

SEPTEMBER ~ 2018/2019

Ptarmigan Elementary

Dear Ptarmigan Families,

The 2018-19 school year is off to a great start. I am extremely excited to be chosen as Ptarmigan's next principal. Thank you to the staff and parents that provided input on what qualities you would like the principal to have and/or where you would like to see the school go in the upcoming year. Together we will make Ptarmigan a positive place to learn and grow.

The three main goals of our school is attendance, behavior, and academics. When a student attends school on a regular basis their academics will soar. Even missing a day, means your student could be missing the introduction of a reading or math skill and that will negatively impact their academic progress. Parents we need your help! Medical appointments are important, but please ensure your student attends school before or after that appointment. Again this year, parents should be calling the attendance line when your student will not be at school.

The second school-wide goal is safety and student behavior. Ptarmigan Elementary will closely follow the behavior guidelines outlined in the Elementary Student Handbook that can be found on the ASD website. This year we will be implementing quarterly assemblies to celebrate positive student behavior. Our first assembly will be held on Friday, November 2, 2018.

Our last goal is increased academic rigor. With the new Reach for Reading curriculum our students will be challenged, which will result in students that are life-long learners that can easily achieve their goals.

Ptarmigan is also looking to re-establish our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) this school year. An informational meeting will be held on October 10th at 4:00pm in our Library. If you are interested in helping out our school, please attend this meeting.

As this year progresses, I look forward to getting to know each Ptarmigan family. Please contact your child's teacher to see how you can help. I encourage you to attend the Parent/Teacher conferences on October 24th and 25th and our Family Literacy Night on October 11th at 6pm.

Let's make this a great school year.

Kelly Ramey
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary

Health / Social Emotional Learning (2018-2019)

I am looking forward to teaching your children **Health**, as well as, **Social Emotional Learning** this school year. During the month of September, we will be learning about "Safety." Our safety units focus on being safe at school, at home, and in our community. **According to the National Safety Council, accidents are the leading cause of death for children.** Preventative safety measures can help keep our children from harm. Below are the units for the various grade levels:

K	How to Stay Safe
1	Look Out
2	Let's stay Safe
3	Safe At Home, Safe Away
4	Community Safety
5	First Aid Facts
6	Keep This Body Safe

My grading policy is as follows: Students receive an **effort/participation** grade each time they have Health (2 times per month for an hour).

O = Outstanding, S+ = Really good, S = Good, S- = Unsatisfactory, N = Needs Improvement

Thank you for your support in keeping Alaska's children safe.

Ms. Anny Hunsucker - Health/SEL Specialist
Email: hunsucker_anny@asdk12.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR:

OCTOBER

- **PTO INFORMATIONAL MEETING:** 10/10/2018
- **FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT:** 10/11/2018
- **FALL SCHOOL PICTURE DAY:** 10/17/2018
- **NO SCHOOL:** 10/19/2018 & 10/26/2018
- **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:** 10/24/2018 & 10/25/2018

NOVEMBER

- **NO SCHOOL:** 11/12/2018
- **PICTURE RETAKES:** 11/20/2018
- **Thanksgiving Holiday:** 11/22/2018 & 11/23/2018
NO SCHOOL

MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ~ MRS. CAROL CYR ~



I am a life long Alaskan and a product of the Anchorage School District. This is my 22nd year working for ASD and I have had the pleasure of working in many elementary schools throughout the district including Turnagain, Huffman, O'Malley, Bear Valley, Bowman, and Alpenglow. I have taught 1st, 4th and 5th grades as a classroom teacher and have also taught 2nd thru 6th grades in gifted education as an IGNITE teacher. For half of last year, I was the Assistant Principal at Alpenglow Elementary and have also worked for Title I in Instructional Support.

When not at school, I like to be outside biking, camping, and fishing with my two daughters and husband. I am excited to be at Ptarmigan Elementary and I am enjoying getting to know the students and staff. I am looking forward to this school year and being part of the Ptarmigan Family.

A Note From ASD Student Nutrition:

*To all parents,
We have had some confusion about our free breakfast and free lunch meal service for students; some students think because their school serves free breakfast and lunch meals that if they only want milk, they should get a free milk as well. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The program only offers free breakfast and lunch meals. Meaning a full meal. If your student wishes only to have a milk, they will need to have money on their meal account or come through the meal line with .50 cents to purchase a milk. Students cannot charge a milk.*

Thank you very much, ASD Student Nutrition

(Also, only one item is served at lunch this year with a choice of either regular or chocolate milk.)

Congratulations to Ptarmigan's own, Maegan Villarreal!!



Maegan was nominated and selected to be **KTVA's Channel 11 News Teacher of the Week!!** She teaches Intermediate Special Education and is always going above and beyond in the classroom and around the school. She was featured in a live-interview on Monday, September 10th @ 6am, so make sure you check it out.



