



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY

HOME OF "OREO THE ORCA"

November 1, 2017

Principal's Corner

A Message from the Principal:

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Thank you all for visiting with teachers during Parent Teacher Conferences. What a wonderful time to connect and build partnerships to support your child! This past month I have seen our students rise to a number of challenges. We had Jeff Dickrell, a historian and retired Alaska History teacher, give a presentation to classes on the lessons learned from the battle of Attu. Students were engaged and asking some very high level questions. In addition, Bill Noomah, a retired Homer area teacher, presented his lesson in Ms. Paul's class on Veteran Appreciation that was recognized by the National Library of Congress. A representative from the Veteran's Administration from Washington D.C. observed the lesson and the total engagement of our students in analyzing primary sources. Finally, even amidst the excitement of Halloween, I observed our teachers delivering important and creative spooky lessons in math and reading. The learning never stops here, and the students continue to excel!

Continual Improvement

Instructional rounds:

This month we launch our first instructional rounds day. The general goal of these days, which will occur once per month, is to increase the professional growth of teachers. Groups of 3-4 teachers travel with the principal to observe 3 different classrooms. We decide as a staff the focus of our observations, pick up ideas from our

colleagues as we observe them in action, and provide feedback to them after.

Early Release Days:

Personalized Learning: Teachers have been learning how to design different instructional models and delivery methods within their classrooms to enhance individual student learning. We continue to develop ways to offer students more voice and choice in their learning and provide opportunities to build student ownership of their education.

Parent Pick-up

A number of factors have contributed to our parent pickup line backing up sometimes all the way to the Sterling Highway between 2:35pm and 3:00pm. In an effort to keep the line moving, we have reserved 6 parking spaces specifically for parent pickup directly in front of the pick-up zone. If your child is not ready to be picked up while you are in the pick-up zone, we will invite you to pull directly ahead and park. Some parents are even backing into these slots. It will take no more time for your child to walk to your parking spot from the front of the school, and it will allow the line to keep moving.

Also, I suggest that if you are coming to the school prior to 2:25pm, please park and do not start creating a pick-up line.

I posted a video on the West Homer Facebook page...have fun checking it out.

School Delays and Closures

It is that time of year as the weather starts to turn when we start preparing for possible school delays and

closures. I encourage you to sign up for the district app so you will get information on delays and closures as soon as decisions are made.

KPBSD district office communications will post two-hour school delays or closures, and subsequent updates, usually starting by 5:30 AM. If nothing is announced, assume schools are open on a normal schedule.



- KPBSD [Mobile App](#) push notification (Kenai Peninsula Borough SD)
- Facebook: [Kenai Peninsula Borough School District @KPBSD](#) (usually by 5:30 AM)
- Twitter: [@KPBSD](#)
- KPBSD website home page: www.KPBSD.org
- Local media including: radio stations, television stations, newspaper online sites

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.*

LIBRARY NEWS

The Scholastic Book Fair was a great success! THANK YOU SO MUCH to the students, parents, grandparents, staff, and community members for all your hard work in making the Fair so wonderful! Your generosity was extraordinary—we sold more books than ever before and had so much fun!!!

Your support for literacy makes a big difference in our school.

The students are reading, writing stories for me, and sharing books and ideas with other students: literacy at its fullest.

We really appreciate all the book donations to our library—they round out our collection.

Thank you.

Your librarians,

Lisa Whip and Cheryl Illg

Nurse's Notes

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Cold, wet weather is here! Appropriate clothing is needed to keep your child warm and dry. School policy states that all children will go outside at recess unless the chill factor exceeds -10 degrees or it's raining significantly. Studies have shown that fresh air and exercise increase a child's ability to learn in the classroom, even for those who have, or are recovering from, a minor illness. Please consider the following guidelines:

1. **Water repellent hat, coat and foot gear for damp and wet days.**
2. **Mittens or gloves**
3. **Clothing:** Several layers of light clothing that fit comfortably without binding and/or snow pants and rain gear.
4. **Hat or ear band:** Should be worn even if your child's coat or snowsuit has a hood. Hoods frequently do not stay in place or fit snugly enough around the ears.
5. **Foot Gear that will keep the feet dry:** Insulated boots or rubber boots with warm socks. Both types should be removed when indoors. Boots worn indoors cause feet to perspire and become damp. Wet feet will become cold feet on the next trip outdoors.
6. **A light shoe (i.e. tennis shoes) should remain in the classroom for indoor wear.**
7. **Stocking feet are not adequate in case of a fire drill.**
8. **All removable clothing should be labeled with your child's name.**

As a general rule, children who are well enough to attend school benefit from outdoor recess time.

