



## Paul Banks Elementary School

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

2/1/16

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is my third winter with no snow. Hopefully, we will get a spring snowstorm or two.

Our annual read-a-thon was kicked off January 12<sup>th</sup> and ends on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month. This year's theme is The Wild West. Our read-a-thon promotes reading and also acts as a school fundraiser. Thank you for your help collecting pledges to support our school programs. I hope you have noticed more reading being done by your child.

Being a PK-2 school, we focus on age appropriate activities such as the Read-a-thon and Bingo for Books. As many of you know, public education is once again under the public microscope. This is not all bad as it causes us, as educators, to reflect on our practices and to continually hone our skills. Many of you have made positive comments about the efforts of Paul Banks teachers. The best way to complement our teachers is to talk to your friends who do not get the opportunity to experience Paul Banks first hand. If you feel compelled you can also nominate them for BP Teacher of the Year.

Last month, I sent home a letter to families explaining our Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Our Free and Reduced numbers are directly tied to our PK program. Even if your child does not eat at school, your qualifying helps our school programs. If you would like more information, please come and see me.

What would a newsletter be without an update on our attendance? Our first semester's attendance rate was 92.2%. Our goal is 96%. I promise PBE will do their part in your child's education if you bring them to us.

We will have our fourth Early Release Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month. This collaboration time allows us to reflect 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. I thank you for allowing us this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Eric Pederson