

ONE DISTRICT: FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS



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The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to develop productive, responsible citizens who are prepared to be successful in a dynamic world.



TIP: WHEN YOU SEE THIS ICON, YOU CAN READ THE REST OF THE STORY

ONLINE, OR ON YOUR PERSONAL DEVICE. #GOLDEN

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Deliver relevant, rigorous, standards-based curriculum in conjunction with alternative pathways and a flexible approach to ensure that every KPBSD student stays engaged, reaches high levels of achievement, and graduates.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Evolve KPBSD as a highly reliable, world-class organization that fosters a culture of innovation, attracts and retains the best-of-the-best employees, and supports an infrastructure that promotes a fluid academic environment.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

All KPBSD schools reach out to parents and communities to promote shared value and responsibility for the process of education.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision KPBSD students who engage in their learning, participate in their community, reach high levels of achievement, and graduate prepared for their future.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

We are moving toward the end of our current strategic plan and continue to make headway both academically and organizationally. Academically, we took significant steps forward in leveraging technology to expand student personalization and learning opportunities. The district also focused organizational efforts through a transparent budget process that expanded communication efforts and works with various political entities.

Foundationally, the district is committed to staff collaboration and meeting individual student needs. We are convinced that by building our internal capacity we will be able to help our students move up the learning continuum. Through collaborative efforts, our staff has expanded instructional practices that can be accessed anytime and anywhere. This, in turn, has modernized our approach to personalizing a student's education. We are already seeing dividends through attendance and student engagement. The country's highest performing school districts avoid the temptation to endlessly chase the latest education discovery or newest program, and instead, relentlessly pursue just a few improvement targets.

While the State works to meet the new regulations of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and determines how standardized assessments will be used to monitor success, we will continue to



focus on moving student success beyond test scores. We will do this through a variety of measures that include student projects and partnerships that positively impact our local communities. A comprehensive update on these measures will be available through the Superintendent's Report for the Board of Education in September, 2016.

KPBSD SCHOOL CHOICES

Our district includes forty-four diverse public schools. Sean Dusek, superintendent, explains, "In my opinion our diversity is an asset that all of us should embrace. While this diversity makes the management of our district challenging, it is the best thing to offer for our nearly 9,000 students." Alaskan families can choose to send their students to these KPBSD public schools:

- Free neighborhood schools that offer the KPBSD adopted curriculum choices
- Free school district optional and alternative high school programs
- Free local charter schools that offer an alternative curriculum choice
- Free performance-based school
- Free school district homeschool program



http://bit.ly/KPBSDSchoolChoices



Seward High School seniors greet Seward Elementary students for a final send-off. Thirteen students in the Class of 2016 are 12 year seniors who started their education in a Seward Elementary kindergarten class. #golden



KPBSD awarded 614 high school diplomas in 2015-2016!





MESSAGE FROM SEAN DUSEK

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

We are pleased to present KPBSD's 2015-2016 Annual Report. This publication is an opportunity to step back and review last year's accomplishments and highlights, celebrate areas of excellence including students, staff, and graduates, as well as share plans for the new school year.

Meeting the needs of all students is at the heart of what we do and why we exist as an organization. This challenge is the top priority of over 1,000 district employees every day. Where a student lives, their background, race, or economic status should not determine their academic achievement. The district has made good progress with all of our students both academically and with social and emotional well-being. We also believe in continuous improvement. Our schools work to meet student needs and provide learning opportunities in and outside the classroom. Through a culture of continuous improvement, our vision is for all students to be life ready and be able to embark successfully on the path they choose. This includes college and, or career readiness.

I am honored to serve as KPBSD's superintendent and look forward to working with you in the coming year to do all that we can to make our students' experience at school as good as it can be.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

To benefit students, the KPBSD has adopted the best practice of identifying and monitoring key indicators of school and student performance as a way to make timely adjustments in practice. When we first started this effort, our indicators were based on national practices such as grade level reading, standardized test scores, algebra readiness, and graduation rate. We are reviewing the key indicators that we monitor to improve our responsiveness to student needs, as well as to compare our performance nationally. As the State of Alaska transitions from the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), we have the opportunity to redefine college and career readiness. This effort will require significant community input along with extensive research on student success. KPBSD looks forward to refining our practice to ensure students are fully prepared for their future.

KPBSD KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Proficient in reading and math at the end of third grade
- Proficient in reading and math at the end of fifth grade
- Strong social and emotional well-being at the end of fifth grade
- Percent of eighth grade students taking Algebra I
- Percent of students finishing ninth grade with six credits
- Strong social and emotional well-being at the end of tenth grade
- Percent of seniors qualifying for Alaska Performance Scholarship
- Percent of graduates with at least one of the following: college credit, AP class with three or higher on end of course exam, industry certification



DISTRICT COMMITTEES

The KPBSD is committed to continuous improvement and the practice of gathering significant stakeholder input. The committee process is a large part of this effort, especially as a mechanism to involve staff in practices that significantly impact their work. By utilizing recognized school staff leaders, the work on evaluations, intervention, curriculum, assessment, and professional development is deeply vetted and valuable for all district staff. We rely heavily on the voice of those in the classroom on a day-to-day basis to make meaningful improvement to positively impact students. The work of our committees has embedded the culture of continuous improvement with high expectations for all in the district. This high level of staff involvement has made KPBSD one of the best in the state and provided the foundation for our positive student achievement gains.



http://bit.ly/committeesKPBSD



MESSAGE FROM JOE ARNESS

PRESIDENT, KPBSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

It has been said that the only constant in life is change! It turns out that maxim is true in education as well. We in the KPBSD continue to adapt and modify in order to keep up with the changing times, expectations, political realities, economic circumstances, and community expectations. It is an interesting and, for the most part, enjoyable exercise in trying to make the pieces fit together to create a jigsaw puzzle of educational opportunity and excellence.

Our school district continues to be a leader in the State of Alaska when it comes to academic standards; with the continued support of our outstanding staff and parents we will continue to be so into the coming school year. I look forward to it!





SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

July 11, 2016 August 8, 2016 September 12, 2016 (Homer) October 3, 2016

November 7, 2016 December 5, 2016 January 16, 2017 February 6, 2017 March 6, 2017 April 3, 2017 May 1, 2017 (Seward) June 5, 2017 June 6, 2017 (Board Planning Session)

In addition to the business meetings listed above, the Board will hold quarterly worksessions (dates to be determined.)

GOALS 2016-2017

- FUNDING PUBLIC EDUCATION
- CONNECTING WITH STAFF AND STUDENTS
- PROMOTE A SHARED VALUE AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROCESS OF EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

KPBSD BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Joe Arness, *President*, District 3, Nikiski
- Marty Anderson, District 5, Sterling/Funny River
- Dan Castimore, Treasurer, District 1, Kalifornsky
- Liz Downing, District 8, Homer
- Bill Holt *Vice President*, District 7, Kasilof/Central
- Lynn Hohl, District 6, Seward/East Peninsula
- John Kelly, District 9, South Peninsula
- Tim Navarre, District 2, Kenai
- Penny Vadla, Clerk, District 4, Soldotna
- Brian Dusek, Student Representative

KPBSD MOBILE APP

If you have the free KPBSD mobile app you will receive emergency or weather-related delay and closure notification alerts, and district news releases. You can easily access district and specific school news, make payments for activity fees and food services from your smartphone, view school and district calendars (and add events to your personal device calendar), access the KPBSD staff directory, view sports, lunch menus, PowerSchool, and much more. Additional features continue to be incorporated. Download the official Kenai Peninsula Borough SD app today!



http://bit.ly/KPBSDmobileApp





KPBSD KEY COMMUNICATORS

A network of parents, community members, students, and staff interested in our schools are collaborating to cultivate positive relationships with the school district and in our diverse communities. In February, KPBSD hosted a day with a mix of eighty people for the first Key Communicators Collaboration—an event designed to educate, gather input from the community, and grow advocacy for public education and KPBSD schools. At a time when the state fiscal climate is a hot topic, KPBSD gathered a group of smart people together to brainstorm, face the challenges in the district, and to offer solutions. With participants from Seward, Seldovia, Sterling, Homer, Ninilchik, Nikiski, Kenai, Soldotna, and all areas in between, excellent perspective and common themes emerged. The feedback from everyone was, "let's do this more often," and "thank you for helping me understand the real issues that the district addresses."

Key Communicators help their local communities learn more about KPBSD, and assist the district to learn and understand more about what people think, feel, and know. The concept is about a continuing exchange. Key Communicators—representing each school—are informed about school district initiatives, issues, legislative advocacy, and celebrations through conversations, e-mail, and media releases. Three interactive meet and greets with Superintendent Dusek took place in the fall, and we look forward to more engagement in the coming year. You can subscribe to the Key Communicator emails through the website.



http://bit.ly/KPBSDKeyCommunicators



AVERAGE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH KPBSD

Teachers 10	YEARS
Support staff9	YEARS





STAFFING RATIOS Type of School and Pupil-Teacher-Ratio

Elementary schools with more than 250 enrolled students: KINDERGARTEN
Elementary schools with more than 250 enrolled students: GRADES 1-3
Elementary schools with more than 250 enrolled students: GRADES 4-6
Elementary small schools with 100 to 250 enrolled students: GRADES K-6

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

17.511 Small schools with less than 200 enrolled students: GRADES K-6
Small schools with less than 200 enrolled students: GRADES 7-12



On May 25, 2016, **255** KPBSD students were identified as homeless and receiving services through our *Students In Transition* program.



STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Every school day, we transport more than **2,000** students to and from school on busses that travel approximately **7,300** daily miles throughout the district.



STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES (SNS)

During 2015-2016 SNS served:

Lunches	493,313
Breakfasts	153,134
After School Snacks	2,349
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snacks	161,820
Total meals and snacks served	. 810,616



2015-2016 ENROLLMENT

Preschool	. 225
Kindergarten-6th grades	4,725
7th-8th grades	1,340
9th-12th grades	2,645
Total enrollment for	
2015-2016 school year	8,935



DISTRICT SIZE

The school district has a total of **44** schools and at **25,600** square miles covers a land area roughly the size of West Virginia.



PERSONNEL

District administration	18
Building administration	43
Certified staff	677
Support staff	493
Total	231





CAM WYATT, STATE OF ALASKA 2016 SECONDARY SKILLSUSA ADVISOR "Twenty-six years of teaching has led me to develop an instructional style that focuses on, 'allow the eyes to see what the hands are doing and the mind is thinking.' This proactive constructivist style is a student centered growth mindset philosophy that values hands on learning. SkillsUSA is all about being able to demonstrate skill sets that lend themselves to be Prepared-Polite-Productive. Roll it all together and you have an educational environment that is exciting, full of discovery learning, and promotes personal investment by all."



PREPARING OUR KIDS FOR THEIR FUTURE

STUDENTS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL (CTE) CLASSES HAVE HIGHER GRADUATION RATES!

Statistics from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) show that during the 2015-2016 school year KPBSD students who took four or more semester CTE credits achieved a 94 percent graduation rate. Students who did not take a CTE class had a graduation rate of 81 percent.

Students receive valuable Technical Skills Assessments (TSA) that increase opportunities for success after high school. TSAs include: Food Worker cards; National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certificates; Hazwoper 40 training; Cook Inlet Training Standards (CITS) certifications; CPR-First Aid certificates; Certified Nursing Assistant certificates; Personal Care Assistant certificates; Emergency Trauma Technician certificates; and Pharmacy Technician certifications.



http://bit.ly/CTEclasses

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

In the FY16 school year, 258 students were on track to receive college credit in 460 courses through the JumpStart program. KPBSD juniors and seniors took multiple courses through this partnership with Kenai Peninsula College and the Kenai Peninsula Borough. College credits earned through the Tech Prep program during the FY16 school year totaled 416 credits by 239 students. College and Career Ready Assessments (CCRA) were taken by 810 KPBSD students with 469 students choosing to take the ACT, 129 choosing the SAT, and 293 choosing to take the WorkKeys assessment. From the 810 students, 81 students elected to take more than one of the CCRAs.







ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM (ANSEP)

Partnering with the University of Alaska ANSEP program for the second year in a row, KPBSD recruited 18 qualified students from eight schools to attend the ANSEP Middle School Academy, held February 16-27, 2016. Of the 1,086 identified Native students in the district, 306 were sixth to eighth grade Title VII students. Of these, 57 were identified as being on pace to meet the requirement for being on track for success in eighth grade algebra.

KPBSD sent 18 students and 3 chaperones to the 10 day Middle School Academy. Students experienced high quality, upper level science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) problem-solving activities taught by college staff while on the University of Alaska campus. KPBSD is committed to continue this recruitment effort in 2016-2017. Successful academy completers are not permitted to participate in future academies that occur during the school year, but are invited to apply for ANSEP's follow-up summer academy. In 2015, 22 of the 48 students followed the complicated application process and were accepted to the summer academy for continued guidance and learning. This year, 18 students applied for and were accepted to ANSEP's 2016 summer academies.

NATIVE EDUCATION

KPBSD has made a commitment to Native Education through 114 different tribal affiliations represented within our 44 school sites, encompassing 17 communities. The expansion and implementation of a formal native education program included establishing relationships with Native entities. In addition, the KPBSD Title VII advisory committee met quarterly, seeking input to develop program priorities, hear partnership updates, and develop and update new bylaws.

KPBSD works closely with several Native entities. The Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT) provides services to both Susan B. English and Chapman School in the form of regular visits from their family counselor and nutritionist. These visits help students understand the importance of making healthy choices for their physical and emotional well-being. SVT also sponsors weekly pool time at the Susan B. English pool. KPBSD partnered with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe on several projects, which include providing tutoring services for two Kenai area schools, a construction academy at Spirit Lake, and partnering on a Department of Education Indian Education Demonstration Grant. Due to ESSA, Title VII will now be referred to as Title VI.



http://bit.ly/KPBSDNativeEducation





INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

CONNECTED INITIATIVE

An emergence into the digital age with 21st century learning skills, the White House ConnectED initiative became a pivotal and transformational experience for Nanwalek School. The entire school took a risk, recognizing that each of us responds to change in our own way, and that each person's reaction to change guides the success of the project if time is taken to do the proper strategic planning, communication, and logistical preparation. Although this project added instructional and professional development responsibilities to each teacher's load, all were on board and each was permitted to learn and teach technology through a 1:1 iPad implementation in a differentiated manner. Excitement permeated the culture of the school, and all participants became problem solvers and learners.

The attendance rate only increased by half of a percent, but the number of students reading at grade level in grades two through eight increased six percent. This gain cannot be attributed to increased attendance, which indicates that it was the initiative that made a difference. ConnectED provided a new way of learning which captured student interest. Student engagement in academics, research, and creative endeavors was evident in every class, and resulted in a springtime ConnectED Showcase with the Nanwalek community. This year was only a beginning, and with 100 percent retention of teachers next year, Nanwalek School looks forward to deepening learning through this incredible opportunity. Nanwalek

was recognized by President Obama during his Kotzebue address, and is the only ConnectED school in Alaska.



http://bit.ly/ConnectEdNanwalek

BLENDED LEARNING AND LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (LMS)

Education and instructional practices continue to evolve at a rapid rate. Today, and into the future, teacher instruction will be different from when many of us were in school. Only a few years ago, terms such as "blended learning" and "Learning Management Systems" weren't invented, put into practice, or common place in educational jargon.

KPBSD has undertaken a significant learning initiative in the area of digital technology and blended learning. Blended learning occurs anytime a student learns at least in part at a supervised brick-and-mortar school location away from home, and at least in part through online delivery with some element of student control over time, place, path, and, or pace. Blended learning is often used synonymously with "hybrid learning." The intent behind blended learning is to personalize the learning experience for each student—focusing their individual learning at a time, place, path, and pace that meets their unique learning needs.

An important tool that teachers and students need in order to maximize blended learning is a Learning Management System (LMS). An LMS is an online tool that simplifies teaching and learning in one easy place by connecting all the digital tools teachers and students use. An LMS is available any time or any place students have access to a device and the internet. There are many LMS products available and KPBSD partnered with Instructure to bring Canvas to teachers and students. Canvas integrates seamlessly with PowerSchool, our Student Information System.

KPBSD CANVAS FAST FACTS:

- We introduced and rolled-out Canvas in August 2015, with 29 teachers utilizing it to teach 68 courses to 182 students
- In May 2016, 196 teachers were using Canvas to creatively teach 638 courses to 2,500 students
- In 2016-2017, KPBSD will continue to provide professional development opportunities to encourage our staff in the use of Canvas as a LMS



BLENDED LEARNING

MRS. RAY, 2ND GRADE TEACHER, SEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

After attending professional conferences during the summer and fall of 2015, I realized it was time to move forward with blended learning in my classroom even though it meant venturing into new classroom practices. I believed that blended learning would allow for better student engagement and motivation, and allow students at different math and reading abilities to receive the instruction they needed. In November, I traded desks for tables, set up my first modules in Canvas, created my teams and station rotation plans, and then started training the students. Almost immediately, behavior improved in my classroom, bored students felt motivated, and I had the time to work with small groups who needed extra help. In a typical day with blended learning, students look at the "station map" to find their assigned station, grab the bin of materials that go with that station, and begin working. Of six stations, one is a computer station where students receive direct instruction online via videos I made or selected that cover the current standard being learned. A second station included focused practice using worksheets or workbooks, and this station is the one I assisted most often, allowing me to give detailed explanations or demonstrate concepts and skills. The remaining four stations included handson activities that supported the standard being learned through art, music, crafts, games, photography, manipulatives, storytelling or listening (via mp3 players), and much more. After using this

method of teaching, I cannot imagine stopping it. My students became better learners who looked forward to their daily routine and made progress at a rate best suited to each of them.



http://bit.ly/MsRaysClassroom

TREVAN WALKER, PRINCIPAL, SEWARD HIGH SCHOOL

Our journey to blended learning began when data on our incoming freshmen showed that about half were below proficient in reading, writing, and mathematics. We attempted to meet those needs within our intervention systems and processes, but quickly determined that the sheer numbers were overwhelming. We knew we had to blend in order to provide the dramatic level of differentiation required to meet their needs within regular classroom instruction. Fortunately, discussions and professional development (PD) about blended learning had already been part of the larger hybrid high school initiative. Educators Jennifer Swander and Stephanie Cronin were prepared and ready to make the shift in their freshmen language arts and math classes. It required creative scheduling, communication, and management to accommodate the shift, but the improvement data that came out of each blended learning environment demonstrated that the work was absolutely worth it. In fact, when the data on the next group of incoming freshmen mirrored the class in front of them, we moved the blended learning model into the sophomore classes.

