

Hanshew Happenings

10121 Lake Otis Parkway Anchorage, AK. 99507

Main Number 349-1561 Fax 349-2835

November & December 2006

From the Principal's Desk

*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*

As our first snow begins to fall, it is a great time to remind parents and students of safety concerns. Please approach our school with caution as the sidewalks have a tendency to be very slippery. We try to keep them cleared and maintained, but depending on the weather, that is a huge job. Variations in the weather also make for melting and refreezing.

- Wear appropriate clothing for being outside at the bus stop and if we need to evacuate the building. This means solid shoes, coats, and appropriate fitting clothes.
- Drive slowly and carefully in and around the school. Follow the speed zones and traffic patterns.
- Do not block the traffic by attempting to make a third row during pick-up.
- Watch for adults and students in the dark parking lots and walking towards the building.

Be sure to listen to the radio or check the website for school closures in case of severe weather.

Student-Led, Teacher Facilitated Conferences:

This year again Hanshew will be holding Student-Led Conferences for parents, students, and teachers. It is an excellent opportunity for students to share their work and show their progress; teachers to meet and talk with parents; and for parents to be involved and ask questions. The task of educating our children is a group process, so we encourage active parent involvement.

The schedule for both Wednesday, November 8th, and Thursday, November 9th is as follows:

11:00 – Students dismissed from class

11:30 – 3:00 – Scheduled conferences

3:00 – 4:00 – Closed for staff dinner

4:00 – 7:00 – Scheduled conferences

Friday, November 10th is an in-service day, there is no school.

Team teachers will be setting up appointments. We encourage you to see the elective teachers and PE teachers while you are here. Report cards will be distributed in the library so you can also look through the book fair.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Given the key role of parents in promoting effective schooling, the Anchorage School District administration will assist schools in developing comprehensive, continuing programs of parent involvement at all grade levels. The district will provide welcoming opportunities for parent participation in resolving concerns. The major goal is to promote greater student success in all curricular areas by making schools and parents more productive partners in their children's education. To support the mission of Anchorage schools to educate all students for success in life, schools and parents must work as knowledgeable, respectful partners.

a. Definition

The term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including providing opportunities and support for the following:

1. That parents play an important role in supporting their child's learning and the overall educational program and environment of the school;
2. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school and at home; and
3. That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child. The district shall provide full opportunities for the participation of all parents, including those with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

b. Planning

As part of their annual improvement planning, schools and the district, with the involvement of parents, will develop and evaluate comprehensive plans for parent involvement. These plans should be designed to detail ways in which the district or school will:

1. Involve parents in developing district or school improvement plans
2. Offer technical assistance and coordination to help schools plan parent involvement activities to improve student and school academic performance
3. Build school and parent capacities for strong parent involvement
4. Coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies with other programs
5. Annually evaluate with parents the effectiveness of the policy as implemented in each school and the district in achieving academic improvement. The evaluation must include identification of barriers to parent involvement, especially barriers to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or belong to a racial or ethnic minority.

c. School and District Responsibilities

1. Help parents understand state and local assessment of their children's progress and how to monitor progress and work with educators
2. Provide parents with materials and training to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training, use of technology, and enhancing parenting skills
3. Educate teachers, administrators, and other school staff about the value of and methods of reaching out to parents as equal partners
4. To the extent practicable, ensure that information about school and parent programs is in a format and language parents can understand.

d. District Support

The District will support schools and programs in their efforts by doing the following:

1. Publicizing its commitment to parent involvement in the public schools
2. Identifying promising programs and practices related to parent involvement
3. Targeting funds for the development of programs, demonstration projects, and evaluations
4. Providing technical assistance and support to develop effective parent involvement programs by doing the following:
 - A. Sharing information and research on parent involvement and effective practices;
 - B. Developing in-service education programs on cultural awareness and parent involvement for teachers, administrators, and parents that will assist in meeting the individual needs of diverse cultural and linguistic populations; and
 - C. Working with colleges and universities that train teachers and administrators to develop effective pre-service programs in school and family connections.
5. Complying with state and federal parent involvement requirements; and
6. Providing ongoing follow-up and evaluation of the parent involvement efforts as required
7. The superintendent or designee will develop a method for measuring and reporting the results of each school's annual evaluation.

