



Paul Banks Elementary School

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
1340 East End Road – Homer, AK 99603 – (907) 226-1801
Principal, Eric Pederson

December 1, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The holiday season is already upon us. For the first time, since I have moved to Homer, we have snow sticking around in December! 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.

We have had three Early Release Days and two in-services this year. Thank you for your support with this time. 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 state standards, differentiation for all students, as well as mapping instruction and assessment.

Our attendance rate for the past three months has been 88%. As you all know our school goal this year is 94%. Good attendance, not only gives our students the best educational opportunity, it is also 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.

That said, if your child is ill, please keep him/her at home. With winter, comes sickness. A sick child regains health by staying home. If your child is too sick to go outside for recess, they are too sick to be at school.

Next year school year, we will start at 7:50 a.m. This change saves the district about \$600,000. It is going to be a challenge for many working families. The area principals are aware of this and have met to brainstorm afterschool supports. Please help us spread the word.

Bus notes...it is super helpful if you call before 2:30 with a bus change for your student. Thank you for your effort.

I would like to end by saying thank you to the PTA. They continue to support our students and teachers to reach new levels of success. If you have missed the past few meetings you can find the minutes and activities on Facebook.

Enjoy the holiday season!

Sincerely,

Eric Pederson