By the 2015-2016 school year, blended learning had expanded into social studies, health, and additional math classes. Six of the 12 Seward High teachers were using some form of formal blended learning instruction within our hybrid high school. The staff and

administration opted to move to a modified eight schedule in 2016-2017. Blocked classes and additional course offerings will not only preserve the blended learning environments that we've already created, but will also provide opportunities for expansion. For example, we're already planning the district's adoption of the Middlebury World Language program to be blended and facilitated through the use of Chrome Books rather than textbooks.



http

http://bit.ly/SewardHighSchool

KPBSD strives to meet the individual needs of every child who comes through our doors.





EARLY RELEASE DAYS FOR STUDENTS. MAXIMUM DAY FOR TEACHERS

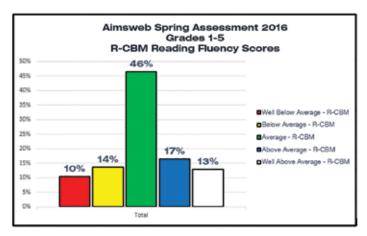
For the past three years, the district has conducted a series of early release days for students to facilitate collaborative practices for our staff to improve instruction. We will continue this practice in the foreseeable future due to the positive changes occurring with instructional practice and personalization of student learning. This extended learning opportunity for staff allows schools to leverage technology to break down classroom walls and support learning anytime, anywhere. Students are given opportunities to explore interests, meet teachers in small groups or individually to get extra help, and do meaningful work that will prepare them for life after their K-12 experience. These opportunities for students are being developed, by teams of dedicated staff, during the student early release dates.

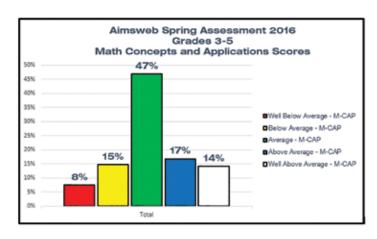


http://bit.ly/EarlyReleaseKPBSD

AIMSWEB

Our students did very well in the Aimsweb Nationally Normed Benchmark assessments this spring. Ninety percent of KPBSD kindergarteners scored above the average mark in phoneme segmentation which is a pre-reading skill. For both Math Concepts and Applications and Math Computation, 78 percent of students scored above the average mark.





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FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS (FASD)

The KPBSD continues to be a national leader in the training of staff and students on the impact of FASD. In the last four years, the KPBSD has trained over 600 staff members to recognize and understand the impact of FASD on our students. Additionally, the district continues to sponsor parent support groups in Homer, Nikiski, Seward, and Soldotna, so that families find the support needed for their children to be successful at home and at school.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN (PRE-K) CLASSES

KPBSD offers both Title I funded Pre-K and Special Education Pre-K programs that serve the needs of eligible children. While each program serves children of different ages and abilities, both programs are grounded in the use of developmentally appropriate practices that meet children where they are to help them prepare for kindergarten with their five-year-old peer group. Supportive partnerships between the district and private Pre-K providers across the Kenai Peninsula resulted in an expansion of professional development opportunities for early childhood educators. Engagement by Tribal entities, religious based programs, and payfor-service programs has resulted in each program learning from the strengths and strategies of others, which is seen as benefitting all of the children and the future of our communities

Throughout the year, 180 to 200 children are served by our Pre-K programs. Schools offering Pre-K include Chapman School, Kenai area*, Mountain View Elementary, Nikiski North Star Elementary, Paul Banks School*, Redoubt Elementary, Seward Elementary*, Soldotna Elementary*, Sterling Elementary, Tustumena Elementary, and Voznesenka School. Ninilchik School will offer a Pre-K class in 2016-2017. *Special education Pre-K classes are offered at these schools.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS (PBIS)

PBIS is a framework schools use to define behavioral expectations for all students in a school, teach those behaviors to students, and positively acknowledge students who are using correct behaviors. By teaching behaviors and acknowledging students, PBIS helps to impact the climate of a school, and increase connectedness between staff and students. Fewer problem behaviors promote increased academic engaged learning time for students, increased school attendance rates, and decreased incidents of bullying. Data is used regularly in schools to assess student behavior and to design and implement behavioral interventions.

The 11 PBIS schools reached the following implementation averages for the 2015-2016 school year: Homer Flex 79%; K-Beach Elementary 94%; Nikiski North Star Elementary 96%; Nikolaevsk 96%; Ninilchik 98%; Razdolna 73%; Redoubt Elementary 92%; Soldotna Elementary 100%; Sterling Elementary 92%; Voznesenka 98%; and West Homer Elementary 92%.



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE AWARENESS

KPBSD's overall health and wellness curriculum is in place, and there is still a high priority need for our district to further education in suicide awareness. This spring, several high schools hosted You Are Not Alone school assemblies. You Are Not Alone is a peerled youth suicide prevention campaign that includes elements of Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)—an evidence-based training that helps people understand suicide warning signs and how to connect people in crisis to help. Additionally, KPBSD received the state's competitive Suicide Awareness Prevention and Postvention Grant (SAPP) and the funds will be used to provide gatekeeper training to staff, students, and any interested community member or organization in the next several years. A suicide awareness toolkit will also be developed as a community resource.

SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Project SEARCH, a program providing real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills, is successful for transitioning youth with disabilities. This year's program welcomed a new teacher, and with her, a number of changes to the Central Peninsula Hospital based program. Partnered with hospital mentors, a job coach, Frontier Community Services, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, six students rotated through various hospital departments acquiring job skills necessary to go from school to employability—the ultimate goal of Project SEARCH.



