



FEBRUARY 2019/2020 PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Dear Ptarmigan Families,

2020 is moving by so fast! A big thanks to those parents that were able to stop by for our 2nd Cup of Coffee and conversations surrounding attendance. **Our next 2nd Cup is on March 18th from 8:30-9:00am.** Stop by our library to have a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate and talk with administration.

February is Visit Your Local School Month. Every Tuesday during the month of February at 9:30am, I will be sharing information about our school and conducting tours. If you are unable to make a tour during the day, we will also be conducting an evening tour on February 25th starting at 6:00pm. This is a great time to come and visit other classrooms and hear the great things that are happening at Ptarmigan Elementary.

We are also asking all families to complete a Climate and Connectedness Survey. This survey is an important part of how we assess how we are doing as a school and a district. Please use the following link surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb and then enter the code: ptarmiganfamily. We want to know what we are doing well and how we can improve our school, so please take a few moments to share your thoughts.

Parent Teacher Conferences were on February 12th and 13th. If you missed your Parent Teacher Conference, please contact your student's teacher if you missed your conference.

Also, during the month of February our school is participating in Jump Rope for Heart. This is a great way to increase our student's activity level and also raise money to support the American Heart Association. Please consider donating to this wonderful cause. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Garner and he will be able to answer them.

In closing, our attendance average for the month of January was 61% of our students attending 90% of the time. Remember our goal is 100% of our student attending 90% of the time. Our Counselor, Mrs. H. has challenged our students to increase their attendance with prizes, so let's work together to increase our academic success by increasing attendance. It is truly hard for your student to be proficient at grade level standards when they are missing school. Remember to help our students be a H.E.R.O. (Here, Every day, Ready, and On Time)

Kelly Ramey
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

FEBRUARY

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences & Early Release @ 12:30pm:** 2/12/2020 & 2/13/2020
- **IN-SERVICE / NO SCHOOL:** 2/14/2020
- **President's Day / NO SCHOOL:** 2/17/2020
- **PLAAY Field Trip 4th Grade:** 2/20/2020
- **I-DID-A-READ Assembly:** 2/24/2020
(K-2nd Grade @ 9:20am-9:40am & 2/3-5th Grade @ 9:45am-10:15 am)
- **Spring & Class Pictures:** 2/26/2020

MARCH

- **READ-IN Day/Dr. Seuss B-Day:** 3/2/2020
- **Spirit Day/Pajama Day:** 3/2/2020
- **National School Breakfast Week:** 3/2/2020 - 3/5/2020
- **IN-SERVICE / NO SCHOOL:** 3/6/2020
- **SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL:** 3/9/2020 - 3/13/2020

CREATIVE CORNER



Hello Ptarmigan families!

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

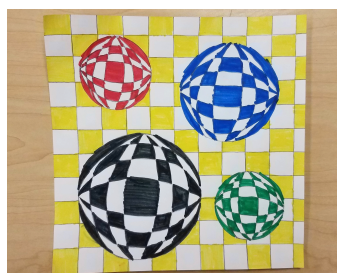
Kindergarten - Drawing patterns using our knowledge of shapes, colors, and lines. Then, we are drawing and painting hearts.

1st Grade - Building a 'pinch pot' cup out of clay, painting with glaze, and finishing our first clay masterpiece.

2nd Grade - Drawing gum ball machines like that of Wayne Thiebaud, and drawing and painting heart art.

3rd Grade - Painting marbles with shading and shadows, and drawing and painting heart art.

4th Grade - Finishing up our lesson learning about Op Art, art with optical illusions and movement. Then, we will start a chalk drawing of the northern lights.



5th Grade - Finishing up our circular yarn weavings, and then we will begin creating animal mugs out of clay.



Thank you,

Katie Winkelman, Art Teacher

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



Every school | Every Tuesday

Feb. 4

9:30 a.m.

Feb. 11

9:30 a.m.

Feb. 18

9:30 a.m.

Feb. 25

9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

NO MORE CLIPPING

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FOR
EDUCATION

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Health/ SEL (Social Emotional Learning)

LET'S GET HEALTHY (2020)

Aloha families,

February begins our second month into the 2020 "New Year." How many of you have made resolutions to make healthier choices this year? Whether or not you have chosen a goal to get physical exercise at least 60 minutes daily, eat more fruits and vegetables, or cut out bad habits that endanger your health, taking baby steps towards a healthier lifestyle for you and your family is a positive way to start 2020.

Safe Children's Act: Personal Safety lessons begin the last week of February and may continue through the first week of March.

March 16th Ptarmigan 5th graders will begin Human Growth and Development. If you have not signed your permission slip or completed the form online at registration, please check with the office. There will be a preview of materials available if you have any questions. I will be sending home a notification of date and time of the preview.

Below are the names of the Health Units we will be studying in February:

K	No Drugs, No Way!	3rd	Saying No to Smoking, Drinking, and Drugs
1st	Drugs Are Trouble	4th	Stay Drug-Free, Build Your Assets
2nd	Drugs Are Dangerous	5th	Danger Ahead: The Truth About Drugs

When children exercise at the same time 3-4 times a week, it can help to establish a routine. When starting a routine, it helps to be consecutive for at least 3 months for it to become a daily habit. Making excuses are easy, but making up lost workouts are hard. If you find that you fail, don't beat yourself up, (Just begin again and stay positive.), Good luck to you and your family for beginning 2020 with a healthy lifestyle.

