



JANUARY & FEBRUARY ~ 2021/2022

PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Hello Ptarmigan Families,

2022 started out with a wonderful 2nd Quarter awards assembly. I am so proud of our students, and I enjoyed reading all those names of students who had great attendance or excelled in the areas of Social Emotional Learning or Academics.

Currently, Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on February 16th and 17th. Students are released those days at 12:30pm. Teachers will give you a link to sign up for a time or provide you a time to come and share student successes and areas that can be worked on at home.

Friday, February 18th there is no school for students.

Attendance is still an area of concern for our students. Our attendance average for the month of December was 64% of students attending 90% of the time. Our goal is 100% of students attending 90% of the time. It is truly hard for your student to be proficient at grade level standards

when they are missing school. Please help our students be a H.E.R.O. (**H**ere, **E**very day, **R**eady, and **O**n time)

The last reminder that I would like to make is to ask our parents/guardians to double check their child's winter clothing each morning. We have outside recess for 30 minutes every day when the temperature is warmer than -10 degrees.

Let's have an amazing 3rd quarter!

Mrs. Kelly Ramey
Ptarmigan Elementary Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

JANUARY

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

NO SCHOOL:

1/17/2022

FEBRUARY

- **PARENT/TEACHER**

CONFERENCES:

2/16/2022 & 2/17/2022

- **TEACHER IN-SERVICE**

NO SCHOOL:

2/18/2022

- **Presidents Day**

NO SCHOOL:

2/21/2022

***NO 21st CENTURY AFTERSCHOOL: 2/14/22 -2/17/22**



"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room



Happy New Year! Ptarmigan students are starting the year off right with singing, dancing, and playing instruments.

Our primary students are focusing on their singing voices and exploring rhythm playing and writing. We started the year with a song about our family and how much we like to sing. With Dr. King's birthday celebration soon approaching, the whole school is learning or reviewing "This Little Light of Mine" and sharing our special light with each other.

Our 3rd-5th graders will be doing a unit on mallet instruments. A little "mallet madness" can be fun. It is a great way to explore accompaniment patterns and focus on melody as well.

Ptarmigan Choir will be resuming on February 2nd and will have rehearsals every Wednesday and Thursday at 8:00am. We are preparing for a musical in May that will be featuring songs of the Caribbean, written by Irving Burgie. "Day-O," "Kingston Market," and "Jamaica Farewell" are just a few examples. It's called "An Island in The Sun" and combines both folk tales and music from the tropical Caribbean. If you have a 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader who likes to try new things, please encourage them to join. Choir permission slips should be ready to go home by January 12th. With this deep winter cold, I am enjoying getting ready for some songs about the sun and sand.





PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Kelly Ramey, Principal

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Anchorage, AK 99504

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NAEP 2022 PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION LETTER Mathematics & Reading Assessments

January 10, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Ptarmigan will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on February 10, 2022. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. NAEP is different from our state assessments because it is a common measure of achievement across the country. The assessment is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

Your child will take a mathematics or reading assessment. The assessment takes approximately 2 hours for most students, which includes transition time and directions.

The information collected is used for statistical purposes only.

- Your child's grades will not be affected.
- Students may be excused for any reason, are not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question.
- While the assessment is voluntary, NAEP depends on student participation to help policymakers improve education. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by February 1, 2022

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP, but please encourage your child to do their best. A brochure that explains what participation in NAEP means for you and your child is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/parents/2012469.pdf>. Contact Kelly Ramey at 907-742-0400 or at ramey_kelly@asdk12.org if you have any questions.

We are excited that our school is participating in NAEP. We know that Ptarmigan students will show what our nation's students know and can do.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kelly Ramey

Kelly Ramey
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary

UPDATE FROM NURSE BRITTANY



I would like to take a moment and say "goodbye" to Ptarmigan families as I transition into a new role. My husband and I welcomed our first child, Jonathan Benedict, on December 2, 2021. I am blessed to have the opportunity to spend the next few years at home with Jonathan. I have enjoyed the past 4 1/2 years as the Ptarmigan nurse. I will miss seeing the families, students, and amazing staff. Ptarmigan truly is a wonderful place that cares about students. Oh, and Jonathan and I plan to pop in every once in a while to say "Hello."



