

March 2025

## **Mark Your Calendars**

#### **Important Dates**

#### LINK TO OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR

April 4 Bread and Beyond - Multicultural Night 6:00-8:00 April 11: JA In a Day April 14-25 HOWL (Helping Ourselves With Literacy) April 18: School Closure Day April 25: HOWL Book Character Parade April 25 PTA Family Night - STEAM Night 6:00-8:00 April 29 Tastee Freez Take-Over 4:00- 9:00 May 5-9: Kindness Week May 9: 90's Dance 6:00-8:00 May 15: Field Day May 21: Last Day of School

## **Principal's Message**

Dear Kincaid Families,

I want to congratulate our kindergarten and first grade students, parents, our team of teachers, paraprofessionals and suppport staff. Between fall and winter, our students increased the number of students meeting benchmark in reading by 16% in kindergarten and first grade! Our staff provide excellent core instruction in reading and add additional instruction during WIN. Several students also participate in our After School Reading Boost. Our parents work

with students to complete weekly homework and they read to or with their children at home. All these supports help our students to grow! Kincaid was among the highest growth for reading in ASD elementary in Kindergarten and First Grade. We are proud of our students, our supportive parents and the instruction our staff provide.



# PUT THIS onyour calendar!

We are nearing the end of March and moving right into the busy month of April. We have many community events scheduled this month. We hope your family will enjoy participating in many of the great things we are offering.

First, we would like to invite all of our families to our Bread and Beyond family event on April 4, from 6:00-8:00 pm. We will have many special guests and some Kincaid staff and students, perform for us during the event. Thank you to Ms. Fadwa and Mrs. Stanker for facilitating this special night. If your family would like to contribute **food that represents your culture**, please contact Ms. Fadwa at <u>edais\_fadwa@asdk12.org</u>

Many business volunteers will be at school on Friday, April 11, to work with classroom teachers and provide engaging lessons on financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship with Junior Achievement. We call this JA in a day!

April 14-25 is our H.O.W.L (Helping Ourselves with Iteracy): As a school we will be encouraging our students to read for pleasure during these two weeks. More information will be coming home from classroom teachers on April 11. Teachers will be sending a letter home.

Later in the month our PTA is planning a family STEAM Night. Join us on April 25 from 6:00-8:00 for hands on science, technology, art and music. We will have more information coming about this event.

Finally, on Tuesday, April 29th, our Kincaid Staff will be taking over at Tastee Freez, for the Kincaid Tastee Freez Take-Over. This is such a fun night to get out, have a meal or ice cream, hang out with friends, and watch our staff work in a new setting.

Sincerely, Dr. Wendy Zorea <u>zorea\_wendy@asdk12.org</u>

## **AK Star and Science**

2025 AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment

Each spring, Alaskan students are provided an opportunity to show what they know. When students show what they know, teachers and parents can partner to promote student success. The State of Alaska Department of Education has partnered with NWEA to align and connect the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics tests with the MAP Growth benchmark assessments students take in fall and winter.

This balanced assessment system targets instruction to better support meeting students' individual learning needs. In addition, students will take only one assessment per content area (ELA and math) and be provided two scores as follows:

1. Summative assessment result at grade-level

2. MAP Growth interim benchmark result, including growth from fall to spring AK STAR, the Alaska System of Academic Readiness, is comprised of English language arts and mathematics and is administered to students in grades 3-9. The Alaska Science Assessment is administered to students in grades 5, 8 and 10. The purpose of a large-scale, summative assessment is to provide parents and schools an overall picture of a student's progress in meeting the Alaska standards at grade level.

Parents can locate resources for AK STAR and the Alaska Science Assessment, including directions for Student Readiness (Practice Tests and Tutorials), student testing times and general assessment information on the ASD website at <u>https://www.asdk12.org/akstar</u>.

Parents can also help by ensuring their children are well rested, eat a nutritious breakfast, and are at school on time for the days of testing. Please avoid scheduling appointments on your child's testing days.

