the High School. I sincerely hope you can come and see all the work these super talented students are producing.

I am blessed working with such an exuberant and unique group of students and professionals and wish you all a wonderful holiday!



Art by Harmony Harris, Danya Schwalb, and America Jeffreys



## MR. NELSON - PHYSICAL

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

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

Foods class has been doing great and making some delicious meals. With the help of some community members, we made 50 pumpkin pies to donate to the community for Thanksgiving. The kids really did a great job. We have made some great treats, so ask your kids to cook dinner for you tonight!

## MRS ABEL- HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE / MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

Wow this semester has just flown by! Thanks to all my students who put a smile on my face every day, I truly love working at NMHS. We have been extremely busy in my classroom this quarter. In math we have been working on our understanding of rational numbers – think integers, decimals, and fractions! We also had some fun building the tallest cup towers without touching the cups with our hands. Look at this team go!

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!



## **MR. JUREK - BAND / CHOIR / GUITAR**

The NMHS Music Dept. will hold its Winter Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Nikiski MS/HS Auditorium.

Students need to arrive by 6:30 p.m. and check in at their pre-assigned room in order to warm up.

Attire for the Concert Band and Concert Choir is their concert uniforms that were checked out with low heeled dress shoes with the concert dresses; black socks and black dress shoes for the shirts and vests.

Attire for the Mixed Choir and Intermediate Band is dress clothes such as: a dress or skirt and shirt, low heeled dress shoes for the girls; dark pants, white shirt and tie, dark socks and dark dress shoes for the boys.

Performance at this concert completes a portion of the state core curriculum requirements for the music class and is also a good portion of your student's grade. It is important for your child to arrive on time in order to receive full credit for the performance.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your students to be able to perform in front of an audience. I hope that you will make every effort to attend and enjoy the sounds of the holiday season. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with your young musicians and wish everyone all the joys of the season.

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

### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM BI13!!!**

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE is ready to wrap up the first semester and go out with a bang. 8<sup>th</sup> graders are finishing up a long, mind-blowing ride with chemistry and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders are beginning to really see just how complex LIFE can be. Study hard and finish strong, a great vacation awaits. Next semester begins a new path for physical science students. We begin to look into the world of physics to explore the forces and powers that govern our universe. Expect a lot of hands on labs and mathematical calculations! 7<sup>th</sup> graders can expect to begin exploring the vast diversity of life on earth. From frogs to fish to ferrets, we'll study them all! Be ready for a flurry of information and a bunch of cool labs. Our scalpels will be ready for a series of dissections that are sure to blow your mind. Stay tuned faithful middle schoolers, there's more to come.

DRONES class had a major success recently that only begs for more trial runs. As a collaborative effort between many students, we were able to lift a 4-foot glider off the ground using a drone, and then released it remotely. Several teams of pilots, engineers, videographers, and programmers were assembled and set forth to work. With the help of the 3-D printer and some north road ingenuity, the glider flew effortlessly from 200 feet in the air and covered over 400 feet of flight distance. There is a lot more to come for second semester, stay tuned folks.

## **Nikiski Middle School Girls Basketball**



## MR. ERNST - STUDY SKILLS / LANGUAGE ARTS / LIFE SCIENCE

Alternative Algebra, 2<sup>nd</sup> hour:

Dylan Hooper and I teach this standards based math course. This year we are employing a new computer based math platform called "ALEK". This program actively assesses the student's mastery of Alaska state mathematical standards and provides exercises tailored to each student's changing level of ability. The freshman that we have this year are doing a fantastic job producing evidence of their mastery of the state standards in mathematics. It looks like some of them will move through our whole Algebra Readiness curriculum and begin to do Algebra I early.

Study Skills, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> hour:

My Study Skills students are working hard every class to keep their grades up and find academic success in school. Families can keep up to date on the progress of the classes of their children by using PowerSchool or Canvas on their home computers.

