

December 2, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The holiday season is already upon us. It does not feel like it with the late start of winter. We finally are getting some snow and cold weather. Please send your child to school with proper clothing such as hats, gloves, boots and snow pants. If you need any help outfitting your child please contact your child's teacher or myself and we can help you out. Our goal is to ensure all of our students are warm and safe.

As you know we have been having early release days this year. I know the change in routine can sometimes be a challenging situation for many of our working families. As the administrator of Paul Banks I feel the time has been well spent. Even though we, as a school, are doing very well there is always room for improvement. This collaboration time has allowed us to work in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to plan and assess how we are doing on our school goals, specifically in the areas of the new state standards, differentiation for all students, as well as mapping instruction and assessment.

Speaking of school goals...our attendance rate for the past three months has been 94%. As you all know our school goal this year is 96%. We are very close to reaching our yearlong goal. This not only gives our students the best educational opportunity it also is one of the indicators the state uses to rate its' schools. Please help us reach our goal by getting your child to school on time.

I would like to end by saying congratulations to the Paul Banks' PTA who won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 2013 Alaska Farm to School Challenge. Many of you helped grow, harvest and taste (lucky few) the fresh vegetables the greenhouse produced this past season. Thank you to Vanessa and company for providing our students with healthy snacks. If you missed out on this opportunity more will present themselves. If you are interested in helping out the PTA or at school please contact the office.

Sincerely,

Eric Pederson