

The Alkali Creek News

Alkali Creek Elementary School

681 Alkali Creek Road Billings, MT 59105

PHONE: 281-6200

WEBSITE: www.alkalicreek.weebly.com

Greg Senitte, Principal

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

March, 2017

March:

- 8-----KC Club Mtg.
- 10-----Author Birthday Club
- 12-----Daylight Saving Time (1 hour ahead)
- 13-----NAIA Champions of Character event
- 15-16-----4th Gr. MontCAS Science testing
- 16-----2nd Gr. field trip to ABT
- 17-----Hat Day for \$1.00
- 22-----KC Club Mtg.
- 24-----End of 3rd Quarter
- 31-----3rd Qtr. Report Cards go home

April:

- 3-----PIR Day, No School for students
- 7-----Author Birthday Club

Spring Testing Season

Our Spring Testing season is right around the corner. Below are test window dates to keep in mind. We need to have all students in attendance. Notice will be sent home at a later date for specific test dates for SBAC and NWEA tests.

MontCAS Science (4th Gr. only): March 15th and 16th

SBAC (Smarter Balanced) Reading & Math (3rd-5th Gr.):
March 22nd through May 26th

NWEA Reading, Math, Language (3rd-5th Gr.): March
28th-April 28th

FASTBridge Reading & Math (K-5th Gr.): May 1st-19th

Spelling Bee

We had an exciting Spelling Bee on February 14th. The contest went 19 rounds before a winner was declared. Our Spelling Bee Champion was Keaton Miller, and our runner-up was Mateo Marshall. Congratulations to other contestants: Tristan Lamb, Rielee Senn, Kayla Somers, Gavin Garwood, Molly Gleason, Jayna Morrow, Shayla Lowry, Gage Hiott, Bridger May, Izzy Howard, Karissa Tranchita, and Trinity Samel.

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

Spring is right around the corner and with it comes baseball, softball, and playing outside all day – finally! It also means the spring book fair is coming as well. This year, Alkali will try something new. We will have our book fair at Barnes and Noble Book Sellers. 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.

Our wonderful PTA will be helping as much as possible. A letter will be sent home with kids at the beginning of April to explain more about it. Please look for it!

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

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.

Parent Strategies: How to Help Your Child Perform Their Best on Standardized Tests

It is that time in the school year your child will be participating in the yearly standardized tests to assess their academic growth. Standardized tests are given one to three times per year. As a parent, there are a number of ways you can support your child before and after the test. These strategies below will help you make your child feel more prepared and confident as they face a long day of testing.

Before the Test

- Encourage your child-Praise your child for the things they do well. If your child feels good about themselves, they will have more confidence about taking the test, therefore perform higher. Children who become worried about taking the test will be more likely to make mistakes.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly-If your child is missing lots of instructional time it may have a negative affect on their test scores.
- Provide a place for studying at home- Make sure the space is quiet and comfortable for your child. It's very important there are no distractions to interfere with their learning.
- Establish a daily routine- Life is unpredictable and can be very hectic but it is crucial for you to stick to your child's routine as much as possible. Starting the day with chaos or disruption can affect their performance on the test.

Test Day

- Ensure your child eats a healthy breakfast-Studies show that children perform better in school when they aren't hungry.
- Help your child get enough sleep- Your child will need to have a good night's rest to perform well on the test. Children 7 to 12 need 10 to 12 hours of sleep a night.
- Prepare the night before- Lay out clothes and school supplies the night before the test to create a smooth morning routine. It's important for your child to feel calm and organized as they prepare for the test.
- Remain positive- Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If your child gets nervous about the test they are more likely to experience anxiety (worry) during the test. Try practicing some relaxation techniques such as deep breathing, stretching, moving head in a circular motion, and closing their eyes and visualizing a calm peaceful place. Explain to your child they can try one of these when they begin to feel overwhelmed or nervous.

*Referenced from <http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/parent-tips-how-help-your-child-prepare-standarized-tests>

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! ☺