



Mr. Devold's Class

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Coding Central



I am continuing to encourage students to learning how to code in the class. Sorry if I create a monster. But it is in the name of science.... Computer science. I, by nature, am a computer type of guy. In years past I have had students code html websites, and practice coding games with a program

called KPL. However, technology advances and many things I used teach to students have become easier with blogs, and google docs, etc... and engaging students in computer science has become too simplistic, or spoon fed. Last year, I was made aware of a fantastic coding website called code.org. I am beginning to make this a part of the students educational routine. The emphasis is on learning code, but the byproducts are thinking logically, writing (code based), and becoming detail oriented. The site is very basic, but build to complexity fairly well too. It allows for success and the instruction is from experts in the field. Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and others are supporters of this educational resource, and provide insights and perspectives that allow learners to understand how it can influence future opportunities for computer science.

Student will have opportunity to learn how to create games and other small software codes. They will also learn how to code for creating apps for iOS and Android, as well as learning other coding such as JavaScript, pearl, C+, etc. Of course this is all based on their interest, but I believe you will see that many kids start wanting to ex-tend this learning at home. It is a good site... check it out, who knows, you may get interested too.

3rd Quarter Information

Parent Conferences—Follow up

What a great 2 days of meeting and talking with parents. I always enjoy getting new perspectives on students, and sharing the growth that occurs for students and the interesting choices they make as individuals. Often we have similarities between school and home, and sometimes there are differences in what we see. The conversations are helpful to me and hopefully helpful to parents.

Thank you to those of you who could meet, and if we didn't get to connect, please contact me to schedule a time. Email works best so I can respond.

Mr. D.

Read-A-Thon

We will be having a Read-A-Thon fundraiser to help families offset the cost of some of the big field trips this year. Many students have been able to use this fundrais-

NEW STATE ASSESSMENTS

You may or may not have heard that the State of Alaska has adopted a new testing format for students called AMP (Alaska Measures of Progress) the test is intended to be delivered online via computer. We no longer will be testing using the old bubble test method I'm sure you all remember taking as a kid.

Because the test is done online there are many new changes that are very different from prior testing years.

- 1) Testing is no longer a simple 3-day window like in years past. We are limited by our computer resources so the window is much longer in order to enable enough computer access time for students. (In the past we could test all 3-6 grade students at the same time. Now we can only test around 60 students due to the number of computers available.)
- 2) We will be testing on very specific days, and there are only two. However, they will not be back to back, making the test a bit less daunting.
- 3) Schools may test students on different days, so a child at the middle school may test on different days than our school.
- 4) Student home preparations remain the same, a good nights sleep on days before a test, and a good breakfast starts a testing day well.

On another note, the tests are much more difficult than past multiple choice tests. In stead of choosing correct graph information from choice A,B,C or D, students will now have to create the graph. In doing so they will need to know how to manipulate the computer correctly to solve the problem. So, much more is required of students in order to get a correct answer than simply choosing an answer. If you would like to see an example of the test I will gladly meet with you to show you if you are curious. I may even schedule a parent night to demonstrate.

er to fully pay for both the Alyeska and Kasitsna Bay trips. Others have raised enough to take care of one trip. This fundraiser is a simple way for kids to raise money for their field trips, plus it is fun to have a day of reading in the class.

The Read-A-Thon day is planned for Thursday, March 5th. Students should complete their fundraising prior to that day and then we will have the week after spring break to collect any outstanding pledges. As always, this fundraiser is offered as a option to offset costs, but participation is optional. Every student will read on the Read-A-Thon day, regardless of whether they received pledges or not.

More information about the Read-A-Thon and the upcoming Alyeska & Kasitsna Bay trips will be coming in the weeks to come.

Emergency Information:

5th grade parent drivers for Arc Lake field trip next Friday afternoon.

Special points of interest:

- January 5-8—I-Safe Instruction
- February 25—6th grade Middle School Class Registration meeting @ lunch time.
- March 6th—End of 3rd Quarter—No School
- March 9-13—Spring Break
- March 24—Alyeska Skiing Field Trip
- March 27—Early Release Day
- April 8—State Testing DAY for 5th & 6th Grade (MATH)
- April 15—State Testing DAY for 5th & 6th Grade (L.A.)
- April 20—(TENTATIVE) - Intermediate Spring Muisc/ Talent Show
- May 1—Early Release Day
- May 4-6—Kasitsna Bay Field Trip
- May 20—Last Day Of School (WOW! This is now on the newsletter.)