

NOVEMBER ~ 2019/2020

PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Dear Ptarmigan Families,

We had an incredibly successful 1st quarter and I am very pleased with the effort of our students and staff are making to help our students grow into future leaders. Attendance is one of our main school wide goals for this year. Our school slogan is **"One or Less for School Success."** This means students increase their ability to be successful at school when they miss one or less days of school each month. Parents, we need your support and help getting your students to school every day!

Thank you to all of our families who came in for **Parent Teacher Conferences!** It was wonderful to see so many of you and to hear about your child's growth. Conferences allow teachers time to highlight a student's progress or to discuss a plan to support areas of difficulty. Thank you again for taking time out of your day to attend this important event. I also hope while you were here that you were able to attend our Book Fair! What a great event and thanks to our PTA and our Librarian, Ms. Tucker who volunteered their time to make it a success.

Along with conferences, Ms. Cyr led our 1st Quarter Assembly on November 1st. It was great to recognize all the wonderful students that are working hard both academically and behaviorally to make Ptarmigan a better place for all of us.

Lastly, please remember that according to the ASD Elementary Handbook, students go outside for recess in all weather down to -10 degrees, so please dress your student in their winter gear.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Kelly Ramey
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary



STUDENTS FROM MRS. MCROBERTS KINDERGARTEN CLASS
GETTING CREATIVE WITH PLAYDOUGH CUTOUTS DURING THEIR
HARVEST FESTIVAL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

NOVEMBER

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

(There is no 21st Century Afterschool Program the week of 11/25 - 11/29)

DECEMBER

- **GLO GLO Glorious Choir Concerts:** 12/13/2019
(Choir Assembly @ 2pm) & (Choir Concert @ 6pm)
- **GRADE REPORTING In-Service:
NO SCHOOL:** 12/20/2019
- **WINTER BREAK
NO SCHOOL:** 12/23/2019 - 1/3/2020

(There is no 21st Century Afterschool Program the week of 12/16-1/10)

Health/ SEL (Social Emotional Learning)

Aloha Parents,

We had a wonderful 1st quarter of learning in Health/SEL class. I really enjoyed teaching your children the Safety Unit lessons. The first two weeks of November will begin with the Body Systems Unit lessons. Below are the topics that will be taught in Health/SEL class:

K	The Five Senses	3	The Better To See You
1	Head To Toe	4	Let's Talk Teeth
2	How You Think.	5	Brainstorms: Your Central Nervous System

Autumn is in the air. Alaskan winter right around the corner 😊

- Please be prepared with proper winter gear for outdoor recess;
- (Warm hat, thick warm gloves/mittens, winter coat, snow pants, warm winter boots, warm socks 'extra pairs to keep at school')
- Friendly reminder: Time of year to get your optional flu shots
- Wash your hands often to help prevent the spread of germs. 😊
- Use antibacterial gel to help prevent the spread of germs. 😊
- Cover your coughs and sneezes. (Remember to sneeze in your elbow sleeve/not hands) Sneezing/coughing into your hands spreads germs.

The **Personal Safety** lessons will be taught beginning the first two weeks of December. ASD approved literature will be read aloud for each grade level. This reinforces the Alaska Child Safety Act, to keep our students informed of safe touch, the "No, Go, Tell" rule, and safe adults at home, school, and in the community. There are opt out forms in the office, if you wish your child not to attend the **Personal Safety** part of the lesson.

Happy and Healthy November,

Ms. Anny Hunsucker, Health Specialist, hunsucker_anny@asdk12.org



"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room

Soon you will be hearing the 'toot-toot-tooting' of recorders from the music room. Fifth graders will be working on this wind instrument in music class this quarter. **I have enough recorders for each student to use in class.** However, if you would like to buy a recorder for your student to bring to school or to practice on at home, see below for places to purchase one. They cost around \$12.00 - \$15.00. Please do not buy **toy recorders** for your child to play on. These do not tune well and will not give your child the proper sound.

Music Man

**4637 Old Seward Hwy
Anchorage, AK 99503**

OR

Horn Doctor

**1000 Ingra Street
Anchorage, AK 99501**

OR

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Mark your calendar for the "Glo-Glo-Glorious" sound of the Ptarmigan choir on December 13th. Come out and hear them sing as they tell many holiday stories and share some advice for staying warm this winter. On Monday, December 9th, the choir will also have a field trip to the Centennial Village in Muldoon and the Education Center on Boniface. I love to share this choir with our community.

Please encourage your child to sing every day. It's the one instrument you always have with you...your voice. Some students feel shy or awkward about their singing voice. We always sing in the music room and I hope you sing with your children. It's a great way to share traditions.

In Harmony,

Mrs. Benton, Classroom Music Specialist



UPCOMING SPIRIT DAYS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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!

Congratulations to Jesse Shorey (1st Grade) and Hunter Goss (Kindergarten). They will have artwork on display at the ASD Education Center from November 12th - January 3rd. Be sure to go check it out!



Hunter Goss



Jesse Shorey

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

Kindergarten - Learning about the primary colors and art by Piet Mondrian.

1st Grade - Learning how to draw full body people in our artwork including details such as fingers, eye brows, glasses, etc. Then, we will learn about the artwork by Carmen Lomas Garza and draw our own family traditions.

