



DECEMBER ~ 2021/2022

PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Hello Ptarmigan Families,

Winter is finally here. The snow and cold brings new challenges for students and parents getting to school safely and on time. Our October attendance rate was 64% of students attending 90% of the time. Our students need to be at school to learn grade-level material, so please help our teachers help your student(s) by getting to school when your student is healthy. If you have a question about which symptoms are COVID related, please call our school nurse. Along with getting students to school, please ensure that students are coming with snow/cold weather gear so they can enjoy recess without getting cold and wet. We will go outside up until the temperature reaches -10 degrees.

Student Council is back at Ptarmigan. They are currently determining our School Wide Spirit Days and selling popcorn on certain days. Please watch for classroom newsletters with special dates.

Our amazing choir will be singing for the school on Friday, December 10th. Their first performance is at 2:30pm for the students and then they have an evening performance at 6:00pm. Following COVID procedures, students will attend via zoom. For the evening performance each choir student will get to invite **2 family members** who will be able to attend in person.

Our 2nd Quarter Awards Assembly will be on **January 6th**. K - 2nd will be at 9:30am-10:00am and 3rd - 5th grades will be at 10:30am-11:00am.

We will continue to do our quarterly assembly via Zoom for student safety and to increase family participation. Each classroom teacher will let you know if your student is receiving an award.

Meeting ID 990 7463 1834

Passcode **Celebrate**

Invite Link :

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/99074631834?pwd=MIZKc1pkMHNPVG9lTUJwMy8raWxqUT09>

Before I close, I would like to highlight the importance of our **Free** Breakfast and Lunch Program. Students cannot truly learn if they are hungry, so please encourage your student to take a breakfast and lunch.

Mrs. Kelly Ramey
Ptarmigan Elementary Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

DECEMBER

- **WINTER CHOIR PERFORMANCE:** 12/10/2021
- **TEACHER IN-SERVICE NO SCHOOL:** 12/17/2021
- **WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL:** 12/20/2021-1/2/2022

NO 21st CENTURY AFTERSCHOOL: 12/13/21 -1/6/22

THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM WILL RESUME: 1/10/22



"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room



Choir students have been preparing for their Winter Concert, "This Magic Season" on Friday December 10th. Because of Covid restrictions, each choir student will only be able to have two guests join us for the in-person evening concert at school. However, we will be doing a live Zoom concert at 2:30pm on the 10th of December as well. Here is the link so all family members can hear these talented singers:

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/93721548745?pwd=MU1jSFBBZEhLYTlyWks2Umx4Um1VUT09>

Meeting ID: 937 2154 8745

Passcode: Concert

For the month of November, Ptarmigan Students have been learning about the music of our Alaska Native people. November is our opportunity to celebrate and discover more about Alaska's indigenous population. Learning dances, making dance fans, and playing frame drums has kept our students very busy in the music room.

Fourth and fifth graders are beginning a unit on ukulele playing. Exploring basic accompaniment strumming patterns and those important first 3 basic chords (C, F, and G) is our focus. It is giving our upper grades a great opportunity to play in each music class.

This winter season is a great time to explore different holiday traditions through music. Our primary grades will explore Tchaikovsky's beloved Nutcracker Suite. It is a seasonal favorite of all grade levels.

Remember to share your own musical traditions of this "Magical Season" with your children. From "Run, Run, Rudolph" by Chuck Berry to "Winter Wonderland" recorded by Megan Trainor, there are so many great songs to enjoy this time of the year.

Have a Magical Season, Mrs. Benton Classroom Music Specialist

"This Magic Season"

Friday
December 10th, 2021
2:30 Live Zoom
6:00 pm Live Concert

Pfarmigan Choir Winter Concert

Meeting ID: 937 2154 8745

Passcode: Concert

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/93721548745?pwd=MU1jSFBBZEhLYTlyWks2Umx4Um1VUT09>

~ NEWS FROM THE NURSE ~

New COVID testing at Ptarmigan!

Ptarmigan Elementary and ASD have partnered with Beechtree Diagnostics to offer students COVID tests. The results come back to the family within 24 hours! All parents have to do is sign up! Here is how:

Sign up using this link or scan the QR code. <https://beechtree.rymedi.com/#/registration-form?irbuuid=bdfc13af-f77b-4778-b666-feaa965a1360>



1. While filling out the form, you do not have to add insurance information if you do not wish. Instead you can type “9999999999”
2. When the registration form asks for an uploaded copy of ID or insurance card, you can simply upload a picture of the floor.
3. When you’re finished, you will receive a unique QR code. No need to save this because the nurse can find it you when needing to test your child.
4. Test results should be sent to your phone or email within 24 hours. Please wait for negative test results before sending your student to school.

