

OCTOBER ~ 2019/2020

PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Dear Ptarmigan Families,

Wow, the end of the 1st quarter is almost here and the staff and I are looking forward to seeing you at Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 23rd and 24th.

I would also like to invite everyone to our Quarterly Awards Assembly on November 1st. Kindergarten-2nd Grade Assembly starts at 2:00pm and the 3rd-5th grade assembly starts at 2:45pm. This is a wonderful time to celebrate the super students we have at Ptarmigan. Come and cheer on our students!

Our first Family Night is October 17th from 6-7:30pm. We will have activities surrounding multi-cultural literacy. We welcome any family that want to share their culture by bringing a treat to share. (Please nothing w/ nuts or peanuts since we have a lot of students w/ allergies.)

As much as I do not want to say it...WINTER is just around the corner. Please ensure that your students are coming to school with coats, hats, gloves, snow pants, and boots. We will have outside recess until it reaches -10 degrees below zero so, please prepare your students to go outside for 20 minutes.

Attendance continues to be one of our focuses this year. During the month of September our school averaged 83% of our students attending 90% of the time. This is a 7% improvement from August. Our district attendance goal is 90%, so please help our school and your student achieve this goal. Attendance also positively impacts academic achievement.

Please come and visit our school as often as you can. We love volunteers! If you have extra time in your day, communicate with your student's classroom teacher to see how you can help.

Kelly Ramey
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary

Meet Ptarmigan's PTA Board

From left to right: Our Vice President, Treasurer, Teacher's Representative, President, and Secretary



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

OCTOBER

- **FALL PICTURES:** 10/7/2019
- **GREAT ALASKA SHAKEOUT:** 10/17/2019
- **MULTICULTURAL FAMILY NIGHT:**
(6pm-7:30pm) 10/17/2019
- **NO SCHOOL:** 10/18/2019 & 10/25/2019
- **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES & EARLY RELEASE @ 12:30pm**
10/23/2019 & 10/24/2019
BOOK FAIR & FLU SHOT CLINIC WILL BE HELD DURING CONFERENCES

(No Afterschool Program during conference week and Preschool only attends Monday and Tuesday of that week)

NOVEMBER

- **QUARTERLY AWARDS ASSEMBLY:**
(K-2nd @ 2pm) & (3rd-5th @ 2:45pm) 11/1/2019
- **PICTURE RETAKES :** 11/14/2019
- **PTA MOVIE NIGHT:** 11/22/2019
- **NO SCHOOL:** 11/28/2019 & 11/29/2019

Health/ SEL (Social Emotional Learning)

Aloha Parents,

This month we will focus more on the topic of “Safety.” Our safety units will cover being safe at school, at home, and in our community. Some of the topics that will be included are: personal safety, fire safety, bicycle safety, moose safety, bear safety, first aid, and seatbelt safety. 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	3	Safe At Home, Safe Away
1	Look Out	4	Community Safety
2	Let's stay Safe	5	First Aid

The 1st Quarter Personal Safety lesson will be taught 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 wish to inquire about opting your child out, please contact the school office for an opt out form to be signed by a parent.

Ms. Anny Hunsucker
Health Specialist
hunsucker_anny@asdk12.org



UPCOMING SPIRIT DAYS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 31st:	Dress like your favorite Storybook/Movie Character
November 13th:	World Kindness Day: Spread Kindness
November 15th:	Rock Your Mocs Day: Wear your moccasins
November 18th:	Mickey Mouses Birthday: Wear your Mickey Gear



CREATIVE CORNER

Hello Ptarmigan families!

Here is what we are in the process of creating right now in the art room:

Kindergarten - Drawing and painting fall leaves. Next, we will learn how to cut shapes from construction paper to create robots.

1st Grade - Examining "Tree of Life" by Gustav Klimt, painting with fall colors and making our own tree using multiple line types. Then, we will create art inspired by the book "Ten Black Dots" by Donald Crews.



