



DECEMBER & JANUARY ~ 2022/2023

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 by getting to school when your student is healthy. 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 until the temperature reaches -10 degrees below zero.

Our 2nd Quarter Awards Assembly will be **January 17th**. K-2nd will be from 10:00-10:30am and 3rd – 5th grade at 2:30-3:00pm. Teachers will communicate with parents if their student is receiving an academic award.

Before the end of this quarter, we have a lot of work to complete along with a several assessments. Students focus better when they have had enough food. All students at Ptarmigan Elementary can receive a **free** breakfast/**free** lunch. So please encourage your student to take a breakfast, lunch, or both.

Enjoy your winter break and I hope to see you at are upcoming events.

Kelly Ramey
Ptarmigan Elementary Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

DECEMBER

- **FESTIVE FEET HOLIDAY SOCK DAY:** 12/9/2022
- **SANTA HAT DAY:** 12/12/2022
- **CANDY CANE DAY (red & white):** 12/13/2022
- **WEAR GREEN/DRESS LIKE A TREE DAY:** 12/14/2022
- **MERRY & BRIGHT LIGHTS/TINSEL/ GARLAND DAY:** 12/15/2022
- **HOLIDAY HAT/NECKLACE/ FESTIVE DAY:** 12/16/2022
- **FLANNEL DAY:** 12/19/2022
- **FESTIVE/UGLY SWEATER DAY:** 12/20/2022
- **PAJAMA DAY:** 12/21/2022
- **TEACHER IN-SERVICE NO SCHOOL:** 12/22/2022
- **WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL:** 12/23/2022-1/6/2023

JANUARY

- **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY NO SCHOOL:** 1/16/2023
- **2nd QUARTER AWARDS ASSEMBLY:** 1/17/2023
(K-2nd Grade @ 10-10:30am)
(3rd-5th Grade @ 2:30-3:00pm)
- **FAMILY NIGHT (6:00-7:30pm):** 1/19/2023

**** NO 21st Century Afterschool Program 12/19/22 - 1/16/23 ****



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Alaska



Meet our 3-Year-Old SPED Developmental Preschool Duo!

(shown left) **SPED Preschool Teacher, Mrs. Keeshia Pepito**

Hello! I am happy to be part of the Timberwolves family. I am from Cebu, Philippines. I am married and blessed with one beautiful daughter who is turning 6 years old this month. I have a Bachelor's degree of Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education, as well as Master of Arts in Education in Special Education, currently working on my Doctor of Development Education in Special Education. I taught for 4 years in the Philippines. This is my first-year teaching here in Alaska and my first winter ever!



(shown right) **SPED Preschool Paraprofessional, Ms. Jordan Fredriksson**

I have been a long time Alaskan resident and have had many adventures over the years. One of my most memorable experiences was my time in Denali where I worked at a sled dog kennel giving tours and answering questions about my life in rural Alaska. The state I now call home is a long way from where I grew up in California, but I have never looked back. I enjoy many activities ranging from rock climbing, basketball, and swimming to painting, crocheting, dancing, and writing poetry.

~HEALTH / SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING ~

Hello Families!

As we have come into the season gathering with family and friends, it's super important to remember our mental health! Students are finishing our Healthy Habits Unit and will be moving into the Mental Health unit soon. It's a perfect time to remember some tips for good mental health around the holidays!



The most important thing to remember is to have fun and enjoy each other!

Mrs. Jamie Wolfe
Health Specialist Teacher
Ptarmigan Elementary



BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break with family and friends. Here's to wishing you all a Happy New Year!

January Lessons: Kindergarten and first grade students will learn how to be safe, responsible, and respectful online. Second and third grade students will focus on the kinds of information to keep private online and what information is okay to include in a digital footprint. Fourth and fifth graders will learn about online tracks and ways to respond to cyberbullying. All students will review how to take care of our library books and places to keep them so they will remain safe.

Open Library: Just a friendly reminder open library is Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:00-9:40 AM. Come down to exchange library books or ask questions if you cannot find something.

Celebrating Indigenous Cultures with Videos and Family Activities:

These free resources can help you explore and learn more about Indigenous communities

There are thousands of Indigenous communities around the world, each with unique cultures and traditions. To celebrate these diverse groups, families can explore their history and how they continue to shape our future. This collection of videos and activities highlights a handful of native cultures in the Americas and around the world.

For Kids Age 3–8

- ["The Earth on Turtle's Back"](#): Read this short story about our connection to nature and land.
- [Make Your Own Indigenous Fruits and Flowers](#): These craft tutorials will show you how to turn things like paper and beads into Indigenous food plants like strawberries and sunflowers.
- [Molly of Denali](#): Watch videos and play games based on the adventures of Molly, an Alaska Native girl.
- [Native Species Masks](#): Download and color plants, animals, and elements found in Hawaiian rainforests.
- [Storytime Videos](#): Listen to read-alouds of picture books with Indigenous characters and stories.
- ["Thunder Mountain/Snoozing Sun"](#): Watch an episode of [Spirit Rangers](#), a children's show inspired by Native American folklore.

For Kids Age 9–12

- [The First Thanksgiving](#): The history of Thanksgiving is different from the story that's often told. Read this article from *National Geographic Kids* to learn some myths and facts.
- [Hawaiian Watershed Adventure Game](#): Print this fun board game and learn more about Hawaiian ecology.
- [Making Space History](#): Listen to these inspiring words from astronaut Nicole Mann. She is a member of the Wailacki Tribe of the Round Valley Indian Tribes. She made history this year by becoming the first Native American woman in space.
- ["Remember" by Joy Harjo](#): Check out this powerful poetry reading by Joy Harjo, U.S. poet laureate and writer of the Mvskoke Nation.
- [The Story of Samoset, Massasoit, and Squanto](#): Here's how three Indigenous men played a key role in the arrival of the Mayflower.

Mrs. Giammalva

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Teacher-Librarian

Ptarmigan Elementary

We would like to send a huge THANK YOU to the Mountain View Lions Club. They always step-up and volunteer their time and provide their screenings trailer. This school year, not only did they help Nurse Joan out with vision screenings, but they gave another donation to our school.

THANK YOU, Mountain View Lions!



Winter SAEBRS Reminder:

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. The screening will be used to help analyze the effectiveness of our school-wide and classroom structures as well as what additional supports that students 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 principal.



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.