The Unified Track Team inspired hundreds of people. During an April meet hosted by Homer High School, Espen Restad from Homer High School slowed his lead to meet his opponent and friend, Malikhi Hansen, a visually impaired student from Soldotna High School in order to cross the finish line together. A gracious act of sportsmanship, Espen's example is a reminder that an effort made for the happiness of others lifts us above ourselves. *photo credit: Don Pitcher*

TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS AWARDS

Two Alaska schools are honored as a National Title I Distinguished School each year. In 2015, both were KPBSD schools! **CHAPMAN SCHOOL IN ANCHOR POINT** was recognized for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years. "Through our Title I programs, Response To Intervention (RTI) program, community involvement, and top-notch staff, we continue to make it possible for all of our students to achieve—our students continue to rise to the challenge and do just that," said Conrad Woodhead, Chapman School principal.

NIKOLAEVSK SCHOOL was recognized for significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups. Principal Mike Sellers said, "Nikolaevsk School is proud of its high expectations for students and consistent 100% graduation rate. All students at Nikolaevsk develop SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound) based on their personal academic data and lead their own student-parent-teacher conferences."



http://bit.ly/TitleIDistinguishedSchools



One of the 15 charter schools recognized nationally, and one of three schools in Alaska to receive this distinguished honor in 2015, Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science joins nine other schools in the KPBSD to achieve the National Blue Ribbon School excellence designation. "This honor recognizes your students' accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said. "Your journey has taught you collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong relationships in school and with your community. You represent excellence—in vision, in implementation, and in results—and we want to learn as much as we can from you."



http://bit.ly/2015BlueRibbonSchool

CELEBRATING KPBSD STAFF #GOLDEN



NIKISKI INCLUSIVE PRACTICES TEAM, 2016 INCLUSIVE PRACTICES AWARD

A team of six makes a difference every day at Nikiski Middle-High School for their students with disabilities. Recognizing excellence, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education recognized Megan Fowler, and her team of Zach Nerison, Jen O'Brien, Kristin Peek, Kally Seater, Angela Smith, and Kristina Stadelman. "The culture of Nikiski Middle-High School is to include all students in our academics and activities no matter their skills, abilities, or talents," said Dan Carstens, principal. "Megan Fowler and her team embody this culture and continue to serve as examples for inclusive practices to their peers."



http://bit.ly/InclusivePracticesAwardNikiski



CASEY OLSON AND TREVAN WALKER, 2016 ALASKA SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION (ASTE) LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Each year ASTE selects three people who demonstrate true technology integration and have a positive impact on teaching and

learning in Alaska. In 2016, two of the three award recipients are KPBSD staff: Casey Olson, district programmer and analyst is the 2016 Technology Support of the Year award recipient, and Trevan Walker, Seward High School principal, is the 2016 Administrator of the Year. "This district is making serious headway to tackle the online and blended learning formats," said Amanda Adams, KPBSD distance learning teacher. "It is really exciting to watch whole cohorts of teachers developing new practices to meet the needs of students. With innovative people like Trevan and Casey, they are holding the doors open for teachers like me to not be bound by tradition. The question is not why do you want to do that, but instead, how can I help you do that?"



http://bit.ly/KPBSD2016ASTEawards

LAURIE OLSON, ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS (ALASBO) SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

"She is the consummate finance director who quietly leads her department without having to do a lot of directing," said the award presenter. "Her skill level in managing the daily finances of the \$150 million dollar budget is first rate as is her ability to, on short notice, incorporate the added duties of a grant that the superintendent just secured. The committee's selection of this individual for this award is spot on!"



http://bit.ly/KPBSD2016ALASBOaward

ROB SPARKS AND GREG ZORBAS, UNITED STATES DISTANCE LEARNING ASSOCIATION (USDLA)

Sparks [Soldotna Prep School] and Zorbas [Kenai Central High School] received the Best Practices Gold Level award for excellence in distance learning teaching, for their innovation and excellence in Videoconferencing Technology–K-12 Education. "Although it is the United States Distance Learning Association, it is actually an international organization recognizing efforts from around the world," said Sparks. "It has been humbling the number of people who have come up to me and Greg to say 'Oh, you're the Kenai guys....' KPBSD is recognized worldwide as a leader in innovative and effective uses of video telecommunications!"

"We put our students in front of twenty-two industry professionals interactively this semester and they all told the students they will be ahead of their peers at the next level—this validates what Rob and I are doing," said Zorbas.



http://bit.ly/USDLA2016KPBSDaward



"This year's nominees were again, an excellent representation of our staff as a whole," said Sean Dusek, superintendent. "They are humble, hard-working and student-centered. I was particularly impressed with how each of the finalists have gone the extra mile for their students and make sure every student they work with know that they are loved."

2016 BP TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE

Five Kenai Peninsula Borough School District teachers are among the 32 Alaska teachers honored in 2016 as a BP Teacher of Excellence.

SHARON HOPKINS [TUSTUMENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL] 2016 KENAI BP TEACHER OF THE YEAR "I am inspired by the children in my classroom. When first graders become confident readers it changes them. Every year I'm rewarded with this process when each student blossoms into a reader."



http://bit.ly/BPHopkinsKPBSD

DARILYNN CASTON [REDOUBT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL]

"To view the world from the eyes of a child is a beautiful gift. These children inspire me to be a better version of myself every day. I am both honored and grateful to be entrusted in the nurturing of this beginning part of their journey of life's discoveries."



http://bit.ly/BPCastonKPBSD

I am inspired by the students I work with. Their persistence, resilience, and steadfastness to overcome barriers push me to be a better educator and person. I love what I do, and look forward to continuing to foster an atmosphere within our school that promotes self-determination and an appreciation for the whole person."



http://bit.ly/BPknoebelKPBSD

NICKOLE LYON [SEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL] "None of us get good at what we do without a little help. I work with some of the most dedicated families and professionals I know on a daily basis. I am so thankful to live and teach in a community that is as passionate about teaching the whole child as I am."



http://bit.ly/BPLyonKPBSD

PATTI TRUESDELL [HOPE SCHOOL] "I believe I was inspired to teach by having had good teachers when I was in public school as a child. Every once in a while, I just marvel at how much fun I have each and every day in a classroom and I think, 'Wow! ... This teaching is so much fun!"



http://bit.ly/BPtruesdellKPBSD



ALASKA SPORTS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (ASAA)

KPBSD teams and students score during their state level competitions, and earn state championships in team and individual competitions. We celebrate all of our athletes, coaches, families, fans, volunteers, and community partners who contribute to the success of our co-curricular programs.

