



# OCTOBER ~ 2020/2021

## PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Dear Ptarmigan Families,

Wow, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter ends on October 16<sup>th</sup>! This means teachers will be contacting families to schedule a Parent/Teacher conference to discuss how your student did during the first quarter of online learning. This year Parent/Teacher conferences will be conducted via phone or zoom.

As of this newsletter, we still do not know when we will be going back to in-school learning. Dr. Bishop, our Superintendent, will update the community on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, so I am hoping that she will announce another date on when we can expect to see students back at school.

While we do not have a specific date for coming back, there is a lot to do to prepare students for returning to in-person learning. The biggest thing that parents can do is to ensure students are attending zoom sessions and completing their iReady lessons along with their homework. Teachers are instructing students in new grade level concepts every day and missing lessons will cause your student to struggle academically.

Another way you can help prepare your student for returning to in-person learning is to begin practicing wearing a mask for an extended period of time. It is an ASD expectation that all students wear a mask while at school. Aside from eating breakfast and lunch, students must wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times. Unfortunately, ASD has not approved neck gators as substitute for a mask.

Purchasing school supplies that will stay at school, is another way you can help prepare your student for returning back to school. Please label these items with your students' name and put them in a zip-lock bag. It is the expectation that each student has their own supplies to lessen the chance of transmitting the virus.

As much as I do not want to say it.... WINTER is just around the corner. Please ensure that your students are prepared to go outside for recess when we are back in school. All students should come to school with a coat, hat, gloves or mittens, snow pants, and boots. Also, please take the time to label these items with your students name, so if they are misplaced, those items can find their way back to your student instead of the lost and found. In light of COVID-19, the school nurse **will not** be able to lend out snow gear. We will have outside recess until it reaches -10 degrees below zero, so prepare your students to go outside for 20 minutes.

I look forward to welcoming students back into our school as soon as it is possible. Please take care of your family so we can soon do the same.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Ramey  
Principal Ptarmigan Elementary

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

#### OCTOBER

- **GREAT ALASKA SHAKEOUT:** 10/15/2020
- **END of QTR 1 - NO SCHOOL:** 10/16/2020
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** 10/21/2020 & 10/22/2020
- **NO SCHOOL:** 10/23/2020

#### NOVEMBER

- **IN-SERVICE- NO SCHOOL:** 11/3/2020 & 11/11/2020
- **MAT'L Distribution:** 11/5/2020 & 11/12/2020
- **FALL PICTURES :** 11/17/2020
- **THANKSGIVING BREAK- NO SCHOOL:** 11/26/2020 & 11/27/2020



## *"Notes" from the Ptarmigan Music Room*

I believe that all Ptarmigan students deserve to have an education that includes music. How wonderful it has been to offer music education during this remote start to our school year. Ptarmigan students have been given the opportunity to learn about music through self-directed lessons on Canvas within each of their classroom courses and from me on zoom. If your student missed a music zoom class don't worry. Music zoom classes are recorded and posted on their Canvas Classroom.

Primary students are getting to know their singing voices and how important steady beat is to all musical experiences. Songs of welcome start out our zoom lessons and we quickly move into steady beat exercises along with vocal exploration. I always take time to get the little ones moving too. Learning music remotely does not have to be a stagnant exercise, let's get moving and feel the music!

Third, fourth and fifth graders have been reviewing the elements of music like pitch and rhythm along with form. A big focus this past month has been patriotic music. Learning the history of our National Anthem helps us understand and memorize the lyrics. I really enjoyed sharing the Latin influenced rhythms of Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story and other musical compositions. It was a treat to share his exciting music with your children.

If your fifth grader has not gotten his or her recorder, please come by the school on Thursdays between 4:30-5:30 to pick it up. We will be working on this instrument through December.

Continuing our study of patriotic music through the first of November is the goal. Don't be surprised if you see your child marching around to the music of John Phillip Sousa and singing songs like: "Grand Old Flag", "America The Beautiful" and "The Star Spangled Banner".

