

Principals' Report

Kenny Lake School

October 11, 2007

Kenny Lake School is into full swing. Mornings see the faithful and dedicated volleyball team here by 6:20 AM and in full practice readiness by 6:30. The team is a bit smaller than previous years but very enthusiastic. Their abilities will impress a lot of people!

Several of the high school hockey players, soon to start official practices, also arrive here on their own to workout. Head Volleyball Coach Mrs. Butler does not mind supervising these student athletes as well during volleyball practice. Many of the hockey players also get together after school to get as ready as they can for the official start of the season on October 15.

Also after school, Mr. Heinbaugh and Mrs. Rosen lead a very talented group of junior high basketball players. JH BB practice runs from 3:15 all the way to 5:00 every day of the week and the kids are learning a lot. This weekend they travel to Fort Greeley. Both the girls' and the boys' teams were victorious this last weekend when Tok came down for a visit. JH BB will run until the first weekend in November and will culminate with a visit to Anderson and the annual basketball tournament they have there.

Lil Dribblers (elementary basketball) has also started with the first practice taking place on October 15. Julie Knutson is doing a tremendous job serving as Kenny Lake School Athletic Director. Being the athletic director here can be a full time job and we appreciate her time and skills in this area.

On Monday, October 15, at 6:30 PM, Kenny Lake School is hosting its annual "Life After High School Parent Night" This is a special night at Kenny Lake which was developed by Mr. Lorence several years ago in response to a request from the Kenny Lake PTO. The PTO felt that parents and students needed more awareness with regard to our students' preparation for graduation and post-secondary studies. It has been a popular and much appreciated session here and we thank Jim Lorence for hosting it each year. Topics such as searching for scholarships, the importance of GPA and class rank, SAT and ACT testing basics, keeping records of achievements, applying for financial aide and much more are discussed at length. Parents of students in grades 8-12 and the students themselves are invited and it is usually very well attended.

As with all schools within the Copper River School District, we are in the midst of our student count. As of October 11, 2007 we have 131 students. We have 59 elementary, 24 junior high, and 48 high school students on the roster. That is 6 more than during the same time of the count last year.

I thought the Board might want a quick update on how our door security system is working. This is the first week that we are fully implementing the front door electronic locking system that Mr. Oatman installed this summer. All our exterior doors are locked from 9:00-3:00 now. When someone wishes to enter, they simply press a button, a friendly voice answers and if the office can identify the visitor, we open up the door electronically. We have tried to do the public relations work in our school community to make sure that all deem this as a positive thing. We also have very parent friendly signs posted as well. So far, it has been well-received. In time, Mr. Oatman will install a camera system that is within our budget which will also allow the office to view who is at the door. Right now, this is not the case.

After a serious amount of students on the JH/HS ineligibility list at first progress check, we now observe that this number has been reduced to 10. One of our statements of belief here at Kenny Lake School is that students must accept personal responsibility for every facet of their lives. Completing each and every school assignment in an acceptable fashion is a good way for students to show how this belief can turn into attitude which can then turn into action. Hopefully ten will be further reduced by the end of the first quarter.

Our first quarter honors assembly is scheduled for 2:00 PM on Tuesday, October 30. In addition to honoring our students with excellent attendance and grades, we will announce Students of the Month for September and October and perhaps have a short musical performance as well. We shall see.

Of course, we have our writing assessment scheduled for the week of October 29. The Kenny Lake Writing Assessment is scored according to the 6 Trait Rubric which hopefully is common vernacular here. We will be looking for Ideas and Content, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Conventions in our students' writing when we meet as a staff to read and grade these student writing samples on November 9. Meeting together as a staff to grade these papers is always a favorite teacher in-service of mine each year. Hopefully many of our students will see their scores improve from last year. We celebrate the students who improve their writing assessment scores at one of our assemblies each year and try to make a big deal out of it...because it is a very big deal to improve as a writer.

Thanks!

Respectfully,

Reed Carlson, Principal
Kenny Lake School