



# AURORA ELEMENTARY EAGLE NEWS

MAY 2021

5085 10th Street JBER, AK 99506 (p) 907-742-0300 (f) 907-742-0322

**Breakfast/Drop Off Start - 9:20am**

**1st Bell - 9:35am**

**Ready to learn - 9:45am**

**Release - 3:15pm**

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all your support to our staff this year, and for being diligent in following ASD's guidelines with respect to our Covid protocols. Our school's Covid mitigation strategies worked well because everyone did their best in keeping our students and community safe and healthy, and as a result our school had minimal interruptions to our in-person learning.

As our students complete our spring MAP and FastBridge assessments, we are reviewing our students' academic growth data. This data shows as a whole, Aurora's students made incredible academic progress between January and May this year. This is the result of our teachers and staff providing rigorous instruction in the classrooms and closing the learning gap that resulted from the onset of the pandemic.

This is School Staff Appreciation week. If you have a chance, please consider sending a Thank You note or email to your child's teachers and staff. Our staff have worked extremely hard this year in providing our students with an exceptional learning environment and opportunities, as well as accommodating the numerous changes and challenges resulting from Covid-19, including but not limited to: piloting a new math curriculum; providing distance learning via Zoom; conducting two after school reading programs; hosting Battle of the Books, the Heart Challenge; our Book Fair and Super Sweepers events; conducting science projects, leveraging Bricks, Kids and Gears kits; growing plants and incubating and hatching eggs; various student recess PE activities including x-country skiing, fat tire biking, and sledding; supporting our students through the Anchored4Life program, and creating our school yearbook.

## **Office Staff:**

Office hours: 8:30-4:00

**Admin. Assistant:** Mrs. Kim Buskirk (buskirk\_kimberly@asdk12.org)

**Secretary:** Mrs. Allie Paskin (paskin\_allison@asdk12.org)

**Nurse:** Mrs. Amy Hollon (hollon\_amy@asdk12.org)

As more Covid related restrictions are lifted, we are excited to be able to celebrate our students' success this year with our Soaring Eagles assemblies and other activities. Please see our upcoming events below:

**Soaring Eagles assembly:**

May 14th 10:00 – 11:00 – Grades K-1

May 14th 2:00 – 3:00 – Grades 2-3

May 17th 10:00 – 11:00 – 4th grade classes and Mrs. Watt's class

May 17th 2:00 – 3:00 – 6th grade

More information about our assemblies will be sent home on Friday.

**Arbor Day:**

May 18th – 10:00 – 11:00 – Mrs. Eicher's class

**Field Day:**

May 18th 10:00 – 11:30, Grades K - 1

May 18th 1:15 – 2:45 – Grades 5 - 6

May 19th 10:00 – 11:30 – Grade 2

May 19th 1:15 – 2:45 – Grades 3-4

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Anna Walker  
Principal  
Aurora Elementary School



**Aurora Teachers and Staff support the  
American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge**

# Calendar of Events

## May 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10	11	12	13	14 <b>10a-11a Soaring Eagle Assembly* –</b> Bragg, Lundberg Foust, Weinzirol
17 <b>10a-11a Soaring Eagle Assembly* –</b> Bennett, Hagen Watts	18 <b>10a-11:30a: Field Day</b> Bragg, Lundberg Foust, Weinzirol	19 <b>10a-11:30a: Field Day</b> Hunter, Wade	20 <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!</b>	21 <b>2p-3p Soaring Eagle Assembly –</b> Hunter, Wade Blewett, Eicher
<b>2p-3p Soaring Eagle Assembly &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration* –</b> Newsome, Ritchey	<b>1:15p-2:45p: Field Day</b> Watts, Newsome Ritchey	<b>1:15p-2:45p: Field Day</b> Blewett, Eicher Bennett, Hagen		

\*Yearbooks will be signed at the end of the Soaring Eagle Assembly. Pens will be provided.

# Order your yearbook today!

Visit [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com)

(Encarga hoy tu año escolar. Visita [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com))

Order Deadline:

Fecha Topa Para el Pedido:

**04/05/2021**

Yearbook

**Forget to order a yearbook?**  
We have a limited number left to purchase.  
Cost: \$15 cash only to the office  
by 5/13 or until supplies run out.  
Yearbooks will be distributed at  
Soaring Eagle Assemblies for signing.

Your School Name  
2020-2021

Lifetouch



# **Soaring Eagle Assembly**

**You are invited to celebrate  
all Aurora students!**

**Friday 14 May**

**10am-11am:** Kindergarten & 1st Grade

**2pm-3pm:** 2nd & 3rd Grades

**Monday 17 May**

**10am-11am:** 4th Grade & Mrs. Watt's class

**2pm-3pm:** Mr. Newsome & Mr. Ritchey's  
classes (includes 6th Grade Celebration!)

**Each student will bring home a RSVP form.**

**Limit of 2 guests per student.**

**Please return RSVP by Thursday 13 May.**

We will be following ASD mitigation plans including  
3 feet social distancing and masking.