Please be alert of new signage out in the parking lot and bus lane. It is very important that all drivers follow the 5mph speed limit and not be on cellphones while driving in school zones. These rules are in place for the safety of students and staff and need to be followed at all times, especially during arrival and dismissal.

NO CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL ZONES FACTSHEET*



A new ordinance (law) passed by the Anchorage Assembly on June 20, 2019 makes it unlawful for a driver of any vehicle to talk on a mobile communication device while driving a vehicle within an active school zone or on school grounds, unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used.

1 PURPOSE OF THE LAW

- Student safety is extremely important.
- Distracted driving is dangerous.
- Talking on a cell phone or mobile communication device is distracted driving and jeopardizes student safety in designated school zones.



2 TERMS USED IN THE NEW LAW

A **mobile communication device** is a cellular phone, smart phone, personal data assistant, wireless tablet, computer, or any similar device used for voice or visual communication.

An **active school zone** is a school zone with signage between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and where the maximum speed is 25 miles per hour or less on the streets permanently or due to a temporary speed reduction indicated by flashing school zone lights.



A **hands-free device** is a phone with speaker capability, an attachment, or other piece of equipment that allows the use of the device without either of the operator's hands.

3 THERE ARE SOME EXCEPTIONS IN THE LAW

- A vehicle is **stopped** OR a mobile communication device is used with a **hands-free device**.
- A mobile communication device is **used to dial 911** and make an emergency call.
- An operator of an **authorized emergency vehicle** is using a mobile communication device while acting in an official capacity.

*This fact sheet is provided as a courtesy to the public to highlight provisions of the law; it is not the law. For specific details of the law and the requirements or prohibitions in the law, please refer to the text of the ordinance (AO No. 2019-51(S)am) or Anchorage Municipal Code section 9.28.055.

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NO CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL ZONES FACTSHEET (CONT.)



4 CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

- A \$500 fine, or
- A class A misdemeanor if a person's driving causes physical injury or death to another person.

5 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- **Why isn't talking on cell phones banned while driving everywhere in Alaska?** The State of Alaska has preempted Anchorage's right to ban talking on a cell phone while driving, but reading or typing a text message while driving is prohibited statewide.
- **Can I call my student when I'm there to pick them up?** Yes, if your car is stopped, then you can call your student on your cell phone. Or, you may call your student on a hands-free device.
- **Do these rules apply *only* when the school zone lights are flashing?** No! Most schools don't have flashing lights. These rules apply in an active school zone, where the speed limit is 25 mph or less, even if temporarily indicated by the flashing lights, and is designated by the signs posted that say "School Zone". If the speed limit is never reduced to 25 mph or less, the street is not in an active school zone and the rules don't apply even if there are signs.
- **How can I be sure if I am in a place where I can legally use my cell phone?** If you are unsure, don't use your cell phone! Pull over, stop, and use your cell phone when you are not driving.



Reviewed by the Municipality of Anchorage Legal Department

If you have additional questions, your Assembly Member's contact information may be found at www.Muni.org/Assembly.

BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



Hi Ptarmigan Students & Families,

February Library Lessons: K/1 will review how to take good care of library books, how to be safe, responsible, and respectful online, and what a biography is. 2/3 will learn how to respond to someone who is being mean online, the importance of giving credit for other people's work, how to give credit for someone's work, and why having a strong password is important. 4/5 will learn what clickbait is and how to avoid it, how to keep online friendships safe, and how to stop cyberbullying.

Tumblebooks: Just a reminder to check out Tumblebooks! Tumblebooks is a wonderful resource available to students and their families paid for by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Tumblebooks is a curated database of children's eBooks.

New Books Coming Soon! I am in the process of adding new books to our collection. Students will soon see new Social & Emotional Learning books, fiction, nonfiction and graphic novels on the shelves. New series include: Mindy Kim, Mr. Wolf's Class, Pea Bee & Jay, etc.

Mrs. Alyson Giammalva

Teacher-Librarian



MEET OUR NEW TITLE I TUTOR

Veronica is so excited to join Ptarmigan! She has enjoyed working with kids in school, camp, and community past and is about giving all opportunities to thrive. Outside teaches music Anchorage and online to



settings in the passionate students learn and our school, she lessons in English classes students

around the world. She loves the outdoors, crocheting, playing trumpet, and spending time with her family!

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.



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.