2nd Grade - Drawing spider webs with creative line types. Then, we will learn about concentric circles and Wassily Kandinsky.

3rd Grade - Examining Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and then create our own painting inspired by Van Gogh's Impressionist style.

4th Grade - Drawing architecture inspired by architect, Frank Gehry, and imagining how buildings may change in the future.

5th Grade - Learning about the famous Pablo Picasso, abstract art and painting with tempera paint.

Thank you,
Katie Winkelman, Art Teacher

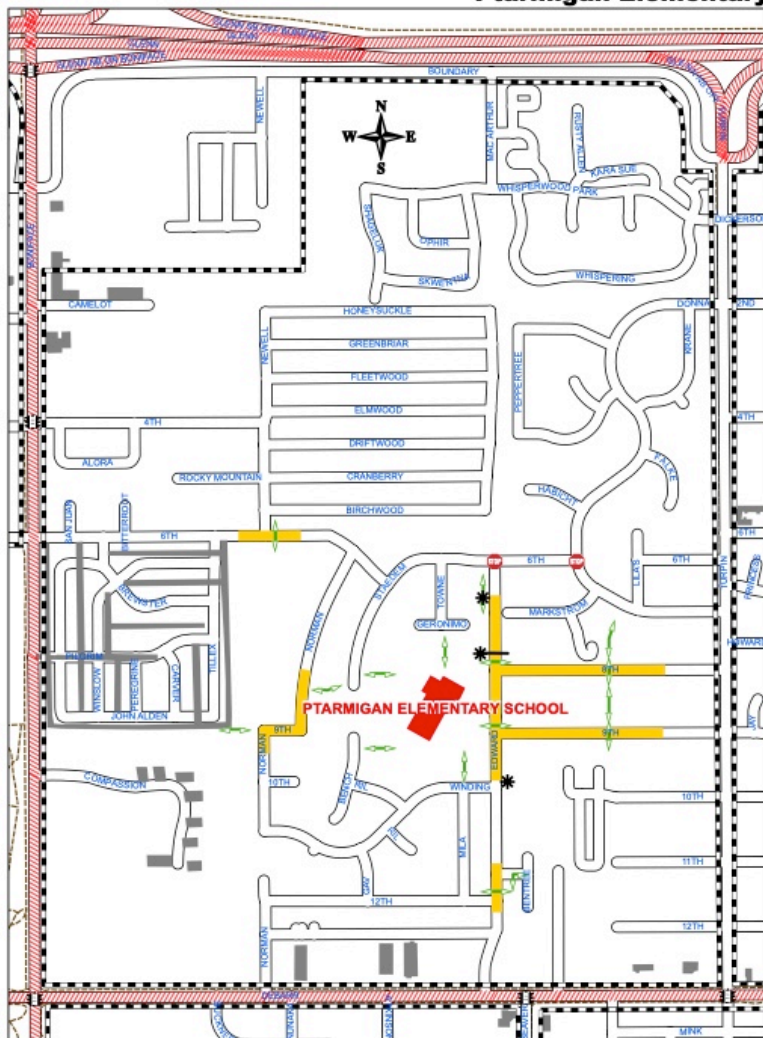
Feel free to contact me through email: winkelman_katie@asdk12.org

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		Underpass Crossing
	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



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Alaska

BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



The library is open for research! Open checkout and help finding resources Monday-Thursday from 9:00-9:30 and 3:15-3:30. Students will need to make sure they bring a library pass.

Students will soon be introduced to new books purchased from Barnes & Noble through donated funds. I am excited to bring new and engaging books into our library.

I encourage families to use the Sora App. This app allows students to borrow ebooks and audiobooks from other Anchorage School District libraries as well as Ptarmigan's library. Getting setup is simple- just find your school and sign in. Then, download your favorite books to your device. Sora includes: easy access to assigned titles and a running tally of time spent reading and number of books read.

Thank you for to all the families who supported our school's Book Fair!

Alyson Tucker Teacher-Librarian



Introducing our Special Education Dept. Chair, Michael Kage



Everyone calls me Kage, my last name. I do not know when everyone started calling me Kage but it has stuck. I am very excited to be working at Ptarmigan Elementary with our stellar teaching team. Before working in education I was a member of the US Coast Guard in San Francisco and Kodiak, Alaska. My job was to help coordinate rescues of sailors and fishermen in distress, but I had always thought of becoming a teacher. After four years in the military, I decided I would pursue my goal of teaching. My first education job was being a special education teaching assistant. I had the opportunity to work with great mentor teachers who encouraged me to become a teacher. After graduating from UAA, I took a position at Russian Jack Elementary where I taught for 5-years. Today I have the privilege of working here at Ptarmigan Elementary and a handful of other Anchorage schools as a Department Chair where I hope to improve special education and outcomes for our students.

Random facts about me:

Favorite color: blue

Favorite drink: coffee

Favorite food: pad thai

Favorite quote: "Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society" - Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court Justice

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.

MULTICULTURAL
FAMILY
NIGHT









When do absences become a problem?



Chronic absence
18 or more days



Warning signs
10 to 17 days



Satisfactory
9 or fewer absences



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 in 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 shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind 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.