You will need to fill out a form for each student in your family. We would recommend having the form filled out ahead of time. That way, if your student comes to the nurse’s office with COVID-like symptoms, they can be tested immediately without calling and waiting for parents/guardians to fill out the form.

If your student comes to the nurse’s office with any COVID-like symptoms, they will be sent home, but as soon as your results are received (and if they are negative) and your student’s symptoms are improving, they can return to school.

Please Note: The nurse is unable to test any student without the family filling out the form as this is the registration AND consent to test. Do not fill out the registration if you do not wish for your student to be tested for COVID at the school. With any COVID symptom a child is unable to return to school for 10 days OR they may return sooner with a negative COVID test.

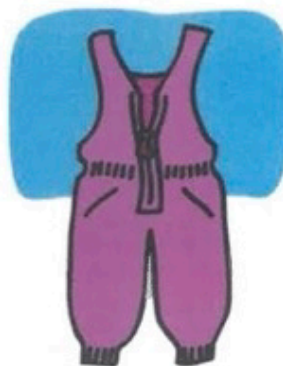
If you have any questions, please reach out to the School Nurse.

Ptarmigan Elementary School Nurse PH: 907-742-0417



Remember to Bring Your Winter Gear!

Students in the Anchorage School District have recess in temperatures as low as -10. Please make sure your students, especially your younger students, bring proper snow gear. We cannot keep a child in from recess just because they do not have their snow gear and the nurse has limited gear to loan out. That means we will be calling home.



BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



Hi Ptarmigan Students & Families,

The deadline for the Bookmark Contest has been extended to **December 17, 2021**.

Entries must:

- fit the theme and include the phrase **Together@our library™**
- be the original work of the student, whether hand drawn, digital art, or computer generated
- be the correct size: **7" x 2 ¾"** either horizontal or vertical
- be submitted with the student's full name and grade on the back of the bookmark

Submit your entry to your school librarian. The winning school entries will go to district judging. Entries become the property of the Anchorage School District and may be used in other advertisements.

This month students in K/1 will be identifying story elements: characters, setting, problem and solution. Students in 2/3 will learn what information is okay to have in your digital footprint and who is a part of our online community. Students in 4/5 are learning how to be an upstander when we encounter cyberbullying and the rights/responsibilities as a creator of a piece of work.

Suggestion Box: When we return from break, a suggestion box will be added to the library. Students and staff can place suggestions of books they would like to see in our library.

As we get ready to go on winter break and our school library will be closed, students will still have access to eBooks through SORA which can be accessed from home. Login information: lastname.firstname@asdk12.org and the password is the same as their Google logon. There are many wonderful books for all ages through this resource purchased by the Anchorage School District.

Another great resource to access books over break is through the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED Database). TumbleBooks can be accessed here with many different categories: graphic novels, nonfiction, fiction, and popular authors.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday with your loved ones and we look forward to seeing you in January!

Mrs. Alyson Giammalva Teacher-Librarian

HELP US WELCOME ONE OF OUR NEW PRIMARY STRUCTURED LEARNING (SLC) TEACHER TO PTARMIGAN & ASD

My name is Roselyne and I moved to Alaska a year ago. Before accepting a teaching position in Alaska, I taught in Arkansas for nine years. I have a bachelor's in Early Education and a Master's Degree in Autism Spectrum Disorder. I am also pursuing my



Irvin. My family moved to Alaska a year ago. Before accepting a teaching position in Alaska, I taught in Arkansas for nine years. I have a bachelor's in Early Education and a Master's Degree in Autism Spectrum Disorder. I am also pursuing my

Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Special Education. I love being a special education teacher, and every small milestone means the whole world to me. My motto is to be positive and positively inspire lives. Away from work, I love singing, listening to music, and comedians for a good laugh. I also love spending time with family and traveling locally and internationally. I have enjoyed being part of the Ptarmigan Elementary School family, and I couldn't have thought of any other better place to be.

SAEBRS Winter Benchmark:

- Just a reminder that we are in the Winter screening window for our school-wide behavior screener. The teacher rating scale is used to assess various risk factors for each student in their classroom to determine students at risk for behavior challenges. The screening will be used to help us look at the effectiveness of our schoolwide and classroom structures as well as what additional supports that student might need. This screening is completed by teachers and will not take away from instructional time nor require input/answers from students. If you have any questions, please contact the school's

Anchorage School Board:

Margo Bellamy (President), Andy Holleman (Vice President), Carl Jabobs (Clerk), Kelly Lessens (Treasurer), and Members Dave Donley, Pat Higgins, and Dora Wilson.
ASD Superintendent, Dr. Deena Bishop.