



NOVEMBER ~ 2021/2022

PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY

Hello Ptarmigan Families,

We had an incredibly successful 1st quarter. I am very pleased with the effort that students, parents, and staff are making to help cultivate our 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 the staff and families who were able to attend the **Literacy Evening** that was held on Zoom October 7th. We had such a great time learning how to draw, create words and poems, and listening to a story. Our next family evening will be on December 6th, so watch for additional information in upcoming newsletters.

Another thank you to all our families who attended **Parent Teacher Conferences!** It was wonderful to see many of you. I hope you used the information that was provided to you by our staff to assist your student at home academically.

November 11th is **Veteran's Day!** Please take time to thank a Veteran for their service.

On that day, students do not have school, but staff will be learning about our new Math curriculum.

Lastly, please remember that according to the ASD Elementary Handbook, students go out to recess in any weather -10 degrees. Please have your student dress appropriately for colder weather temperatures.

Let's have a great rest of the 2nd Quarter.

Mrs. Kelly Ramey
Ptarmigan Elementary Principal

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

NOVEMBER

- **PICTURE RETAKES:** 11/10/2021
 - **TEACHER IN-SERVICE**
NO SCHOOL: 11/11/2021
 - **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
NO SCHOOL: 11/25/2021-11/26/2021
- *NO 21st CENTURY AFTERSCHOOL 11/22 -11/26)***



"Notes" From the Ptarmigan Music Room



It's Fall 2021 and our Ptarmigan students are off to a great second quarter! Drumming can be heard in the music room and students are exploring rhythms in all sorts of ways.

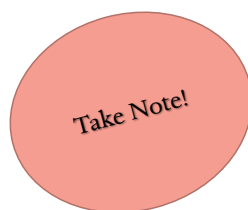
We finished the first quarter with our study of Patriotic Music. Fourth and Fifth graders worked on learning the American Sign Language to our beautiful state song "The Alaska Flag Song". Students also played choir chimes to this song. Now we are on to drumming with our wonderful collection of African Djembes, Tubanos, Timbeaus, and Latin Congas.

The primary grades continue to learn the importance of steady beat and are exploring melody and beginning rhythm patterns. We also started playing a variety of musical games and dances.

There are so many fun musical ways to explore this fall season. Music in a minor key and songs about spooky characters and dress up fun. It is also a time to be thankful for our families and our school.

I know I am very thankful for this wonderful supportive staff and administration at Ptarmigan. It is a great place to be.

In Harmony, Mrs. Benton Classroom Music Specialist



Ptarmigan Choir Starting in November! Adding Wednesday rehearsals 8:00am

Rehearsals: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
8:00am

MEET ONE OF OUR NEW STRUCTURED LEARNING TEACHERS, MRS. ROBIN RULEY



Grateful



Hello, my name is Robin Ruley. My family and I moved to Anchorage, Alaska in August 2021 after accepting a SLC teaching position with Ptarmigan Elementary. Helping others has been my life journey. It fills my bucket and keeps me going each day. I have worked with children and adults diagnosed with various needs for the past twenty-plus years. I have my Master's Degree in Special Education with an autism track and continue to take courses and speak with specialists so I have the tools to help my students and families. I love the outdoors, crafting, gardening, animals, unicorns, rainbows, and all things fun. My life's motto is "life is short so make the most of it". I am thankful to be part of the Ptarmigan family.

Kindergarten Transition Family Survey

ASD Preschool is seeking feedback from families on the transition into kindergarten for their children. On October 18, kindergarten families received an email and text via ASD Communications prompting them to take a brief survey.

The survey can be found at <https://www.asdk12.org/kindysurvey> and seeks feedback from families about their initial experience with their school, preschool experience, transition events attended within ASD and the community, and welcomes feedback.

~ NEWS FROM NURSE BRITTANY ~

New COVID testing at Ptarmigan!