BASKETBALL

1A Boys

Ninilchik-State Champions

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

1-2-3A Girls

Homer-State Champions

1-2-3A Boys

Homer–Academic Award (3.91)

4A Girls

Kenai-State Champions

FOOTBALL

Small-Schools

Nikiski–Academic Award (3.02); Player of the game: Luke Johnson

Medium-Schools

Soldotna–State Champions; Outstanding Kicker: Johnny Smithwick Kenai–Academic Award (3.12) Players of the game: Kenai: Chase Gillies, Zach Kozicakowski; Soldotna: Mason Pryor

TRACK AND FIELD

1-2-3A Girls

Homer–State Champions: 4 x 100 Relay; 4 x 200 Relay; 4 x 800 Relay; Lauren Ivarts, 300m Hurdles State Champion

1-2-3A Boys

Homer–State Champions 4 x 200 Relay

Nikiski–Luke Johnson, Shot Put State Champion

Seward–Hunter Kratz, 800 Meters State Champion

4A Girls

Soldotna–State Champions 4 x 800 Relay; Daisy Nelson, 400 Meters State Champion

4A Boys

Kenai–Josh Jackman, Long Jump State Champion

WRESTLING

1-2-3A State Championship

Homer–State Champions: Jadzia Martin, 106G; Timmy Woo, 152; Levi King, 195; McKenzie Cook, 145G 2/3, and 145G; Heather Harrington, 220 2/3

Nikiski– State Champions: TJ Cox, 120; Luke Johnson, 285

4Δ

Soldotna–State Champions: Seth Hutchison, 126; Dalton Best, 285

ART

Soldotna–Sylvia Tuisaula, Printmaking: "Aubrey" State Champion

KPBSD CLASS OF 2016



JAYCE MILLER
[CONNECTIONS HOMESCHOOL]

Valedictorian, his academic achievements, including a 4.069 GPA, graduating with 32.5 credits, and scoring a 35 on his ACT, only begin to describe Jayce's successes. In addition to his academic accomplishments, Jayce has a passion for music...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Jayce



JENNA KILCHER
[HOMER FLEX SCHOOL]

When she enrolled, she was behind on credits and questioning the role education would play in her life. Jenna's transformation from reluctant learner to head of her class came with a lot of hard work and determination, but with the support of her family, she persevered...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Jenna



NOLAN BUNTING
[HOMER HIGH SCHOOL]

Apart from earning straight A's in the most rigorous classes HHS offers, including seven AP classes, Nolan has also managed to build a résumé that looks more like a list of volunteer opportunities rather than anything anyone could have actually done, and done so well: Briggs and Stratton Master Service Technician, multiple state champion and team captain in Drama Debate and Forensics (DDF) as well as in Skills USA...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Nolan



MELISSA BOWER
[KENAI ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL]

Melissa will be joining the United States Army on July 18, 2016, when she heads to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Following basic training, PFC Bower will then go to San Antonio, Texas, where she will begin her formal training and studies to become a nurse in the military...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Melissa



ALLISON STEINBECK [KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL]

A three sport athlete, Alli has held the position of captain and been recognized on various levels for her athletic ability and leadership strengths. Due to her personal experience with a sports accident that had her frequenting the dentist office throughout her junior and senior year of high school, Alli hopes to, "help others and give people confidence" while pursuing her goal of owning her dentistry practice...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Allison



LAVRENTIE UKATISH
[NANWALEK SCHOOL]

Larry will be spend the summer doing an internship in Kenai with a pilot in order to receive valuable experience before heading to the classroom in the fall. Larry hopes that after his time at UAA he can work with a local air taxi...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Ukatish



CADE ANDERSON
[NIKISKI MIDDLE-HIGH]

Valedictorian, Cade is a champion for his community, and takes pride in serving his community through mentoring youth in sports and recreational activities at the North Peninsula Recreation Center. The impacts are clear that the children who are mentored by Cade exemplify the highest levels of sportsmanship, teamwork, compassion for others...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Cade



NIKOLAEVSK SCHOOL

Through the 13 years we've had these students in our school, we've seen these students work through personal and academic risk factors that some might say were insurmountable or impossible for any student to overcome. But, our nine overcame all the risk factors, grew in their academic performance and critical thinking, and have made achievable dreams for their future...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Nikolaevsk



KRISTA SINCLAIR [NINILCHIK SCHOOL]

She graduates with a 4.0 GPA and 21 college credits through UAA utilizing the KPBSD JumpStart program. Krista earned the UA Scholar Scholarship, the Alaska Performance Scholarship and was awarded the first year tuition waiver at Kenai Peninsula College (KPC). Her plans are to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Krista



KELSEY MEGANACK
[PORT GRAHAM SCHOOL]

In her senior year, Kelsey volunteered in the Headstart classroom and would often report about how positive her experiences were in the classroom. Her natural caregiving instincts will serve her well as she goes on to pursue post-secondary education in veterinary science...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Kelsey



HALEY TREFON
[RIVER CITY ACADEMY]

Haley participated in the United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference her sophomore year and was chosen to attend the Youth Leader Conference at the White House in the summer of 2015. She has been recognized as an honoree in the UNITY "25 under 25" program of young leaders. A member of the Nondalton tribe, she participates in local activities with the Kenaitze tribe...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Haley



MADDY REA [SEWARD HIGH SCHOOL]

Maddy set a goal early in her high school career to travel abroad and volunteer to work with animals. Her research landed her in Yungas, Bolivia, at La Senda Verde (which means The Green Path). Maddy secured a position for two and a half months. She saved the money from her summer job to buy her tickets, visa, and pay for her volunteer position...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Maddy



KAYLA HAEG [SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL]

Kayla, class valedictorian, said, "With my advanced degree, I can not only become a rare female engineer, but also a female leader, inspiring similar young women to challenge occupational stereotypes and enter the field of engineering to pursue their passion for math and science. This state has taught me that being a part of a community, whether it's a large town or small village, not only requires participation, but also contribution and dedication." ...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Kayla



