

# TIGER TRACKS

## Northern Lights ABC School Newsletter

### Build Your Character

Friendship

Work

Respect

Perseverance

Patriotism

Generosity

Compassion

Tolerance

Courage

Honesty

Loyalty

Humility

Self Confidence

Self Discipline

Independence

Helpfulness



[Email](#) [Facebook](#) [School Website](#) [SignUp](#)

### HOW DOES ATTENDANCE WORK?

•When your child will be late, absent, or picked up early, please call 742-7500 and choose the attendance line option. We check it all day. You are also encouraged to email your child's teacher if you know a student will be picked up early.

IMPORTANT- Only the office can correct attendance, teachers can not correct attendance.  
•Absences and homework must be requested before 10am, or you will receive the district's robocall notifying you of the absence.

•As the attendance line states, a reason must be given for the absence, or it will be coded a P.

What is a P?

•An attendance code of P means Pre-Arranged Unexcused - This means that you have notified the school of your absence, but we either do not have enough information to excuse it, or it does not meet the criteria to excuse it set by the district. In coding the absence as a P, you will not receive the robocall.

## Did you remember?



Although it has passed,  
September 11th  
was Patriot Day.

Please take time  
to remember  
everyone that  
died or survived  
that day.



## Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

Can you believe that we've been in school for four weeks already? It was wonderful to see so many families join us for our Open House evenings. I am very pleased with our turn out and to see so many families supporting our school. Thank you so much!

As you can probably tell, there is a chill in the air. Please make sure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing like a light jacket or hoodie.

Our evacuation drill on September 3<sup>rd</sup> was a great success. The students and staff were able to walk with ease to our destination. We will do another evacuation in the spring.

We are doing amazing things at our school and this is just the beginning of the year. This year, our school will participate in 2019 Mail for Our Military. We will write letters to soldiers who are overseas. This is a great program that will help our students practice the art of letter writing while supporting our school's philosophy on patriotism.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [duff\\_tammy@asdk12.org](mailto:duff_tammy@asdk12.org)

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Duff, Principal

## New Elementary staff members

My name is Nicole Allen,  
I'm the new A.M. Kindergarten T.A. for Mrs.  
Kelly. As a parent, I've enjoyed my  
experience at Northern Lights ABC. The  
program is great, the staff are wonderful  
and the parent volunteers move  
mountains. I'm excited to be working here  
and hope that we have a fabulous year  
ahead of us.



Meet Mrs. Son,

Hello, I am extremely excited to be teaching at NLABC. I have been teaching for ten years in Anchorage School District. I was born in South Korea, and my family moved to Alaska 22 years ago. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at UAA.

My husband and I have three beautiful children, Junia (7), Lucas (6), and Jacob (1). I spend my free time camping and traveling with my family. I also enjoy cooking, crafting, and playing piano when I am home. I am happy to be a part of your child's educational journey!

## New Middle School staff members

Hello! My name is Ian Dickson,

I am a born-and-raised Alaskan, having grown up right here in Anchorage. I have also lived in Hawaii and New Zealand where I received my BS in Biology and my MS in Marine Science, respectively. I have worked in the biological sciences here in Alaska for almost 15 years.

Transitioning into the teaching profession at Northern Lights ABC will allow me to bring my real-world experience to the science classroom, so I couldn't be happier.

Also, I am immensely proud of my wife who is also a marine biologist and my daughter Marina. When I'm not teaching I enjoy boating, history, photography, and woodworking.



My name is Kerry, Mcnamara,



I am excited to be your child's band teacher this year! This is my ninth year teaching. I grew up outside of Washington, D.C. in Woodbridge, VA and went to The Ohio State University. Eventually I made my way across the country in search of adventure to Dutch Harbor, AK where I taught for six years. I took last year off and traveled through Europe for five months. In addition to teaching music, I also enjoy teaching yoga at the Alaska Rock Gym.

## SPECIAL NOTICE: Protecting Children

Every child should be taught how to be safe online. In the new digital world, there are technological wonders, which often introduce cyber threats of many kinds. The online world can be a place of inappropriate conduct and content, where kids may feel anonymous. There are bullies, predators, hackers, and scammers that may pose a threat to your children. These factors can make it challenging for parents to guide their children today on interacting with others through technology. Providing this important guidance on online safety and privacy begins with talking about it and encouraging safe and smart decisions about online activity.

