

Hanshew Happenings

10121 Lake Otis Parkway Anchorage, AK. 99507

Main Number 349-1561 Fax 349-2835

March-April 2007

From the Principal's Desk

New Middle School Boundaries take effect in the Fall of 2007

As the fourth quarter approaches and ends, transitions for our students into the next year have begun. This month we have had orientation night and student tours for our incoming 7th graders. The middle school boundary changes, which take affect next fall, have changed which schools now feed into Hanshew. We no longer will be getting Tudor and Lake Otis students. We are now adding students from Campbell, Klatt, Ocean View, and Taku. Our other feeder schools, Springhill, Kasuun, Abbott Loop, Trailside, Bowman, and O'Malley have remained the same.

About a third of our current 7th graders are scheduled to move to a different middle school for next year. Transition activities will be planned for those students in April. Current students may remain at Hanshew if families apply for a zone exemption and provide their own transportation to and from school.

Standards Based Assessment Testing

SBA (Standards Based Assessments) are scheduled for April 3rd, 4th and 5th. These assessments are for all of our students.

Tuesday, April 3 - Reading

Wednesday, April 4 - Writing

Thursday, April 5 - Math

Tuesday, April 10 - Science (8th grade only)

Parents can help their children demonstrate their best performance!

- Get plenty of sleep
- Eat a good breakfast
- Plan to be to school on time
- Give positive, supportive encouragement
- Do not plan any disruptions (doctor appointments) for those days

We are very proud of Hanshew students and their academic gains this year. Teachers, teams, students, and families have worked hard and we look forward to showing off our successes. The SBAs are a way for students to demonstrate their accomplishments. They are important, so we want students to feel confident. Thanks for your help ☺

Don't forget to Vote on April 3rd

*Principal
Sherry Ellers
Ext. 201*

Assistant Principals

*Jerry Koetje 8th
Ext. 218*

*Barbara Jacobs 7th
Ext. 202*

*Attendance
Lynn Caputo
Ext. 200*

*Registrar
Lisa Schleusner
Ext. 204*

*Financial Data
Clerk
Debbie Pool
Ext. 223*

*Special Ed.
Denise Helkenn
Ext. 212*

*Nurse
Laura Ownby
Ext. 217*

*Counselors
Stephanie Asplund
Ext. 239*

*Jean Pollard
Ext. 226*

*Wendy Sept
Ext. 227*

*PTSA President
Stephanie Lawley*

Coats for Kids Project

Mrs. Herrell is working with the School Business Partnership to help the Coats for Kids Campaign. This project collects used coats for people in the community who need them. If you have coats and jackets that you can donate bring them to school. A collection box is in Room 110 and also in the main lobby. Fireweed cleaners will be cleaning these coats for free. What a great way to put our used winter clothing to use.

9th Grade Registration

The following high school counselors will be at Hanshew to help choose classes for our outgoing 8th grade students on April 26, 2007.

Roxanne Berry, South
Dave Donk, Dimond High School
Erin Hamilton, Service High School
Margaret Griffin, Service High School

Open House

Dimond; Thursday March 8, 2007
6:00 – 8:00 pm
East; Wednesday March 14, 2007
6:00 – 8:00 pm
South; Tuesday April 10, 2007
6:30 – 8:00 pm
Service; Wed. April 11, 2007
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Geography Bee

The winner of the Hanshew Geography Bee, Teal Team 7th grader, **Alex Stewart**, recently qualified for the state Geography Bee by passing the National Geographic written test. Alec will compete in the state Geo Bee that will be held in Anchorage at the Sheraton Ballroom on March 30, 2007. **Good luck, Alec!**

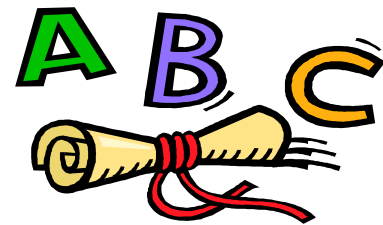
Library News

Teams have been researching Africa, American History, Astronomy, viruses and bacteria. Reading classes have been checking out new fiction at a tremendous rate. If you haven't seen the library website check it out at:

http://www.asdk12.org/staff/leseman_wendy/pages/library/ Look at "Photos" and "New Book Arrivals".

In February, the PTA and the library hosted an evening on Internet Safety. Students and their parents learned about cyber bullying and social networking. A similar event will be held next fall when students come back to school. This event is in support of ASD's involvement in teaching internet safety to all students in K-8. Bill Stringham, from GCI will be back this week to do a special presentation in the library for some teams.

Coming this Spring will be the Spring Scholastic Book Fair: "READ Across America" read aloud at Spring Hill Elementary School. There may be a repeat of the Dance Dance Revolution that was a huge success last fall.



