



Paul Banks Elementary School

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

1340 East End Road – Homer, AK 99603 – (907) 226-1801

Dear Parents and Guardians,

October 1, 2016

It is hard to believe that we are already three weeks away from the end of first quarter. The leaves are changing colors and ice will soon appear on blacktop. Please continue to drive safely when dropping off and picking up students. You may want to start sending students to school with hats and gloves so they can stay warm when they play outside during recess.

The Site Council will be reviewing our school goals. As I mentioned during the open house, one goal addresses attendance. Last year's attendance rate was 92%. With your help, we need to raise it to 94%. For the past two months we have had 89% attendance. We are on the right track. Our overall goal is to provide an innovative and flexible instructional approach for every one of our students. Many of you have already witnessed the teachers' effort while visiting the classrooms.

Two other innovative practices we have started are our 1st grade violin program and using blended learning in some of our center activities. There is a lot of excitement throughout the school surrounding these two programs. I encourage you to come in and see for yourself.

Early Release days will again be used to help our teachers focus on their instruction. This last Early Release Day, grade levels collaborated with one another. Each grade level had a different agenda. Some worked on blended learning practices, some reviewed their standards maps and other collaborated about instruction. This process will help us all become better at setting and obtaining goals.

I want to thank the Paul Banks PTA and their volunteers for all of their support during the start of the school year. The greenhouse produced some of the sweetest carrots and spuds on the Peninsula. They have already started their first afterschool activities. I hope to see many of our students participating in this great opportunity. Thank you to all who have volunteered to make this possible.

Funding and financial budgeting continue to be a topic of concern for our school district. In October there is a special meeting with the district and our site council. This meeting will provide an overview of our budgeting process. More information will come as the year progresses. It is imperative that all parents and community members be active listeners to the issues at hand.

October 26 is our Halloween Parade. We appreciate your support in not having students wear scary costumes. October 27 and 28 are our parent teacher conference dates. As a reminder, we will not have school on those days. If you have a concern, please do not wait until this date. Our staff welcomes parent communication to best meet the needs of your child. Together we can enhance your child's education. My door is always open and I know the same applies for the teachers. If you do not have time to stop by, but would still like to give us positive or constructive feedback, please visit www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/schools.aspx?id=3526 and fill out a school survey.

Thank you for supporting our school and staff here at Paul Banks Elementary. All of you deserve credit for making Paul Banks a special school. Our teamwork will continue to make Paul Banks a five star school.

Sincerely,

Eric Pederson