Alternative LA 9 ↔ Alternative Life Science, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> hour:

This is a great hybrid class for freshman that combines the skills of writing and close reading that are the subject of language arts with the scientific information and investigative skills of life science. We are working on developing vocabulary knowledge to enhance close reading while learning how to write in a variety of forms and for many purposes. This quarter we have been working on language arts standards and skills in reading and writing. Currently we are working on writing summaries of articles selected by me from NewsELA in LA 9 and in Life Science we are investigating genetics and inheritance. NewsELA is another great computer-based source for current events and news which can be customized to each student's reading (Lexile) level. Here at the end of the quarter we are combining language arts with life science by reading science articles about genetics in NewsELA.

## MR. JACKSON - HIGH SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS / LANGUAGE ARTS

William Golding wrote *Lord of the Flies* in 1954, and if you search for books students should read it is still high on the list. What makes this novel so interesting? Why should students, specifically your student, read this? As Golding said the "Overarching theme of *Lord of the Flies* is the conflict between the human impulse towards savagery and the rules of civilization which are designed to contain and minimize it." Isn't this important for young people to see as early as possible? The society and the people that make it up are really no different now than they were when Golding penned this 65 years ago. We are still on a path that when given the option many would bend towards savagery rather than civility.

We are reading this in LA 10 with the goal that we can start to be a change. It can be interesting in many current ways; politically, socially, economically or culturally. Really it boils down to kindness matters, people matter, and our peers matter. Rather than allowing ourselves to become and head towards savagery, my hope is that each student will find within themselves a reason and a purpose in every interaction to be kind, thereby forcing society more towards civility rather than savagery.



Government class at the Kenai Courthouse for a mock trial.

## MRS. BARROWS - MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS / READING

It's hard to believe we are already at the midpoint of this school year! Students in language arts fundamentals have been working hard to increase their reading and writing skills. We just finished reading a book called "The Honest Truth" By Dan Gemeinhart. In this story, a boy with cancer runs away from home with his dog to climb Mt. Rainier. We all really enjoyed this book and learned to write in Haiku through this unit. This is a type of poetry that is written in 3 lines with 5, 7, and 5 syllables each.

*Christmas is nearing*

*The tree is sparkling and bright*

*Snow softly falls down*

## MRS. SINGER - SPANISH 1 & 2



The holiday season is a fun learning experience for Spanish 1 and Spanish 2. Spanish 1 students are learning about the Mexican Christmas flower, la poinsettia. They are also exploring holiday traditions throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Spanish 2 is continuing to practice their listening and reading skills by researching Christmas traditions such as *la loteria* in Spain. Both groups are continuing to work on conjugating verbs and vocabulary. *Feliz Navidad!*

## MRS. NICHOLS - INTENSIVE NEEDS

Our Class has been practicing skills we've learned out in the community. So if you see us out and about, be sure and say Hi!! We made it to Safeway in October to purchase supplies for the meals we would prepare; November's trip took us to the Kenai Visitor Center where our students entered the Gingerbread House competition. If you haven't made it out to the Kenai Visitor Center to check out the Gingerbread houses, you should! They will be on display until December 18<sup>th</sup>.



## MR. HITCHCOCK - MS WORLD HIST./GEOGRAPHY/EARTH SCIENCE

World History is moving on to the domain of Egypt and all of its mysterious glory. Students will be exploring the puzzle of the pyramids along with their complex polytheistic society.

Earth Science finished with the plate tectonic theory and now we are exploring the rock cycle through practical labs and hands-on materials.

Geography is progressing to the end of the South America unit with an emphasis on the Amazon river system. The speed capital run project is in full swing.

I can't believe we already at the halfway mark, let's capitalize on these limited opportunities left!

## MRS. ZIMMERMAN - MS SOCIAL STUDIES / LANGUAGE ARTS

**6<sup>th</sup> LANGUAGE ARTS:** Please talk to your student about handing in their late/missing work. This can really make a difference in two weeks when grades are finalized. The second quarter narratives are complete. Our focus is on quality writing! We use the 6 traits of writing: ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Make sure you ask your student for the Monday newsletter that goes home with your student. The newsletter can be found on Power School along with other handouts. We are finishing up our Grammar Packets as we isolate one grammar concept and learn and practice three per week. We will start DOL (daily oral language) when we get back from Christmas vacation. SWOTD (spelling word of the day) is going well, my hope is by discussing and practicing commonly misspelled words, they will transfer to students' writing. **Second quarter formal book reports are DUE December 12!** Please make sure you are asking your student about it. Students are working hard and improving each week.

