

Kossack Kable



March 2017

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we only have one quarter left of school. Fourth quarter is the perfect time to reflect with your child on the last three quarters and their vision of what the future may bring. Sixth and seventh grade students are looking forward to new classes and eighth grade students have met with high school counselors to plan the next four years. Encourage your eighth grader to share with you their post-graduation goals and dreams, and then discuss with them the possible courses they should be taking during the next four years. A freshman parent orientation will be held at Kenai Central High School on April 18th at 6pm.

During the month of April, all Kenai Middle School students will participate in the PEAKS Assessment (Performance Evaluation for Alaska Schools). This is the new assessment, taking the place of the previous AMP and SBA assessments. The staff will be reviewing test taking skills and strategies, enabling your child to do his/her very best. As a parent or guardian, you can play an important role in the testing process by encouraging your child to do his or her best. Here are some suggestions for things you can do at home:

- *Make sure that your child gets enough rest the night before the test.
- *Make sure your child eats breakfast before the test.
- *Make sure your child has enough time in the morning to get ready for school without having to rush.
- *Explain to your child the importance of trying his or her best on the test.
- *Let your child know that he or she will have your support regardless of how well he or she does on the test.

There is so much to look forward to as we prepare to move into the 4th quarter. Look for spring sports to start up in April; mass choir and mass band; picture day; can collection, FPS state meet, volunteer appreciation, mini-courses; & sixth grade camp. Spring is a fast paced sprint to summer and a fun time for students and staff. We hope your student enjoys their time here at KMS as much as we do.

We are very lucky to live in such a great community and work each and every day with wonderful students, teachers, and community members. Please call at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Vaughn Dosko
Kenai Middle School Principal

SPRING BREAK

March 13th thru March 17th. There is No School March 10th.



A Message from Ms. Johnson- School Counselor

8th Grade Parents!! Please be checking with your student for their high school elective requests paper. You will need to sign the paper and return to Kenai Middle School We hope to have them all turned in to the high school ASAP.

6th and 7th Grade Parents!! I hope you all had a chance to view your student's exploratory class requests. Please remember that exploratory (elective) requests are just that: requests. Student placement in each exploratory cannot be guaranteed. There might be more requests than there are seats available in a class. For that reason, students also made alternate requests. The scheduling program will look for those if a student's primary request cannot be filled.

Placement in core classes (language arts, science, history, PE, advisory, and math) is guaranteed. There are various levels of math and language arts. The student's current math or language arts teacher recommended an appropriate level for each student. Parents/guardians with questions about recommended math and language arts levels should contact the student's current LA or math teacher.

Work on the 2017 schedule will continue through the end of May, and will pick up again in the Fall. The requesting part of the process is crucial and the sooner that is completed the better. Plans are being made to get the requests of students from our feeder schools in the very near future.

If by chance you view some form of a schedule for the next school year, please do not take it as 100% accurate.

Congratulations to our February Boxtops for Books winner

Esther Joseph

We are in full swing for March! Be sure to send in your Boxtops with your student's name written on the back of each one to be entered in the drawing. You have until March 31st.





Sixth Grade Camp

Camp: Solid Rock Camp, Sutton, AK

Dates: Monday - Wednesday, May 15, 16, 17

Fee: \$100.00 covers heated cabin with bunks (need sleeping bag), five meals plus a sack lunch for the ride home, and the bus.

What: Science and outdoor education (Matanuska Glacier tour, fossil hike and dig, fire building, first aid, local insect study). In the evening, campfire and capture the flag activities.

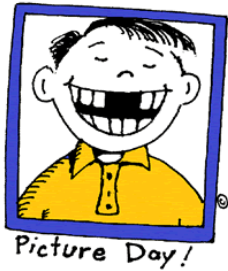
Fund raising: Our sixth grade swag project was successful!!!! The next fund raiser for those interested is selling ARBY cards, and the money each student raises goes directly into the student's camp accounts toward their \$100.00 fee. Details are coming soon.

Adults: All sixth grade teachers and the school nurse attend camp; however, Chaperones are always needed so please let us know if you're interested.



Community Problem Solving

Students in Mrs. Nabholz's Advanced LA 7 & 8 classes are currently working on a long-term unit for Community Problem Solving, a component of the Future Problem Solving program. Students have selected areas of concern within the community, identified challenges, and brainstormed possible solutions. They are developing their own research questions and conducting research locally to find answers as they create and carry out their action plans. Examples of their CmPS project topics include paper recycling, food waste, boating safety, homeless youth, arts education, personal safety, community gardens, wildfire awareness, solar energy, personal fitness, vandalism, teamwork activities, and animal welfare. Don't be too surprised if you receive an e-mail, phone call, or personal visit from KMS students as they're working on their projects. And a special thanks to all of the community members who are already helping students as they research, plan, and implement their unique ideas!



Spring Pictures

Spring Pictures taken here at KMS on Tuesday, March 28th. We will hand out picture packets after students return from Spring Break. These are optional.



