

August 14, 2007

Greetings to Parents, Students, and all Community Members of the Copper River School District from Kenny Lake School!

“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive.”

This challenge, by the American clergyman and activist Howard Thurman, encourages all of us to continue to discover who we are, and conjointly take the time to fully explore our talents, our passions and our abilities...what makes us “come alive”. Thurman also said, “There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself.” We certainly want to be genuine people. Otherwise we could end up as Thurman writes, “on the end of strings that somebody else pulls!” We definitely want to avoid that!

Kenny Lake School’s theme for the year is “Be Daring! Be Different! Be You! Kenny Lake School will look for opportunities to encourage our kids to consider their individuality and their special-ness. We will be reminding all of our students from the Kindergarten to the 12th grade a lot this year how wonderfully unique each young person is. Every single student is special beyond measure! It is our hope that this year, Kenny Lake School can do a good job of constantly encouraging our students to thoroughly enjoy their “special-ness” and in so doing, think carefully about their heart’s desires”. Pursuing passions and developing individual talents take courage, dedication and lots of hard work. We will be challenging our students to buckle up and go for it!!

Well, it is time for school! On behalf of our Kenny Lake/Chitina School Community, a warm welcome back! Starting up school each year is always exciting and unpredictable. I do look forward to a rich year...a year full of awesome memories and personal growth. Our teachers always expect a lot of our students in the areas of respect for authority and treating one another with kindness, dignity, and respect. It is because of this fact that I always look forward to each new year. Our students have established a very fine reputation throughout the Copper River Basin and Region 2 and I am extremely proud of them.

Results from the spring state testing show that Kenny Lake School continues to be one of the leaders in the state with regard to the percentage of our students proficient in Reading, Writing and Math. I am convinced that our high scores are the result of this fun, energetic, and respectful student body, involved parents who are passionate about their children’s education and a dynamic, caring, and extremely talented staff. Kenny Lake School was selected as one of Alaska’s three Blue Ribbon Schools in 2005-2006 and we always shoot to improve our state scores each year from that exciting year of recognition.

As is our tradition here at Kenny Lake School, we will begin the 2007-2008 school year with an all-school assembly on Tuesday, August 21 at 9:00 AM. At this morning assembly, we will introduce staff as well as student and school community leaders. We will also have a challenge for all of us in the area of pursuing our passions and our unique gifts and abilities that make each of us special. While I know many parents have to work, it is always tremendous to have as many moms and dads and community members as possible here for this special time. **Parents, although the buses will run their assigned routes, please bring your child to school on this first day. The assembly will try to begin at 9:00 AM in the gymnasium and will last for about an hour.** After the assembly, students will be dismissed to begin classes. However, there will be coffee and snacks available for adults. Stay and visit with each other as long as you wish!

I would like to quickly mention to the entire community the excellent work that was accomplished this summer by Mr. Oatman and his summer student crew of Ryan Cudo, Bonnie Bruss, and Danae Roe...doing

much to make our wonderful school look special on the inside and out and also accomplishing several maintenance tasks. Mr. Oatman reports what a joy it was to work with such exceptional, hard-working kids. Good for them!

Finally, the Kenny Lake School would like to extend a very warm welcome to Angela Woods, our new 6th Grade Teacher who also will be teaching High School Spanish and 7th Grade Math. We also welcome Sally Stockhausen who we are very glad to have as Kenny Lake School's Special Education Teacher. Finally we welcome Barb Doty as the new Librarian Program Assistant at Kenny Lake School. We are very glad they are here to serve our kids!

Again, on behalf of the Kenny Lake/Chitina School Community, we wish all Copper River School District residents, businesses and organizations a tremendous year, full of joy, success and happy memories!

Thanks and have a great 2007-2008 school year!

Respectfully,

Reed Carlson, Principal
Kenny Lake School