



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

Where kids come first!

Welcome from Dr. Steve Atwater

I often claim that KPBSD has the most diverse range of schools of any district in Alaska. The size and scope of our 43 buildings that vary from small K-12 schools in our Alaska Native villages, to the small schools of Old Believer students, to traditional high schools of 500 allow me to make this claim. Because of this diversity, it is easy to focus on the differences among our schools. There are however, numerous commonalities that unite us as a district that is leader in Alaska. This district newsletter is created to help our employees recognize these similarities by learning what is going on at both the district and school level. I trust that the articles provide insight into some of our school's best practices and to district news that is pertinent to all of us. Thanks to everyone who participated in our communications survey; we now welcome your feedback on this newsletter.

As we head into our winter break, I want to wish each of our employees and their families the very best and a restful two weeks. Thanks to each of you for your dedication to our students and for doing what it take to help them find success. Happy New Year!

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Ice Cleats

Each fall as the seasons change, the Kenai Peninsula turns into a winter playground for many. Unfortunately, the cold and snow that creates our recreational opportunities also creates icy parking lots and sidewalks. Each year multiple KPBSD employees have experienced falls on these icy surfaces resulting in bodily injury. In an effort to reduce and hopefully eliminate these injuries, KPBSD has purchased ice cleats for every employee in the district. These cleats are of high quality and easy to put on and take off. It is our hope that all employees will use these cleats as they travel to and from work and across the district. Please wear your cleats and be safe, we care about you!

PD - Early Release Days



"I am very excited and thankful that our schools have put great effort into fully utilizing our early release days. We are seeing excellent work come from this opportunity and look forward to even more refined collaborative products from all of our teams." –Sean Dusek, assistant superintendent. [Collaboration and PLC story...](#)



Celebrate Dan Bohrnsen



Celebrate Kelly King

AACTE Outstanding Career and Technical Education Administrator of the Year

"It was great to be recognized for this award," said Dan Bohrsen. "Over the past four years the increase in CTE state and federal funding enabled our district to expand curriculum, improve our classrooms and shops, and provide needed equipment and supplies to most of our CTE programs, which in turn has enabled our teachers to expose students to twenty-first century skills needed in the work force. We have outstanding CTE teachers, and these improvements have given them the tools to offer more opportunities to our students. To me this award is verification that KPBSD is heading in the right direction."

[Read more...](#)

On November 7, 2013, Kelly King, KPBSD homeless liaison, was awarded the ***Knight in Shining Armor*** award during a candlelight vigil for youth and family homelessness. "I am blessed with the opportunity to do what I love every day. Having the work I do be recognized at the vigil, by good friends who have the same vision ... I am very humbled and just so grateful. Receiving the *Knight in Shining Armor* award means so much to me; I am sincerely honored," said King. "One of the more challenging tasks that we face is educating our homeless students. Because of the extraordinary effort and dedication of Kelly King, the district is able to do its best to meet this challenge." —Steve Atwater, superintendent

[The rest of the story...](#)



APECS Upgrade

I'm happy to report the KPBSD team that has worked so long and hard to ensure a successful implementation of our upgrade to the APECS 2.0 software came through with a win. We aren't done yet, but we've made it through the first payroll successfully, which we considered the biggest test. I've heard operating a school is like building an airplane while in flight—moving everyone forward toward an uncertain future and destination. We understand that feeling. [More...](#)

KPBSD stories and links

New Standards? The process of implementing our new Alaska Standards in Mathematics and English/Language Arts (ELA) is in full swing. [Read more...](#)

Coaching Happenings, a Professional Development newsletter focuses on the work that our KPBSD coaches are doing out at schools. [Check it out...](#)

Tweet! Educational Technology to enhance the development of creative, productive, and global learners in KPBSD is playing on twitter! Connect [@EdTechKPBSD](#)

Pupil Services asks, *What happens when a multidisciplinary team of dedicated certified and classified staff meet and plan on a regular basis?* Student success! The Nikiski North Star Elementary team does just this. [See the Pupil Services December 2013 newsletter...](#)

KPBSD school board member Sunni Hilts is named Association of Alaska School Boards President! [Celebrate Sunni, read on...](#)

ACS invited KPBSD to collaborate in a television commercial, see it on our [@KPBSDVideos](#) YouTube channel

Curious? Your Instructional Team, Superintendent, IT Department, schools, and others have blogs with valuable posts. [Visit the KPBSD Blog List...](#)

The KPBSD employee communications survey said 81.1% of respondents are happy with current communications, yet, you asked for more news. [Read the results...](#)



Hour of Code

"Today's students are the tech generation. So naturally, using technology, which already excites them, hooks them into learning. I witnessed all my students succeed during the Hour of Code, and I know it left both boys and girls feeling empowered and wanting to learn more!"—Leigh Ray, Seward Elementary School [Read on...](#)



Link Up concert *The Orchestra Moves*

"This year the underlying theme is how music moves, how music makes you move and how the music moves through the melodies," said Tammy Vollum-Matturro, the director and conductor of the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra. "Last year, Link Up was such a huge success for students, orchestra members, and the community. This year we were excited to include students from Redoubt, K-Beach, Kaleidoscope, Ninilchik, and Chapman schools." [The rest of the story...](#)



Sharing the love this holiday season

Throughout KPBSD, students and staff are spreading the gift of giving in their local communities. Kindergarten through twelfth grade students brought canned goods and non-perishable food items to school which were donated to charities across the Kenai Peninsula. Many schools created gift baskets for a festive meal. The winners of Can-struction at Redoubt Elementary delivered 1,500 pounds of food to the Peninsula Food Bank, and shared a meal. Many local families were devastated by the recent typhoon in the Philippines, and schools are helping. [Read on, be inspired...](#)



Appreciation...

Thank you to Central Peninsula Health Foundation for generously donating nine wheelchairs to schools across the peninsula. The donation will impact the health and safety of students, staff and community members as they are put to use in our schools. From the Seward area, to Nikiski, Kenai, Soldotna, and Homer, these wheelchairs will help provide mobility to students in need, support in emergencies, and access to community services.



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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.

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