

Hanshew Happenings

10121 Lake Otis Parkway Anchorage, AK. 99507

Main Number 349-1561 Fax 349-2835

March 2008

*Principal
Sherry Ellers
Ext. 201*

Assistant Principals

*Peggy Huscusson
8th*

*Ext. 218
Brendan Wilson
7th*

Ext. 202

*Attendance
Lynn Caputo*

Ext. 205

Registrar

Lisa Schleusner

Ext. 204

Financial Data

Clerk

Debbie Pool

Ext. 223

Special Ed.

Denise Helkenn

Ext. 212

Nurse

Mary Luken

Ext. 217

Counselors

Karol Benroth

Ext. 227

Jean Pollard

Ext. 226

Moriah Huseman

247

PTA President

Pauline Haas

Student Led Conferences March 26th and 27th

We look forward to seeing all of our families next Wednesday and Thursday for our Student Led Conferences. Students are dismissed at 11:45 on both of those days. There is no school on Friday, March 28th.

Conferences are held from 12:30 – 3:00 and 4:00 – 7:00 on each of those days. Please confirm your appointment time with your child's team.

News Flash!

Summer School Passport to Learning is now available. New remediation and enrichment opportunities for all students. Pick up your passport, plan your summer learning, and get on board !!

SBA (Standards Based Assessment) April 1st – April 4th

School-wide testing will take place the first week in April. This is our annual assessment to show the growth our students have made the past year. These results are very important to monitor our progress and help with planning our future programs. Parents can help....

- Make sure your child is at school on time all four days.
- Feed your child a good breakfast or have them here at school to eat breakfast.
- Plan for plenty of sleep each night.
- Encourage your child to do their best.
- Show an interest in their progress.

Lunchtime Tutoring for All Students In All Subject Areas

Room 102

7th Grade..... Tuesday and Thursday

8th Grade..... Wednesday and Friday

Assistant Principals' News

Along with Spring Break came opportunities to read, rejuvenate, and re-evaluate school procedures. For example, Hanshew Middle School administrators, security and teachers are keenly aware of how fantastic Hanshew Middle School really is. However, we are very eager to bring our talents and experiences to the school setting to share with students, parents, and faculty members. We will continue to enhance and foster safety aspects, academic pursuits, athletic competitions, artistic endeavors, and social/emotional aspects of our jobs. We need your help and support.

As for safety – did you know that your child participates in monthly safety drills? Our Hanshew Middle School Safety Committee assists with productions to promote safety awareness. Academic pursuits are always in the news. As mentioned in a previous article – our athletes are in full swing with Track and Field practices. In fact, celebration of excellence is our HMS theme for the final quarter. Banking on improving relationships and showing that each and every student is important, we plan to continue to foster student – teacher – administrator relationships by showcasing exemplary leaders.

As you are aware, our bus drivers continue to keep safety a top priority as we move from winter road conditions to spring thaw conditions. Please remind your child to follow all bus safety rules. These are listed in the Anchorage School District Handbook that your son or daughter received when he or she enrolled at Hanshew Middle School. Our BPO, Mr. Anthony Gardner, and our Auxiliary BPO, Mrs. Young Ham, work to keep our sidewalks cleared and our schoolrooms and hallways waxed and clean. They are to be commended on jobs well done. One more little detail... our cafeteria ladies strive to provide wholesome, nutritious meals everyday. Please do not send highly caffeinated or sugar loaded items to school with your son or daughter. These types of food and beverages are not really necessary in our school.

Lastly, dress code violations seem to rise during 4th quarter. As our Middle School Handbook states... “Dress at school needs to be appropriate; it cannot be disruptive to learning, unsafe or gang-related. Clothing that is too revealing or too large, baggy, or bulky is inappropriate.” Your assistance and cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

As always, you are invited to visit our school or call. We can be reached at 349-1561 or via Anchorage School District email. Please feel free to contact us to make suggestions or to better assist you with your son or daughter.

Peggy Huscusson – Hanshew MS Assistant Principal – 7th grade
Brendan Wilson – Hanshew MS Assistant Principal – 8th grade

Students Display Art Work at the Anchorage Museum

Congratulations to the following students for having their art work chosen to be part of the 35th annual National Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Anchorage Museum: Duncan Kindle, Ryan Van Blankenstein, Brooke Henning, Marisabel Esparza, Chris Thomas, Raphael Clemente, Brianna Toomer, Jazmine Mojica, Ben White, Erika Teel, Chris Kalilikane, Ashley Crain, Ivan Escalante, Robert Muth. This fantastic exhibit will run through April 6.

Dear parents,

I encourage you to make an informed decision regarding two school bond propositions on Election Day, April 1. If approved, the bonds will repair and upgrade 27 school facilities.

