



Sterling Elementary

School News

January 2018

Welcome to 2018! It's going to be an amazing year!

I can't wait to get this new year started! The first semester ended well! Our students are ready to finish out strong!

We will have another 21 Day Kindness Challenge soon! Start encouraging your children with kind acts that they can do for others.

We will also be recruiting some Watch DOGS for our school. More info in this newsletter and more to come!

Sincerely, Mrs. Kelly, Principal

Thank you Mrs. Hall, staff, students and families for supporting our beautiful winter concerts! They were, in a word, **FABULOUS!**

Free resource available for all Alaskans through <http://sled.alaska.edu>

Just need to sign up for an account and you can access Sesame Street e-Books and more!



Coming Soon at Sterling Elementary

- January 11** PTA meeting—4:00 pm—Library
- January 15** No School!
Board of Education Meeting—6:00 pm
- January 19** RIF—Reading is Fundamental—students get a free book!
- January 22** Report cards come home in Monday folders
- January 31** Bus Evacuation Drill—at morning drop off
- February 1** Watch DOGS Pizza Night for **DADS**—6:00 pm
- February 7** Early Release—Students released at 2:05 pm
- February 7-8** Parent Teacher Conferences
- February 9** No school for students—teacher in-service





Sterling Elementary School News



Nominate an
exceptional teacher!

Nominations open
through February 1st
at bpteachers.com

Nominate an
Educational Ally -
a principal, teacher's assistant or
anyone else making a difference
in your school.



Site Council Updates

The Sterling Elementary Site Council discusses school policies and needs. We meet once per quarter, and our meetings are open to the public.

Our next meeting is January 18, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the library.

In-Services

Our next staff in-service is on February 7th, which is an **early release day**. We will continue to focus on personalizing student learning and creating our positive school culture!

If you have an opinion about Sterling Elementary School, please complete one or more of the surveys at

www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/schools.aspx?id=340

Your opinion counts!

Parent Teacher Conferences...

Conferences will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7th from 4-7 and Thursday, Feb. 8th from 8:20-4:00. We will schedule conferences based on the schedules from our last conferences.

Please be sure to return your confirmation slip as soon as possible once you receive it.

February 7th is **early release** and students are out at 2:05 pm.

There is **no school** for students on February 8th and 9th.

Please send your children with their winter gear! It is cold outside and students go outside to recess until it is colder than -10 degrees.

If you need help with snow pants, coats, gloves or hats, please let our office know! We can help!!





Sterling Elementary

School News

ALICE Safety Drill

Our first ALICE safety drill went well. Teachers talked with students about how to lockdown the classroom, how to barricade the door, and where to go if they needed to evacuate. The most important thing that classes covered is that students must stop and listen to instructions and information that is available. During our next two drills, we will evacuate to our secondary evacuation site. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

School Safety Closure and Delay Start information

School safety is a top priority in the KPBSD. It's important for you to know what to do before, during, and after a school emergency, weather related delay start, or school closure. Please visit this webpage:

<http://bit.ly/EmergencyInformationKPBSD>

to familiarize yourself with A.L.I.C.E., KPBSD emergency terms and actions, and how to learn if there will be a two-hour delay start or school closure.

(Please contact Sterling Elementary School's office if you need a printed version of this webpage.)

► If school remains open during adverse weather, and you as a parent/guardian assess the conditions in your local area and decide to keep children home, please call to let the office know. An absence due to road and weather conditions will be excused.

Sterling Elementary loves volunteers!

Everyone (parents, staff, members of the public) interested in being a school volunteer must complete an online form and agree to a background check (only criminal activity will be checked). All information is kept confidential by the district office.

To complete the screening process, visit the District's web page at www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us >click on Volunteers > find Sterling >click apply.

All who wish to volunteer must be approved to volunteer in advance of any activity. The delay in approval can be 10 days or more, so apply early. Your help in keeping all our children safe while also supporting our school by volunteering is greatly appreciated!





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Watch DOGS at Sterling Elementary

Attention Fathers and Father-figures,

On *February 1st* from *6:00 – 7:00 pm*, we will host our *1st* annual ‘Dads and Kids’ Pizza Night at Sterling Elementary. We will meet at the school cafeteria at 6:00 pm for FREE pizza and drinks. At 6:30 pm we will have a presentation about our WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads Of Great Students) Program. WATCH D.O.G.S.® is an innovative program being used by schools across America which helps them to be positively impacted by the committed involvement of fathers and father-figures in their student’s life. Our goal is to have you spend at least one day this year at the school to be a positive male role model and to provide an extra set of eyes and ears.

Dads, granddads, uncles, step-dads and adult brothers . . . this is your chance to have a night out alone with your student in a fun atmosphere at school.

***All Watch DOGS must be approved volunteers to volunteer at the school for a day. We will have computers available to complete the online application on this night!**

****We love our moms, but this one’s just for dads and other men in our students’ lives!**

Personalized Learning

Our instructional staff have been learning about how to personalize learning for students. Here are some points that parents may want to know about this educational endeavor with more info to come!

Personalized learning (PL) is a student-first approach to education that will support your child’s needs and help them succeed academically. PL works for all students, regardless of skill level, and enables them to progress at their own pace. Above average students can move ahead to the next challenge, and below average students receive the extra support they need. PL, as a technique, has its challenges for educators, but overall it shows promising results and potential in the classroom.*

*from Classcraft.com

Why Music?

Our students often ask, “Why do I have to participate in music? I don’t like to sing!” Here is one description to help us all understand!

I. Music is a Science.

II. Music is Mathematical.

III. Music is a Foreign Language.

IV. Music is History.

V. Music is Physical Education.

VI. Music develops insight and demands research.

VII. Music is all these things, but most of all Music is Art.

That is why we teach music:

Not because we expect you to major in music.

Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life.

But so you will be human.

So you will recognize beauty.

So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world.

So you will have something to cling to.

So you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good— In short...more Life.