### What are the risks?

The online world has many cyber risks and concerning activities for kids and parents to recognize. The following are some of the cyber risks:

- Cyberbullying is bullying that happens online. It can happen in an email, a text message, an app, an online game, or on a social networking site.
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- Phishing/Identity Theft is when a scam artist sends text, email, or pop-up messages in a browser to get people to share their personal information. They can then use that information to commit identity theft.
- 
- Sexting is the sending or forwarding of sexually explicit photos, videos, or messages from a mobile phone. In addition to risking their reputations, friendships, and safety, this could be illegal activity.
- 
- Social Networking can help kids connect with family and friends, but it can invite danger if not used appropriately. Sharing too much information, posting pictures, videos, or words can damage reputation, hurt someone else, or invite a predator to contact the user. Once something is online, it may not easily be removed. Oversharing may be leveraged by online criminals to facilitate identity theft.

### What can you do?

- Start at an early age! As soon as children can use a computing device, it is time to talk to them about using it safely. Parents and family have the best opportunity to teach children!
- 
- Know what your kids are doing. Consider having a common area in the house for the family to do online activity, where children can feel independent, but not alone.

## SPECIAL NOTICE: Protecting Children - cont'd

- Keep an open and honest environment. Let your children know they can come to you with any concerns or questions about their online experience.
- 
- Protect your children's information. Don't over-share information about your children, and teach them this principle. Set social media accounts so only approved friends can see their content.
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- Respond appropriately to cyberbullying. Tell children to ignore or block bullies, unless it becomes threatening. Report abuse to the website where it is taking place, or if you fear for your child's safety, report it to the authorities.
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- Configure the security and privacy features on devices. Change default settings on your devices and enable security features like strong passwords, auto-updates, etc.
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- Keep all your computers and mobile computing devices up to date with the latest security patches and anti-malware software.
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- Consider installing or enabling parental controls on devices.
- 
- Teach kids to be cautious of suspicious email and text messages.

### **Additional Resources:**

- <https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/managing-your-privacy/tips-parents-raising-privacy-savvy-kids/>
- 
- <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0038-onguardonline>



## Notes from the PTA



### The Fall Carnival volunteers

is ready and everyone can sign-up for volunteer opportunities at: [vols.pt/TigerTeam](https://vols.pt/TigerTeam)

OR

contact Karen the Volunteer Coordinator at: 907-952-0968,

[Nlabcvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:Nlabcvolunteers@gmail.com)

### PTA News Flash!

We are having a PTA Membership & Volunteer Drive! What does this mean for you? The class that has the most members sign up for our NLABC PTA before October 1st will win a pizza lunch catered by your PTA!



As we build up our PTA membership, we also need to build up our volunteers!

So for any parent who volunteers for two or more events before October 1st, will be entered into to win a family of 4 movie night package!



## SPORTS - Various Ages

A poster for Fall Volleyball featuring a group of girls in red jerseys playing volleyball in a gymnasium. The text "FALL VOLLEYBALL" is in large purple letters at the top left. A purple box on the right contains registration information. At the bottom right, there is a logo for Boys & Girls Clubs Alaska and icons for various sports.

**FALL VOLLEYBALL**

**SEASON BEGINS**  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

**AGES**  
8 - 12 // U10 - U12  
BOYS & GIRLS

**REGISTER AT**  
[ATHLETICS.BGCALASKA.ORG](http://ATHLETICS.BGCALASKA.ORG)

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS ALASKA

"The Anchorage School District does not endorse these materials or the viewpoints expressed in them."

A poster for Indoor Soccer featuring a close-up of a person's legs in yellow socks and blue sneakers, with one foot on a soccer ball. The text "INDOOR SOCCER" is in large yellow letters at the top. A yellow box on the right contains registration information. At the bottom right, there is a logo for Boys & Girls Clubs Alaska and icons for various sports.

**INDOOR SOCCER**

**SEASON BEGINS**  
September 23, 2019

**AGES**  
4 - 12 // U5 - U12  
Boys & Girls

**REGISTER AT**  
[ATHLETICS.BGCALASKA.ORG](http://ATHLETICS.BGCALASKA.ORG)

## Middle School

### **Middle School Parents!**

We need a 7th grade parent to help plan middle school activities and dances for the year. Contact Flora at [fteo@ja-alaska.org](mailto:fteo@ja-alaska.org)

**A congrats** to Mr. Cullings home room for winning  
the first spirit day - AK  
Grown day.

### **Girls Volleyball season for 7th & 8th graders**

is coming up soon. If your student would like to join please print and fill out the forms on the NLABC website and turn them into the office. You can pay online through your students Zangle/Q account, cash or check at the office.

