



Seward Sea Lion News

William H. Seward Elementary

A State of Alaska "High Progress" School

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Principal, Mr. Kingsland

December 2014 – January 2015

Seward Elementary to Receive \$10,000 Worth of Computer Equipment!

William H. Seward Elementary School, through its participation in the worldwide Hour of Code event, will be awarded \$10,000 worth of computer hardware and accessories this year from Code.org, co-founder by Hadi Partovi. Teacher Leigh Ray organized the school-wide event and submitted the school's name into the lottery for the computer equipment. The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to show that anyone can learn the basics of computer coding. The Hour of Code events will take place at Seward El. during the week of December 8th for Computer Science Week. Around the world, fifteen million students are expected to participate in the program this year alone, and last year more girls were introduced to computer science via the program than in the past 70 years, according to Code.org. See <http://hourofcode.com/us#> for more information.

Winter Program

Seward Elementary is pleased to invite you to attend the K-2nd grade winter music program on Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm. Please have students meet in their classrooms at 6:15. Students will be performing a variety of musical numbers and the audience will have a chance to join in and sing a few songs as well. We look forward to seeing you and kicking off the holiday season.

Important Dates

Dec. 3	School Music Program, K-2; Students arrive at 6:15/Program starts at 6:30
Dec. 5	Spelling Bee, 2:00 PM
Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Day
Dec. 11	Muffins for Mom's... 7:30 AM
Dec 18	Site Council, High School @ 6:30 PM
Dec. 19	No School –End of Quarter / Inservice for Teachers
Dec. 20-Jan. 4	Winter Break
Jan. 5	First day of third quarter
Jan. 12	Cross Country Skiing intramural
Jan. 19	Vacation Day, No School

Lunch Program

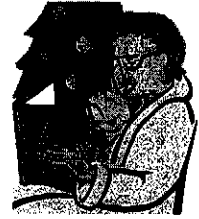
The lunch staff would like parents to be aware of the procedures when your child's lunch account is low on funds. The cashier gives a note to your child when their lunch account drops to two lunches or less and notifies K-2 grade teachers so that a call home can be made. Unfortunately, we cannot offer lunches on credit. Please check with your child, or in their backpack periodically, to see if they have recently received a notice of low lunch funds. If your child is running out of lunch money before you think they should, please check to see if they are using their lunch funds to purchase additional servings of food.

Donna Gilbert, a nationally literacy expert, says...

If a child reads 1 minute each night, he will be exposed to 8,000 words a year.

If a child reads 5 minutes each night, he will be exposed to 282,000 words a year.

If a child reads 20 minutes each night, he will be exposed to 2 million words a year!



Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dads

On Thursday, December 11th, Seward Elementary will be hosting an early morning family reading time from **7:30 to 8:00** in our library. Come with your child, and pick out a good book or two. Grab some juice and a snack, and enjoy a little one-on-one reading time. You can read to your child, or your child can read to you. This is a family reading event, so come ready to read, listen, and have fun.

District News - Determining to Close or Delay the Opening of School

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is committed to school safety, and educating every student. When the decision is made to close or delay the start of school for two-hours, an involved process takes place before the decision is communicated. Additionally, if a school make-up day is necessary; several factors contribute to determine the date for one or more make-up days of school.

In the event of two-hour school delays or closures, official announcements will be made on the district homepage, the KPBSD Facebook page, and Twitter feeds, and shared through your local radio and television stations. Schools with Alert Now systems will notify families directly. Timing of the decision is crucial so we can notify transportation before busses begin their routes, employees head to work, and students and families prepare for a school day, potentially waiting at bus-stops. The decision to close school for the day, or institute a two-hour delay start, is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools.

If school remains open, and you as a parent do not believe it is safe for your child to travel to school, use your best judgment to determine what is safest for your child. Please notify the school if your child will not attend.

Winter Clothes

Did you know that your child goes outside to play every day? We all know how cold, wet, and windy it gets in Seward, and yet kids come to school dressed in shorts and hooded sweatshirts, and often without hats, gloves, and boots. We go outside unless the wind chill factor exceeds -10 degrees, or if it is raining significantly. You know what's best for your child; please don't let them convince you that they don't need hats, gloves and boots, along with a warm, waterproof coat.

Once we have more snow, if your child wishes to play on the sledding hill, they will also need snow pants. Please insist that your child wears proper cold weather gear at his/her bus stop and recess.

News from the Gym

Be sure and ask Santa for a pair of gym shoes for Christmas.