All students deserve decent facilities to learn. More than half of ASD schools are 20-50 years old. Good maintenance and renewal can extend building life. The bonds on the ballot will fund larger upgrades and major repair and renovation projects, projects that are not covered in our general fund maintenance budget.

Proposition 2 - \$34.3 million – Elementary additions and renewals

- Chester Valley and Sand Lake elementary schools were built 44-50 years ago and have received minimal building upgrades.
- The schools do not meet current educational standards. The building systems do not include components currently required for energy efficient operations.
- Bond proposition would fund addition and renovation at both schools as well as design funding for Girdwood K-8 School which is close to exceeding its capacity.
- If approved by voters, and after full state reimbursement, this proposition will cost taxpayers \$3.54 per \$100,000 of assessed property valuation.

Proposition 3 - \$9.4 million – Districtwide building system renewal projects

- Affects 23 schools and one district facility.
- Projects include roof replacement and repair, security system upgrades, emergency communications systems, code/hazmat/ADA/sprinkler projects, electrical and mechanical and traffic safety upgrades, and track renewal.
- If approved by voters, and after full state reimbursement, this proposition will cost taxpayers \$0.73 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

As a property owner myself, I understand the concerns of increased property taxes.

For those reasons, I committed to asking voters for less than the amount we've retired since last year's election. Between then and the April 1 election, the district will have paid off approximately \$44 million in bond debt. The two school bond projects on the April ballot total \$43.7 million.

The state has approved debt reimbursement of 60 percent on the elementary school addition and renewal projects and 70 percent reimbursement on major renovations, repairs and security upgrades. In all, the state will pay 62 percent of the combined costs of both bond propositions. The reimbursement will significantly lower the taxpayer cost of the projects from \$43.7 million to \$16.5 million or \$4.27 per \$100,000 of assessed property value. State reimbursement is subject to annual legislative appropriation, however, the legislature has fully funded the program every year since 1992.

Please learn more about the projects and the costs through our Web site at www.asdk12.org/bonds or by calling our Communications Department at 742-4153. We are committed to providing you with the facts to make your vote count on April 1.

Sincerely,
Carol Comeau

Nat'l Geography Bee

ROBERT WASSER, 8th GRADE HANSHEW MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT HAS BEEN NAMED ALASKA GEOGRAPHY BEE SEMI-FINALIST BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

Robert will represent Hanshew Middle School in the 2008 Alaska Geography Bee at the Egan Center on Friday, April 4. To qualify Robert won the Geo Bee at our school. He then took a qualifying test that was submitted to the National Geographic Society. Students with the top 100 scores were asked to compete at the state level.

The state winner will receive \$100, a globe, and a trip to Washington D.C., where he will represent Alaska in the national finals at National Geographic Society headquarters in May. The winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship.

We wish Robert the best and are proud that you are representing Hanshew. **Good Luck!**

PTA 2008-2009

Hanshew PTA is currently looking for new board members for 2008-2009 school year. If you are interested, please contact the Hanshew PTA at: hanshewpta@hotmail.com or by calling 267-0231 and leaving a message with your name and phone number.

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, at 5:30, in the library.

Pen Pal Project

The Orange Team is involved in a snail-mail pen-pal project with students at Erwin Thomson Middle School in Loveland, CO. Their teacher, Ms. Heidi Mickelson, is a former Hanshew Middle School Language Arts teacher. Ms. Mickelson matched many of us with students of like interests. We are sending off our second letter this week.

We learned that Colorado students do not receive Permanent Fund Dividend checks, they are very curious about how Hanshew students spend their fund money, and how we skateboard when we live "way up north."

We have already shared our personal camping stories and moose encounters, our fishing trips and some Iditarod race information.

The Colorado students shared stories about their own wilderness experiences with rattlesnakes, giant spiders, and large elk. Students say they will soon be swimming outdoors in ninety degree heat. They have an early release Wednesday afternoons, but school starts at 7:10 A.M. to make up the time.

Journalism

Journalism will be meeting on April 10, 17, and 24 (Thursdays) from 2:45 to 3:30 in Room 115.

Everyone is welcome. Contact Mrs. Lemery for more information, at 345-1561.

Memory Books

The Hanshew PTA has less than 100 Memory Books left to sell!! Buy your Memory Book before they are sold out!

The 2007-2008 Memory Book cover contest winner was Brooke Henning. Sophie Tidler came in second, and Mara James came in third. Their designs will be used as background art in the yearbook. Features include 7th and 8th grade individual, team, and group photos, as well as staff and extra-curricular activities. Support Hanshew Middle School and reserve your copy today!

Memory Book Order Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher Name/Homeroom: _____

Memory Book Price \$35.00 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please bring order form and check or money order to the office, no cash.