AIDEN PHILPOT
[SUSAN B. ENGLISH SCHOOL]

Salutatorian, Aiden attended school at SBE from K-12th grade and exemplified what all students should strive to be. He worked hard in school, out of school, and on the basketball court. Aiden will be attending Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa, where he received an academic and basketball scholarship, and will pursue a degree in Sports Physical Therapy. He has challenged himself by taking college classes, AP classes, and being very involved with community service...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Aiden



ALEXEY IVANOV
[VOZNESENKA SCHOOL]

Alexey, who will be attending Job Corps for Facilities Maintenance this fall, after commercial fishing this summer, demonstrated excellent initiative and follow through every step of the way, and is a prime example of the success and confidence that can be gained when young people invest themselves into the academic, career and technical education, and athletic opportunities available...



http://bit.ly/Classof2016Alexey



STUDENTS IN TRANSITION (SIT) PROGRAM

The SIT program provides support and services to hundreds of KPBSD students who are without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. In the 2015-2016 school year, the SIT program served 255 students who were eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Act due to their nighttime living situations. Sixty-eight students were unaccompanied, and 187 belonged to a family unit. Our students in the SIT program sleep in hotels, emergency shelters, vehicles, campgrounds, substandard housing, couch-surf, or double up. Students may have been part of a family unit that was homeless, or be a homeless youth living apart from a legal guardian. The SIT program staff worked with students and families to address a variety of needs related to school success, including transportation, school supplies and clothing, hygiene needs, and a variety of other supports on a case by case basis.

Community members and students in our schools are advocates for creatively raising thousands of dollars to supplement our SIT program. At the annual vigil for homelessness in November, a challenge was put forth: an anonymous donor offered a \$10,000 matching donation, which resulted in \$37,913.66 in donations between November 18 and December 18, 2015. In addition, schools held events such as a penny war at Skyview Middle School, a spaghetti fundraiser at Kenai Central High School, and a homeless awareness overnight



in the Homer area. In FY16, direct cash donations to SIT program totaled \$44,540. Many additional donations came in the form of tangible items: from hygiene products to school supplies and clothing. We are so grateful for the services we were able to provide through the generosity and advocacy from caring people and community partners.

The SIT Program focus is access to kindergarten through high school graduation for students who are homeless. School can be challenging for all students, but students living in unstable situations face many additional challenges. Our goal is to ensure that homeless students have the same educational opportunities as their peers in permanent housing: that they have the ability to attend school and focus on learning.



http://bit.ly/StudentsInTransitionKPBSD



CARING FOR THE KENAI COMPETITION

More than 300 students from eight high schools responded with an innovative project or idea to the Caring for the Kenai (CFK) essay prompt, "What can I do, invent, or create to better care for the environment of the Kenai Peninsula or improve the area's preparedness for a natural disaster?" Classes incorporate the CFK into state standards curriculum, and students take their learning beyond the classroom in a meaningful way. In addition to \$8,000 in cash awards for the finalists, \$20,000 was awarded to the departments of schools that participated in CFK 2016. Plus, more than twenty students received special recognition awards from local businesses and individuals. Read stories about the winners online.



http://bit.ly/CaringForTheKenai2016





2015-2016 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDEES

Linda Brady, Educator
Jean Calhoun, Secretary
Patrick Dwyer, Educator
Lisa Green, Community Member
Amy Hankins, Community Member
Magpye's Pizzeria, Business
Linda "Grandma" Reinhart, Volunteer
Clayton Smith, Special Education Paraprofessional
David Thomas, Community Member



http://bit.ly/KPBSDGoldenApple

GRATITUDE

"We celebrate our accomplishments and acknowledge the wonderful service of our retiring staff. While losing such quality people is difficult, I wish all of our retirees the best as they move into a different phase of their lives, and thank each of them for their efforts and for making a positive difference for so many children over the years of service in KPBSD."

- Sean Dusek, Superintendent





INFORMATION SERVICES #iAMKPBSD

The KPBSD Information Services department, tasked with managing and maintaining a wide array of network connectivity and technology systems throughout the district, is proudly staffed by KPBSD graduates. Many of the full-time department employees started their IT careers as students by working as on-the-job trainees in the Information Services technology repair department. We are former students proud to be supporting the education of the next generation! #IAmKPBSD

Information Services recently completed significant wireless network infrastructure upgrades, modernizing and improving wireless connection speeds throughout our schools. These improvements, coupled with a continued effort to match technology and software advances, aim to ensure technology remains current and accessible to all students and staff.



REVTRAK: THE KPBSD ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

In our second year of accepting online payments we had over \$100,000 in food service payments and close to \$50,000 in pupil activity payments. All of our schools that have a food service program accept online payments, and most of our high schools and middle schools accept pupil activity payments. More schools will be online in FY17.

RevTrak is the online payment system that will allow parents, students, and community members to make payments for student activities, class fees, food service and other items or to make donations. There are three ways to access RevTrak:

- Use the PowerSchool parent portal
- Through the KPBSD website online payments link on the Students-Parents tab
- Via the online payments icon on the KPBSD mobile app

There is a 3.61% per transaction fee for the service, which is not a source of revenue for the district.



http://bit.ly/KPBSDonlinepayments

Soldotna Prep students log onto Canvas via a Surface tablet, and spend two days learning about GIS mapping from Mr. Erfurth, an innovative teacher, and guest presenters from the Kenai Peninsula Borough and City of Soldotna. #geography #engaged





Above: Homer Middle School Robotics class #innovation Below: Districtwide Mind A-Mazes hands on engineering problem solving competition #golden





SCHOOL SAFETY

School safety is a top priority in the KPBSD. It is important for students, staff, and families to know what to do before, during, and after a school emergency, weather related delayed start, or school closure. In order to give our staff and students more options to protect themselves in the event of an intruder, two years ago KPBSD adopted the ALICE protocols for emergency situations. ALICE is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. A one page flyer with additional details is posted online, together with Emergency Guidelines for Parents. KPBSD's change to the use of ALICE protocols has been done in conjunction with our local law enforcement agencies, and those agencies also participate in the training of staff and students.



