

We want to welcome all of our new 4th graders to class, and welcome to returning students.

8/16/22

Issue #1



### Important dates and upcoming events:

- Initial assessments and MAPs Fall testing begin week of Aug. 22nd
- No school Mon. Sept. 5th, Labor Day
- School pictures on Thur., Sept. 8th.
- Overnight field trip to OEC coming in second or third week of Sept
- Fri. Sept. 9th early release day @ 2pm
- School garden potato harvest coming in Sept.
- Thur. Oct. 13th early release @ 2pm
- No school for students Fri. Oct. 14th, teacher in-service and end of 1st qtr.
- No school for students, Thur./Fri. Oct. 27th & 28th Parent/Teacher Conferences.

## Mr. Faris' Facts

Welcome to our class! I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing summer, and that you and your family had the opportunity for some adventure! I worked quite a bit but was able to spend some quality time with family. I'm very excited that we will have a more "regular" school year, transitioning away from all of the COVID-19 restrictions.

One third of our students are new to this class, (nine fourth grade students). Please make an effort to welcome them and their families to our class. I'd like to encourage all parents to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I have an open door policy and would love to get to know you all. Call or e-mail me any-time (260-9221) or (mfaris@kpbsd.k12.ak.us)

Any parent wanting to volunteer for school functions must register on-line and complete the background check. If you would like to drive for any of our class field trips you also must have a couple of forms filled out. This process must happen **each** school year in order to volunteer. Once those are complete, each field trip will have specific chaperone paperwork. Check with our office/Mrs. Cavazos and on the KPBSD district website if you have questions. We will have a few assessments this week but most will be next week. These will help us best place your child to meet their instructional needs for math, reading, and writing. Next week we will be trying to get into a more regular routine.

Outdoor field studies will begin soon. We are tentatively planning a Leave No Trace trip in conjunction with an overnight stay at the KNWR Swanson River OEC! The trip will be either the second or third week of September. Specific dates, more details and permissions slips to come soon. We will need chaperones and drivers for this trip. If you would like to volunteer please let me know and get your background/drivers forms taken care of with the office.

There is a "Weekly Reading Log" in your child's folder. Please read the directions at the top and help them keep track of their minutes; it is due each Friday. Make them responsible for tracking their reading. The first one is due Friday, August 26th. If you have questions, please ask.

Over 

# The Back Page

Enclosed in your Thursday folder (along with a bunch of other paperwork) is a blank album page for our "Class Family" album. The idea behind this is for you and your child to come up with some pictures, words, notes, letters, drawings, quotes, etc. to help your child feel safe and comfortable. Notes from you with strategies to help your child deal with anger/sadness or simple encouraging ones are perfect, as well as family pictures/good time pictures. Take some time, there is no rush. Please put these items under the plastic; you can use both sides, and then send back in with your child.

We are trying to eliminate the use of disposable cups for water in our classroom. Please try and send in a mug (many of you have already) or plastic cup with a handle so your child can use it for water throughout the year. These are much easier to wash in class than water bottles.

We will be blocking for math classes and writing instruction; students each going to a different teacher. We (Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Moore and I) have similar expectations. This will begin next week. Many students will be bringing their math books home to work on/finish math lessons. If you have any questions about this please let me know.

We have a class Blog with lots of information about our class, newsletters, expectations, schedules, calendars, and useful links. A short-cut to the site is:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/Mr-Faris>

This is the ONLY paper newsletter I will be sending home in a Thursday folder. The remaining ones throughout the year will be sent electronically to your email. Please let me know if you are not receiving a copy (I am going with the first email associated with your child in Power School). Let me know if you have a different email you want it sent to.

Thanks for all you do and please contact me with questions or concerns.  
260-9221 or [mfaris@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:mfaris@kpbsd.k12.ak.us)

Sincerely, Mr. Faris