

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ~ 2022/2023

PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Hello Ptarmigan Families,

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start! I truly enjoyed meeting families at our Open House/Title I Annual Meeting that was held in August.

The three main goals our school has this year revolve around attendance, academics, and family engagement. When a student attends school on a regular basis, their academics will soar. Being absent, even a day means your student could miss the introduction of a reading or math skill which will negatively impact their academic progress. **Parents, we need your help!** I have noticed that several students are already missing more than a day of school and we have not finished the month of September. Medical appointments are important, but ensure your student attends school before or after that appointment. As always, parents should call the attendance line directly @ 907-566-0400 or submit the absence in QParentConnect when your student will not be at school.

Let's make this school year the best one yet by working as partners to increase each student's academic proficiency!

Kelly Ramey
Ptarmigan Elementary Principal

Has a young person in your life experienced the death loss of someone important to them?

Are you looking for a space where they feel less alone in their grief?

Forget Me Not Grief Center of Alaska

invites you to contact us to learn more about our free, community based, peer support program nights.

WHAT

Peer to peer grief support space for children, teens, and the adults who love them

WHEN

Twice Monthly monthly.
6:30 to 8 pm

CONNECT

forgetmenot.griefcenter@gmail.com



FORGET ME NOT
GRIEF CENTER of ALASKA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

SEPTEMBER

- **21st CENTURY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STARTS:** 9/6/2022
- **SPIRIT DAY**
Red, White & Blue for Constitution Day 9/16/2022
- **SPIRIT DAY**
Ptarmigan Spirit Gear or Wear Blue & Gold 9/30/2022

BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



Welcome back, students and families! I am so excited to be back at Ptarmigan. This will be my fourth year as the librarian.

This month we will be focusing on safety drills (fire, earthquake, evacuation, etc.), how to take care of library materials, what it means to be responsible in our library, where different resources are located, and how to use the online catalog to find resources. Your student may bring library books home. K-2 is allowed to check out one book and 3-5 is allowed to check out two. I encourage you to ask your student:

1. How do you take care of Ptarmigan library materials?
2. What does it mean to be a responsible user of the library?

Your student visits the library once a week for thirty minutes. It is during this time that students can explore the shelves to find a book that interests them. In addition to their scheduled library time, we have open library Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:10-9:40 and Friday afternoons from 12:35-1:50. During open library, students can visit the library to exchange books and ask questions about where something is located.

If you have any questions about our library or checking out books to read with your family, please reach out. I am more than happy to help. Let's have a wonderful school year!

Mrs. Giammalva

giammalva_alyson@asdk12.org

Teacher-Librarian

Ptarmigan Elementary



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Alaska





"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room



It's been a busy start to our new year in the music room. I have moved to a new room and there is so much more space and area to move. I am still finding my way around, but I love it. The children do, too.

Students are learning all about rhythm and beat. Participating, cooperating and following directions is the best way to be successful in the music room. You will hear sounds of familiar songs from the music room this first quarter. Third graders did a great job at dancing the North Wind Dance the first couple weeks of school. Some parents even joined in during the Open House and learned the steps. I am so excited to share my passion for music with Ptarmigan students.

Fourth and Fifth graders have been learning all about the Alaska Flag Song and how Benny Benson came up with the design for our unique flag. They are also creating their own Alaska Flag design that shows the things they love most about our great state. In addition to learning some American Sign Language to this beautiful song, students will be accompanying themselves on Choir Chimes.

September 22nd is the start of a new choir term, and we will be performing our Winter Concert on December 2nd. If you have a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade student who loves to sing, now is the time for them to sign up. On September 6th choir contracts will be located right outside the music room. Each student needs a signed contract and a safe way to get to early morning practices on Thursday and Friday mornings if they want to participate.

It's a great time to be a Timberwolf!

In Harmony, Mrs. Benton Classroom Music Specialist

Student Accident & Sickness Coverage

This is a reminder that Anchorage School District does not provide medical coverage for student injuries. However, ASD has made available an option for families to purchase a low-cost student accident insurance program. Information is available at your school's front office, online at www.myers-stevens.com, or by calling 800-827-4695. Bilingual services are available.



ART NEWSLETTER

What a treat to welcome students back into the art room at Ptarmigan Elementary! Kids have infinite creativity. It was impressive to see what students made last year. I'm looking forward to seeing students this year and what they will create!

In art, I will create a safe place to experiment, fail, try again, and teach students techniques. Then it's time to get out of the way for students, creative process take place.

