

The Alkali Creek News

Alkali Creek Elementary School

681 Alkali Creek Road Billings, MT 59105

PHONE: 281-6200

WEBSITE: alkalicreek.weebly.com

Greg Senitte, Principal

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



Cartoon found at: dreamstime.com

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST:

22-----Class Lists posted @ 4:00pm

23----“Back to School” Night (4:00pm-5:00pm)

25-----First Day of School @ 8:20am

SEPTEMBER:

2-----Fall Picture Day

5-----Labor Day, No School

8-----Parent Information Night (6:00-7:00pm)

WELCOME to 2016-2017

I would like to extend a warm and exciting welcome to the new school year! I hope each and every one of you have had a fantastic summer, and we are looking forward to a great year ahead. We are excited to be in our first year of a K-5 model, as sixth graders are transitioning to middle school. We will once again have a “Back to School” Night, which will be held on Tuesday, August 23rd, from 4:00pm-5:00pm. We are inviting students and families to bring their school supplies to drop them off in the classrooms and meet their teacher. This is for parents and students.

Please take some time to read through the important information contained in this newsletter, and if you have any questions, feel free to call the school at 281-6200. I look forward to seeing you soon.

-Greg Senitte, Principal

Improvements at Alkali Creek

Our last project from the passing of the school bond was the installation of a new gym floor. That project has been completed this summer. We once again thank you, as this was truly a community effort.

We appreciate all of the hard work of the construction crews, district facilities and custodial staff, and Mr. Stoddard and Mrs. Thurman for their efforts in getting our building ready and looking great!

Awesome Alkali Creek PTA

We have a very strong family and community spirit at Alkali Creek, and our PTA is a big reason for its success. With our ever-growing need of technology in our school, our PTA has helped to purchase new technology for our school with three more classroom interactive projectors, along with a computer for the library. Each year, PTA funds classroom field trips and our FASTBridge benchmark and progress-monitoring system. These projects are made possible from the funds raised during Cow(Horse)-a-Bunga and the annual Read-a-Thon.

Please consider joining PTA, and/or helping in one or more of the many opportunities that PTA is involved with throughout the year. We welcome our new 2016-2017 PTA Board Officers:

Colette Tranchita, President

Mindy Sauther, Vice-President

TBD, Secretary

Nicole Worden, Treasurer

“Back to School Night” 8-23-16

For the fifth straight year, we are opening up the school *before* school starts for parents and students in K-5 to come in, meet their teacher, and drop off school supplies. We will do this on **Tuesday, August 23rd, from 4:00pm-5:00pm**. We feel this time before school will help ease students’ anxieties, and will make for a smoother transition on the first day of school, which will be Thursday, August 25th! *Class lists will be posted on the front windows of the school no later than Monday, August 22nd, @ 4:00pm.* If lists are ready prior to that, I will provide notify you of that on the school website, so please check that frequently.

The scheduled Parent Night (parent-only information) will be on Thursday, September 8th. Details will be announced soon after school begins.

Welcome New Staff

For the 2016-2017 school year, we welcome the following new staff members to Alkali Creek Elementary School:

- Candice Malia, Kindergarten
- Anne Harper, Learning Center
- Roy McKenney, 5th Gr. Band
- Bekah Kirtley, 5th Gr. Orchestra
-

The following are current teachers who will be teaching in a new grade-level/assignment this year:

- Mandy Warren, 1st Grade
- Haddy Wanner, 2nd Grade

Do you know someone who needs to register for school?

If you know anyone (a neighbor, a friend, or a family that perhaps just moved into the neighborhood) who still has not yet enrolled for school, please let them know that we need them to call the office immediately. They need to fill out a registration form, bring a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, and an updated record of immunizations. Thanks for your help! ☺

New School Lunch Prices

You can now complete a Free & Reduced Lunch Application online by going to the website <http://www.mymealtime.com> or there are also paper applications at the school office.

EVERY year, it is required that the new application be completed for households applying for free and reduced meals (both breakfast and lunch). If you need assistance, please call Sodexo at 281-5875.

****NEW** Full & Reduced Breakfast & Lunch Prices are:

<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Full Price</u>	<u>Reduced</u>
Daily	\$2.70	\$0.40
Weekly	\$13.50	\$2.00
20 Days	\$54.00	\$8.00
<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Full Price</u>	<u>Reduced</u>
Daily	\$1.25	\$0.30
Weekly	\$6.25	\$1.50
20 Days	\$25.00	\$6.00

Milk: \$0.60

Adults: Breakfast \$1.70 ---- Lunch \$3.50

Are you ready for school?

Making a smooth transition between the summer break and the beginning of school can help students feel good about themselves and help everyone in the family create and maintain a positive outlook about the coming year. Parents, you play an important role in helping make this transition a smooth one. Here are some tips that have helped in past years:

Establish a Routine: Bed times, rise and shine times, where to put backpacks are important for kids to know. Students typically do better when they're in a routine.

Make Sure All School Records Are Up To Date: Make sure

the school has any new phone numbers, changes in address, immunization updates, etc. A form will be sent home with your child the first day of school to do this. ****Please note the additional immunization from the recent State Law change.****

Be Sure Your Child Knows Their Address and Phone Number: This is a safety issue.

After School Care: Make necessary arrangements and be sure your child knows where they are to go and what they are to do after school. It is also a good idea to inform the office and teacher of these plans.