Music

Music classes at Hanshew are off to a beautiful running start.

Mrs. McCubrey returned from leave and has again taken the reigns in choir. We are glad to have her back.

Mr. Cosgrove held jazz band auditions and rehearsals for the group have begun.

Mr. Zuehlsdorff has the orchestra sounding strong and plans to start a special morning audition group. This group plans to do some traveling this school year. The orchestra elected a new President, Sharlee Wright, and Vice President, Alex Harris. Their duties will be to help Mr. Zuehlsdorff with many different tasks throughout the school year. Dalton Haas, Daniel Bray, and Yalitzia Brea have been elected to serve in secretarial and organizational functions. The orchestra is planning on having a fun year, full of awesome music and concerts. Our first concert was on October 26th. **Congratulations to Jonathan Pyun, oboist for being chosen to play for the Anchorage Junior Youth Symphony. What an honor!**

Parent reminders: Hanshew Orchestra students must practice 360 minutes per quarter. I have handed out practice charts to the students. Parents, please ask your son or daughter to practice at home if possible. Also 7th graders in orchestra need to purchase a concert shirt. The cost is \$28.00. Concert dress is black pants and a red Hanshew shirt. If you would like to help the Hanshew Orchestra during concerts or on tour please call Mr. Zuehlsdorff at Hanshew 349-1561.

HOLIDAY VACATION

WE HAVE AN INSERVICE DAY ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22. HOLIDAY VACATION STARTS MONDAY DECEMBER 25, THRU FRIDAY JANUARY 5. BACK IN SCHOOL MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007.

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Business technology classes are on schedule. The quarter is off and running. The 7th graders have completed their graphic design section of the course and are starting to make graphs. We will finish up this semester with a power point project using a web site called "How Stuff Works". The 8th graders are currently creating a "Self-Book" which is focused around keyboarding and spreadsheet skills. It will be interesting reading for your parents during the Student-Led Conferences. We will continue with graphing assignments, investing in the stock market, and movie and song production. Just as a reminder, 7th graders will be rotating every quarter and 8th graders are in their elective classes for the entire semester.

Junior Honor Society

National Junior Honor Society is off to a wonderful start. Election of officers took place at our second meeting. The new officers for the 2006-2007 school year are:

Alexandria Albers - President

Rochelle Russell-Odom - Vice-President

Joli Cannon - Secretary

Amanda Tamagni - Treasurer

Congratulations to the new officers! We are looking forward to a great year. The members have already started a list of activities for this school year. The enthusiasm of this group is huge! Look forward to hearing about all of the wonderful projects they complete.

Honor Roll and 4.0 Breakfast

Hanshew students are being recognized for their outstanding academic achievements. Honor Roll students have obtained at least a 3.0 grade point average with no D's or F's for the first quarter. At lunchtime they will be getting a special treat. On Thursday, November 16th we will host our first 4.0 Breakfast for parents and students at 7:15 AM. Hanshew is proud of all their outstanding students.

SECURITY

We need parental input. Please remind students about basic safety precautions while riding the bus, walking home and in school.

Bus behavior must focus on safety:

* Students must sit in the seats properly. They cannot lean against seats turned around...no feet OUT in the aisle. No switching seats or standing up while the bus is in motion. Please support our ASD bus drivers. They have a challenging job everyday. With the weather quickly changing their focus is on hazardous roads. Bus behavior should not become an issue.

*Please remind your student to use crosswalks or the TUNNEL on Lake Otis Parkway. With such a busy street SAFETY is our number one concern!

NO running in the halls. We have been vigilant about monitoring the halls for runners. Walk quickly to class. PLEASE DO NOT RUN.

Parents thank you for your assistance with this. An extra voice always helps .

GYM NOTES

Our classes jogged right along as the students prepared for their 2-mile, yes 2 mile jog test. The students trained during the first quarter and were equipped with strategic tools to help them succeed. These tools are training tips that you would receive if you were to go to a local gym in town! This 2-mile event was a huge milestone in the lives of our students. When they complete the 2 miles, their faces shined with elation, knowing that they had just accomplished what they thought was impossible. What a rewarding sight to witness the students attain the goals that they have set. Truly a life skill in action!!!! Be sure to cheer them on as well as ask them, "What have you been learning in gym class?"

