

# The Alkali Creek News

## Alkali Creek Elementary School

681 Alkali Creek Road Billings, MT 59105

PHONE: 281-6200

WEBSITE: [www.alkalicreek.weebly.com](http://www.alkalicreek.weebly.com)

Greg Senitte, Principal

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

## Dec/Jan, 2016-17

### December, 2016:

13-23-----MyVoice Parent Survey window  
13-----Ms. Koch's Holiday program  
13-----Girl Scout recruitment mtg., 5:30pm  
13-----MacKenzie River Pizza Night  
13-15-----Winter NWEA Tests (Gr. 3-5)  
14-----KC Club Mtg.  
15-----PTA Family Fun Night, 5:30pm-6:30pm  
16-----Alkali Creek Music Concerts  
16-----LS Intermediate field trip  
23-Jan. 2-----Vacation Days, No School

### January, 2017:

3-----School resumes  
6-----PTA Reflections DUE  
9-----5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Parent Mtg., 6pm in Library  
13-----Author Birthday Club  
13-----End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
16-----PIR Day, No School for students  
17-----PTA Meeting, 6:30pm in library  
20-----2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Report cards sent home

### Winter Benchmark Testing

During the month of December, our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take the NWEA MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) tests in Reading and Math. In January, all students, K-5, will take Reading and Math FASTBridge assessments. Attendance at school is essential in completing these assessments to drive instruction for the remainder of the year. Thank you for your continued support in your child's education.

### Parent Voice Survey

Dear Alkali Creek Parents: You have the opportunity to participate in the Parent Voice Survey from now until December 23, 2016. This survey assesses parents' perceptions of their child and his or her experience in the school. By asking parents how they perceive the culture of their child's school, Parent Voice provides educators with a powerful tool for understanding both what motivates and inspires students to achieve and how well parents believe their school is meeting those objectives. Please use the following link and code to access the survey for Alkali Creek:

*Website:* <http://svsurveys.corwin.com/survey>

*Survey Access Code:* **33231i4V7720**

(Hint: the last character is a zero)

### Winter Music Concerts

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, all students will participate in a music program/concert. Our general music programs will be in the morning, and our band and orchestra concert will be in the afternoon. See below for specific times:

8:45am-9:30am: K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Program

9:45am-10:30am: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. General Music Program

2:30pm-3:00pm: 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Band and Orchestra Concert

### Help Wanted!

We are currently looking to fill substitute openings for General Duty Assistants at Alkali Creek. This position is 2 hours per day over the lunch period supervising students, helping in the lunchroom, and helping in the front office area. If you like kids and want to spend a couple of hours per day in a great school setting, please call the school at 281-6200.

### Winter Vacation

The last day before Winter Vacation is December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and this will be a full school day. Winter Vacation is from December 23 through January 2. School resumes on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

**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.

## Stop and Smell the Christmas Tree

The holiday season is the best time of the year, as the songs tell us. But we also know it is the most stress-filled, demanding time of the year. Every year news stories and magazine articles remind us to keep the season in check and every year we plan to.

But...When the season and all the trimmings become overwhelming, go back to the 4 S's -

Security, Stability, Structure and Support. These are our four basic responsibilities in raising our children and are even more important during the holidays.

Kids need to be reminded they are loved unconditionally. Love is not shown by who gets the biggest, best, most expensive gifts. Give gifts that have meaning and value to your children and don't feel guilty about sticking to a budget. Children find comfort in the predictability of schedules and routines. Maintain those morning, after school and evening routines in the weeks before Christmas. Support your child emotionally by recognizing they are reacting to the stress of the adults in their world. Validate their feelings of excitement and anticipation, but maintain behavioral expectations.

When there is more to do than hours in a day, prioritize. Do the things first that matter most and if some things don't get done, let it go.

Susan Newman, Professor of Social Psychology at Rutgers University, advises "Parents should start with their own expectations. Some parents want to be sure their children get everything they want so there will be no tears. This is an unrealistic goal. Parents, especially with younger kids get lost in the hype."

So, slow down! The years when your kids are young, are fleeting. Take time to enjoy the little things, like Christmas displays in windows and lights glistening through the snow. Bake cookies together and sing holiday songs. Watch the classic holiday shows and movies with your children. Put your energy into the traditions that your

children will treasure for decades to come.