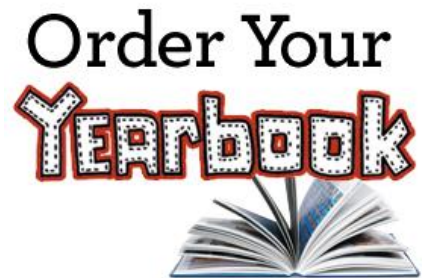
CAN COLLECTION

Time to start collecting cans! We will be signing up for Mini Courses soon. Students that bring in 1 big black bag of crushed cans will have first choice of our Mini courses. Please remember that kids are not allowed to bring cans on the buses. Please do not bring cans to school until scheduled drop off dates.

The TreeRing Corporation will be making our yearbook again this year. You can add your own photos, share your pages/photos with your friends, and customize your yearbook. The cost of our yearbook is \$20.99. If you would like to order please go to:

1. www.treering.com
2. Click on the register button
3. Enter our school's passcode: 101283205764347

If you have any other questions, please call the office at 283-1700.



The deadline to order your 2016-17 yearbook is April 5th.

Quest Film Fest

About a dozen KMS students from grades 6, 7, and 8 are headed to Seward on March 8th for the Quest Film Fest. There, films will be viewed by students gathered from across the district in a showcase entitled Entertain Us. In addition to viewing all the short films, they will have the opportunity to share movie making tips, try some drama activities, and meet student movie makers from other schools.



6th GRADE BASKETBALL:

Basketball Intramurals for 6th graders will begin March 21st and run through March 31st. Sports packets are available in the office. Each student must have a completed sports packet turned in prior to participating. There is no fee for 6th grade basketball.



This year, track is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Track will run from April 3rd – May 13th. Sports packets are available in the office. Each student must have a completed sports packet turned in prior to participating.

February Students of the Month:

You learn
something
every day
if you
Pay-Attention.

-Ray LeBlond

Congratulations to our February students of the month.

Taylor Carver, Nekoda Cooper, Milena Doyle, Delaney Duck, Leroy Evarts, Summer Foster, Joseph Foster, Ester Joseph, Bethany Morris, and Rylie Sparks. These students show exemplary academic performance as well as upstanding social character. A job well done by all! These students received a pizza for lunch on Friday.

MINI COURSES

Mini Courses have been a tradition at Kenai Middle School for over thirty years. They are one and two-day activities ranging from hiking, camping, canoeing, rafting, craft making, biking, and much, much more! They take place during the last week of the school year. Stay tuned for more information regarding dates and activities offered this year.



Encourage your child to use a journal to plan for the future

Your child is in middle school, and it is not necessary—or even realistic—to expect her to know what she wants to do for the rest of her life. But it is realistic for her to have some sense of what she likes and what she doesn't, what she is good at and what she struggles with.

Experts agree that it is helpful for students to begin thinking this way once they get to sixth grade. Children who know themselves have a good head start on the future.

Keeping a journal can be an effective way for your middle schooler to get to know herself better. Encourage her to write about what she thinks as well as what she does.

In the journal, your child should answer questions such as:

- What are my strengths in school?
- What are my weaknesses in school?
- What do I love doing outside school?
- What am I good at doing outside school?
- What do I like to learn about or would I like to learn more about?
- What is important to me right now?
- Do I prefer to work with others or alone?
- Am I happier when I am indoors or outdoors?"
- What have I done in my life that I am most proud of?

Encourage your child to update the journal regularly. Let her know that differences will happen and are important to note. But she should look for things that stay the same—these trends could provide clues to her future success.

Are you helping your child maintain healthy habits?

The school year is well past its halfway point and your middle schooler's good habits may be starting to slip.

Answer yes or no to the questions below to see if you are helping your child stick to healthy habits:

___1. Do you offer nutritious foods, such as fruits and vegetables, whole grains and lean protein?

___2. Do you encourage sleep? Research shows that middle school students need at least nine hours a night to function at their best.

___3. Do you promote exercise for the whole family?

___4. Do you talk with your child about the dangers of underage drinking and drug use?

___5. Do you suggest fun activities? Stress is a major problem for many middle schoolers. Your child needs healthy ways to blow off steam and enjoy life.

How well are you doing?

Mostly yes answers mean you are helping your child stay healthy right through the school year. For no answers, try those ideas.

MARCH 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
					7th Grade Ice Fishing Trip	<i>Volleyball Boroughs @ Nikiski 10AM XC SKI Boroughs @ SMS 10AM</i>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	3 rd Quarter Band Recitals Beg. Band 5:30 Int. Band 6:15 Concert Band 7:00	3 rd Quarter Choir Concert @KCHS 7PM	QUEST Fieldtrip to Seward	8 th Grade Solid Rock Fieldtrip	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Welcome Back from Break	6 th Grade Basketball Begins				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		Spring Pictures  CHEESE!			6 th Grade Basketball ends	