

November 1, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are already in the second quarter. My wife and I have experienced the famous black ice of Homer. So it is no surprise that every morning, Mr. Benson and I notice more vehicles driving with studded tires. Thank you for driving slowly in the school parking lot. Please start sending your child to school with hats and gloves for outdoor recess.

The Site Council is an advisory board that provides direction and leadership at Paul Banks. The council is made up of parents, community members and staff. Members represent their constituents by bringing ideas from the people to the council. At the bottom of this letter you will see the members of the council. Feel free to talk to them about the council or ideas that you would like to bring up for discussion.

Finally, it is my honor to announce that Paul Banks Elementary is one of 49 schools recognized by the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development as a *Highest Performing* school. You can read the entire media release at http://education.alaska.gov/news/releases/2013/reward_schools_oct2013.pdf. Paul Banks' students, parents and staff share a great sense of pride in the successful PreK-2 program we offer the community. Our unique configuration helps us stay focused on the fundamentals of education with an emphasis on early intervention and developmentally appropriate practices that nurture our young learners. We are excited that the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development have found a way to celebrate the terrific things happening for students of all ages in public schools in Alaska. We are honored that our students' achievements were among those recognized.

Out of the 49 schools receiving recognition, three are from Homer. West Homer Elementary and McNeil are the other two schools. This is a testament to the education and parent support in the Homer area. As always, I have an open door policy. If you ever have a concern or issue, please do not hesitate to come and speak with me.

Sincerely,

Eric Pederson

Site Council Members

Eric Pederson
Sally Burns
Deb Turkington
Jeri McLean
Brian Nollar
Bekah Dalke
Erin Briscoe
Jenny Martin