

North Star News

Home of the Shining Stars!

Principal Notes from Ms. Sery

Here at North Star, we have been very busy learning about kindness...what it means and how we can be kind to others! Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. Learning about kindness happens best when it is done both at school and at home. Below are many ways that you can help your child continue to learn about the theme of kindness through reading about it, talking about it, and practicing it! We have really enjoyed exploring this topic at school, and I hope your family will enjoy it just as much!

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD:

- 1) Think of a time someone was kind to you at school. How did that make you feel?
- 2) What are some ways you can show kindness to a classmate at school?
- 3) When is the last time that you were kind to a stranger out in public? (held the door for someone, helped an elder carry groceries, used your manners while speaking, etc.)?

READ ABOUT IT!:

Here are some children's books to help students learn more about kindness:

How Kind! By Mary Murphy

The Golden Rule By Ilene Cooper

The Lion and The Mouse By Jerry Pinkney

PRACTICE IT!

Spend time writing encouraging notes to people in your community. This could be neighbors, policeman, teachers, nursing home residents, firefighters, or anyone! Have your child go with you to deliver your notes of kindness!

Sincerely, Ms. Sery

Save the Date!

PTA MEETING

Tuesday, February
12th

North Star Library

6:00 until 7:00 pm

Please join us!

NO SCHOOL

Monday, February
18th

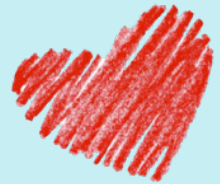
SPELLING BEE

Thursday, February
21st at 1:45 pm



2ND CUP OF COFFEE FOR ALL PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

Thursday, February 21st
2:45-3:30 pm



Happy Valentine's
Day

February 14th



I am proud to be
a North Star
Student!

We are STARS!

I will...

Stretch my effort

Treat others with
kindness

Arrive with a
positive attitude

Be a....
Resilient learner

And....
Search for
solutions!

ASD Calendar Update...Change in School Calendar for February

Due to students being out of school December 3-7 following the November 30 earthquake, a plan was approved by the School Board on January 22, 2019, to account for the days of instruction missed.

NOTICE:
Important Calendar
Change

The days associated with the February Parent-Teacher Conferences will be utilized as student instructional days. Half days originally scheduled for February 20, 21, and 22 are regular full day instructional time for students. The originally planned early release days for students, late evenings for teachers, and in-service on February 22 will not occur to allow for full-day student instructional time.

Family Engagement Survey

The Family Engagement Survey window opens February 11th and will remain open until March 15th. The survey offers families an opportunity to give valuable feedback about the experience of schooling from their children's perspective as well as their own. Data is used in strategic planning, evaluating program results, and improving engagement with families in the Anchorage School District. **Families will receive an emailed survey link the night before the survey window opens.** Links can also be found on the district's web page.



TEXT MESSAGES

Sign Up and receive text messages from ASD regarding school closures and late busses. You must opt in. They are not automatic. Visit ASD's website to learn more about receiving text messages:
<http://www.asdk12.org/textupdates>.

FEBRUARY IS VISIT OUR SCHOOLS MONTH!

Come see what we're doing! During the month of February, we are opening the doors of every school for guided, public tours!

We welcome everyone to join us by visiting our community's schools, whether you have children in ASD or not. The safety of our students will always remain top priority. All people on tours will be checked in through normal procedures that visitors follow. Principals will lead the tours and tour groups will never be left unsupervised. Students will continue classroom activities and the tours will not interfere with student learning. Learn more about Visit Our Schools Month at www.asdk12.org/visit.

Every Tuesday, Every School, 9:30 am, All February!

Evening tours at 6 pm on Tuesday Feb. 26th only!

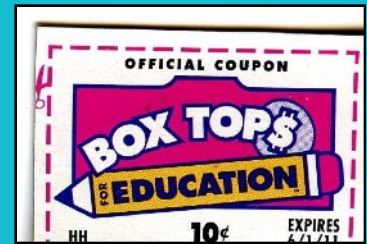


Every school | Every Tuesday

- **February 5**
- **February 12**
- **February 19**
- **February 26**

Box Tops for Education

We are continuing to collect General Mills Box Tops for Education. For each Box Top a student brings in, North Star Elementary receives ten cents. We use the money for supplies for our teachers and students, so please continue to cut out those Box Tops and send them in. They can be found on boxes of cereal, Ziplock baggies, Progresso soup cans, and many other items in your pantry.



ACCESS TESTING

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning February 1st our school will be conducting a state required assessment for Academic English Language Learners. This assessment is called ACCESS 2.0 and provides important feedback about the progress of our Academic English Language Learners in Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing. Students will take the test using our school's computers. Only students who are currently identified as members of the Academic English Language Learners Program will be assessed. Most of the assessments will be completed during the first two weeks of February but some may continue into March. More information about the ACCESS 2.0 assessment is found on the ASD ACCESS 2.0 page, <http://www.asdk12.org/ae/elpa/>. If you have any questions about this test, you are encouraged to contact us here at school at 742-3800. You may also contact the District's English Language Learners Department at 742-4452. Information about the Academic English Language Learners Program in the Anchorage School District can be found on ASD's website. As always, with testing, we ask that families plan so that their students are in school and are well rested for testing. Your patience and support for this process is very much appreciated as this assessment does provide useful information that helps our district and school improve programs for Academic English Language Learners.

Sincerely, Julie Sery, Principal



Notes from Nurse Imelda

February is American Heart Month! Traditionally the month for all things heart related reminds us to take care of our heart. The annual celebration began in 1963 to encourage Americans to join the battle against heart disease. A presidential proclamation pays tribute each year to researchers, physicians, public health professionals and volunteers for their tireless efforts in preventing, treating, and researching heart disease, which is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the US.