In Harmony,

Mrs. Benton -Classroom Music Specialist



**WE ALL NEED  
TEACHERS**  
lets give them a hand

# MEET PTARMIGAN'S NEW SLC SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

My name is Jennifer Barclay. I have been teaching Special Education since 2006 when I first fell in love with teaching and working with students with exceptional needs. I am from Alabama but lived in Georgia for the past 12 years where I taught various grade levels (K-12) and worked with adults with special need. I received my Master of Education in Grand Canyon University in 2015.

My favorite foods are sushi and bagels. My favorite things to do are fishing, driving scenic views and reading motivational biographies. I also enjoy watching and attending sporting events. My favorite College football team is the University of Alabama... "Roll Tide".



I am so excited to be a part of Ptarmigan team this year, my 3rd year in Alaska. For the past 2 years I taught for the Matsu School District and now I am part of the Anchorage School District team, teaching Kindergarten and 1st Grade Structured Learning Special Education...Go ASD!



Ptarmigan's FREE 21st Century Community Learning Center after school program is operating virtually, Monday-Thursday, 3:30-5:00 PM, for 1st-5th graders.

Each day begins with physical education/social-emotional learning activities. Our program has a significant mathematics and STEM focus. One day a week is dedicated solely to enrichment ("club day") and three days of deliberate academic interventions and supports. Classes are predominantly taught by certified, school day teachers who focus instruction on pre-teaching math, providing tutoring/remedial assistance, and other activities at teacher discretion including art, literacy, science, social studies, or coding/robotics. We also work with grant partners, such as the Campbell Creek Science Center and the Alaska Botanical Garden, to provide supplemental learning opportunities.

If you are interested in your student participating, please contact their classroom teacher to see if they qualify. Space is limited and students are expected to attend daily with a positive attitude and willingness to participate.

If you have questions, you can email our coordinator, Jamie Hobson, at [hobson\\_james@asdk12.org](mailto:hobson_james@asdk12.org).



## BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



Hello Ptarmigan Families! Welcome to the 2020/2021 school year. Here are some important library updates:

\*If you or your student haven't had a chance to go to our Ptarmigan Library page, I encourage you to do that. There's a lot of important information and resources on there. You can access the page through your child's teacher's canvas page. Scroll to the bottom of the home page, select ASD Libraries, then Ptarmigan.

\*Curbside is up and running while students are learning from home. If your child would like to check out library books to pick up during distribution days, please watch the video tutorial on the Ptarmigan Library page. It will walk you through the steps for placing a hold and let you know how curbside is working.

\*If coming to the school to pickup library books is not an option for your family, your child can access free digital books through SORA or Tumblebooks using their device. Links and login information can be found on the library page.

\*Exciting news! New books have been added to our collection through a Donors Choose grant. We have new books added to all sections of the library: nonfiction, fiction, graphic novels, everybody, etc.

\*If you need assistance getting access to books/resources please let me know. I would be more than happy to help. My email is [tucker\\_alyson@asdk12.org](mailto:tucker_alyson@asdk12.org)

I look forward to supporting our Ptarmigan kiddos and their families this year! :)

Alyson Tucker      Teacher-Librarian



# KEEP ASD SYMPTOM FREE



Stay home if you are feeling sick or have any of these symptoms:



Shortness of Breath



Cough, Runny Nose



Sore Throat, Congestion



Headache



Muscle or Body Aches,  
Skin Lesions or Rash



Fever, Chills



Loss of Taste or Smell



Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea



Fatigue

#KeepASDSymptomFree

#StayHomeSaveLives



## ~ NEWS from Nurse Brittany ~

Hello Families of Ptarmigan,

ASD's motto is "ASD is Symptom Free!" This means that students and staff should not come to school if they are experiencing any COVID symptoms. Students or staff that come to school with any symptoms that look like COVID symptoms will be sent home unless they have a note from a doctor. Please call the school nurse if you have any questions, Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm.

Thank you,      Nurse Brittany  
Ptarmigan School Nurse      PH: 742-0417

## Anchorage School Board:

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