

The Alkali Creek News

Alkali Creek Elementary School

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Greg Senitte, Principal

"Together we create a positive, high performing, learning community for all."

Arrival / Dismissal and Parking at Alkali Creek

We need your help in keeping our students safe. Please do NOT curb park in any of the bus lanes during arrival or dismissal. We have multiple busses coming to Alkali Creek at arrival and both dismissals! As I'm sure you've noticed, it gets very busy with all of the traffic. If you plan to park, please use a designated parking spot, and then use the crosswalk. Also, please SLOW DOWN when driving near and around the school campus. Also, there have been multiple reports of folks talking on their cell phones, and/or texting while driving in our drive-through area. This is extremely dangerous, and against Billings city ordinance. PLEASE put your cell phones down. Student safety is our # 1 priority! Your help and cooperation is extremely appreciated. Thank you.

Appropriate Dress for Spring

As the weather changes from freezing cold to springtime warm, please keep in mind the weather can still change at a moment's notice. What appears to be a nice day in the morning can still turn cold by recess time. Please make sure your child continues to come to school dressed appropriately. Also, on nice days, remember that school-appropriate attire is the expectation, as short shorts, tank tops, bare midriff tops, and other play wear are not appropriate for school. Thank you for your help and support in this area.

Corner Book Shelf Book Fair is Coming

Our spring book fair will be a Barnes & Noble Book Fair. The dates of the book fair will be April 21-23. There will also be an online book fair at the same time for those families and relatives that have plans for the weekend and cannot stop by the bookstore in person.

I look forward to the great readers of our school finding something to keep that "summer slide" in check! Alkali's Library will also be able to add some special titles kids really want! It is a great way help kids find a perfect book! Any questions? Please feel free to call me at the library during school hours.

Thanks!
Mrs. Meyer

April:

12-----PIR Early out, Students dismiss at 12pm
12-----PTA/KC Club Easter Egg Hunt, 3:30pm
13-17-----Vacation Days, No School
18-----School resumes
18-----PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
19-27-----NWEA MAP Test Window (3rd-5th)
21-23-----Barnes & Noble Book Fair
25-----Volunteer Luncheon, 11am
26-----Administrative Professionals Day
26-----KC Club Mtg.
28-----4th Qtr. Midterms (Gr. 4-5)
28-----Special Olympics @ Daylis Stadium
28-----1st Gr. field trip

May:

1-4-----Teacher Appreciation Week
1-11----Smarter Balanced Test Window (3rd-5th)
1-19-----FASTBridge Test Window (K-5th)
4-----4th Gr. Arbor Day field trip
5-----Vacation Day, No School

Spring Testing Season

Our Spring Testing season here! Below are the window dates to keep in mind. We need to have all students in attendance. Notice will be sent home soon for specific test dates for SBAC and NWEA tests.

NWEA Reading, Math, Language:
April 19th-27th for 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades

SBAC (Smarter Balanced) Reading & Math:
May 1st-11th for 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades

FASTBridge Reading & Math: May 1st-19th for K-5th

Kindergarten Registration...SIGN UP NOW!

Do you have a little one that will be starting Kindergarten at Alkali Creek this upcoming August? If so, we are now accepting registrations for the **2017-2018 school year**. We have registration forms here at the Alkali Creek School office, or you can download it at www.billingsschools.org, hover over the "Parents Tab", then click on "Enrollment and Registration". On that page, you will find information regarding ALL of the necessary immunizations that will be required of students entering Kindergarten. The enrollment form to be completed is three pages. You will need to turn into our school office the registration form, a certified copy of his/her birth certificate, and current immunizations. State law requires the necessary immunizations by August, before s/he can start school.

If you, or anyone you know, will have a kindergarten student starting in August, 2017, we appreciate you registering with us before the end of the school year. Thank you! ☺

Class Placements for 2017-2018

As the end of the year approaches, we are beginning to make plans for the 2017-2018 school year. Part of this preparation is grouping students into 1st-5th grade classes for next year. At this time, we have a plan of the number of classrooms needed in each grade level, but staffing at those grade levels is not 100% certain. Teaching students six hours each day gives us, as educators, wonderful insights into the way children learn, interact with their peers, behave, and achieve while here at school.