The ASD AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing window allows for school assessment scheduling flexibility. Students! Get ready to show what you know during our school's AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment testing dates:

#### Kincaid AK Star and Science Dates for Grade Level Teams

5th Grade - March 24-26 4th Grade- March 27-28 3rd Grade - March 31 to April 1 April 2-4 (Make-Ups)

## **Student Council News**

- Ending Friday, March 28th: The 4th Annual Spring Cleanout Clothing Drive is happening this week. No prizes, just a big thanks for the donations as we will make sure that we get it to our community area in need.
- Tuesday, April 1st April Fool's Spirit day: Students dress as their teacher, teacher dresses like their students
- Friday, April 4th Multicultural Spirit Day: partnering with Bread and Beyond night
- Friday, April 11th Funky Friday Spirit Day: funky hair, mismatched clothes, backwards style. The funkier, the better!
- Thursday, April 17th Mr. Fiske Spirit Day: in honor of Mr. Fiske's last year, it's Camo Day!
- Friday, April 25th Mr. Akin Spirit Day: in honor of Mr. Akin's last year, it's dress like Akin day!
- Friday, May 2nd Kindness Assembly @ 1:15-1:45
- Monday-Friday, May 5th-9th Kindness Week:
  - Monday, 5/5: PJ Day
  - Tuesday, 5/6: Disney Day
  - Wednesday, 5/7: Sports Day (also Bike to School Day!)
  - Thursday, 5 /8: Twin Day
  - Friday, 5/9: 90s Day
- Friday, May 9th, 6-8pm: 90's Dance!! It will be a radically good time!! Entry is free, parent is required to attend, and there will be ice cream sandwiches and popsicles for purchase.
- Friday, May 16th: Coyote Pride Day!! Wear your Kincaid colors and show your school pride! We'll be out in the AM/PM shaking pom-poms, the Coyote will be visiting classrooms, and we'll be pumping up that Coyote pride.

As always, thank you for supporting Student Council 🙂

Alyssa Curry <u>curry\_alyssa@asdk12.org</u>

## **Emergency Preparedness**

### What to Expect If Mount Spurr Erupts

- If school is <u>NOT</u> in session and ashfall is imminent, we will close schools.
- If school <u>IS</u> in session and ashfall is imminent, expect early dismissal.

## Kincaid Elementary



- We have Identified At-Risk Individuals: We know which students and staff have respiratory conditions and may be especially vulnerable to ash exposure.
- We will control Building Entry: Minimize the number of exterior doors used to minimize ash entering the building.
- We will protect electronics: Power down all computers and electronics if ash is falling—ash can destroy sensitive equipment.
- We will cancel Outdoor Activities: No outdoor recess or unnecessary movement if ash is in the air. Walking and driving can resuspend ash, worsening exposure.
- Students will be provided with twice washable cloth masks

#### What Are the Most Important Cleanup and Safety Measures

- DO NOT sweep dry ash-it will go airborne. Wet it down first to prevent inhalation risks.
- DO NOT wash ash off roofs—it can cause structural damage due to added weight.
- Personal Preparedness: Families should have 3-5 days of food, water, and medications at home in case of disruptions.
- Protect Vehicles & HVAC Systems: Encourage staff to have spare air filters for their vehicles and homes to prevent damage from ash buildup.

#### What to Expect for Transportation, Maintenance, and Operations

- Student Transportation:
  - Bus routes may change to avoid hazardous roads.
  - Buses will receive immediate air filter inspections to prevent engine damage.
- Building Maintenance & Air Quality:
  - HVAC exterior vents will be shut down to keep ash from entering buildings.
  - Extra air filters will be available to maintain indoor air quality.
  - Maintenance crews will begin safe ash removal procedures immediately.

#### How to Stay Informed and Be Ready to Act

#### <u>The Alaska Volcano Observatory</u>

The Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Municipality of Anchorage Office of Emergency Management ASD Office of Emergency Management

# Bread and Beyond

A special evening to help us learn more about one another by sharing our traditions and cultures so we can celebrate the richness of our diversity here at Kincaid Elementary!

## All are welcome!

There will be dance performances, a display of flags and a world map, bread to sample (with recipes to take home), a fashion show, and more!

Friday, April 4th 6-8pm

## Life Skills Fundraiser

Our students in our Life Skills program are selling popcorn to pay for field trips. Popcorn money will be collected Thursday and popped on Friday. Students will be given their popcorn bag at the end of the school day. Popcorn is \$1 per bag.

# Puffy Porticious

Kincaid Elementary School (Life Skills Fundraiser) will be putting on a Popcorn Fundraiser! Families can pre-order/purchase a bag of popcorn for their child(ren) and it will be handed out at the end of the day on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 25th. A bag of popcorn will be \$1.00. If you would like to purchase a bag of popcorn for your student, please fill out this sheet, attach payment, and return to school by Thursday of each week listed above!

