

2/1/14

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A parent greeted me one morning with, "Happy JUNuary!" The lack of "Polar Vortex" is playing havoc with the students' wintertime activities. Rest assured, we are making the most of the warm weather at every recess.

Our annual read-a-thon will begin February 3rd with a kick-off assembly! This year's logo is I-KID-A-ROD.... The Great Reading Race. Students will be bringing home a packet of information next Monday. Our read-a-thon promotes reading and also acts as a school fundraiser. Please help your child to collect some pledges to support our school programs.

I am excited to announce another option we are adding to our already great educational program at Paul Banks. Starting in the 2014-15 school year, we will pilot looping in one kindergarten and first grade classroom. Looping is when a student remains with the same teacher for two or more years of school. Students will benefit from remaining with one teacher for two years. We realize this is not the case for all students, therefore the traditional one year classroom will still be available. If you wish for your child to remain in our traditional one year classroom, we will give you the opportunity to opt out of the looping pilot. This will come out in our spring newsletter.

Placement for students in a looping classroom will be based on prescreening and lottery. This is similar to the way we place students in every Kindergarten classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

If you have been reading the news, you will know that education and educational funding is on the front page of many publications. The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is holding a Public Budget Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Homer High School library. Everyone interested is encouraged to attend. If there are questions, please contact Lassie Nelson at 714-8838.

What would a newsletter be without an update on our attendance. Our first semester's attendance rate was 93%. Our goal is 96%. I promise PBE will do their part in your child's education if you bring them to us.

We just finished our fourth early release day. This last collaboration was a reflection on what we have done thus far and what changes we need to make to ensure our processes are effective and efficient. This time has been valuable to our staff as we continue to grow and improve our instructional offerings.

Sincerely,



Eric Pederson