Thank you  
NLABC



# Picture Day is Coming

Order before  
Picture Day at:

**mylifetouch.com**

**Picture Day is:**  
**Thursday, September 19, 2019**  
Northern Lights ABC School

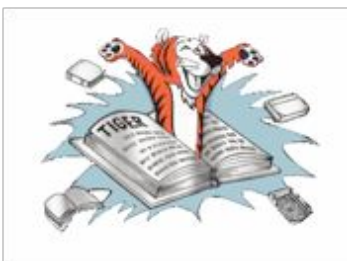
- ① Visit:  
**mylifetouch.com**
- ② Enter  
your Picture Day ID  
**AK019030Q0**
- ③ Order  
your perfect package—and  
don't worry about returning  
anything on Picture Day!

**Lifetouch**  
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Order online and receive  
exclusive offers from  
Lifetouch Rewards.



Questions? Please contact Customer Service at 800-736-4753.



## TIGER READING

**TIGER Reading Reminders:** Welcome back readers!  
You can find LOTS of important information on the [TIGER Reading Page](#) linked from the [NLABC](#) page under the [Library](#) tab including a program overview. No formal enrollment is necessary, but please see the parent information page for the full requirements.

**As you are checking, your student's *Reading Logs*, please remember:**

- Parent initials and signatures are required on each line/page of the [student reading logs](#)
- Students need to include first AND last names
- Please include Teacher's name
- Count each book one time per month - repeated reading builds skills but does NOT count for TIGER Reading.
- Write complete titles
- Add the pages accurately
- Write legibly ☺

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### T.I.G.E.R. READING CLUB UPDATE

#### Summer Reading (May through August 2019)

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Summer 2019 total student pages read: 788,660  
LESS staff pages read of 23,030 = 765,630 student pages  
Pages left to 4.5-million-page-goal: 4,234,370  
Readers who met the 2,500 page summer goal: 102

-PRIMARY CLASS TROPHY K-3 WINNER – Highest Percentage Meeting Goal :  
[Mrs. Gionet's 1st graders!](#)

-INTERMEDIATE CLASS TROPHY 4-6 WINNER:  
[Mrs. Voelker & Mr. Walsh's – Tie](#)

-GRADE LEVEL TROPHY WINNERS – Highest Percentage Meeting Goal

KINDER - [Mrs. Montes](#)  
1st GRADE - [Mrs. Gionet](#)  
2nd GRADE - [Mrs. Morris](#)  
3rd GRADE - [Mrs. Barnett](#)  
4th GRADE - [Mrs. Kaas](#)  
5th GRADE - [Mrs. Cotten](#)  
6th GRADE - [Mrs. Voelker and Mr. Walsh](#)

**PLEASE DELIVER THE TROPHIES TO THE WINNING CLASSROOM**

-TEACHER/PRINCIPAL/STAFF PRIZE WINNER FOR THE MOST PAGES PERSONALLY READ May to August 2019: [Ms. Kelly in the library with 14,260!](#)



# SEPTEMBER READ TO GOAL!



Read to monthly goal in  
September and  
Earn ONE guess. How many  
tickets in the Library jar?

**ONE WINNER WINS:  
\$10 CARNIVAL TICKETS!**

Tiger Reading Club student must read to monthly goal in the month of September 2019 & submit parent-signed T.R. log of titles to enter drawing. One chance to win per student, with \$10 in carnival tickets awarded at K-6th grades. Drawing will be held in October 2019. Carnival tickets have no cash value.

## Battle of the Books 19-20 will soon begin!

Included in this newsletter is information that will help you and your student decide on participation in the program. Battle of the Books is a statewide Alaskan reading motivation and comprehension program sponsored by the Alaska Association of School Librarians. The goals of the program are to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, broaden reading interests, increase comprehension and promote academic excellence.

Copies of the official title lists for levels 3rd-4th, 5th-6th, and Middle School are available, and our school library has copies of the books for check-out to students. Copies are also available at the public library. Summaries of each book are available for download from the Northern Lights Library Programs page @ <http://tinyurl.com/NL-Library-Battle>, and available in hard copy at the Northern Lights Library.

If you choose to have your student participate in this program, please become involved in your child's reading and discuss the books at home, starting by reading the summaries together. While students are not required to read all the books to participate, students who read first & then discuss the books together will know the most about them and be able to answer the questions more easily.

### 2019-2020 Coaches:

3rd / 4th Grades: [Heather Kaas](#) and [Jillaine Heinrich](#)

5th / 6th Grades: [Denise Cotten](#)

7th / 8th Grades: [Heather Coffman](#)

Thank you for taking the time to be involved in your child's reading and for supporting Battle of the Books at Northern Lights!

Original Graphic: <http://www.usd343.net/vnews/display.v/ART/5060992ac7eb2>



**-End of Newsletter-**