2nd Grade - Learning about cut paper collage by Henri Matisse and Reggie Laurent, explore geometric and organic shapes, then create our own collage art.

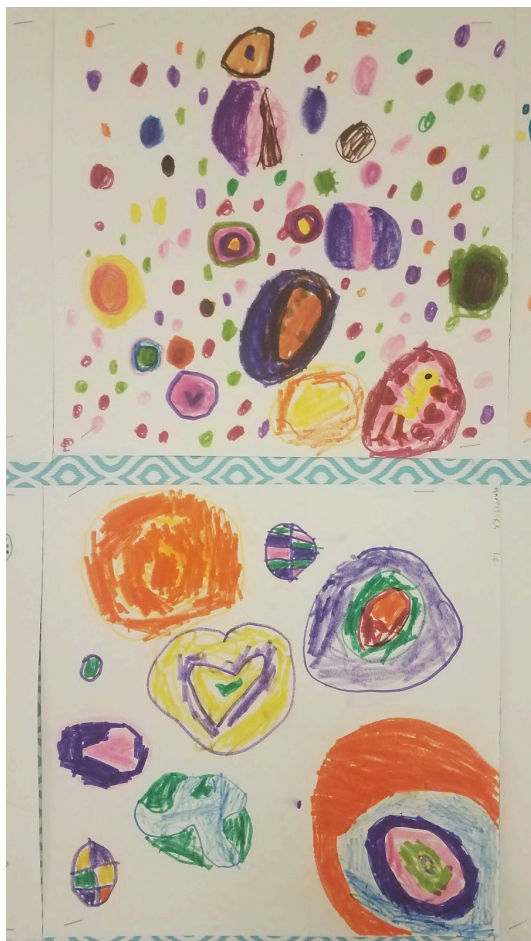
3rd Grade - Learning about Surrealism art to create mixup animal paintings.

4th Grade - Exploring the colorful art by Franz Marc and Alvin Amason and create an expressive Alaskan animal painting.

5th Grade - Finishing up our robot invention artwork, and then we will learn about pixel and graph paper art.