Because we don't keep spare clothing in the nurse's office, someone from the school will be calling you for dry clothes

if your child needs them. Some families have chosen to send their child with an extra set of pants, socks and underwear to avoid that situation. If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach the nurse at 235-5788.

Laura Peek, RN

West Homer Elementary

Fireweed Academy 3-6

School Nurses



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

Students at West Homer and Fireweed continue to work hard each day to earn Orca and Gryphon chips in their classrooms and in common areas. We continue to maintain our expectations of being respectful, responsible and safe at school. Staff members are always on the lookout to reinforce these behaviors with chips. Waiting your turn to talk or taking turns with a friend are ways to be respectful. Remembering your school supplies and being prepared for the day are ways to be responsible. Walking in the hallway or following bus procedures are ways to stay safe. Reminding your son/daughter of our school expectations before they leave for school is a very positive way to support what is happening in our building.

Anticipation is growing as our school jar fills up with chips! Our next celebration will be "bring your stuffed animal pet to school." An announcement will be made when we reach our goal and a date for the celebration will be set. Please encourage your sons and daughters to participate. Stuffed animals that fit in your backpack are most appropriate. Students can read to their pet, write to their pet or teach their pet math while at school! We are looking forward to a fun day that celebrates our accomplishments!



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Pumpkin Chunkin Fundraiser Nov. 3rd from 3:45-5:45 pm @ WHE Field
- Site Council Mtg Nov. 7th @ 6:00 pm WHE Library
- Talent Show Nov 20th @ WHE Gym@ 6:00 pm
- PTO Meeting Nov. 21st @ 3:30pm WHE Library
- **EARLY RELEASE** Nov 22nd @ 1:05p
- **NO SCHOOL** Nov 23rd & 24th – Thanksgiving Break

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.

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.

Fun Fall Fundraiser - "Punkin Chunkin"

Friday, November 3th

3:45 PM - 5:45 PM

In the field behind West Homer Elementary School



"PUNKIN CHUNKIN" - with an 8 foot trebuchet (catapult)
\$5 to pull a rope to fling a pumpkin into the West Homer field

A mid-size trebuchet (4 feet tall) flings gourds nicely! And just back to chuck!

MAGIC GOLDEN PUMPKIN DROP "50/50 raffle"

At 5:30, Mr. Waltenbaugh will launch a Golden Pumpkin into the gridded field behind West Homer. The Golden Pumpkin will have a beanbag marker inside it. The one square where the beanbag lands will win half the pot -- up to \$250 if all 100 squares are sold! \$5/ticket. Need not be present to win. See contest rules for details.

33	34	7	14	19	31
27	14	41	27	41	28
12	5	17	1	32	32
76	14	33	15	14	15
26	32	11	27	25	32
71	2	33	11	25	48
7	33	27	27	32	27
14	32	27	19	17	100



Example - \$25.000 Pumpkin raffle ticket
Buy a raffle ticket and win \$25.000
If the golden pumpkin lands on your square, you win up to \$250
Raffle will be present for sale

FOOD

Hot dogs, popcorn, and hot chocolate will be sold.

DROP-OFF A PUMPKIN FOR THE PILE AFTER HALLOWEEN

The trebuchet is an ancient technology and takes time to launch. Getting pumpkins in advance will help speed things up, but we still may not be able to get through all the pumpkins. Help us by dropping off a pumpkin in front of the school office anytime after Halloween. No matter what, it'll be a fun event!
****Also please bring mini-pumpkins/small gourds if you have them. They are quick to chuck with the mid-size trebuchet.****



See you there!!!