The 2nd quarter has usherd in a Rhythms/Dance Unit. Parents and guardians, get ready to learn some new steps .

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your sons and daughters.

Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee

The **Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee** (MECAC) is the only standing committee that is appointed by the School Board. Their role is to advise the Board on issues relating to minority students and their families. The MECAC works to ensure equity for all students and provides input to the School Board on such issues as educational programs, curriculum and course content, student discipline, citizen involvement, and minority community concerns.

Meetings are held twice a month in Room #320 at the Administration Building, except for December and July. The business meeting is the third Thursday of the month at noon and a meeting for presentations on District programs is on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30. Members of the community are always welcome.

For more information, to offer comments or questions, or to view meeting agendas and minutes, visit the MECAC online at <<http://www.asdk12.org/>> . Just look for the MECAC link under the

Counselors Corner

Red Ribbon Week was a Blast!

Monday- Backwards Day

Tuesday - Twin Day

Wednesday - Crazy Hair Day

Thursday - Sports Day

Friday RED Day

Many students and faculty showed their support throughout the week.

On Friday we had a staff/student basketball game ending with the faculty winning by just a few points. The kids showed great sportsmanship and the game was enjoyed by all.

The week was a great success and showed just how Hanshew Middle School stands up against drugs!

A special thanks for Ms. Rodriguez who donated our drug free themed bracelets!!



Up-coming events:

Honor roll lunch treats will go out at lunch on November 7th for those who have a 3.0 and above. We are going to have a special breakfast for those students with a 4.0 grade point average. This will be held in the Multipurpose Room on November 16 at 7:15am. We are proud of these hard-working students and excited to honor them at the breakfast.

Counselors are available for you during the Student-Led conferences. We are moving between teams most of the evening but feel free to ask any one of the teachers to locate us. We would love to see you!! It is so important for your child to show you their work. Please don't miss out on that opportunity!

Clase de espanol (Spanish)

Sra. Hovland's classes are preparing for "public speaking" (of course, in Spanish). Students are making posters to help them introduce themselves to the class in Spanish. The 7th graders are learning saludos (greetings) and despedidas (good-byes) and talking about their likes and dislikes. The 8th graders will prepare for the annual "Dining Activities."

Applied Technology

We have been all over the board, from problem solving strategies to mechanical designs. It's a variety of activities in applied technology. Down the road we are looking at more fun, lasers, fiber optics, and aerodynamics. This is a class you definitely want to be in. The teacher, Mr. Besch, is the one that you see in the hallway by the vending machine joking around with the kids. Even as a fun teacher, he still insists you are focused on your work. If it doesn't look good, it doesn't matter, as long as you have tried your best. Hold on to your hats, this is going to be a fun class.

LUNCH BUNCH

Do you need help with your math homework? Are you having trouble with science, social studies or language arts?

Come to room 102 during your lunch hour to get some help!

7th Grade meets on Tuesday and Friday

8th Grade meets on Mondays and Thursday

Bring books and paperwork. Get a pass from the lunchroom on the day you want to come.

Mrs. Petrunic and Mrs. Alexander

Home Economics

Family and Consumer Science classes have completed their sanitation and safety in the kitchen units and are now busy baking. 7th graders are baking blueberry muffins this week and the 8th graders are trying out a modified fall favorite of microwave apple crisp. While part of each class is busy cooking, the others are creating their hand puppets for 7th grade or their stuffed creatures for 8th grade. All students will be taught the blanket stitch and will have a finished product to take home.

Hanshew Library News

The library wants to welcome all 7th and 8th graders back to school. We've gotten off to a great start with lots of new books to check out and an enthusiastic staff ready to provide you with fun and engaging ways to become better readers and researchers.

The library is open to students from 8:00AM until 3:30PM. Students can stop by the library between classes or after they have eaten lunch. Books may be checked out for two weeks at a time, and can be renewed if they need them longer. We don't have late fees, but ask families to replace or pay for books that damaged or lost. Students may check out up to three books.