**6<sup>th</sup> GEOGRAPHY:** We are finishing up our Asia unit. **Maps are DUE December 12** and the **unit test is scheduled for December 19**. Asia KUD's are due the day of the test. We continue working through our weekly geography questions. This is an excellent way for students to practice their map skills and realizing geography is connected with science and math!

**8<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN HISTORY:** We are midway through Chapter 3 Pre-Revolutionary War Era. Since there is SO much information in this chapter, students will be tested half way through chapter 3. Students will be tested on December 18 on sections 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3; KUD's for these sections are DUE December 18 as well. Remember, students have the opportunity to get a jump start on their homework assignment in class. Parents/Guardians, please check Power School. If your student is absent, s/he can check Power School for their assignments. I post as many handouts on Power School as possible. Check it out!

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

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**Middle School Student Council:** Student council has been very busy conducting our annual canned food drive. ALL food donated will be brought to the NIKISKI FOOD BANK which means all food will stay in Niskiki. ***The last day to bring in cans in December 19!*** Student council has also planned a **Christmas Spirit Week:**

**Dec. 16: Christmas PJ Day**

**Dec. 17: Ugly Christmas Sweater Day**

**Dec. 18: Christmas Character Day**

**Dec. 19: Christmas Color Day**

**Dec. 20: Christmas Headgear Day**

Our next middle school dance is schedule for January 31 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders who currently attend NMHS. Parents, if you are interested in helping, please call or email me! We would love to have you help out as a chaperone.

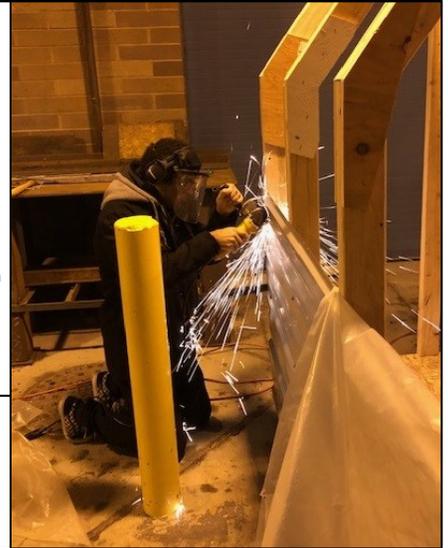
## MRS. COOPER - MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS

Mrs. Cooper's Study Skills students have been hard at work skill building. They are working on their reading, writing, and Math skills with individualized help, computer programs, and some fun games and stories. We are also slowly decorating for the holidays to make sure our room has a festive and welcoming atmosphere.



## MR. PORTER - HIGH SCHOOL MATH / WOODSHOP

1<sup>st</sup> period construction is working really hard to complete their two major projects... a greenhouse and a shed. All cylinders are running in order to make this happen. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> period geometry just started getting to work on proving triangle congruence. This is a pretty big chapter in the geometry world. So far they are all off to a great start. My 4<sup>th</sup> period wood shop class is also working hard to finish their individual projects. We have some beautiful products coming out of the shop right now. From bowls, to bats to boxes. Some students in this class are really doing some great things. 6<sup>th</sup> period calculus is also getting busy. They are in the middle of their study of optimization.



## MR. BJORKMAN - HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES/ OUTDOOR EXP

Recently students in my high school courses have been having many great in-depth conversations and debates about the historical role of government and what it means to live in a free society under the rule of law. 11<sup>th</sup> grade students have had to confront how governments should deal with scarce resources and land conflict by looking at historical events like the El Paso Salt War and perceived scarcity that drove some civil rights conflicts of the late 1800s.