Thank you,
Katie Winkelman, Art Teacher

Feel free to contact me through email: winkelman_katie@asdk12.org



1st grade art inspired by
"The Dot" by Peter Reynolds

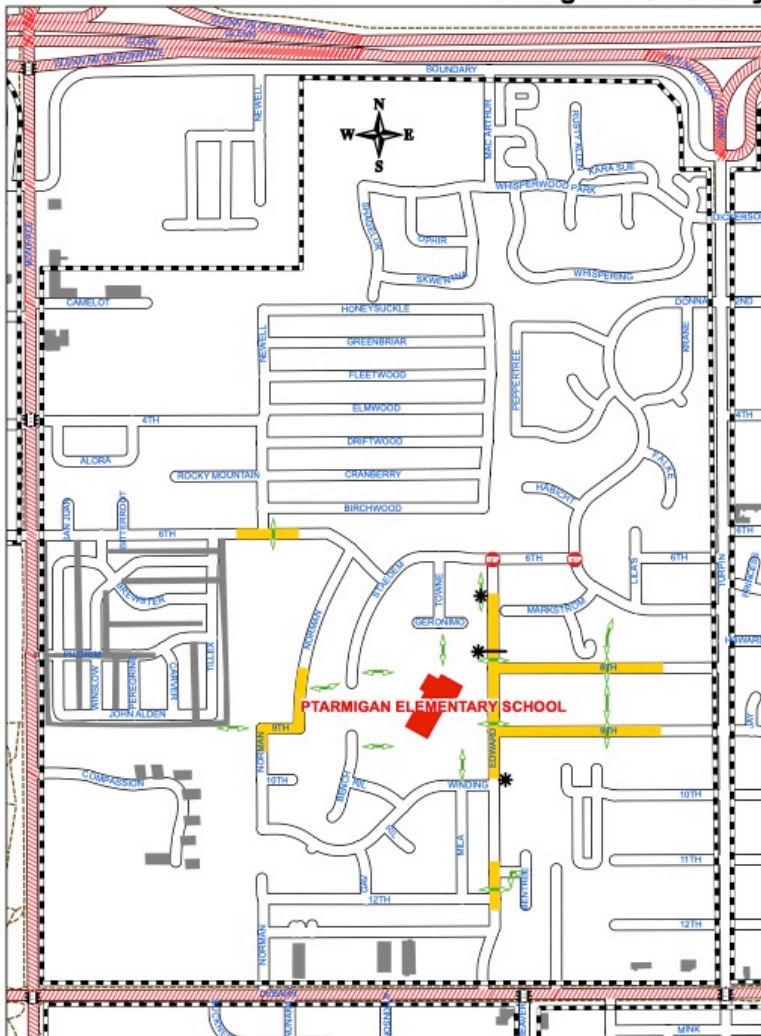


NO CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL ZONES FACTSHEET*







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.

Ptarmigan Elementary



HOW TO USE THIS MAP:

I. WALKING ROUTES

- With your child, follow the arrows on the map and select the best route from your home to the school. Mark the route with a pencil or crayon.
 - Where no arrows are shown, all routes are considered equally safe.
 - Whenever you come to a double arrow in the roadway  your child should follow that route, as the safest available route.
 - If you come to a double arrow along side the roadway  your child should use that path or stay on that side of the street until he reaches a safer crossing.
- Whenever this symbol  has been used, your child **should NOT be crossing the street**, as the traffic conditions there are considered significantly less safe. He/she should cross these streets only at locations marked by the symbol shown at right. 
- Teach your child to follow this as the safest route, and to cross only at safer crossings shown on the map. You and your child should become familiar with the route by walking it together. Observe marked crosswalks, stop signs, traffic signals, and other traffic controls. Crossing points have been located wherever possible and should be used, even though a longer walk may sometimes be necessary.

II. WALKING SAFETY

- Whenever there are not sidewalks, teach your child to follow safe pedestrian practice by **walking to the left side of the street, facing any oncoming traffic**.
- Teach your child to stop at the edge of the street, **look to the right, left and behind** when crossing at an intersection (pedestrians may be hit by turning cars as well as normal through traffic).
- In secluded or remote areas children are safer walking in groups of three or more. Remember, there is **safety in numbers**.

III. SCHOOL BUS STOPS

Teach your child to follow safe walking practices to get to the bus stop. Changes in bus stop locations may possibly occur as neighborhood populations change. If so, you will be notified by the driver or your principal.

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS



STEADY

You may begin to walk with caution in the direction of this signal.



FLASHING

















If you are crossing the road when this signal appears you may continue to cross at a normal pace to the nearest curb or safety island. If you have not yet started to cross do NOT enter the roadway.



STEADY

Do NOT enter the roadway in the direction of this signal.

MAP LEGEND

	Recommended Walking Route: "Walk on Left Facing Traffic."		Recommended Walking Route: "Walk on This Side Only"
	Preferred Crossing		Diverter
	Underpass Crossing		Overpass Crossing
	"Do NOT Cross Here"		All-Way Stop
	School Walking Boundary		School Flasher
	Traffic Signal		Overhead Flasher
	School Zone		Railroad Tracks
	Crossing Guard		Trails

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• This year, our school will be using an evaluation screener to look at school-wide systems of
• support for social emotional learning and behavior. This screener, much like our academic
• Universal Screeners (FastBridge and MAP Growth), will be completed with all students in the
• Fall (October), Winter (December) and Spring (April). Teachers will evaluate students relative to
• various behavioral risk factors. The evaluation tool is called the Social, Academic, and Emotional
• Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS). The tool will help teachers identify students who may need
• additional supports to increase their academic and social emotional success. This screening is
• completed by teachers and will not involve lost instructional time for students. Should you have
• any questions about the use of this universal screener, please don't hesitate to contact your
• building principal.
•

• Thanks for all that you do for our Ptarmigan family!!
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~ NEWS from Nurse Brittany ~



Flu vaccines will be available to any student (with parent permission of course) during the week of Parent Teacher Conferences! Watch for the sign up form coming home with your students. The nurse needs the sign up forms back as soon as possible in order to make sure we have enough flu vaccines for students. No permission slip means no Flu vaccine.

