

**Dates To Remember:**

**December 20-Jan 3-**  
Winter Break

**January 20st-**  
Martin Luther King Jr Holiday

**February 12&13-**  
Parent/Teacher conferences, student half days

**February 14th-**No School for students

**March 6-13th-**  
Spring Break

# The Kincaid Howler

## Principal Zorea's Blog

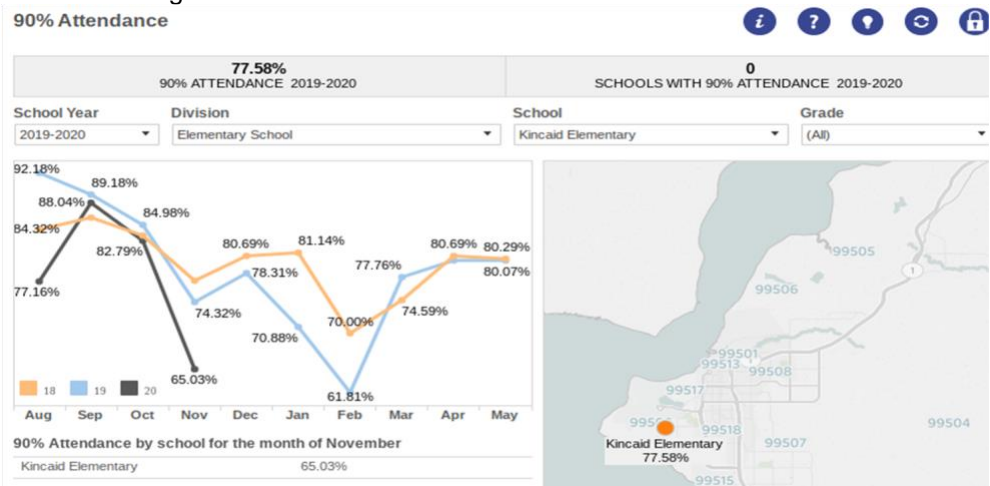
Dear Kincaid Families,

As a school we are working to improve our overall attendance. The last few weeks have been a challenge as many students have been out sick with an illness. We appreciate that you keep your children home when they are sick. At school we are practicing good hand washing and keeping our desks and other frequently handled items sanitized. We have introduced hand sanitizer to the lunch room for students who come directly from the recess to eat their food.

When students are well, they need to be at school on time. So far this year we have had over 1,000 students tardy for school. All students lose instruction time when students are late for school. Our teachers greet late students to make sure they are welcomed and ready for their day. They may have to repeat instructions that were given to the whole class or stop direct instruction to help a late student. The best time to get your child to school is between 8:40 and 8:50. If you plan to be here by 9:00, students will most likely be late as that is when instruction begins. Arriving between 8:40 and 8:50 each morning allows your child a chance to get their things put away and settle in for the day without being stressed. Our greatest number of tardies are in the second grade. So far this year, 174 students have come in tardy. Our lowest grade level tardies is our kindergarten classes. They have had 61 tardies so far this year.

We have 544 students enrolled at Kincaid Elementary School. Currently 144 students are considered to be chronically absent. That means they miss more than 10% of school. According to ASD data, our overall attendance is significantly lower than it has been in past years. We took a big dip in attendance during November. The chart below shows that 77.58% of our students have a 90% attendance rate. We started the year quite lower than we have in years past. The black line is our current year.

As a school community, lets see if that line can begin going in the other direction during December.



Sincerely,  
Wendy Zorea

**School Business Partners:**

Tastee Freez



Country Financial



Kaladi Brothers Coffee



## SHOULD MY CHILD STAY HOME? GUIDELINES FOR DECIDING

**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 101 F should not be sent to school; s/he should stay home until fever free without the use of fever reducing medications like Tylenol.

**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 difficult breathing, wheezing, or bluish tint to the skin or the cough is accompanied by a sore throat or not feeling well, the child should stay home from school.

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

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

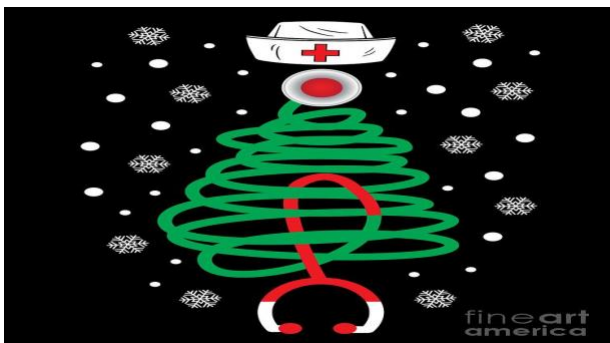
**EYES** Red, itchy eyes with a clear, yellow or green drainage from the eye may be contagious and a sign of bacterial conjunctivitis (pink eye). A child with pink eye can attend school as long as they are able to keep from touching their eyes and show that they can properly wash hands after contact with the infected eye.

**MEDICATIONS** The school district has very specific rules for all medications in school including cough drops. Please see the School Nurse if your child requires any medications while at school.

**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, s/he 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 his/her behavior is normal and the child ate breakfast, it's probably safe to send him/her to school. If the child has difficulty swallowing, or you notice saliva building up in the child's mouth because s/he can't swallow, please keep the child home. If you notice white spots seen in the back of the throat please contact your doctor, this could be a sign of an infection.

