



Muldoon Elementary

525 Cherry St., Anchorage, AK 99504
Ph: 742-1460, Fax: 742-1477



Principal, Leroy Grant

December 2018

Welcome back!

Welcome back Muldoon students, parents, and staff!

The Muldoon community has many things to be thankful for this week. We feel truly fortunate to have made it through such an extreme ordeal with no injuries. Our students, staff and families have been amazing during this crisis. Our sturdy building also did an amazing job during the quake and aftershocks. The district has repeatedly checked our water, gas, fire systems, air quality and physical safety. The engineers have also confirmed that our building is structurally sound.

Over the past week, Muldoon staff has been preparing for all of our students to return. The first few days back in school will be debriefing with students, updating students and staff on our safety plans, and discussing how to handle aftershocks. We are excited to celebrate how prepared we were, how well we all did during and immediately after the earthquake, and how resilient we are.

Muldoon's primary objective throughout this week of recovery was to resume classes in a safe and functional school. ASD Maintenance and the District's construction industry partners entered every room in our school following the earthquake and during the immediate recovery. As experienced professionals, these experts were actively evaluating rooms and buildings for leaks and other hazards that could affect the air quality.

We understand that coming back to school may be a difficult day for your

child. We will be spending the next few weeks working on building student's confidence, understanding our feelings, and learning about earthquakes. If your child is having a hard time, there are a variety of resources to help you support your child. I have attached some of this information. Please feel free to talk to your child's teacher as well as Nurse Brenda, our school Counselor Diana Carter, or myself. We are all willing and able to support your child.

Over the past week, Muldoon staff has been preparing for student's return. We will be debriefing with students this week, updating them on our safety plans, and discussing how to handle aftershocks. We are excited to celebrate how prepared they were, how well they did, and how resilient they are.

ASD crews, employees, and community volunteers have been working around the clock since the earthquake hit on November 30, to ensure that our facilities are safe and ready to receive students. Additionally, school staff have joined with other schools to provide personal support, extra hands, and steady encouragement. Experiencing the earthquake and continuing aftershocks are unplanned events but events for which we prepare, practice, and are ready.

The staff at Muldoon Elementary have reviewed our safety plans and would like to inform families what our process is after a crisis. Our first step is to get students to a safe location and account for all students and staff. Once that is established, we are able to begin our student release. If we are able to occupy our building, parents will be able to sign students out and meet them in the MPR. If we are unable to occupy our building, that

same system will be employed in another location. We hope that we will not need to deploy our release plan again this school year, but we want everyone to be informed of the process.

For the remainder of December, all after school/weekend sports, Club K, Family Math and movie night are canceled. Our Christmas Music concert will take place on Friday the 14th. This is necessary due to the condition of other schools and the need to focus ASD resources on schools that still need assistance.

Again, thank you for all that you have done to take care of your child, our community and our school. I am very proud of Muldoon students, parents, and staff.

Leroy Grant, Principal
Patricia Jimenez, Assistant Principal

Dates to Remember:

Holiday Concert: 12/14 at 2 & 6pm
Join us for this special holiday concert!

No 21st Century: 12/17 – 12/20

NO SCHOOL: 12/21 – 1/6
Winter Break

Current Activities



Basketball (4th & 5th grade):
10/29-2/28, Mon & Wed 3:30-5

Battle of the Books (3rd-5th grade):
9/10-1/30, Tuesdays
3rd & 4th grades 3:45-4:00
5th grade 3:45-4:45



Contact Information Is Important, so please keep us updated with any phone or address changes. You can also log into your Q/Zangle or Parent Connect account and update information there.

School Day Start & End Times:

The first bell rings at 8:45, and class starts promptly at 9:00. Our school day ends at 3:30.



After School Pick-Ups: As you can imagine, the office is quite a busy place in the afternoon. Please call in all pick-up notices before 3:00 p.m. Also, to ensure minimal lost instruction time, we will be unable to release any students after 3:00 p.m., unless there is a medical emergency. If at all possible, please schedule doctor’s appointments, etc. after 3:30. Thank you for your cooperation.