SPRING BREAK

No School on Friday, March 8th for grade reporting day.

Spring Break is March 8th-17th.

School will resume on Monday, March 18th.



North Star Elementary School is on Facebook. Please check out our page and "LIKE" us!

Anchorage School Board

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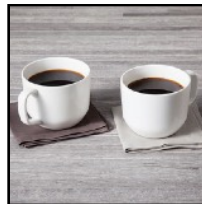
Brrr...It's Cold Out There!

Please send your student with appropriate winter gear for recess. A hat, gloves, a jacket, boots, and snow pants are necessary to keep our students warm.

2nd Cup Of Coffee will resume Thursday, Feb 21st. Join other North Star parents and families for this informal chance to brush up on different topics.

Dates of the next 2nd Cup of Coffee are:

- * Thursday, Feb. 21st...Meet and Greet; Climate and Connectedness
- * Thursday, March 21st...Testing Hints and Supports
- * Thursday, April 11th...Thinking Ahead...Supporting Families as Grades Change
- * Thursday, May 2nd...Summer Stretch...How to Avoid the Summer Slump



Time from 2:45-3:30pm

North Star 2019 Battle of the Books Contestants

Advisors Ms. Burrell and Ms. Reece



3/4 Team (From left to right): Aggie Tanoai, Ousman Touray, and Bigoa Diew



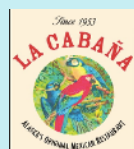
5/6 Team (From left to right): Julian Fortner, Alexia Taliauli, Ariana Alimi, and Alio Touray



WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A BIG SHOUT OUT AND THANK YOU TO OUR

SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERS... STARBUCKS, CAFE AMSTERDAM, HOME DEPOT, GREAT HARVEST BREAD COMPANY, ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL ROTARY, FIRE STATION #5, LA CABANA, AMERICAN LEGION JACK HENRY POST #1, CARRS, SPENARD ROADHOUSE, SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH, BRENNA BELL & CLARKSON LAW FIRM, LION'S CLUB, AND WELLS FARGO! IF YOU KNOW OF OTHER BUSINESSES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE OUR PARTNER, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

**WELLS
FARGO**





Help Your Child Succeed in School: **Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early**

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

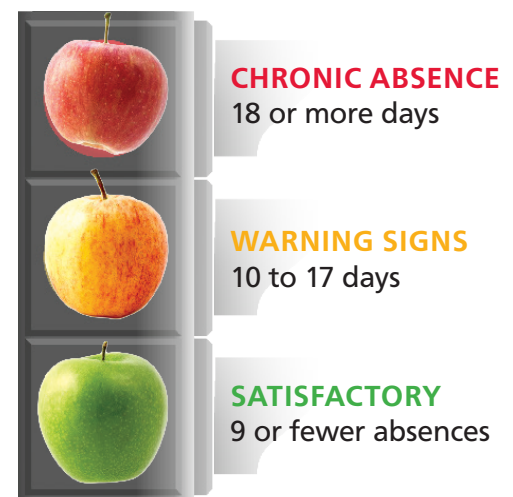
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit attendanceworks.org and reachoutandread.org



How Sick Is Too Sick for School?

Children are TOO sick to come to school if they are spreading germs or are so sick they cannot do what they need to do at school.

Use this checklist to decide if your child should stay home from school:

	YES	NO
Does your child have a fever of 100 degrees or higher?		
Has your child thrown up 2 or more times in the last 24 hours?		
Does your child have diarrhea?		
Are your child's eyes bright red, crusty, and/or have yellow or green stuff coming out of them?		
Does your child have a sore throat AND fever, headache or stomach ache?		
Does your child have a stomach ache AND fever, throwing up, diarrhea, or stomach pain?		
Does your child have lice (small white eggs on hair or bugs on scalp)?		

If you answered yes to any of these questions, keep your child home until they have been feeling better for 24 hours. Take them to doctor if you have concerns.

If your child has just a cold, headache, ear ache, or stomachache, they CAN come to school.

If your child has a rash, please take them to the doctor before they come to school.


Once your child has been treated for lice, they can return to school.

If you have any questions about whether your child should come to school or not, call the Nurse at North Star at 907- 742-3801.

After School Student Pick Up

We have an after school parent pick up lane. The lane is made up of an inner lane and an outer lane. The outer lane is a thruway to be used if you are leaving due to having picked up your student or if your student is not outside yet. The inner lane is for you to pull into and pickup your student if you see they are waiting for you. If your student is not ready, please exit the inner lane and return to the outer lane to go back around. Please do not hold your spot until your student is released from class. This is for efficiency and so that the line does not get backed up onto Fireweed causing a potentially dangerous situation.

Student Pick Up Do's and Don'ts

Do's	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use the outer lane to exit- Use the inner lane to pick-up your student- Drive slowly- Ask a teacher to help get your student- Leave the inner line if your student is not ready- Stay in the car while in the pick-up line- Park in the parking lot and wait at the pick-up zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Park in the outer lane or stop- Park in the inner lane- After 1 min, you will be asked to go back around as your student is not ready.- Drive aggressive or fast /rev engine- Yell at teacher's- Walk between the inner and outer lane- Use the crossing walk. 

Student Pick Up When Parking in the Parking Lot

At the end of the day we ask that you wait by the cement block walls located at the front of the building to pick up your students. This is where the teachers will release your child. Having one location where students are released helps the teachers visually see who has been picked up and by whom. If students are taken out of the line without the teacher visually releasing them, they cannot see if it is the right person picking them up. Thank you for your help in keeping all of our students safe!

Show your school you care
with a bouquet of Box Tops.



Thank you for helping! Every Box Top
you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.

Name _____
Grade _____