Purchase School Supplies: You can pick up a school supply list here at school, or at most stores. They are also available on-line at www.billingsschools.org and clicking on Education, then Elementary Schools, then Alkali Creek.

Create a Homework Center: It is best to find a quiet and consistent place to complete homework each day.

Stress The Importance of Good Nutrition: Healthy, well-balanced breakfasts, lunches, snacks and dinners can promote learning.

****SCHOOL SAFETY****

It is important that parents and visitors remember that ALL DOORS WILL REMAIN LOCKED during the school day...EVEN THE FRONT DOORS. ALL PARENTS AND VISITORS should press the intercom button located on the brick building to the right side of the front doors, and wait to be let in when recognized by school staff. All visitors and parents are required to check in at the front office with Mrs. Ponce, sign your name, and put on a visitor's sticker. This is to ensure the safety of all students and staff. If you have to pick up your child during the school day, you must do so at the office. We encourage you to make doctor's, dentist's, and other appointments outside of the school day, so that your child does not miss valuable instruction.

PLEASE keep the school updated with current residence, employment, cell phones, and other emergency contact information. You will have an opportunity to do this when your child brings home the "First Day Packet" of information. It is necessary for you to provide the school with names of adults able to pick up your child from school. If there is a custody situation, please advise the school who has the authority to visit and/or pick up children, via a Parenting Plan. This is for your child's safety.

Students in grades 2-5 may ride their bicycles to school, provided they wear a helmet and adhere to bicycle safety procedures. **Students must walk their bicycles on and along school grounds.** Heelys ("heelies"), skateboards, rollerblades, etc. are NOT allowed at school.

Alkali Creek serves breakfast from 8:00am-8:20am daily. Supervision of students on the playground for the *Morning Walk-a-Thon* begins at 8:05am. Students not eating breakfast should arrive on the playground after 8:05am. For further information about Alkali Creek Elementary School, please visit the website at www.alkalicreek.weebly.com. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask by calling the school at 281-6200. ☺

IMMUNIZATIONS!!

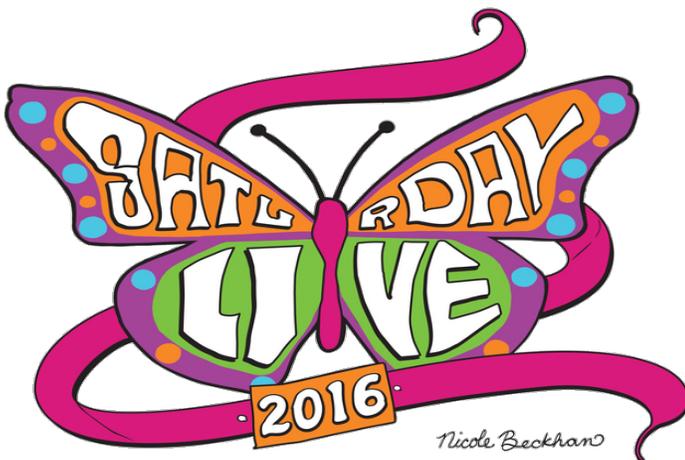
We appreciate the diligence parents have shown to get their children up to date with current immunizations. Below is a message from BPS Superintendent Bouck:

Billings Public Schools will fully enforce the immunization requirements for all school-aged children. Students in grades K-12 must have two (2) doses of the varicella vaccine. The first dose must have been administered AFTER the child's first birthday. The district has been very vigilant and made every effort to ensure parents were aware of the mandate changes. Numerous notices were sent, and opportunities for families to comply with the new mandates were offered during the 2015-16 school year.

Effective August 25, 2016, students will not be permitted to attend class until ALL vaccination requirements have been met.

Kindergarten Readiness Screenings

Kindergarten students who have registered will get a letter detailing the dates and times of kindergarten readiness screenings. These are quick assessments (10-15 minutes per student) that will go over letters, letter sounds, numbers, counting, colors, shapes, address, phone number, etc. These will be Tuesday, August 16th from 12pm-3pm; OR Wednesday, August 17th from 9am-11am. If you have any questions, check our school website at www.alkalicrook.weebly.com, or call the school at 281-6200.



Coming to Pioneer Park on September 24th, it's Saturday Live! Join us to celebrate the biggest carnival in the West. We have fun games, non-stop live entertainment, and delicious food.

Start your day at Daylis Stadium for the Saturday Live 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk at 9am. Same day registration begins at 7:45am or go online to register at www.efbps.org. There will be lots of fun prizes for all, including a prize to the school with the most participants!

Live entertainment will happen on the main stage all day. Join us at 1pm to watch students from Senior, Skyview and West dig into pie in a pie eating contest! The fun never stops with over 80 carnival booths throughout the park. Tickets for Saturday Live will be for sale at each elementary school prior to Saturday Live. You can also purchase tickets at the event.

Don't worry about parking; we have two shuttle buses running to ease the congestion. One shuttle bus runs from the Billings Clinic lot at 9th Avenue and 30th Street (by the Riverstone Billings Inn). An additional shuttle bus runs from the Montana State University Billings parking lot on Rimrock and Virginia Lane. Both shuttle buses run every 15 -20 minutes with drop off/pick up at the Zimmerman Center.

For more information, visit our website at www.efbps.org or call the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools at 245-4133.