Wendy Leseman is back in the library full time along with the librarian's assistant, Roberta Struck. We're both available to assist students in locating books and to help them develop literacy skills. The library will be hosting fun activities throughout the year such as book fairs, Battle of the Books and other reading contests.

The American Library Association's Teen Read Week was October 16th to the 19th. This year's theme was Get Active @ Your Library. Students came to the library to check out books, but also got to participate in Dance Dance Revolution. It was a huge success and students and teachers all had a blast.

This year's Battle of the Books and Young Reader's Choice book summaries are available from the library. Stop by and pick up both of those lists for excellent reading. The Battle of the Books teams have begun meeting at lunch time twice a week. Chantal Davis is working with 7th graders and Steve Wottlin is working with the 8th graders.

We welcome parent volunteers in a variety of capacities, if you're interesting in helping out give us a call at 267-0207 or email us at Leseman Wendy@asdk12.org



Art Classes

The art classes are creating with various mediums. The seventh grade classes started the quarter learning contour and blind contour drawing from observation of student models. The classes investigated the color wheel by mixing colors and painting their own wheel. Applying this color knowledge, they delved into their next project, a fall still life painting where they again used only the primary colors to create their artwork. From painting, the seventh graders have moved onto the medium of clay projects, using the techniques of pinch, slab and coil made ceramics.

The eighth graders are busy with paper mache'. Students are making sea turtles, penguins, palm trees, high heeled sandals, skiers in motion, halibut and the list continues and is as varied as the number of young artists. Prior to paper mache' the upper grades worked on drawing, shading and blending with pencil and then exploring the study of 1 and 2 point perspective and perspective in landscapes. Be on the look out for and displays of excellent student artwork in the hallways and library.

Congratulation to Danielle Long for winning 1st place in the junior division at the State Fair with her beautifully rendered pencil drawing.

Hanshew PTA

As we settle into the school year, let me take this opportunity to welcome you and invite you to join our Hanshew PTA. We were thrilled with the turnout at Open House and already many parents and Hanshew staff have joined our PTA. Your support is vital to our success and more importantly, the success of our children.

PTA Officers

Stephanie Lawley, President
Joyce Bishop, Vice President
Mary Burbage, Secretary
Sandra Powley, Treasurer

Monthly Meetings: For those interested in attending our monthly meetings, they are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Our next meeting will be November 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Hanshew Library.

School Pictures: School pictures were taken 08-20-06 and retakes were taken on 10-10-06. If you were unable to purchase your student's photos at that time, please contact Lifetouch at 333-2772. Thank you to those volunteers who assisted the photographers with school pictures.

Yearbook Committee: Yearbook forms are available in the office. Students please return the forms with either a check or money order to the office. Yearbooks are \$30 until the end of December when the price will increase to \$35. If you are interested in serving on the Yearbook Committee please contact Laurie Northey at northeyfam@gci.net.

Volunteers: If any of you would like to be added to our volunteer database, which will also send reminders of meeting dates and special events to parents, please send your contact information to Laurie Northey at northeyfam@gci.net.

Stephanie Lawley, PTA President slawley@gci.net

YEARBOOK PICTURES ARE NEEDED....

THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE IS ASKING FOR ANY PICTURES TAKEN OF STUDENTS OR ACTIVITIES BY THE HANSHEW STAFF DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. ALL PICTURES WILL BE RETURNED AT THE END OF THE YEAR. PICTURES CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE FRONT OFFICE, ASK FOR THEM TO BE PUT IN THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE MAILBOX. PLEASE REMEMBER TO MARK WITH YOU NAME AND PHONE NUMBER, OR E-MAIL TO HANSHEW-YEARBOOK@HOTMAIL.COM. ALL PICTURES WILL BE APPRECIATED. THANK YOU, YEARBOOK STAFF

Remember, you cannot bring cameras to school to take pictures.

IMPORTANT DATES

Parent/Teacher Conferences.....November 8 and 9
Students are dismissed at 11:00 AM
In-Service Day – No School.....November 10
Honor Roll Breakfast.....November 16
Thanksgiving Holiday.....November 23 & 24
In-Service Day – No School.....December 22
Winter Vacation.....December 25 – January 8