~ NEWS from Nurse Brittany ~

Hello and Welcome back! Just a few things to remember as the school year begins:

- School screenings begin soon. This means students in several grades will have hearing, vision, and height & weight measured by the nurse per school district policy. If your student is prescribed glasses, please encourage them to wear the glasses each day so we can get accurate vision screenings.
- Flu shots are coming up! When we have specific dates, we will send home Flu Shot consents and give you more information about that.
- As the weather gets colder, please remember to encourage your students to wear warm winter clothing. Per school district policy, we are not allowed to keep students in from recess just because they forgot snow gear. Also, we are unable to keep students in during recess because parents say they are sick. If you think your student is too sick to go to recess, please keep them home. Of course if they have been to the doctor, and the doctor has written a note, we can keep them inside if the note is provided to the nurse.
- Through donations from our community, Ptarmigan has been provided with extra backpacks, coats, gloves, boots and other clothing items. If your student has a need, please let me know!



"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room

It's been a busy start to our new year in the music room. Students are learning all about rhythm and beat. Participating, Cooperating and Following directions is the best way to be successful in the music room. I am so excited to share my passion for music with Ptarmigan students.

September 18th is the start of a new choir term and we will be singing a program all about Snow! "Bring on the Snow" will be presented to the school on December 7th. If you have a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade student who loves to sing, it is not too late for them to sign up. Choir contracts are located right outside the music room.

Fourth and Fifth graders will be exploring the recorder and ukulele this fall and winter. I have enough instruments for all. Letters will be going home soon about where to purchase recorders if you are interested in your student practicing at home. These students will also be attending the Young Persons Concert on November 13th at the Center for Performing Arts. It's a great time to be a Timberwolf!

Remember to turn in those Boxtops to your classroom teacher. Boxtops collected have purchased many drums and instruments for the music room. Classes with the most boxtops turned in will win a prize in October and could win a Pizza Party in December.

In Harmony,
Mrs. Benton Classroom Music Specialist



CREATIVE CORNER



Hello Ptarmigan families! My name is Katie Winkelman, and I am thrilled to be the new art teacher this year. I am returning to Alaska after living and working in many other states. I was born and raised in Fairbanks and now my husband and I are loving living in Anchorage with our two cats and our 8 month old baby boy named Santeo.

One of my biggest beliefs about art education is that art be student-centered and meaningful. This year, Ptarmigan artists will be diving deep into inquiry questions and responding visually in their own unique way. I will also be teaching many new techniques specific to media such as painting, printmaking, clay sculpture, weaving, and much more.

Elementary Art Grade Level Themes:

- Kindergarten - Art and Me
- 1st Grade - Art in My World
- 2nd Grade - Creating from Inside Myself
- 3rd Grade - Art from Many Cultures
- 4th Grade - Art and Environment
- 5th Grade - Art as Communication

Feel free to contact me through email: winkelman_katie@asd12.org



Personal Safety Lesson (first of four/one each qtr.)
Health / SEL Specialist

Dear Parent(s),

Ptarmigan Elementary School's Health Specialist will be teaching the 1st Quarter Personal Safety lesson between October 8th and October 19th 2018, during your child's Health class time. The age-appropriate lessons will be presented in a non-threatening way, along with the skills needed for self-protection.

The lesson content is part of the Anchorage School District's plan to enact the Alaska Safe Children's Act and will be handled in a sensitive, respectful manner.

For more information on the topic, please visit our website.

<http://www.asdk12.org/healthpe/safechildrensact/>

If you have any questions about the content, please feel free to contact me through email. If you wish to inquire about opting out, please contact the school office for an opt out form to be signed by a parent.

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

Here's to keeping children safe,

Ms. Anny Hunsucker

Health/SEL Specialist - hunsucker_anny@asdk12.org



PEAKS 2018 Student-Level Results

The Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) is Alaska's summative assessment for students in grades 3-9 in English Language art and mathematics and grades 4, 8 and 10 in science and was administered in spring 2018. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide information to parents, educators, policy makers, communities and businesses about how Alaska's schools and districts are performing, along with an overall picture of an individual student's progress in meeting State of Alaska standards at his/her grade level.

At this time, districts and schools are beginning the score reporting process with the preliminary work of interpreting and understanding PEAKS results. The Anchorage School District is currently preparing our online student information system for parents to receive electronic PEAKS results on September 22st.

For both math and English language arts, each student will receive an overall score that is aligned to one of four achievement levels: Proficient, Advanced, Below-Proficient and Far-Below Proficient. Students performing at a scale score of 500 or more are Proficient. In addition, information on groups of standards, called reporting categories, will also be provided as part of the score reporting process. For detailed information on PEAKS score reporting, please reference the *ASD PEAKS Parent Guide* available on the ASD PEAKS website, <http://www.asdk12.org/peaks/>, along with the State of Alaska's *Parent's Guides to Student Reports Spring 2018 PEAKS Assessment English Language Arts and Mathematics* (and Science grades 4, 8 and 10), available on the Department of Education's website, <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks>.

Please remember, PEAKS is not a pass/fail test. PEAKS is aligned to the Alaska State Standards and the scores provide information to guide decision-making and support students on their path to success. Alaska increased the rigor of its standards and assessments so that our students are academically ready for jobs, career training and college. The Anchorage School District maintains high learning expectations for all students and is committed to preparing students for success in life.

Anchorage School Board:

Starr Marsett (President), Deena Mitchell (Vice President), Alisha Hilde (Clerk), Elisa Snelling (Treasurer), and Members Bettye Davis, Dave Donley, and Andy Holleman. ASD Superintendent, Dr. Deena Paramo.