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KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEDIA RELEASE

First Braille Challenge for the Kenai Peninsula

Soldotna, February 14, 2014—Under the radar on the Peninsula is an exciting program that changes lives. Our KPBSD vision program serves our three students who are blind braille readers. Their teacher, Jordana Engebretsen, who is also blind, created a local opportunity for the students to compete, and added a component so the public can learn more about visual disabilities.

“Braille is an important and highly valued step in the ability of the blind student to succeed in their academics as well as independence in our society,” explains KPBSD teacher Jordana Engebretsen. “As a teacher I take that responsibility seriously and have discovered through my own personal blindness how handicapped a blind person is without this means of communicating in our world. Though technology advancements increase the ability for each one of us, these advancements have not nearly replaced the full spectrum of benefits we have with Braille in our everyday lives.”

Please come and discover the path of possibilities a few of your neighbors who are visually impaired or blind develop through education and advancements in technology.

BRAILLE CHALLENGE

**Soldotna Public Library
Friday, February 21, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Schedule of Events

10:00 – 12:50 Student Competition Testing, (closed to public)
12:50 – 1:20 Participant Lunch, (closed to public)

Events open to the public

1:15 ***What is Braille, and the Braille Challenge?*** and the ***KPBSD Vision program*** –Mrs. Jordana Engebretsen and Mr. John Clare
1:30 ***Technology and Braille: Is Braille Obsolete?*** –Lynne Koral
2:00 ***Working with a Visual Disability*** –Jennifer Gullman
2:15 DVR presentation

KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-FOUR DIVERSE SCHOOLS

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

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2:30 Final assembly, student recognition
3:15 Conclude

“I recently had the good fortune to observe our teacher who was working with one of her vision impaired students,” said Steve Atwater, superintendent. “I was impressed by the high level of instruction and recognize the Braille Challenge as a way to celebrate our students’ hard work learning this essential mode of communication.”

Links

Pupil Services: <http://bit.ly/KPBSDPupilServices>

KPBSD Highlight Story: <http://bit.ly/KPBSDVisuallyImpairedProgram>

2012 Alaska Braille Challenge in Anchorage: <http://bit.ly/2012AlaskaBrailleChallenge>

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