**VOMITING / NAUSEA** Please keep your child home if he or she has vomited more than 2 times in 24 hours or also has a fever or if s/he looks or acts ill.



### Anchorage School Board

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## FEVER GUIDELINES FOR CARE

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### FEVER

**What is it?** An elevation of the normal body temperature. It can be the body's response to infection, high outdoor temperatures, and vigorous exercise. Some children have a fever that is not related to anything and goes away on its own. Usually, children are contagious if they have an infection and a fever, but many infections cause a child to be contagious before a fever develops. Some infections remain contagious long after a fever has resolved. Many children spread germs without ever developing a fever or other symptoms.

#### Common Findings:

- If the child is unable to participate in class due to fever and/or accompanying behavior changes, then they should be cared for at home by family.
- Most (virtually all) fevers are not harmful. Body temperatures above 106F rarely occur, but if prolonged can be harmful.
- Children with fever are usually less active and need to drink more to avoid dehydration.
- Fever is the body's common response to an infection.
- Fevers can require more replacement of body fluids and sometimes affect behavior.
- Some children may have a high fever and still appear mostly normal.

#### MANAGEMENT:

- If fever is associated with behavior change, assume the child is ill.
- Acetaminophen or ibuprofen (e.g. Tylenol or Motrin) may be used for the child's comfort if the child is ill.
- Treating a fever is not necessary unless the child is uncomfortable.
- There is no need to cool the child to try to bring down the temperature unless the temperature is very high (above 106F—which is a medical emergency and requires immediate medical care.)
- Encourage frequent hand-washing to prevent the spread of any illness (both child and caregiver)
- If child develops other symptoms of illness (coughing, sore throat, etc) talk to your healthcare provider.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*School*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*School Nurse*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone*

Healthcare Services  
School Nurse Health Manual  
NUR #0007

Page 1 of 1

Revised 11/2018

## NOON DUTY WANTED:

Come work for 2 hours a day on the playground, supervising the students during their recess time.



For more information or instructions on how to apply please contact the school office at 245-5530.



## Kincaid Elementary School Values Cultural Diversity

" I am Alaskan Native. In my family we value hunting. When we catch a moose we share it with our grandparents and friends." **Willoh, 6th Grade**

" I am Chinese. My family celebrates Chinese New Year. We wear red for good luck. Adults give children "li see" which are red envelopes with money inside. We wish each other "gong Hay Fat Choy" which means, "wishing you great happiness and prosperity." Mrs. McConnell

I would like to tell you something about my culture. I am Irish. In my family, we tell stories and play drums around the campfire." **Lydia, 1st Grade**

"I am Mexican. In my family we like to make lots of foods including tacos, burritos, tamales, and chocolate covered cherries." **Elisabeth, 6th Grade**

"I am Scandinavian. In my family we practice swedish traditions on December 13, St. Lucia Day, The oldest daughter in each family gets up early in the morning and puts on a crown of candles and serves rolls, hot chocolate or coffee to everyone in their beds. This starts off the Christmas holidays." **Mrs. Bronczyk, ELL Tutor**

" In black culture, family is a big deal and so is food. Our families congregate around big meals, especially on Sundays and holidays. Traditional foods include chilings, neck bones, and pig feet. These traditions started during slavery because those parts were not considered appropriate for slave owners to eat and that's what slaves were allowed to have. Now they are delicacies and well loved by my culture." **Monique Duggins, Teacher**



## **Kincaid Elementary School Values Cultural Diversity**

"I am part Greek. My great grandpa bud lived in Greece as a little kid. I make baklava at Christmas. We eat cheese triangles at Easter and say Christos Anesti." **Jaqueline, 1st Grade**

"I was born and raised in the province of Alberta, Canada. I celebrate Thanksgiving in October, Boxing Day in December, and Canada Day on July 1st. Some of my favorite Canadian foods are ketchup chips, pizza with all the toppings under the cheese, and poutine which is fries, gravy, and cheese." **Mrs. Campbell, Teacher.**

"My family is Christian. We celebrate Christmas as Jesus' birthday. We have faith in God and we go to church every Sunday." **Abigail, 3rd Grade**

"I am Inupiaq. My Grandma is from Unalakleet. My mom is from Naknek. We go to Naknek every summer. We get lots of fish and berries. We see lots of bears. I like being on the tundra and beach with my family." **Guy, 1st Grade**

"My family is Korean. We go to the Korean store once a month to try new foods." **Nova, 1st Grade**

"My family is a blend of Spanish, Native American, and Welsh/Irish descent. We love big family dinners! Birthdays and weddings are huge for us. Cooking and eating together are a must! There is nothing better than an Indian Taco with Spanish hot cocoa!" **Mrs. Starnes, Teacher**

"I am German. A big part of my family culture happens during Christmas. Everyone receives an advent calendar and on Christmas Eve my family decorates a tree we cut down that very day." **Ms. Curry, Teacher.**

"I am an American. My heritage is French, Celtic, and Cherokee. In my family doing crafts is very important. I enjoy making beaded jewelry and unique art. I have made leather belts, purses, and moccasins. I love living in Alaska." **Ms. Trina Terry, Teacher.**