Ptarmigan Elementary and ASD have partnered with Beechtree Diagnostics to offer students COVID tests. The results come back to the family within 24 hours! All parents have to do is sign up! Here is how:

Sign up using this link or scan the QR code. <https://beechtree.rymedi.com/#/registration-form?irbuuid=bdfc13af-f77b-4778-b666-feaa965a1360>



Anchorage School
COVID Registration



1. While filling out the form, you do not have to add insurance information if you do not wish. Instead you can type “999999999”
2. When the registration form asks for an uploaded copy of ID or insurance card, you can simply upload a picture of the floor.
3. When you’re finished, you will receive a unique QR code. No need to save this because the nurse can find it you when needing to test your child.
4. Test results should be sent to your phone or email within 24 hours. Please wait for negative test results before sending your child to school.

You will need to fill out a form for each student in your family. We would recommend having the form filled out ahead of time. That way, if your student comes to the nurse’s office with COVID-like symptoms, they can be tested immediately without calling and waiting for parents/guardians to fill out the form.

If your student comes to the nurse’s office with any COVID-like symptoms, they will need to go home that day, but as soon as your results are received (and if they are negative) and your student’s symptoms are improving, they can return to school.

Please Note: The nurse is unable to test any student without the family filling out the form as this is the registration AND consent to test. Do not fill out the registration if you do not wish for your student to be tested for COVID at the school. With any COVID symptom a child is unable to return to school for 10 days OR they may return sooner with a negative COVID test.

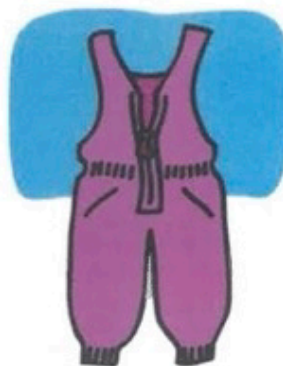
If you have any questions, please reach out to the School Nurse.

Brittany Bretz, BSN, RN, NCSN Ptarmigan Elementary School Nurse PH: 907-742-0417



Remember to Bring Your Winter Gear!

Students in the Anchorage School District have recess in temperatures as low as -10. Please make sure your students, especially your younger students, bring proper snow gear. We cannot keep a child in from recess just because they do not have their snow gear and the nurse has limited gear to loan out. That means we will be calling home.



BOOKSHELF BULLETIN



Welcome to the second quarter!

During second quarter, K/1 classes will be learning about: media balance, respectful use of devices and how to be safe online. 2/3 classes will be learning about: how to be safe and responsible online, when to take breaks from devices, why private information should not be shared online and digital footprints. 4/5 classes will be learning about: healthy media choices, private and personal information, online tracks and what to do if they encounter cyberbullying.

I will be sending home overdue library book notices this quarter. If your child has an overdue library book, please have them check their desk at school and at home.

Open library is Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:50-9:10 (breakfast time). Your child may ask their teacher for the library pass to come down to exchange books or to see me if they need help finding a book.

The Anchorage School District Librarians are sponsoring a Bookmark Contest. Students in grades K-12 can participate. The theme is: Together@our library.

Entries must:

- fit the theme and include the phrase **Together@our library™**
- be the original work of the student, whether hand drawn, digital art, or computer generated
- be the correct size: **7" x 2 ¾"** either horizontal or vertical
- be submitted with the student's full name and grade on the back of the bookmark

Entries are due December 3, 2021. Submit your entry to your school librarian. The winning school entries will go to district judging. **Entries become the property of the Anchorage School District and may be used in other advertisements.**

Use your imagination and any ideas relating to reading, literacy, and the love of the library!

Ptarmigan held a Student Council campaign and election. We are so proud of every student who ran for Student Council. Our students are our future and our future is bright. Congratulations to our future leaders! Remember Your Vote is Your Voice!



Meet our 21/22 Ptarmigan Elementary Student Council President, Vice President, Secretary, and Sergeant at Arms.



Anchorage School Board:

Margo Bellamy (President), Andy Holleman (Vice President), Carl Jabobs (Clerk), Kelly Lessens (Treasurer), and Members Dave Donley, Pat Higgins, and Dora Wilson.
ASD Superintendent, Dr. Deena Bishop.