Students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade have been taking a philosophical look at how ideas that were incorporated into the American Revolution were conceived in Europe during the Enlightenment. Students have been doing a great job of weighing the implications of countries moving from a monarchy to a more liberal (Note the small "L". Classical Liberalism means that people have some form of self-government, rule of law and economic freedom) form of government. Students have been describing to each other what life would look like for common folks under a governmental regime as envisioned by Thomas Hobbes or John Locke.

Middle school outdoor education students were able to complete their hunter education course and qualify with their skills at the Snowshoe Gun Club last month. Students have been learning a number of skills like tying knots and orienteering that will serve them well into their adult life. Also they have been learning more about the animals of Alaska like the Wood Bison. We will be spending a lot of class time outdoors in the next two weeks. Please send students prepared to go out in the snow and cold.

I hope that you all enjoy the holidays! Merry Christmas!!

## MR. RIZZO - LANGUAGE ARTS/PERSONAL FINANCE/GOVERNMENT



Since this is the season of giving, I hope everyone that is able will consider giving to the Nikiski Children's Fund. We have been utilizing this fund at both the high school and Nikiski North Star for the last four years. Our new executive director, Bailey Epperheimer is doing a tremendous job at raising money for the fund. Funds go to fill the needs of children in our community and pay for everything from new coats and boots to heating fuel. We are so blessed out here to have caring neighbors and a community that will help out at a moment's notice. That is what this fund personifies. If you can support this work, please contact Laura Niemczyk at Nikiski High School or Paulene Rizzo at Nikiski North Star.

# MRS. HORNUNG - HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE / MATH COURSE 1 & 2

*What to do about the mid-school-year- its-almost-Christmas blahs!*

The newness of school has worn off and even the best students are beginning to get in a rut. They're tired of getting up early, they put off their homework until the last possible moment, and when asked what they learned each day, the answer is always "nothing." What can you do about it? Here's a few ideas that may help.

**Stay involved with their education.** Help them to finish this semester strong! Ask them for KUD's. KUD stands for know, understand and do. These are documents that I give them which explain exactly what we plan to learn and what they will be tested over. Once you know what we're working on you can find ways to apply what we're doing in class at home.

**MAP testing is starting this week.** We need everyone here for this test! Please make sure kids have had breakfast and enough sleep. The MAP test shows me how much your child has learned this semester. This year, the math department will be taking a very close look at the scores we receive from the MAP test so that we can make the very best decision about your children's math placement. Therefore, it is essential that students take the test seriously and do their very best on it.

**Check PowerSchool and Canvas often.** I try to post assignments and tests early so that you and your student know about important due dates. For my 6<sup>th</sup> grade math class, you can find standards we are working on and rubric scores to track your student's progress towards proficiency on those standards.

**Send me an email if something doesn't make sense.** I check my email many times a day and can usually get back to you very quickly. (jhornung@kpbsd.k12.ak.us)

**Visit our classroom.** I welcome guest speakers. If you work in a science field or use mathematics every day, I'd love to have you share your experience with my class.

## MS. NIEMCZYK - MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts: Second Quarter has flown by! Our second quarter common writing assessment will focus on informational writing using the short story "The Most Dangerous Game". This is a great short story that most students have enjoyed. Students are learning how to annotate a piece of writing for important information, events, and to discover theme. Going back into a story to find details and evidence is something we began focusing on this quarter and will be important for the remainder of their school careers. Students should be reading at least 3 times a week at home so if they are not, encourage them to. When we come back in January, we will begin a unit on Persuasion/ Argumentation. I hope you all have a wonderful winter break.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts: This quarter focused on four main objectives. The first two are content related: analyze literature with a focus on themes and figurative language, and write a variety of informational pieces. The second two objectives are just as (if not more) important: time management and interpersonal skills. Students are responsible for completing a variety of assignments and tasks individually and in small groups by a set date. Groups determined their individual responsibilities for their projects. 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.