http://bit.ly/KPBSDschoolsafety

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Certificated staff employed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) are represented by the Kenai Peninsula Education Association (KPEA), and support employees are represented by the Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association (KPESA). Both KPEA and KPESA have existing Collective Bargaining Agreements with KPBSD that determine the terms and conditions of employment, and both agreements expired on June 30, 2015. Copies of the agreements can be found at the district website.



http://bit.ly/KPBSDcollectiveBargainingAgreements

On February 9, 2015, KPBSD, KPEA, and KPESA began meeting to negotiate successor agreements. The negotiations process continued throughout the FY16 school year, with mediation October 21-22, 2015, and then advisory arbitration June 1-2, 2016. The arbitrator's report is expected in August, and the district anticipates meeting with the associations when teachers and support employees return from their summer break. Although the current agreements expired June 30, 2015, the terms and conditions of the expiring agreements are still in place.



http://bit.ly/KPBSDcollectivebargaining



ALASKA 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 29th Legislature convened in January 2016, with the state facing a distinctly different economic outlook than in years prior due to the rapid decline in world-wide oil prices. KPBSD worked closely with legislators, and monitored legislative action. Possible education related funding changes were proposed throughout the legislative session, and all interested parties weighed in about FY17 budget discussions. School board meetings, work sessions and budget discussions in communities were all venues where people shared ideas and stayed informed about current plans.

KPBSD anticipates an FY17 budget deficit of \$1,967,428, and will utilize General Fund reserves in this amount. Because of our General Fund reserves, KPBSD was able to offer contracts to our tenured and non-tenured staff. The State of Alaska is predicting a \$3 to \$4 billion deficit in FY18, and because public education is the second largest investment in the state budget, it is likely there will be continued discussion about this portion of the state budget.



http://bit.ly/KPBSDandTheLegislature

FINANCE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Since state funding is so heavily reliant on the price of oil, the continued low price of oil has reduced funds available for all services, including the state's portion of education funding. Anticipating the loss of revenue for FY16, the legislature removed "one-time" funding of about \$2.2 million originally scheduled as state revenue for the district.

In order to offset the loss of the one-time funding, the budget for utilities, curriculum supplies, state tournament travel, consolidation and efficiencies in pool operations were reduced and two changes were implemented in teacher staffing formulas. The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) at the high school level was increased by .50 student, from 1:24.5 to 1:25 and staffing at small elementary schools (enrollment <100) was revised to bring that PTR into line with other elementary schools.

In addition, there were changes to the funding formula regarding charter schools, specifying the distribution of Additional Allowable funding that comes to the district from the borough. The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) funded the district to the maximum allowable in the FY16 budget, and the district used a portion of fund balance to complete the revenue side of the budget.

The biggest concern state-wide is a fiscal plan for the state that provides for diversity in revenue, rather than such heavy reliance on the oil revenue. The legislature was called into special session by Governor Walker to work on that plan.









DOLLARS AND CENTS

\$0.72 Salaries and benefits

\$0.07 TRS/PERS On-Behalf

\$0.08 Discretional accounts

\$0.07 In-kind services

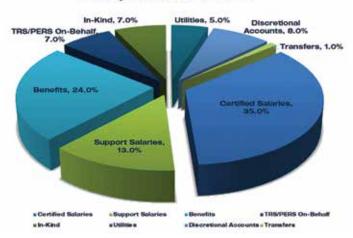
\$0.05 Utilities

\$0.01 Transfers

= \$1.00 from 2015-2016 General Fund (FY16)



FY16 Expenditures with On-Behalf



2016-2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sean Dusek, Superintendent

John O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction Support

Julie Cisco, Planning and Operations Director Pegge Erkeneff, Communications Liaison Christine Ermold, Human Resources and Professional **Development Director**

Clayton Holland, Pupil Services Director

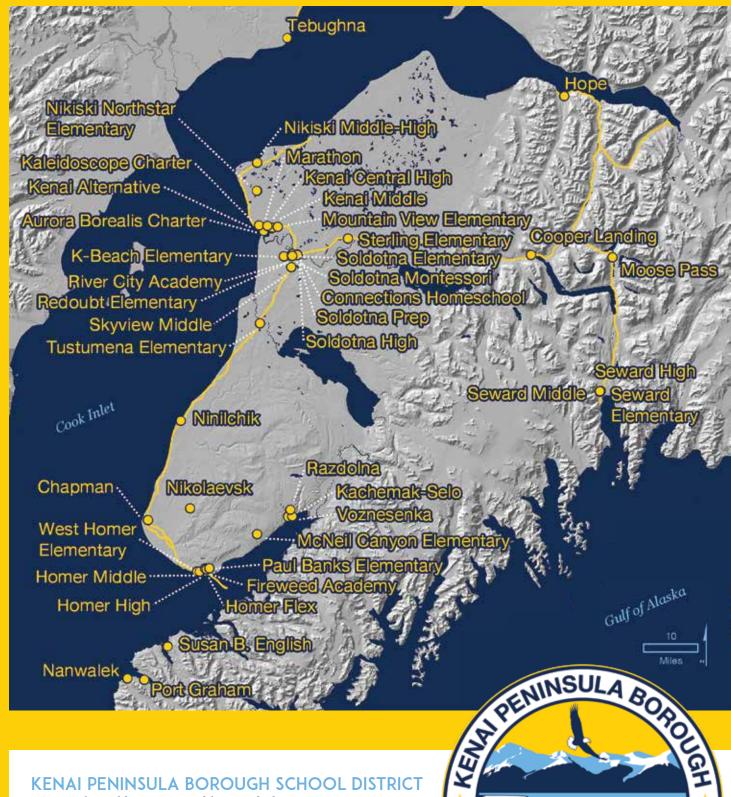
Laurie Olson, Finance Director

John Pothast, Elementary and Secondary Education Director

Eric Soderquist, Information Services Director Tim Vlasak, K-12 Schools, Curriculum, Assessment, and Federal Programs Director



More than 650 students participated in the third annual Kenai River Spring Cleanup, collecting 2,965 pounds of trash and debris in a community collaboration with KPBSD, the Kenai River Professional Guide Association, Kenai River Sportfishing Association, and in cooperation with Alaska State Parks, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and the City of Soldotna. #ServiceLearning



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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