Please stay home if you are feeling ill.

Follow signs to enter building.

Yearbooks will be distributed and signed at the end of the assembly.



**Field Day 2021 is coming!**

**Mr. Dahl is working hard to create a fun Field Day  
that also follows our covid-19 mitigation plans.  
He guarantees a GREAT time!**

**Tuesday 18 May**

**10-11:30am:** Kindergarten & 1st

**1:15-2:45pm:** 5th & 6th Grades

**Wednesday 19 May**

**10-11:30am:** 2nd Grade

**1:15-2:45pm:** 3rd & 4th Grades

Due to ASD covid-19 mitigation plans, families may not attend field day activities.

# Register Returning ASD Students Online!

Returning students can be registered through  
Q/ParentConnection for the 2021-22 school  
**NOW!**

\* The Online Registration System works best in Chrome/Firefox/Safari browsers.

Families need to wait until August to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch for the full 2021-22 school year.

Have you moved? Will your children be attending a different school? You may register online, but please notify your new school. Elementary school offices will reopen the last week in July. You will need to provide proof of residency to your new school.

## New-to-District Families

ASD is offering an Online Pre-Enrollment option for Kindergarten and New-to-District families.

Pre-enrollment starts 15 July.

Check [here](#) for the most up-to-date information.

# May 2021 LUNCH

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
3	✓ Creamy Mac and Cheese 23g carb Green Beans 5g carb Fresh Apple 13g carb	4	🍷 Pasta & Homemade Meat Sauce, 20g+3.25g Carb Fresh Orange, 18g carb	5	Chicken Drumstick 5g Sweet Potato Fries 32g carb Frozen Lemon Berry Cup, 19g carb	6	Pizza Pepperoni 4 IN Round 31g carb Potato Wedges, 32g carb Mandarin Orange Cup, 17g carb	7	Teriyaki Chicken, 14g carb ✓ Oriental Rice, 25g carb Corn 25.83g carb Frozen Mixed Berry Cup 19g carb
10	✓ Cream Cheese Pocket 30g carb ✓ Steamed Carrots 6.8g carb Fresh Apple 13g carb	11	Soft Chicken Taco w/ Flour Tortilla 15.09 g carb Black Beans 14.25g carb Fresh Orange, 18g carb	12	Chicken Tenders 0g carb Tater tots 19g carb Frozen Lemon Berry Cup, 19g carb	13	✓ Cheese Pizza, 32g carb Potato Wedges, 32g carb Applesauce Cup 11.5g Carb	14	Chicken Alfredo 44g carb Broccoli Florets, 3.84 g carb Frozen Lemon Berry Cup, 19g carb
17	Corn Dog 30g carb Tater tots 19g carb Fresh Apple 13g carb	18	Sweet BBQ Bites & Sunflower Seeds Meal Breaks 78g carbs	19	Cheese Stick with Marinara Sauce Meal Breaks 43g carb	20	Beef & Cheese Sticks Meal Break 47g carb	21	
24		25		26		27		28	

All meals include a choice of:  
 White 1% milk  
 Chocolate Fat Free milk  
 Lactose Free milk



**Fall seven times, stand up eight.  
- Japanese Proverb**

Aurora Elementary is proud to be the first school in Alaska to partner with the Anchored4Life!

This club will make a significant difference in military and civilian children's' lives by offering positive support, teaching life skills, and providing resources as they face many unique challenges. Anchored4Life will provide transition and resiliency life skills to students, families and staff.

We are excited to offer activity kits to students and families for incoming and exiting students, deployment, return from deployment, grief and divorce.

Please let Nurse Amy or the office staff know if your family is experiencing any of these transitions and we will get you the appropriate kit.

# WE TEAMED UP FOR CLEANUP



Thank you to the nearly 50 students and their families that picked up trash around Aurora Elementary!  
This was the best turnout ever!

Congratulations to Kiera S. and Lily A. for each winning a door prize for a \$50 gift card to Fred Meyers!



# KEEP ASD SYMPTOM FREE



## At Home Health Screening for Parents and Guardians

Ask these questions at home before sending students to school. Anyone who answers "yes" to one or more of these questions must not enter the school or participate in a school sport or activity.

1

Within the last 10 days, have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 or had a positive test for the virus?

2

Have you had any of these symptoms in the last 24 hours?