To start the year off, students will learn how to be safe and respectful with each other while learning art class procedures. We will use Art Olympics, creative exercises, and challenges as our learning vehicles for the first week. The focus this year is Studio Habits of the Mind. Students will learn the 8 habits through sculpture, clay, drawing, painting, creative exercises, weaving, and collage.

Students grades are based on self-assessment on the following criteria:

5 = Respectful, actively listening, sharing, pushing yourself to do you best, being kind to oneself when a project is difficult, and participating

4 = 1 reminder to be on task and you are respectful, actively listening, sharing materials, and participating

3 = Several reminders about being respectful, actively listening, sharing materials, and participating

2 = Several reminders to focus and be on task, still working on being respectful and participating

1 = Removed from the activity for most of the lesson

To get the year started off, here is a creative challenge to try with your family:

~ Using only circles, create an animal (abstract or realistic) then use only numbers to create texture on your animal!

Cheers! Ms. Walker Art Teacher Ptarmigan Elementary



Ptarmigan Elementary

Kelly Ramey, Principal
888 Edward St.
Anchorage, AK 99504
PH: 907-742-0400
FAX: 907-742-0425

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This letter is to let you know that your child's class will be receiving age-appropriate lessons on child sexual abuse and assault prevention education as required under the state's [Alaska Safe Children's Act](#) ([Erin's Law](#)).

Erin's Law Education is comprised of quarterly grade-level lessons will be taught during Health classes. Combined, these lessons meet the full requirements for student training under the Alaska Safe Children's Act, Erin's Law, and are designed to help prevent childhood sexual abuse. These lessons will be presented in a non-threatening way, along with the skills needed for self-protection and will be handled in a sensitive, respectful manner.

Information about the quarterly lessons can be viewed [HERE](#).

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1J4mCSGZi6GBUv14WBpiO-7gsrj7DbXtA?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions about the content of the program or if you wish to inquire about opting out, please contact our Health Specialist, Jamie Wolfe, at wolfe_jamie@asdk12.org.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to provide learning opportunities to improve the safety and well being of our students.

Sincerely,
Jamie Wolfe
Health Specialist Teacher
Ptarmigan Elementary

~ HEALTH / SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING ~

Greetings families!

I hope everyone had a great summer and was able to get out and enjoy the good weather while we had it!

For the first few weeks of Health, the students are learning and practicing classroom expectations, learning what Health curriculum looks like, and how our typical Health class will go. We started also talking a little about safety.

- Kindergarten students are learning who safety helpers are and what to do in an emergency.
- First graders are learning about safety rules while playing and being out and about.
- Second graders are learning some examples of different types of emergencies, and what to do to be safe instead.
- Third grade students are learning about safety in the home, safety around animals, and fire safety.
- Fourth graders are learning about community safety and who helpers are in our community, as well as being introduced to what conflict is and steps toward resolution.
- Finally, our fifth graders are learning first aid facts, keeping their eyes safe, and what to do in the event of burns and insect stings.

At home would be a perfect place to ask your child if they know what to do in different emergencies!

Mrs. Jamie Wolfe Health Specialist Teacher Ptarmigan Elementary

Family Notification:

This year, our school will be using a screener to look at school-wide systems of support for social-emotional learning and behavior. This screener, much like our academic Universal Screeners (FastBridge and MAP Growth), will be completed with all students in the Fall (September), Winter (December) and Spring (April). Teachers will rate students relative to various behavioral risk factors. The assessment is called the Social, Academic, and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS). The tool will help teachers identify what additional structures they might need to have in place in their classrooms and as well as identifying students who may need additional support to increase their academic and social-emotional success. This screening is completed by teachers and will not take away from instructional time nor require input/answers from students. Should you have any questions about the use of this universal screener, please don't hesitate to contact your principal.

August 30, 2022

Dear Parent:

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the parents of students attending Title I schools have the right to request the professional qualifications of their children's teachers. I can assure you that all teachers in the Anchorage School District meet strict state standards and are indeed qualified to teach, but you have the right also to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has issued an Alaska teaching certificate for the grade(s) and subject(s) he or she teaches.
- Whether the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has decided that your child's teacher can teach without being certified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether any classroom aides or other paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like specific information about your child's teacher or paraprofessional, please contact me. For general information about ESEA, please contact Zareena Clendaniel, Compliance Coordinator, for the school district, at 742-7819.

I know you want the very best for your child. All educators in the Anchorage School District join me in wanting to make sure every child succeeds in school. We look forward to working with you to make sure all students get the quality education they deserve and all schools are successful.

Sincerely,

Kelly Ramey
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary





Emergency Response

The Anchorage School District (ASD) is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our students, staff, and visitors. Take a moment to review this guide to ensure you are prepared in the event of an emergency situation at school. ASD follows the response protocols established by the ASD School Board. School and district staff train yearly on emergency protocols and situation management and students take part in drills throughout each school year.

