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| **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**   **WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY**  **HOME OF “OREO THE ORCA**” **September 29, 2017**   |

**Principal’s Corner**

A Message from the Principal:

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

We are off to a fabulous start this school year! Every day I enjoy meeting your children as they enter school and I am struck by how much energy and enthusiasm they have. Our work with personalizing education continues as teachers refine their small group instructional methods. They continue to learn new ways to help students take ownership of their learning through reflection and self-evaluation of progress toward specific learning targets. I see these strategies used across the building, and I am so happy to be working with such a dedicated staff of life-long learners.

The earlier start time has been an adjustment for all of us. My morning routine with my 3 boys continues to be a challenge, but we are making adjustments and improving. As we move into October, the buses are all arriving on time, and there are still many students arriving late. Please remember that instruction starts promptly at 8:00am. The morning routines in your child’s classroom are important times of the day.

**Construction / Parking**

The construction on Soundview Avenue should be completed by the first week in October. Once it is finished, the buses will be returning to pick up students in the afternoon at the front of the building. Please try to leave room in the parent pickup line for the buses to get around and into the bus lane. Also, please do not park on the Soundview hill and ask your child to walk and meet you. This creates an unsafe situation. Thanks!

**Activities**

Soccer and cross country will be coming to a close in October, and I think we set a record for participation with over 60 in cross country and over 40 in the soccer program. Thank you to the coaches and all the volunteers who continue to help make these programs such wonderful experiences for our students. **We are currently looking for 2 coaches**. This month we will be looking to start a basketball program if we can find coaches. If you are interested in coaching basketball 2 days per week from 2:45 – 4:00pm, please contact the office. We are hoping to start these programs the week of October 23rd.

**Volunteers**

Effective July 1, 2017, public school volunteers

volunteering 4 or more hours (in a month or week) are

now required by law to report suspected abuse or

neglect. We have created a volunteer orientation video that

informs volunteers of this information, and that refers

them to the free training provided by the State at

www.ReportChildAbuse.alaska.gov

The video will be posted on the Volunteer webpage.

**Site Council Meeting October 30th**

Please consider getting involved in the WHE Site Council. There are a number of important issues we will be discussing including school and district goals, a new school vision, new bussing routes for next year, and fiscal challenges. There will be a special **Site Council Budget Meeting at HMS October 17th @ 5:30pm at Homer Middle School.** Topics include: brief overview of budgeting process and the fiscal reality we are facing. The purpose of the meeting is to gain feedback on areas of our school budget that can be reduced, areas that should remain priorities, and suggestions for legislators about solutions to our shortfalls. This input will then be presented to the board at the November and December board meetings and work sessions. Please come share your opinions.

**Free and Reduced Lunch**

October 4th is the last day of Free and reduced lunch eligibility from last year. If you have not filled out a new form for this school year, please do so by October 4th to receive benefits.

**PM buses**

Starting Monday, the buses will return to the front of the school to pick up students. We will be able to load 2 buses at a time.

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.*

Nurse’s Notes

October is National Child Health Month

The CDC, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, recommended a month be dedicated to help teach parents about the prevention of childhood illnesses and diseases, and injuries. The CDC recommends the following for children and parents;

-Children should 1) learn to wash their hands to prevent infections; 2) eat breakfast before going to school; 3) not smoke and avoid the smoke of others; and 4) exercise, play safely, and use protective gear.

-Parents should 1) read to and be actively involved with their children; 2) get their children vaccinated; 3) get their children health-care insurance; 4) check for health hazards in their home and eliminate them; 5) place children weighing less than 80 lbs in child safety seats and all others in safety belts in rear seats of automobiles; 6) seek medical advice if their child is slow to learn; and 7) avoid tobacco and drug use and limit alcohol use.

None of this information is “new” news. We could all add a few things to the suggestions above. But it is a start. It is an acknowledgement of some of the ways we can take care of our children and ourselves every day and a gentle nudge by the CDC to do more. You can go to cdc.gov for more information.

Flu season is coming to area near you! Washing our hands, getting adequate sleep, keeping our hands away from our faces, and coughing/sneezing into our sleeves are simple ways to help prevent the spread of illness. Getting a yearly flu shot is another. We are fortunate in Homer to have many options available for flu shots.

**Homer Public Health Center**-235-8857: flu vaccine for ages 6 mo – 18 yrs.  Available for those who are underinsured.  Done by appointment. No longer able to provide adult vaccine.

**Ulmer’s Pharmacy-**235-8594. Said they planned to offer flu shots. Will bill insurance.

**Scott’s Family Pharmacy**-226-2580. Offering flu shots. Will bill insurance.

Your school nurse,

Laura Peek, RN

West Homer Elementary

Fireweed Academy 3-6





**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

**Penny Wars Fundraiser**

Fourth Grade won!

1st Place Fourth Grade 775

2nd Place Sixth Grade 1,529

3rd Place Third Grade 4,045

4th Place Fifth Grade 8,710

Total Raised $754.31 – Way to go Orcas!

**PBIS**

The Orcas at West Homer and Gryphons at Fireweed Academy continue our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) program this school year. Our goals are to show respectful, responsible, and safe behavior in all areas of our school. Posters are visible to remind students of expectations for a variety of areas including the hallway, cafeteria, bathroom and the dismissal areas. Ask your student at home what are some expected behaviors for these locations in the school! Many students are demonstrating these behaviors in a positive way and are earning Orca or Gryphon Chips for their classroom and school.

Additionally, students have worked with their classroom teachers to brainstorm ideas for possible school wide celebrations. Ideas have included extra recess, jersey day, dance party, fake injury day and many more silly and exciting suggestions! Students will earn the celebration for collecting enough Orca Chips to fill the big jar by the office. The jar has been filling up and students are looking forward to celebrating successes with their friends! On September 26th we had our first celebration by wearing jerseys and caps to school.

 If you see your child being respectful, responsible or kind at home please acknowledge the behavior in a positive way. The similar expectations at home will help your son or daughter transfer the same behaviors to their school environment. Also, if you find any Orca or Gryphon chips at home it would be very helpful to send them back to school to add to our collection. We need as many as possible to fill the jar! As always thank you so much for your support! Feel free to contact the school with any questions or concerns!

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**)**

Dates to Remember:

* PTO Meeting Oct.10th @ 3:30pm WHE Library
* Orca Fun Run @ 3:00 pm Oct. 12th @ WHE
* **School Picture Retakes** Oct. 17th
* Regional Site Council Budget Mtg. Oct. 17th @ 5:30 pm HMS Library
* **NO SCHOOL** **Oct. 20th**, End of First Quarter
* **EARLY RELEASE Oct. 25TH @ 1:05p**
* **NO SCHOOL Oct 26 & 27 – P/T Conferences**
* Site Council Mtg Oct. 30th @ 6:00 pm WHE Library
* Halloween Parade Oct. 31st @ 9:00 am WHE Gym

**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.