While these insights are fresh, the teachers and I will spend a considerable amount of time determining the most appropriate classroom for each student. We recommend next year's placements based on many criteria, some of which include, learning style, gender, ability, social skills, individual academic needs, emotional concerns, peer relationships, multi-level grouping, teacher's style of teaching, and any other pertinent information that would be valuable. For example, sometimes we know it is in the best interest of students to be separated from a particular peer, so that both students can obtain the maximum benefit from the instruction in the classroom. We also strive to make each classroom balanced by gender and heterogeneously grouped by abilities. Each child is "hand placed" based on educational decisions.

We have a remarkable teaching staff here at Alkali Creek Elementary. I am asking that you first and foremost trust the judgment and wisdom of those who observe your child(ren) on a daily basis in the learning process. I assure you that every effort will be made to appropriately place your child. However, we accept that some parents may have specific concerns about their child's placement for the following year that they feel must be communicated with the principal. The following procedure for sharing these concerns will be used for the 2017-2018 school year. Concerns must be submitted in writing using the Parent Input Form on the following page, or another copy may be obtained at the school office. This form is to be returned to the Alkali Creek school office no later than **May 19th**. *Please understand that your input will always be considered, but not necessarily honored, as there are the many factors, as stated above. I have to determine the final decisions on all placements, so I cannot make promises about granting a request for a specific teacher.*

Because of changing enrollment and possible staff modifications, classroom placements can evolve over the summer; therefore, class lists will be posted at school by Monday, August 21st at 4:00pm. Students will not be informed of next year's teacher placement until then. If you have questions about this procedure, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

-Mr. Senitte

ALKALI CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PARENT INPUT FORM

April/May, 2017

Student Name _____ Current Teacher _____ Current Grade _____

Describe your child's special talents or skills and the ways in which s/he is unique.

Give five adjectives to describe your child.

List your child's strongest academic areas and describe any superior abilities.

Describe any academic problems your child has had in school, or any learning difficulties, which hinder his/her progress in school.

Describe your child's relationship with other peers and adults.

I believe my child would work best in a classroom environment that is...

Special considerations.

Include any additional information about your child that you feel is important for his/her success in school.

(Due to Mr. Senitte by: 5/19/17)

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BPS Counselors



BULLYING: Bully behavior occurs when there is deliberate intent to harm, dominate, inflict pain, exclude or otherwise cause distress to the person being targeted. The person who bullies purposefully misuses his/her power (size, age, popularity, confidence, verbal ability), usually repeatedly. The balance of power between the bully and target is NOT EQUAL.

Maybe My Child is Over-Tired (O.T.)?

Do you have a tantrum throwing, fussy, emotional child? If so, you may be dealing with a case of the over tired child – the dreaded “O.T.’s”. The correct amount of sleep is incredibly important for all of us, especially our children.

A Childhood Sleep study in the Netherlands examined more than 35,000 children ages 5 to 12. The study focused on the question, “How sleep or lack of sleep affected school performance and behavior.” The Netherland study concluded, shorter episodes of sleep often resulted in poor academic performance in school-aged children, and these same children had more behavioral issues than their well-rested peers.

So how can you tell if your child needs more sleep?

Whether your child is a toddler or school age, the following signs may indicate childhood sleep deprivation:

- Overly emotional (explosive temper tantrums, easily hurt feelings, no patience)
- Difficult to wake in the morning
- Difficulty concentrating or focusing during play
- Taking long, or excessive naps
- Hyperactivity
- Defiant or contrary behavior
- Difficulty falling asleep (overtired)

If you suspect that your child isn’t getting enough sleep, you can help him/her get more sleep by following these tips:

Toddlers and preschoolers need an average of 13 hours of sleep, divided up between two hours of naps and 11 hours at night. Although your preschooler may no longer nap, encouraging a period of quiet time in the afternoon can help keep your child rested, and help him/her to sleep better at night.