Actions in an emergency



STAY PUT

"**Stay Put**" is ordered when there is an issue **INSIDE/OUTSIDE** the building. Police activity in the area, a wild animal nearby, or a medical incident are all common causes. Everyone returns inside the building, exterior doors are locked and "business as usual" generally continues inside the school.



LOCKDOWN

LOCKDOWN is ordered when there is an issue **OUTSIDE the building**, most often police activity in the area that could pose an imminent threat, such as a weapon or unstable individual. All interior/exterior doors will remain locked until the 'all clear' is given.



ACTIVE THREAT

Ordered when there is a threat **INSIDE the building**. Students and staff will use ALICE Protocols. Do NOT call staff/ students during an active threat. Parents are not allowed on site during Stayput/Lockdown/Active threat (ALICE).



EVACUATE

Ordered when people must exit the building due to unsafe circumstances such as fire, gas leak, or building damages. If student pick-up or off-site reunification is required, instructions will be communicated by the district.



SHELTER IN PLACE

Ordered when personal protection is necessary from dangerous weather conditions such as a gas leak, blizzard, or hail. May also be ordered in the event of a hazmat situation in the area.

Examples of school actions

Severe weather - Schools may **Shelter in Place** until weather passes; could delay release of students at end of day until safe to exit building.

Fire or Hazmat Situation in the Area - **Evacuation** or **Shelter in Place**, depending on location and severity of fire/ hazmat issue.

Threat of Violence or Weapon on a Person - **ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate)**, **LOCKDOWN (exterior threat)**, or **Evacuation**, depending on the situation.

Intruder - Requires an immediate **Lockdown or ALICE**. **Police Activity in the Area** - **Lockdown** or **Stay Put** may be called for by any staff member at the school.

What do I need to know and do?

- If you're at a school and an emergency occurs, **follow protocol** with students and staff.
- We know families want information right away. Experience has taught us that initial information is almost always incorrect. Please know, our security and administrative staff are working hard to determine what the real situation is and will communicate with families as soon as information is verified as accurate and next actions have been determined.
- **Do not call the school or security staff**, as they are working on the situation and ensuring your student's safety. **Do not go to the school**; this may interfere with procedures. Only public safety personnel will be allowed in/near a school during an emergency situation.
- We understand you may want to communicate with your student during an emergency, however, **please refrain from calling**; it may prevent him/her hearing important, possibly life-saving, instructions.
- It is vital parents and guardians **keep their information updated in ASDConnect**. We will utilize email, text messaging, and phone calls to communicate with you.
- The fastest way to get information in an emergency situation is to **follow us on Twitter and Facebook (@ASD_Info)**. It is our first and fastest means of getting messages out. Also, check our website for alerts on the homepage.

Please note: some situations may require a combination of actions above.

MEET PTARMIGAN'S NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Hello Ptarmigan Timberwolves!

I'm so excited to be part of the team this year! This is my 4th year in ASD, but my 25th year in Education. I was a 1st-5th grade teacher in Florida for 14 years, a reading specialist in Wyoming for 3 years, a Principal out in the villages, and an Instructional Coach here in Anchorage for the past 3 years.

I have lots of hobbies, so I keep busy on weekends and vacations. I love to hunt, fish, 4-wheel, and snow-machine. I most recently started drawing, which is keeping my family and friends with sketches they may or may not want. I'll have to start on a timberwolf for my office!

My family consists of my partner, Burke and my 2 dogs here in Alaska. My son and granddaughter live out of state, and I almost have them convinced to move here. They come to visit me whenever they can. I'm so excited for this new adventure and becoming part of the Ptarmigan team. I can't wait to meet all the students, staff members, and families that make up our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with all of you!

Assistant Principal Chantel Black

FastBridge Newsletter Information

2022-2023

As part of The Alaska Reads Act, the State of Alaska requires that districts administer an early literacy screening tool three times a year to students in grades K-3 to identify potential reading difficulties in order to improve reading outcomes for students. Families can read more about this comprehensive K-3 reading policy at The Alaska Reads Act website:

education.alaska.gov/akreads

FastBridge is the ASD benchmark assessment and screening tool for students in grades K-3 in reading and grades K-2 in mathematics. Educators in grades 4-8 may also use FastBridge with students as a screening and progress monitoring tool. FastBridge utilizes curriculum-based measures and is used by schools as part of the ASD Comprehensive Assessment System to support informed instructional decisions.