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





~ NEWS FROM NURSE BRITTANY ~

As I am sure many of you are aware, this time of year there are a lot of germs throughout our community. As a reminder, here is the school district's guidelines (taken directly from the district's website <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/5587>) about when a child needs to be kept home from illness:

In general, children are too sick to come to school when:

- They are contagious.
- Their symptoms are serious enough to prevent them from focusing on the tasks they need to do there work

Or:

- o Does your child have a rash that is undiagnosed and could be contagious?
- o Does your child have a persistent, phlegmy cough?
- o Does your child have a stomachache accompanied by fever, vomiting, diarrhea, pain or hard belly?
- o Does your child have a sore throat with fever, headache, stomachache, or swollen glands?
- o Are your child's eyes crusty, bright red, and/or discharging yellow or green fluid?
- o Does your child have diarrhea?
- o Does your child have a fever above 101° F

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please keep your child home from school and consider seeking medical attention. Your child could have a serious or contagious illness. **Keep your child home until he or she has been symptom free for at least 24 hours or until a doctor indicates that he or she can return to school.** If children have a cold, headache, or stomachache that is not accompanied by fever, vomiting or diarrhea, he/she is welcome to come to school. If a child has a rash, it could be contagious. Please seek medical advice before allowing your child to come to school. Earaches are not contagious. Children can come to school as long as they can concentrate on their work.



"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room

Your musical students in this quarter are being introduced to many new musical terms and concepts. Fifth graders have been learning about "Tonal Center", a home base note that anchors the tune. Fourth and Fifth graders are learning about the notes on the treble clef and playing songs on the recorder. Many students come into the music room at final bell and practice on their recorders. It's so fun to hear them complete song after song.

The next few months more elements that make music expressive will be reviewed. Often music doesn't have a steady beat. When part of a piece of music speeds up, the movement is called accelerando. Notes can be sung and played in different ways. They can be smooth and connected (legato) or short and choppy (staccato).

All classes are learning about how music is divided into phrases while reinforcing the musical elements of rhythm and meter. January focused on the music of Mozart and in February we will be learning about many African American composers and performers. The focus will be on Jazz music.

The second term of Ptarmigan Choir resumed February 4th. Third-Fifth graders will be learning new songs and putting on a mini musical in May. The performance is on May 1st at 2:00pm and 6pm. Mark your calendars for "A Little Bit of Showbiz".

In Harmony, Mrs. Benton, Classroom Music Specialist



MEET OUR PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) TEAM

Greetings Ptarmigan families! My name is Chad Garner, but most students and staff refer to me as "Mr. G." It has been a pleasure getting to know your student(s) this year and I look forward to watching them develop and grow for years to come. This is my first-year teaching PE at Ptarmigan Elementary. Prior to teaching at Ptarmigan, I substitute taught on a daily basis around the Anchorage School District for the past 2 years – primarily in elementary classrooms. In addition to substitute teaching, I have a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the University of Montana as well as a Bachelor of Science in PE and Master of Arts in Teaching K-12 PE degrees – both from the University of Alaska - Anchorage. A couple of fun facts about me are that I used to be an operations manager for the Union Pacific Railroad, a school bus driver, and I spent most of my childhood summers detassling corn and walking soybeans. While I consider Alaska to be home (I moved here in 2008), I was born in Ames, Iowa and raised in Boone, Iowa. When I'm not teaching students at Ptarmigan, I spend most of my time with my wife and our 3-year-old son. The three of us love to go out and explore the outdoors. My teaching philosophy is as follows: active bodies create active minds.

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Hello Ptarmigan families, my name is Spencer Fullmer and I am so glad I get to be a part of the Ptarmigan family this year. This is my third year working for ASD and my first year as a PE teacher. I spent the first two years as a second-grade teacher at Ursa Major Elementary before making the transition from the classroom to the gym. I currently work at three different schools (Ptarmigan, Fire Lake, and Ursa Major), which means, unfortunately, I am only at Ptarmigan two days a week.

I was born and raised in Eagle River where I fell in love with Alaska and can't imagine living anywhere else. When I am not at school, I love to spend time with my wife and three beautiful girls. We love to go outside and enjoy all that Alaska has to offer. Some of my favorite hobbies are hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, and basketball. I have really enjoyed being able to work with Mr. G and all the amazing students at Ptarmigan and look forward to a great rest of the year with them.

We need your help!

Parents and community members we would like to have your input on teachers and administrator performance. Please use the following link or pick up a hard copy from the office to fill out. All forms are anonymous, but will be shared with the person's immediate supervisor.

Parents and members of the public can complete the web-based input form anonymously by going to the following link: <https://www.asdk12.org/evaluations>

Please take time to give your input! The input forms are available online now through May 1st.



Girls on the Run

2020 Spring Dates & Information

Let's finish off winter and head into spring with a bit of fun! Our spring season for Girls on the Run is ready to go. We need your help to make it a reality for our kids so please consider joining us in this amazing program for kids!

Following you will find some basic information and links to be able to help out with Ptarmigan's team:

Sign-up to be a Volunteer Coach at:

<https://www.gotrsouthcentralak.org/Coach>

Please select to be a coach for Ptarmigan Elementary

Registration for girls opens: Feb 1st

<https://www.gotrsouthcentralak.org/Register-Now>

Be certain to select Ptarmigan's team.

NEW Coach training: Saturday, Feb 15th

First week of practice: week of Feb 24 (registration closes the evening before your third practice)

Last week of practice: week of May 4th (we will do a family celebration gathering Tuesday, May 12th)

5k: Saturday, May 9th at Anchorage Football Stadium.
5k Start 10:30am



One of our own, Mrs. Carol Tucker was a recipient of the Fall 2019 Denali Award. The Denali Award is a "biannual recognition program which honors employees who have shown outstanding achievement, service, and dedication in ensuring every student has the opportunity to achieve his or her potential." We are extremely proud of Mrs. Tucker and we are so blessed to have her on our staff. ❤️



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 Bishop.