- Fever (defined as a temperature over 100.3F)
- New cough
- New trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- Chills
- Night sweats
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Muscle aches
- Joint pain
- Loss of taste or smell
- Headache
- Confusion
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain

3

Do you live in the same household or have you had close contact in the last 14 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19? Close contact counts if you have been within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes (cumulative over 24 hrs), or if someone from public health contacted you to let you know you are a contact.

*Note: If a child or staff member lives with someone else who was named as a contact, it is okay for the child or staff member to go to school. We do not quarantine contacts of contacts.*

STAY HOME or go home immediately if the answer is YES to one or more questions above. The next step is to call a doctor and consider getting tested for COVID-19. Do not go to the doctor's office without calling first. Seek emergency care immediately for difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, sleepiness, or other severe problems.

Parents / guardians should follow the Return to School Options pathway (see reverse) to determine when to send students back to school. DO NOT send student to school with any of the above symptoms.



Anchorage School District  
Educating All Students for Success in Life

[www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)

# Return to School Options

## For Anyone with COVID-19 Symptoms or a Positive COVID-19 Test Result:

1

If you test positive, stay home for 10 days after your first symptom or positive test, whichever is earlier. After 10 days, you may return to school when you have not had a fever in 24 hours without fever reducing medicine, as long as your other symptoms are improving.

2

If you test negative, you may return to school once you have not had a fever in 24 hours without fever reducing medicine as long as your other symptoms are improving.

3

If you do not get a test, stay home for 10 days. You may return after 10 days if you have not had a fever in 24 hours without fever reducing medicine as long as your other symptoms are improving.

4

If your healthcare provider determines your symptoms are from something else, you may return to school with a note from your provider as long as you have not had a fever in 24 hours without fever reducing medicine and your other symptoms are improving.

*Content for this flier borrowed with permission from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's Smart Start 2020 website.*

Margo Bellamy

Dave Donley

**Anchorage School Board:** Elisa Vakalis, President

Alisha Hilde

Andy Holleman

Starr Marsett

Deena Mitchell

**Superintendent:** Dr. Deena Bishop



AnchorageSchoolDistrict



@ASD\_Info  
@DrDeenaBishop



AnchorageSchoolDistrict



YouTube AnchorageSD

# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

Aurora Elementary School  
Ms. Anna Walker, Principal



## SHORT NOTES

### Exercise your brain

Your child's brain is like a muscle—the more he uses it, the stronger it will become. Suggest that he give his brain a workout with activities like using his nondominant hand to throw a ball or to color. Learning to speak a foreign language or play a musical instrument are also known brain boosters.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school

and avoid risky behavior. Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or on a weekend, try a picnic lunch.

### Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a box with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I learned to add fractions") on a slip of paper and put it in the box. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

### Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"  
Mark Twain

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

**A:** Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



## Conversations about school

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help—but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are conversation starters that will help you stay involved.

### "Let's see what you worked on today!"

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her math work or social studies project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from her teacher, and sign her weekly folder or daily planner if required.

### "Show me what you have for homework."

It's your child's job to do her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure she knows what she's supposed to do by having her explain the assignments to you. After she finishes her homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

### "Describe a book you enjoyed today."

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what she'd like to read tonight. Encourage her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to her and letting her read to you.

### "Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might hunt for



shapes together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, read a book or observe animals outside. ♥

## After-school questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

- "What's the coolest thing that happened today?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? How was someone kind or helpful to you?" ♥



## What does respect look like?

Your youngster's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn about respect.

**Respectful replies.** Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing and that he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such as, "I



want to be healthy, but I love video games." Have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

**Everyday acts.** When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your child about respect for neighbors. Explain that keeping your

neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.♥

## A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting makes a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in France, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like [kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)).

- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
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## Strong study habits

**Q:** My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure she studies effectively?

**A:** Set your daughter up for success by helping her find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have her come up with a study routine. For instance, she could reserve time each evening to review her textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test. Also, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the boldfaced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage her to experiment with study strategies to find what works best. She could close her eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve  $3 \times 3$ . Or she might find it helpful to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune.♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### How to be careful online

With my daughter using the internet more for schoolwork, I was concerned she would wander to unsafe sites. We set up parental controls as her teacher recommended, and I try to stay nearby when she's on the computer.

But my older sister reminded me that while supervision is important, Sophie needs to learn safe habits to use on her own. So I explained to

Sophie that real-life safety rules apply online.

For instance, she shouldn't talk to strangers or go places she's not allowed. Before visiting a new site, she has to check with me so I can make sure it's appropriate. And just as in real life, she needs to tell me right away if a stranger tries to contact her or if she sees something confusing or upsetting.

I feel better that Sophie has ground rules, and I am going to keep this conversation going.♥





Aurora's Kindergarteners  
learned about the lifecycle  
of butterflies. Release day  
was so much fun!