FastBridge will only be administered in-person during the benchmark windows listed below:

- Fall 2022: August 31 - September 14
- Winter 2022: November 30 - December 14
- Spring 2023: April 17 - April 28

Results for K-3 students that were assessed during a benchmark window, will be available in Parent Connect the week after each benchmark window closes [ParentConnection Login Information](#): parentconnect.asdk12.org

Fastbridge screening results for summer school students will be available in Parent Connect after August 18, 2022.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Greetings, Ptarmigan Families!

I have enjoyed meeting your Timberwolves these first few weeks of school. I have been able to go into most classrooms to introduce myself and the role of school counselor to students. I am here to partner with students, parents, and teachers to support our learners to be successful socially, emotionally, and academically. Please let me know if I can support your student through brief individual counseling, referral to community resources, or to brainstorm ideas around areas such as friendship, building self-confidence, managing strong emotions, and more! My email is Smith_Kylee@asdk12.org.

IMAGES FROM FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



NEWS FROM NURSE JOAN



Greetings Ptarmigan families!

Welcome back to a new school year! I'm Joanie Lyke, your new school nurse. I'm enjoying getting to know you and your children this year. If you have questions or concerns about your child's health needs, please contact me at 742-0417 or lyke_joan@asdk12.org

This year, ASD is not as focused on Covid as in the previous two years. If you suspect your child or family has been exposed or has Covid, please talk to your health care provider about whether they should be tested. Or, if you have used a home test to check, you can consult your health care provider about isolation and quarantine times. **We will not do Covid tests at school this year.**

The current recommendation is that if a person has tested positive or been exposed to Covid, they should isolate and remain at home for 5 days. If symptom free, they can return after 5 days but should continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days.

Covid vaccines and booster shots are effective and free to everyone over 6 months old. Contact your health care provider about vaccinating your family.

As the new school year begins, children are exposed to other viruses and minor illnesses. If your child has any symptoms, please follow the recommendations listed below for when they can return to school. If your child has severe symptoms, or is not improving after a couple of days, please contact your health care provider.

Everyone can try to prevent illnesses by washing hands frequently, getting plenty of sleep, and covering your mouth when coughing.

I hope everyone has a healthy and enjoyable school year!

Nurse Joanie
Ptarmigan School Nurse
Ph: 742-0417

When to Keep Your Child Home from School:

Guidance for when to keep your child home from school and when it's okay to send them to school. If your child requires medication to treat any of their symptoms, please complete the appropriate medication forms found at <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/7810>.

Fever – A fever is a warning that the body is fighting an infection that could easily spread to others. A child with a temperature of 100.4 F should not be sent to school; your child should stay home until they are fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications like Tylenol.

Colds – Colds are more difficult to assess. A slightly runny nose and occasional dry cough is not enough to keep your child home. However, if your child's nose runs constantly and/or the cough is frequent and wet, or your child is experiencing nausea or is too tired and uncomfortable to function at school it would be best to keep the child home for a day or two.

Cough – If your child has a severe cough, rapid and/or difficulty breathing, wheezing, or the cough is accompanied by a sore throat or not feeling well, the child should stay home from school.

Diarrhea – Diarrhea is defined as an unusual amount of very liquid stools compared to the child's normal pattern. Children should stay home until able to participate normally at school.

Ears – If your child has pain, swelling, drainage or difficulty hearing, please see your healthcare provider. Untreated ear infections can cause temporary or permanent hearing loss.

Eyes – If your child has red, itchy eyes with a clear, yellow or green drainage from the eye, it may be contagious and a sign of bacterial conjunctivitis (pinkeye). A child with pinkeye can attend school as long as they are able to keep from touching their eyes and show that they can properly wash hands after contact with the infected eye.

Rash – A rash might be the first sign of an illness. If your child has a rash with a fever and behavioral changes, or a rash that is oozing/open wound, or is tender with the rash worsening, your child should be evaluated by a healthcare provider.

Sore Throat – If your child has a sore throat, have the child gargle with warm salt water. If child behavior is normal and the child ate breakfast, it's probably safe to send your child to school. If your child has difficulty swallowing, or you notice saliva building up in your child's mouth because your child can't swallow, please keep your child home. If you notice white spots in the back of the throat please contact your doctor as this could be a sign of an infection.

Vomiting / Nausea – Please keep your child home if your child has vomited more than 2 times, has a fever or if they look or act ill.

Anchorage School Board:

Margo Bellamy (President), Carl Jacobs (Vice President), Dora Wilson (Clerk), Kelly Lessens (Treasurer), and Members: Dave Donley, Pat Higgins, and Dave Holleman
ASD Superintendent Dr. Jharrett Bryantt.