Focus on Attendance: Attendance at school is very important. When students arrive late or are picked up before dismissal, teaching and learning are disrupted. We have staff in the morning starting at 8am that can supervise your child in the computer lab Monday-Friday. Please make every effort to have your child in school from 8:45am-3:30pm each day.

Morning recess runs from 8:30-8:45am. Once students enter into the building after morning recess, breakfast is served in the classrooms from 8:50-9:05am.

Lost & Found: We already have a large amount of lost & found items. If your student has lost an item, please remind them check our lost and found collection, located near the front office. Our advice to you is to label, label, label your child’s backpack, lunch box, snow gear, etc. You would be amazed how many people buy black gloves and snow pants each year. We have 460 students attending Muldoon this year. That’s a lot of gloves, hats, snow pants, boots, etc. So please be proactive and label you child’s items with a silver or black Sharpie marker.

Dress for the Weather: Now that winter weather is here we would like to remind parents that classes will still be going outside for recess. The ASD policy is to go outside for recess unless the temperature is below 10 degrees. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather every single morning before leaving your home.

Walking to School: According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, children ages 16 and under are the most at-risk for getting hit while crossing the street. In order to protect students from dangerous and life-threatening accidents, it’s essential that drivers yield to pedestrians crossing the street at intersections, even when a crossing guard is not present. If your child walks to and from school, please talk to them about walking on the sidewalk, staying out of the road and/or parking lot, and walking with other students to stay safe. Just a gentle reminder that we live in Alaska and we have moose and bears in the area as well. All of these things need to be reviewed with your child on a regular basis, so they can stay safe.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off Traffic Reminders: Our curbside parking area is to be considered a single file car “Pause Parking Lane” for parents. We appreciate families who are remembering to stay in their cars while in the pause parking lane and continuing to move forward as space becomes available, which helps to keep traffic moving. Look for the traffic attendants and follow their directions. The staff are trying to keep everyone safe and keep traffic moving. Thank you to families who are helping keep our busy end-of-day dismissal safe for students. You all make Muldoon a safe place to be!

Messages to Students: Please make sure that your child knows what they will be expected to do when the school day is over, before they leave home in the morning. Our office staff is not available to hand deliver messages

throughout the school day. With a school of our size, when the bell rings at the end of the school day it becomes quite difficult to reach individual children that we have taken messages for. It is also very disruptive to the teachers and students when intercom calls are made to the class at the end of the day.



Greetings From the Nurse

Dear Parents,

As the nurse of Muldoon Elementary, I would like to remind everyone that you can help protect yourselves and families from many of illnesses during this time of year.

Follow the habits good for Health listed below recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

- Cover your nose & mouth with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap & water. If not near water use a hand sanitizer.
- Stay away as much as possible from people who are sick.
- If you or your child gets the flu, stay home from work or school.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.
- Dress for the weather. Come to school dressed for winter. Remember we go outside at recess.

Always get enough sleep, at least 9 hours every night.
Eat Fruits and Vegetables
Drink plenty of water.

Thank you,
Nurse Patterson BSN, RN
Direct Line: 742-1451



Muldoon Elementary

525 Cherry St., Anchorage, AK 99504
Ph: 742-1460, Fax: 742-1477



Principal, Leroy Grant

December 2018

21ST CENTURY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM



21st Century Afterschool Program

Hi Muldoon Families,

Muldoon 21st Century after-school program will end for the semester on December 13th. Please make alternate arrangements to pick your students up at 3:30 for the week of Dec.17th -21st. Program will start again after the winter break on January 7th.

Thank you,
Leah Schilling
21st CCLC After School Coordinator
Muldoon Elementary
742-1491



A Word from our PTA

On Friday, December 14th during the evening Music Concert from 6-7pm and Sunday, December 16th from 9:30am-12:30pm the Muldoon Elementary Clothing Closet will be open for families to browse. Come and see what clothing is available and take what you need; all community members are welcome. All clothing, shoes, and accessories are free. We look forward to seeing you! Secondly, we have won the "2018 National PTA STEM + Families Game Night Giveaway, sponsored by ThinkFun"! This event will be coming in spring, and will feature prizes, food and fun! Please look for the date in future newsletters.

