

## McNeil Canyon Elementary

# Magpie

September 16, 2016

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Help in your child's classroom
- Help with the Coast Walk Clean-Up

### Talk and Look Like a Pirate Day

Monday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, is Talk and Look Like a Pirate Day. Aaaargh. Join the fun!

### BUS TRANSPORTATION MEETING THIS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

NEWS RELEASE FROM KPBSD

*School start and end times will change in southern peninsula schools served by bus transportation*

Soldotna, September 14, 2016—Changes are coming next year, and in order to inform and gather input, three southern peninsula community meetings will take place in September. Discussion centers around the necessary adjustments to school start and end times, modification of bus schedules, and additional implications because of these changes. Parents, KPBSD staff, students, and community members are invited and encouraged to attend a community meeting:

- Homer area: **Monday, September 19, 2016, 6:00 PM, Homer High School**
- Ninilchik area: **Tuesday, September 20, 2016, 6:00 PM, Ninilchik School**
- Anchor Point area: **Thursday, September 22, 2016, 6:30 PM, Chapman School**

When the school board awarded a ten year transportation contract to Apple Bus, and also approved a change from the current single tier busing to double tier (or two-tier) busing starting in August, 2017, the ramification is that to implement two-tier busing, school start times will need to stagger in order for buses to serve two routes every day. Running two tier busing requires a minimum of 60 minutes between the first and second bus run schedules.

Changes will take place at southern peninsula schools served by bus transportation and include: Chapman School; Fireweed Academy; Homer Flex School; Homer High School; Homer Middle School; McNeil Canyon Elementary; Nikolaevsk School; Ninilchik School; Paul Banks Elementary; and West Homer Elementary. Two-tier busing throughout the rest of the school district has been in place for many years. Southern peninsula schools will collaborate to select new school start and end times.

### **Next steps**

After these preliminary community meetings, school principals will work with district administrators to analyze the input and feedback, then propose school start and end times and create draft bus schedules. Follow up school-based or area meetings may be scheduled, if needed. The district intends to finalize changes for the 2017-2018 school year by early spring, 2017.

### **Beach Coast Walk and School Grounds Clean-Up**

Our Annual Beach Coast Walk and School Ground Clean-Up Day will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 20th. Please turn in your child's permission slip (only grades 1 – 6) as soon as possible.

Students will need a sack lunch, (or order one from the school kitchen), rubber boots, warm coat and raingear.

Students in Kindergarten will remain at McNeil and clean up the school grounds. Students in grades 1 – 6 will travel by bus into Homer and clean up beaches as part of the Coast Walk organized by the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies. They will be returning to McNeil before the end of the school day. With the help of students, parents and staff, our goal is to collect 1,000 pounds of garbage on Tuesday, September 20th.

In combination with this all-school project, we will be collecting pledges from our friends and families to help fund field trips and special classroom needs this year. Collection envelopes are being sent home today. All envelopes **MUST BE RETURNED** whether you collect any pledges or not.

Parent helpers are needed to help with this event to: accompany classes to town to help watch the students as they do their clean-up, take gathered bags of trash to the landfill and get them weighed. Contact Laura in the office or your child's teacher if you can help. Thank you.

### **Newsletter by e-mail?**

If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically instead of a hard copy, please call Laura and let her know.

### **Advanced Band Start-up changed**

The starting date for Advanced Band has been changed to Tuesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Instruments Needed**

If you have any old band instruments laying around, would you please consider donating them to McNeil for our 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade band students? Specifically: flute, clarinet, trumpet, sax, or bell kits. Thank you.

### **KPBSD survey open throughout September**

*Do you care about educational and resource needs at our school, and in the KPBSD?*

KPBSD requests parents, staff, students in 6th grade and above, and community members complete an online survey to provide personal opinions and input about educational and resource needs in the diverse KPBSD.

Survey responses are anonymous, and feedback will assist the district's efforts to increase the equity and efficiency in allocating resources to better serve KPBSD schools. You can click the survey link from the KPBSD website, or social media sites, or with this link:

**Survey link:** <http://hanoverresearch.KPBSD.sgizmo.com/s3/>

“Our district is committed to listen to the voices of all our constituents as we look to continuously improve and be more efficient,” said Sean Dusek, superintendent. “This survey will go a long ways toward how we will implement our instructional model in the future and provide a high quality education for all of our students. Thank you for your participation in this important opportunity for input.”