

The Alkali Creek News

Alkali Creek Elementary School

681 Alkali Creek Road Billings, MT 59105

PHONE: 281-6200

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Greg Senitte, Principal

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

February, 2017

February:

3-----Wear Favorite Team Apparel Day
6-----5th Gr. Parent Planning Mtg. @ 6pm
9-----Pastries for Parents, 7:30am-8:15am
9-----PIR Early out day, Noon Dismissal
10-13-----Vacation Days, No School
14-----School Resumes
14-----5th Gr. Spelling Bee, 9:45am
2/14- 3/6-----Read-a-Thon (see details below)
15-----4th Gr. NAEP Testing Day
17-----Author Birthday Club
17-----3rd Qtr. Midterms (Gr. 4-5)
21-----Hearing Re-Screening Day
24-----Heights Girls Honor Choir assembly
27-----Spring Picture Day (Class & Individ.)

March:

1-----All City Honor Band Assembly
1-----3rd Gr. field trip to ABT
3-----Classroom Dental Visits

Attendance Matters

Parents, thank you for putting your children's attendance and education as a Top Priority. The majority of students are here at school almost every day.

Last year, during the first semester of the 2015-2016 school year, our average % attendance was 95.75%, with an average of between 15 and 16 students gone per day. This year, for the first semester of the 2016-2017 school year, our average % attendance was 95.36%, with an average of between 14 and 15 students gone per day.

Consider with these numbers that we have had a decrease in enrollment from last year to this year, as 6th graders have moved on to the middle school.

Our goal is to improve attendance for the second semester of our school year to an average of less than 10 students gone per day. We are not off to a good start as Monday, January 30th we had 30 students gone, and Tuesday, January 31st we had 20 students gone. Thank you for your efforts toward our common goal of improving school attendance.

Coming Soon: Read-a-Thon

Your child will be bringing home information about the annual Read-a-Thon. This is the second of two large fundraisers by our PTA (Cow-a-Bunga being the first). Pledge sheets, goals, and calendar will come home on February 14th. Students will count their reading minutes from Feb. 20-26. We will have guest readers in our school on Friday, February 24, as that day students can dress as their favorite character. Prizes will be awarded at an assembly on March 8th.

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. Applicants can begin the process by going to www.billingschools.org to fill out the substitute general duty assistant application.

Corner Book Shelf

February is already here. The year is speeding by at an amazing pace. February is "I Love to Read" month and two things will happen in the library this year.

PTA will have Read-a-thon and the library is a perfect place to find books kids may want to read, along with those that are at home. Also, beginning February 6, kids will have a chance to win fun prizes by answering a trivia question each week. Part of the answer will be revealed on the last day of the week. There will be paper and a container for answers in the library.

Don't forget that March 2 is Read-Across-America day. It is also Dr. Seuss' birthday. Kids will find some special things in the library on that day.

Author Birthday club will continue until April. The last celebration will be in May. Parents can come in and check out up to 5 books at a time for their kids. Just stop by the library to get a barcode made. It can be used at any BPS library. Have a great month reading! ~Mrs. Meyer

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.

Keeping Your Children Safe Online

Dr. Michele Borba is the parenting expert on NBC's "Today" show. Her interview in Excellence & Ethics newsletter included valuable advice for parents to keep children safe online.

Dr. Borba suggests specific rules and guidelines for parents that she calls her "6 P's of Internet Safety":

- 1. Parental Presence:** A parent will check your online activity.
- 2. Public:** The computer is public; anyone and everybody can see what you write. You are representing yourself and our family online by where you go and what you say. Your password and accounts will be public to your parents, and we will monitor your online presence together.
- 3. Posts:** There are no "take-backs," so don't click unless you want the world—including Grandma—to see your post.
- 4. Privacy:** Insist that your children not share personal information such as their real name, address, phone number, or passwords with people they meet online. Encourage kids to keep their passwords secret—even from friends. Don't store passwords in your backpack, wallet, or on a file in your computer. Criminals look there first. Never provide your password over e-mail.
- 5. People:** NEVER physically meet anyone offline that you've met online. In real life, people may be very different from what they seem like online.
- 6. Please tell:** If you ever feel uncomfortable about something online, please tell me.

Parents can hold kids accountable to their family's Internet rules with the following expectations:

- * **Have kids sign a pledge** to follow the rules. Have frequent chats to follow up. (SAFEKIDS.com offers a contract for younger kids [here](#).)
- * **Daily Internet time limits.** Give Internet freedom based on your child's past trustworthiness and age. Increase those limits slowly as you verify trust.
- * **"Walk-By" Rule.** Announce that if at any time your child covers the screen, closes programs, or quickly turns off the device, Internet privilege is lost. Do walk-bys as often as needed.
- * **"Collect and Drop."** Have your children drop their devices into a designated basket each night. Review personal posts, texts, or emails periodically—reading only enough so your child knows you're checking often and that you will limit or remove online privileges if warranted.

From Excellence & Ethics newsletter

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! ☺