Student Name:

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## H.O.W.L April14-25

Teachers will soon be sending more information on H.O.W.L. (H.O.W.L. stands for Helping Ourselves With Literacy). This is a 2 week reading incentive to boost students interest in reading. H.O.W.L ends with a book character parade on April 25. Students can start thinking now about what book character they want to be on April 25.

## Yearbooks

Our yearbook order is in, based on pre-sales. We did order extra books so it is not too late to get your order in. Order your 24/25 yearbook through parent connect! **Yearbooks are \$20**!

We want to thank **Mr. Allen** for offering to be our yearbook coordinator this year. Yearbooks will be available in May.

## Lunch Service at Kincaid

Hot lunch services have returned to Kincaid. We are very pleased to have Ms. Traci back with us.

## JA In a Day April 11

<u>Junior Achievement's</u> proven lessons in financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship are shown to positively impact the lives of young people. These lessons align with national and state educational standards and are delivered to millions of



students across the country with the help of our education partners and volunteers from the local community.

Research shows that JA Alumni are more likely to have a college degree, feel confident managing money, have career success, and have started a business as an adult.

## **School Climate Survey**

Please help us see how we are doing on building a positive school climate for our school community. This is important to Kincaid. We do review the results and plan ways to improve based on your feedback. We would love for all moms, dads, grandparents, and guardians to take time for this survey. All voices are important to us. Ideally we would get close to 150 responses.

#### https://surveys.panoramaed.com/aasb/asdfamily/surveys?language=en

Thank you for all you do to support Kincaid.

## **Parent Pick-Up Tags**

Please place your parent-pickup tags on your mirror after school. This really helps our staff know who to call on the radio. It will keep us from knocking on your window to ask who your child is or who you are waiting for. If you need a tag, contact your child's teacher and they will make sure one is sent home.

We do not always have the same staff out during pick-up. Substitutes do not know your vehicles. The tags make it much easier for us to identify who you are picking up.



## **School Business Partnerships**



## Kaladi Brothers on Jewel Lake

Kaladi Brothers on Jewel Lake has been a longtime friend and business partner with Kincaid Elementary School. They provide coffee and hot cocoa for special events.



#### Texas Roadhouse -Southside

Texas Roadhouse provides Kincaid with attendance and reading incentives. They support our staff with special recognition awards and dinners. We also have a great night of fun during our Texas



#### **Jewel Lake Tastee Freez**

Tastee Freez will showcase Kincaid student art in the months of December and April. Tastee Freez donates icecream for special activities such as City Clean-Up Super Sweepers, and gives us a great night of fun on our Tastee Roadhouse Dine-In or Take-Out Events.

Freez Take-Over. This year it is scheduled for April 29.

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## Free and Reduced Lunches



### **Free and Reduced Lunches**

Families with students at Kincaid are encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced Lunches. Please include <u>all ASD students</u> in your household in the student section on the meal application, regardless of where they attend school, so we may certify your family in one application together. You may apply at any time of the year if your circumstances change due to layoffs, adding

people to your households or decreased income.

To Apply for this program go here: Free and Reduced Lunch Application



#### **Visitors and Volunteers**

If you plan to volunteer this year in the classroom or on a field trip, you are required to have an application approved with ASD. We ask that all of our volunteers fill this application out now because it can take up to 7 days to get approved. <u>Volunteer Application</u>

All visitors must stop at the front office and check in with Kelly or Sandie. Visitors may not go to a classroom unless we have contacted the teacher to let them know you are on your way. Visitors may only enter the school through the front door. If you are dropping something off for your child or for the teacher, you may leave it at the office.



## Home of the Kind Coyotes

**Our Mission -** To Develop kind, confident, capable and engaged learners.

**Our Vision -** To guide all students to thrive personally and academically.

#### **Collective Commitments:**

In order to achieve our shared vision, Kincaid staff agree to......

\* Communicate learning targets and class activities clearly to students and families.

- \* Provide positive and open communication to parents/guardians.
- \* Interact positively with students and visitors and each other.

- \* Be fully prepared for each lesson and provide effective engagement strategies.
- \* Provide a safe place where students have a sense of belonging.
- \* Be consistent and respectful and model school expectations.

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