Honor Roll Breakfast

On Feb 8th the second annual Honor Roll Breakfast was held here at Hanshew. All students with a 4.0 grade average and their parents were invited. The sit down breakfast was catered by our School District Nutrition Center.

We had 82 students and about 70 parents attend. Mr. Cosgrove had the Jazz Band play wonderful music while everyone ate. There is a total of 430 students on the Honor Roll for the 2nd quarter. Students, thank you for your dedication and hard work!

Attention Fall 2000

Freshman Students

Mrs. Sharon L. Herrell, Hanshew's School Business Partnership Coordinator, had the opportunity to accompany Service High's DECA students to Orlando, Florida. This is an annual trip where students are encouraged to network with other DECA students from around the country; they are also exposed to leaders in the Sports & Marketing industry. They met with the Executive Director of Universal Studios, Advertising Campaign Manager of NASCAR, President and CEO, Central Florida Sports Commission, and NBA Orlando MAGIC's Director of Marketing. It was a wonderful learning opportunity.

I would like to encourage our future freshman to enroll in the Intro to Marketing Semester I and Sports and Entertainment Marketing Semester II.

Sports and Entertainment Marketing I is a specialized elective course for students with a career interest in the fields of sports and entertainment marketing and management. In addition to a marketing overview, this course is designed to provide students with competencies in the areas of sponsorship, promotion, advertising, sales, event marketing and communications. Major areas that will be covered are professional sports, theme parks, TV & movie industries, concert & arena productions, and theme restaurants. Students will also obtain an understanding of the career options available within the fields of Sports & Entertainment.

Sports and Entertainment Marketing I will provide students with the fundamental principles and concepts identified with sports and entertainment marketing, and to develop critical thinking and decision-making skills through the application of the marketing principles in these industries.

Music Department

Six orchestra students, 45 band students, and 7 choir students from Hanshew participated in the district solo and small ensemble festival on March 2. These students elected to take on extra work to learn outside of the regular classroom setting. They all performed very well and behavior was excellent! Scores from the festival are still pending, but we expect mostly division I and II ratings (out of V).

Hanshew orchestra students participated in the South Area Orchestra Festival at South High School on March 5. Our own Mr. Zuehlsdorff conducted the mass elementary ensemble and his Hanshew students performed at their very best.

March 8 and 9 will see our Advanced Band, Jazz Band, 8th grade Choir, and Audition Orchestra group heading out on tour. The groups will perform at Bowman, Kasuun, Spring Hill, Abbott Loop, Mears, and Trailside Elementary Schools. This tour is a large undertaking every year and we want to thank the Principal and Assistant Principals for their help. Also, the office staff and parents who assist us deserve a huge measure of thanks.

The Screamin' Hawks Jazz Band from Hanshew will be busy this month performing on tour two days and playing at the 6th grade orientation March 8, and on the evening of March 13 for the PTA Parent Meeting.

The Advanced Band will perform at the Service Area Band Festival on Thursday March 29th in the South High School gym. The concert begins at 7:30 and will feature a large combined elementary band from Hanshew area feeder schools, Hanshew's Advanced Band, the Service Symphonic Band and Jazz Band. Mr. Cosgrove and Service director Mr. Whitfield may even play along with the SHS jazz band on a number as they did last year at this concert.

PTA News

Note from the PTA President....

I hope the longer days find us all closer to spring and sunshine! We've almost made it to the end of the third quarter—three quarters of the way through this year.

I hope by now you have visited our PTA website. A huge thank you goes to Wendy Leseman, our Hanshew Librarian, and Deb Hinnah, a parent volunteer, who have kept us up-to-date on the latest events and announcements. If you haven't visited our website, please take a minute to check it out. You can access forms, calendars, fundraising information and updates daily at www.asdk12.org/schools/hanshew/pages/PTA

If you missed our Parent Forum on Internet Safety last week, I hope you will be able to attend our upcoming Parent Forum on Gangs and Violence on March 13th at 7:00 p.m. I have personally seen the presentation at one of the high schools and trust that you will find it both informative and educational. I believe that we have a responsibility within our community to educate ourselves and be well informed so that we can guide and direct our youngsters. Parents from other middle schools are welcome to attend. Invite a friend and join us on March 13th for an informative presentation.

Our Yearbook Committee has been hard at work putting the final touches on our 2006-2007 Hanshew Yearbook. Photos are still needed for the yearbook. Candid photos, pictures from sports or academic competitions and concerts are welcome. **Parents and students are welcome to send digital photos to the following address: hanshew_yearbook@hotmail.com.** The deadline for submission is 03/10/07.

If your student has not purchased a yearbook, it's not too late. Order forms are available on the website or in the office. We will continue to offer the yearbooks until we sell out. Remember there is no guarantee there will be any books left to sell in May so order today!