We're sure you have noticed the decreasing temperature outside. Please make sure your student has proper snow gear. This includes: winter coat, hat, gloves, boots, snow pants and maybe even a scarf. Students are not able to stay in from recess just because they don't have the proper gear. Per the Anchorage School District policy, students are to go outside down to -10 degrees. That's pretty cold! If any of our families would like assistance getting snow gear, please let us know! We'll do our best to help.

Thank you, Nurse Brittany

"Notes" from the Ptarmigan Music Room



Choir has started and I have a wonderful group of singers. Our Winter Concert will be on December 13th, so mark your calendar.

Drums are sounding from the music room. The fifth-grade students are really doing some fine rhythms this month. This contrasts with the calm, easy sounds of ukulele that the fourth graders are strumming.

Some of the students have been bringing home "Musical Moment" tiny flyers. They explain the musical pieces we have been moving too. This way you can look for the song or composition on line and talk to your child about the music. Look for them. Learn to listen and listen to learn!

Mrs. Benton. Classroom Music Specialist



BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



Our Book Fair will be scheduled during parent teacher conferences on Wednesday October 23rd and Thursday October 24th. The Book Fair will be open from **8:00-9:00 a.m.** and from **12:30-6:30 p.m.** We will accept the following payments: cash, checks (made out to the school), and Discover, Visa, Master card and American Express. Please support our school by visiting the Book Fair before or after your scheduled conference.

There will be a wish list board, where classroom teachers will "wish" for books they would like to add to their classroom libraries. Families may choose to purchase one of the books for their child's teacher.

Lastly, I will be providing each teacher slips with any overdues your child may have this quarter. Your child's teacher will share this information with you during the conference. If your child has an overdue book, please have them check at school and at home. Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair! ☺

Alyson Tucker Teacher-Librarian



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW COUNSELOR, CARLA HORNUNG



Hello Ptarmigan Families, I am the new counselor at Ptarmigan. I have students call me Mrs. H. This is my second year in ASD. I work at Ptarmigan Elementary and North Star Elementary. Prior to working for ASD, I worked in the Mat-Su School district for about 10 years as a teacher and school counselor.

Before working in the Mat-Su school District, I worked for mental health agencies with kids. I am a certified K-8 teacher, certified School Counselor, and am also a Licensed Professional Counselor with the State of Alaska.

I have lived in Alaska for 29 years now. I am originally from Kansas (please no Dorothy jokes). I have lived all over the state from Barrow all the way to Southeast on the Prince of Wales Island, with a few places in between. I have lived in different Alaskan villages.

I am married with 2 adult children, ages 23 and 25. My children are part Alaskan Native as well. We love the outdoors and do a lot of hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, etc. I am excited I got a moose tag this year! We are a hockey family and are huge hockey fans! I hope there are other hockey fans here as well. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do to help support your student and family.

Anchorage School Board:

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



**When do absences become
a problem?**



Chronic absence
18 or more days



Warning signs
10 to 17 days



Satisfactory
9 or fewer absences



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

www.asdk12.org

Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

Did you know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school – and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college and at work.

What can you do?

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required supplies.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help with the transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind that complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

If you have questions about your child's attendance, please contact your child's teacher or school principal.

Attendance tracker for families

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school – and themselves. Start building this habit early so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college and at work.



Date	Absence	Reason
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
	10+	Your child is at increasing risk for academic difficulties and/or school failure with each absence beyond this point

COMM-1286 (08/17)

Date	Absence	Reason
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
	10+	Your child is at increasing risk for academic difficulties and/or school failure with each absence beyond this point