Finally, we are running the school wide penny drive which will run from the end of November till January 8th. The class that collects the most change will get to splat a staff member with whip cream at the award ceremony on the 10th of January.

Thank you,
Shaw McDonald, PTA President

A Word from Mrs. Arturo!

Student Government

Student Government will be starting for 4th and 5th Graders in December! We will be choosing 12 students to form our Student Government at Muldoon. We will then have a General Election to pick our President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings will be held every Thursday from 3:45pm-4:30pm. Students interested can pick up a packet from Mrs. Arturo (C120) or Ms. Papa (C119). Included in the packet will be an application form and parent permission form. These must be turned in by December 7th to Mrs. Arturo or Ms. Papa. Students will then be notified if they are chosen for the Student Government Team.

The Muldoon Spelling Bee is February 28, 2019! If your child is interested in participating, teachers in Grades 3-5 have packets for them to study. Each class will have 2 representatives and one alternate for the Spelling Bee. Happy studying!!

Thank you,
Mrs. Arturo
4th & 5th grade Teacher



Connect with Us!



Sign up to receive text messages from Muldoon!

Parents and community members can now sign up to receive SMS text messages from our school. We will use this service to communicate school closure information and general district news, as well as school news, events and updates. In order to receive messages from both services, be sure to select Anchorage School District & Muldoon Elementary. Text messages will only be sent to people who opt-in to receive texts. Users can opt-out at any time. This service is not intended to replace existing communications, but rather help enhance them.

To sign up, please go to: <https://asp.schoolmessenger.com/anchorage/subscriber>. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



Like us on Facebook to receive information about school & community events! You might even see pictures of your students!

Download ASD's Mobile App!!

It's quick and easy and will keep you informed with just a few touches!



Just go to your App Store on your phone or smart device, type in ASD mobile, then download!
It's that easy

Earthquake Info and Resources

Earthquakes are hard to process and difficult to discuss with children. What is a parent to do?

One of the scariest things about earthquakes: they hit without warning. As a Muldoon staff we needed help knowing how to talk to our students about earthquakes without increasing their anxiety, so we reached out to a few experts for some tips. Here's what we found:

1. **Talk it over.** Kids need to know that a major earthquake is a very real possibility, so that they'll know what to do when it comes. Parents and teachers should be honest without being overly alarming. In other words, tell kids what they need to know in an age-appropriate way. Then listen to their concerns and respond with accurate information, but don't burden them with worst case scenarios.
2. **Prepare as a family.** Focus your earthquake conversations not on how scary or overwhelming it is, but on what you're doing to prepare and how your kids can help. Our main advice to parents is to empower kids by getting them involved in the preparedness process.
3. **Make a plan – and practice it.** Talk about how you'll **drop, cover, and hold on** wherever you are when an earthquake hits and what you'll do once the shaking stops.
4. **Reassure.** Tell children that in the event of an earthquake or any other emergency, there will be lots of people to help. At Muldoon Elementary, if an earthquake happens the teachers would take care of the students until all parents can pick them up.
5. **Learn about the science of earthquakes.** Knowing more about why they happen — and how people have survived them can be empowering. It's important for kids to understand that earthquakes are a natural occurrence and that they can happen at any time, but planning will help us all be prepared.

The main point, is to make sure your children understand that there is a plan and that everyone's safety is the first priority at home and at school.

This week you might want to include a note in your child's school backpack.

- You will be kept safe and your family is also being taken care of. I will come pick you up as soon as possible. Your teacher will take care you so don't be scared if it takes a long time for us to pick you up. We are doing our best to get to you.

There are also several resources online to help you talk to young children about earthquakes:

“Trinka and Sam: The Day the Earth Shook” is a short story that explains earthquakes in kid-friendly language and includes a useful parents guide at the end.

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network has a section for parents called “What You Should Know About Earthquakes.”

FEMA has a section on their website just for kids and has produced information for child care providers called *Earthquake Preparedness: What Every Child Care Provider Needs to Know.*

Sesame Workshop's *Let's Get Ready Planning Together for Emergencies* tool kit has activities and other easy tools to help families prepare for emergencies together.