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| **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**   **WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY**  **HOME OF “OREO THE ORCA**” **December 1, 2017**   |

**Principal’s Corner**

A Message from the Principal:

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

 We continue to bring our practices in line with our mission and vision. Our work with personalized learning continues as teachers have been collaborating on ways to provide more student reflection and ownership in their education. It is exciting to be part of this staff that strives for and models continual improvement!

**Change in Dismissal Time!!!**

Starting January 8th, our **new dismissal time will be 2:40pm**. We are excited about this change as we will be gaining 5 minutes of instructional time each day. As it stands right now, during that 5 minutes, students are waiting in the hall for a bus instead of in class learning. This will not change any of the bus pick up or drop off times. They will continue to arrive at West Homer at 2:40pm as they have been.

**Coffee with the Superintendent: 12/7/17 @ K-Bay Coffee 9:00am – 10:00am**

Sean Dusek, the Superintendent, will be available to share some coffee with Homer community members on Thursday, December 7th. This is an opportunity for our community to meet with him and discuss perceptions of the schools and school district along with any input on budget, programs, and/or priorities.

**Rethinking Awards**

Some of you may have noticed that we did not have an awards assembly the first quarter. Our staff, Site Council, and PTO have all been discussing how best to celebrate achievement as a whole school.  We had not yet decided on a plan by the end of the first quarter, so we decided to cancel the first quarter awards assembly.  We are working on a semester celebration right now to have before Christmas break. There is a body of research out there regarding awards that falls in line with our Mission and Vision at West Homer. Feel free to check out some of these sites and join the conversation.

<https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2017/08/07/how-a-school-ditched-awards-and-assemblies-to-refocus-on-kids-and-learning/>

<http://chriswejr.com/2017/03/26/5-reasons-to-rethink-awards-ceremonies/>

**PTO Dinner and a Show!**

What an event we had on November 20th. Those in attendance enjoyed over 25 student performances, a fabulous spaghetti dinner and a chance to win some delectable desserts at the silent auction. Thanks to the PTO and all the volunteers who created this opportunity for our students to develop courage and confidence as they displayed some of their skills!

**Parent Pick-up**

Thank you all for using the designated parent pick up parking if your child is not ready when you are in the pick-up zone. This has made a huge difference in our ability to keep the pick-up line moving.

Eric Waltenbaugh, Principal

***Vision:*** *The learning community of West Homer Elementary inspires and supports all students to be lifelong learners with the courage and confidence to make positive contributions to the world.*

***Mission****: The mission of West Homer Elementary School is to build strong connections among community, families, staff, and students in a safe, healthy, nurturing environment that challenges each student.*

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**STARTING JANUARY 8TH WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY**

**SCHOOL HOURS WILL BE**

**8:00 AM TO 2:40 PM**

**PLEASE NOTE THE 5 MINUTE DIFFERENCE**

**THE CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT IS DEC. 12TH @ 12:30 @ HOMER HIGH SCHOOL MARINER THEATER**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

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Healthy Holiday Hints

  ![MC900232438[1]]() ![MC900231492[1]]()

What’s missing from these pictures?

HELMETS!

Winter break is coming soon and it is a time to enjoy many fun outdoor activities. Every year, children and adults are seriously injured doing these fun activities. Wearing a helmet saves lives-just like wearing seatbelts and lifejackets. Not only is buying a helmet **a lot** cheaper than a trip to the emergency room, wearing it may just save a life.

Winter break is a time to spread good cheer, not germs. Washing your hands after using the bathroom and before eating is a great way to decrease the amount of germs passed around. Sneezing and coughing into your sleeve controls the spread of germs much better than sneezing and coughing into your hand. Getting enough sleep, spending time outside, and maintaining a balanced diet will help decrease the amount of time you and your family spend being ill over the winter break.

Winter break is also a time for playdates and sleepovers. I highly encourage checking your children and their friends for lice on a regular basis. Lice happens.