The PTA received its first proceeds from the e-Script fundraiser. For those of you unfamiliar, all you are asked to do is to register your Carrs/Safeway card on-line at escrip.com and using our Hanshew ID Number 6512256 register your Carrs card today and Hanshew Middle School will immediately receive proceeds from your purchases.

As always, you are welcome to attend our next PTA Board Meeting on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the Hanshew Library. And if you have any desire to serve on next year's PTA Board, please give me a call. Have a wonderful Spring Break!

Stephanie Lawley
PTA President

School Art Display

Congratulations to **Danielle Long, Ben Hurst, Kris Butler, Colleen Bayas, Trionn Felix, Holden Newell, and William Valentine** for being selected to have their artwork displayed in the Anchorage Museum at the Rasmuson Center during the Youth Art Month exhibit. The exhibit is open to the public and will run through April 15th.



Track & Field

Hanshew track will start March 26th, the day after spring break. Students need a current physical, participation form, a fee form and \$80.00 or a signed waiver. Practice will run from 3:00 to 4:30 every day. Students will need to be picked up by 5:00. All students are encouraged and welcomed to join the track team.



NOW HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

The Anchorage School District Pupil Transportation Department is currently recruiting applicants for school bus driver positions. Applicants must enjoy working with children, have a good driving record and be willing to adhere to strict safety guidelines. Applicants will be screened and receive 40 hours of classroom and behind-the-wheel training before being licensed and employed. School bus drivers must obtain a background report from the Troopers, must be 21 years of age, and will participate in a drug and alcohol screening program as federally mandated. The starting wage is \$14.75/hour. Please stop by the Transportation Center to pick up an application or call: Marty Elkins, 742-1200.

Special Education Community Forum

Special Education Community Forum

Special Education Community Forums are a disability outreach and informational series of workshops for everyone; parents, teachers, students, caregivers, etc.

April 14, 2007

WENDLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Helping Ease the Way for Changes in the Lives of Children With Special Needs

Topics include: Using Technology to Accommodate the Special Needs of Students, ADD/ADHD, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Community Transition Services, Early Literacy Skills, A Child's Perspective in Adoption

For more information contact the STeP Center at 742-3872 or click on the SECF icon on our website:

<http://www.asdk12.org/depts/step/>

*Free childcare by calling 742-3872 24 hours in advance.
This Special Education Community Forum Is a FREE event.*

Superintendents' Message

Graduation and Dropout Rates: Apples and Oranges

Comments from readers and on local talk radio confuse “factoids” with facts. While it might be a great sound-bite to declare a 64 percent graduation rate must mean that 36 percent of Anchorage School District high school students drop out, it’s just not true.

Choosing to drop out of school before earning a diploma is a bad decision, and we want to make it as difficult as possible for students to do so.

We offer a wide range of alternative options for students that include on-line learning, self-paced courses, non-traditional schedules, summer school and work-study. We also provide programs for pregnant and parenting teens, working teens, bilingual students, homeless students and even those incarcerated or expelled from our regular school programs.

But the essence of the argument played out on the pages of the newspaper and across the radio waves is that dropout rate and graduation rate are equitable. That is not true.

Graduation rate is calculated over a four-year period, monitoring the number of students who enter ninth grade and graduate four years later. Many of our students need more than four years to complete courses due to excessive absences, family issues and academic challenges. In spite of those hurdles, our graduation rate grew by 4.3 percentage points from the previous year to 63.9 percent in May 2006. That surpasses the statewide graduation rate of 59.64 percent.

Dropout rate measures the percent of students who enroll and then leave the district before the end of the school year. The number is subject to change at any time. For example, in October we reported a dropout rate of 6.28 percent for 2005-06 in our Profiles of Performance. Since then the state has found several of the 1,600 students we classified as dropouts, through use of their state ID numbers, enrolled in other districts.

That brings our dropout rate down to 6.18 percent for 2005-06, about 1,550 students of 49,000 overall, and state officials have told us that the rate could drop again by the end of the year. That’s still 1,500 too many, as far as the Anchorage School Board members and I are concerned. Our standard is to educate all students for success in life and our effectiveness in large part is judged on the basis of dropout and graduation rates, as it should be.

The school district welcomes comments and criticism, but accurate information must form the basis for debate. Please help us dispel this “urban legend,” by disseminating the facts rather than a well-spun fiction.

Sincerely,

Carol Comeau

IMPORTANT DATES

March 16.....In-service Day, End of 3rd Qtr
March 19 – 23..... Spring Break
April 3 – 5.....SBA Testing
March 26.....Track and Field Begins
April 17 and April 19.....Parent Teacher Conferences
April 20.....No School
May 23.....Last Day of School

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