## MR. BAILEY - QUEST / MATH COURSE 1

Middle school Quest students have been working on a variety of differentiated projects throughout most of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, partially designed or created by students, giving students the opportunity to personalize their learning opportunities on subjects, projects, or pursuits that they find interesting. The project options which students chose came from a wide variety of areas, including: completing an assortment of logic or math puzzler problems, creating film project ideas and shooting film project clips, designing animation projects, creative writing projects, chess strategies, Exploravision technology innovation drafts, completing student-designed logic problems, 'Hour of Code' computer science coding challenges, Scratch coding projects, generating digital Jeopardy game projects, and creative independent project pursuits (oriented around digital, research, book and/or model production objectives). In addition, all students participated in a national computational thinking online challenge (Bebras Challenge), which challenged their higher level critical thinking, coding, and logic skills in a timed online format. Logan Nicks & Kailey Stynsberg came out on top of their grade level category for our selected school results!

## MRS. GRENIER - STUDENT SUCCESS LIAISON

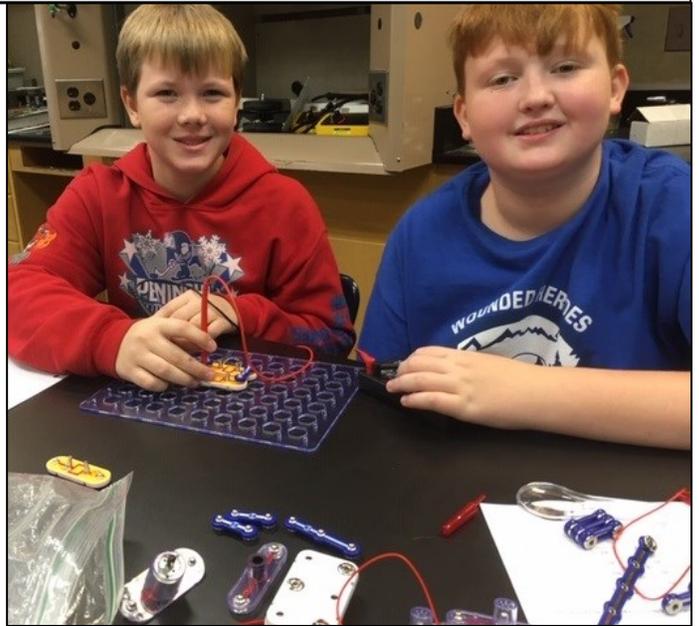
Wishing you the Happiest Holiday season!

For the past several years, NMHS has been using our early release days to promote student leadership and team building through our student led ed camps. We have recently expanded upon this idea. Our early release days are not "days off from learning," but instead "opportunities to learn to love lifelong learning." Last year, we had over 25 guest speakers here for our community led ed camps and we had students learn about fish cleaning, jam making, bee keeping and so much more. Every student had a take away experience they will remember for a life time.

This year we will be using the short days for more learning lessons outside of our curriculum. In October, science educators from all over the Peninsula and Anchorage shared their knowledge about science and technology on our STEAM ed camp day. Due to our location, sometimes field trips can be cost and time prohibitive. This was a field trip that came to us!

We have plans for all 4 of the short days coming up next semester including a repeat of our successful community led ed camps. Early release days are not a day off. They are a day to exchange information and ideas with community members and each other in a different format! Don't miss out!

Enjoy your Christmas break! See you next year!



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

December 17

 Winter Concert - 7:00 PM 

December 19-21

Boys & Girls Varsity @ Craig Jung Kenai River Classic

Thursday Girls vs. Galena - 3:00 PM / Boys vs. Galena - 4:30 PM

Friday Girls vs. Houston - 4:30 PM / Boys vs. Houston - 3:00 PM

Saturday Girls vs. Kenai - 3:00 PM / Boys vs. Kenai - 4:30 PM

December 19-21

Girls JV @ CIA Tournament

December 20-21

State Wrestling Tournament @ Alaska Airlines Center



**Winter Break**  
**Saturday, December 21 - Tuesday, January 7**  
**(Monday, January 6 - Staff In-Service)**



January 7

Middle School Wrestling, Volleyball & Skiing Begin