I hope these healthy holiday hints help. Wishing you a healthy and wonderful winter break.

Your school nurse,

Laura Peek, RN

West Homer Elementary

Fireweed Academy 3rd-6th

Phone 907-235-5788

Fax 907-235-2612

**4th Grade Friendship Celebration**

Ms. Daigle, Ms. Wurst and Ms. Worsfold’s classes will be celebrating the season with an hour out of the ice together at the Kevin Bell Arena on December 19th. Come join in the fun!

Waste reduction and recycling can have major positive impacts on quality of life in our community today and in the future! We're so lucky at our school to use reusable silverware in our lunchroom. According to Ms. Hoffman in the kitchen, however, many utensils are being bent and destroyed. Please use the utensils safely, respectfully, and responsibly.

Continue to RETHINK; REUSE; REDUCE; & RECYCLE!



**OFFICE NOTES**

Please call **before 1:45 pm** to leave messages or bus notes.

**Remember to sign in on the computer at the front desk before going down the hallway. When you leave you can scan your badge for a quick check out.**

Thank you

**PBIS**

With the excitement of the holidays quickly approaching, and a multitude of special events going on, we continue to promote our expectations of being respectful, responsible and safe at West Homer Elementary. Last month students earned another school wide celebration: bring your stuffed animal “pet” to school. It proved to be a fun day as students were able to read, write and do math with their pet. Great job Orcas and Gryphons! We look forward to earning our next Kaleidoscope celebration which will include computers, board games, airplane making, art, mission impossible, storm and castle and drama.

The staff is continuing to use PBIS as a positive way to shape behavior and guide students to positive choices. In November the PBIS team provided a refresher training to teachers and support staff to ensure that expectations were consistent across the building and behavior was refocused in a helpful way that sets students up for success. It is our staff goal that refocusing students with private meaningful conversations will help students meet our expectations of respectful, responsible and safe. Additionally, the staff is in the process of getting school spirit wear to communicate our expectations in a different and creative way!



Library Corner



**Would you like to browse through WHE**

**Library’s 29,475 books from home?**

Go to:  **KPBSD Website**

Select:  **Students/ Parents**

1. **West Homer Elementary Library Catalog:**

Choose: **Alexandria Library Catalogs** from the Drop down Menu

* This is the **Find It Library Directory**
* Select **West Homer Elementary** from the **Select a school** drop down menu (scroll down to our school**)**

**World book**

The **World Book** web site offers an encyclopedia, dictionary, atlas, homework help, and study aids. Your student my use **World Book** from home by going to the **KPBSD website** and selecting the **Students/Parents** tab.

****Choose**: World Book icon** to the left of screen

**Username: information**

**Password: kpbsd**

Your Librarians,

Lisa Whip and Cheryl Illg

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

* December 7th : Coffee with the Superintendent @ K-Bay Coffee 9:00am – 10:00am
* December 11th - 14th: PTO Little Shoppers Shop
* December 12th: Winter Concert @ 12:30pm, Mariner Theater
* December 19th: PTO meeting @3:30pm WHE Library
* December 21st: Orca Olympics @ 12:45–2:30 pm, WHE gym
* December 22nd: In Service - No School
* December 22nd – January 7th: Winter Break
* January 8th: School resumes

**Important dates:** Please check our updated calendar of WHE events on our school website for a full list of events. We are working hard to make this a comprehensive school calendar.

**http://westhomerelementary.blogs.kpbsd.k12.ak.us**

**School Lunch Menu**

The lunch menu can be found on the KPBSD website or if you would like to add the KPBSD App to your mobile device.

**\*All lunch accounts must be paid up by the end of December\***

**Thank you!**

The KPBSD App is an all-in-one information source for parents, students, staff and community. The app was developed specifically to provide direct access to the district’s most sought after information in the most convenient format on your mobile device.

Search the app store for Kenai Peninsula Borough SD to download the free app.