December Events

- Wednesday, December 5th: School Board Meeting - 6:00-9:00pm in the SHS Library
- Monday, December 10th: Baranof Family Meeting @ 8:05am
- Friday, December 21st:
  * Baranof’s Winter Caroling Assembly at 8:15am in the Gym
  * Cookie Decorating Party
  * Movie & Treats in the Gym @ 12:20pm
- December 22nd-January 10th: Winter break

Baranof Cookie Decorating Party

The Second Annual Baranof Elementary Cookie Decorating Party will be on the day before winter break, December 21st. We are looking for donations of plain baked cookies, frosting, decorating supplies (sprinkles, candies, etc), large paper plates, and popsicle sticks (to spread frosting).

Don’t have extra time to bake this holiday season but would still like to contribute? Donations are welcomed so we can get the supplies and do the baking for you! You can send cash donations to the office, or pay online at https://sitka.revtrak.net/baranof-elementary/, as soon as possible so we have time to do the shopping. Thank you for your contribution to our winter fun!

Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4FA9A928A7FB6-baranof2

What a great turn out for Baranof’s Thankful Gathering!

We were thrilled to see that so many families came out to celebrate and be thankful with us. We hope to see you at one of this month’s events, Baranof’s Winter Caroling Assembly, Cookie Decorating Party, or Movie “Night” in the Gym! Join us for one or all of these on December 21st to sing songs, decorate cookies, watch a movie and have fun!
**Principal Points**

Excitement is in the air at Baranof Elementary as we move into the holiday season. We would like to thank everyone who helped make our silent auction and carnival such a success. The money raised will be used to fix our fish tank as well as in many other meaningful ways throughout our school. I would also like to thank all of you for attending parent teacher conferences. I was thrilled to see such a great turn out! I received such positive and thoughtful comments about our staff and school from so many of you. I really and truly appreciate it! Working together as a team only benefits our students.

Now that winter weather is upon us, please be sure your child is dressed properly for the weather. We play outside in the snow and rain. Hats and gloves are so important for keeping students warm and happy while they play during recess. School begins at 8:05 AM; therefore, students should not be arriving to school before 7:45 am as there are no adults on playground duty prior to 7:45 am.

Baranof Elementary will be closed for winter break from December 22- January 9, 2018. **We look forward to seeing you back at school on Thursday, January 10th!** I would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

**REMINDER:**

For your child’s safety, if he/she will be absent or tardy, please call the office before 8:05am. You may leave a message any time, day or night.

**Don’t forget to clip your Box Tops!**

Our school gets 10 cents for each one. Fill your sheet (included with newsletter) and send it in your child’s folder.

**Music Notes**

“Frosty weather, snowy weather, when the wind blows we all go together. Three steps back and a one, two, three!”

Well it seems our song has encouraged old man Winter to show up early this year! We are enjoying our festive songs and looking forward to learning new December holiday music. Some of the songs we will be enjoying include “Jingle Bells”, “Must Be Santa”, “Reindeer Boogie”, “Festival of Lights”, just to name a few.

Kindergarten learned a new song and game this week, “Bow Wow Wow” which is a partner game and I must say in all my years teaching Kindergarten, this group learned the game the fastest! Yay!! What an energetic and happy group. What they didn’t realize when they were having so much fun is that the lesson is teaching them the musical concept of a quarter note rest. We are still using words like “sound and no sound” until next year.

First grade is continuing to practice our minor third interval of sol and mi as well as moving into the more advanced rhythmic areas utilizing quarter notes and eighth notes. These will be known as “ta and ti-ti” for a while.

We are excited to have a Thanks Gathering assembly this Wednesday at 8:15 in the gym. We have been practicing the song “Let’s Give Thanks” to be accompanied by Mr. Joe. We hope to see you there if you can!!

Have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or message phone.

I am thankful to you all and especially for your treasured gift of precious children!

Keep Singing! Kathi Jones, jonesk@sitkaschools.org  907-966-1318
Counselor’s Corner

How to Have a Calm and Happy Kid?

Put Away Your Cell Phone When You Are With Your Child!

Research shows that parent cell phone use affects a child’s behavior. In early childhood, children need time with their parents to connect socially and emotionally. They watch their parents to learn how to behave and how to interact with other people. Otherwise, children get the message that their parents are distracted and unaware of their needs. Studies show that the more time parents spend on cell phones, the riskier and more attention-seeking their children’s behaviors become. A study of 6,000 children from 8 countries found that 1/3 of the children interviewed feel that they have to compete with their parent’s cell phone for attention. (AVG technologies, June, 2015)

Here are some easy ways to invest in your emotional attachment with your child when you put your cell phone away:

- Greet your child with your full verbal and non-verbal attention when you pick them up from school and events.
- Use ordinary moments (standing in line at the grocery store, sitting in a waiting room) to talk with your child about their thoughts and experiences.
- Eat together as a family (screens put away) to talk about the day and enjoy each other.
- Make time to play and read together screen free.

Your child will be happier, more likely to listen to your guidance, and will be better behaved throughout their childhood if you make an effort to leave your phone in your pocket when you are spending time together. This has powerful positive consequences on your child’s mood and functioning now and in the future.

Enjoy spending quality time with your child!

For more information, contact our school social worker, Jeanine Brooks at 966-1321 or brooksj@sitkaschools.org.

P.E. News

S.M.A.R.T. stations are here! Ask your student what our SMART stations are in PE class and they will tell you quite a few things actually. Students typically start with a 5 minute warm-up that consists of jogging, skipping, jumping or any other form of basic movement skill. Some days we even break out our best dance moves! Our SMART stations vary from time to time and consist of ‘Superman stretch’, ‘popcorn’, ‘Alligator crawl’, ‘Overhead ladder’ and lots of others! I wonder what your child’s favorite station is? Our students are getting plenty of exercise and ‘tummy time’ which is essential to our growth both in body and their brain! Come by and visit our SMART stations anytime!

‘Mr. Joe’ Montagna
Baranof Elementary School P.E. teacher
907-966-1326

Library News

Thank you Baranof Families for volunteering your time and talents during Book Fair. We had a successful book sale, and were able to earn over $800.00, which will help our library order books in the spring. We couldn’t have done it without you!

PLEASE DRESS YOUR CHILD FOR THE WEATHER!
Remember to dress your child for the weather since we do have recess every day, rain or shine. They should have rain gear and a warm coat, hat, gloves and boots for the winter.

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November Bear Paw Winners

Great job following our school rules!

There is a Toys For Tots collection box at Baranof until December 20th. If you would like to make a donation you can either bring it in or send it in with your child to put in the box.

Thank you!
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BUNDLE UP WITH BOX TOPS

Thank you for helping! Clipped Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your child's school. Bonus certificates should not be attached to this sheet - please submit them separately.

To see more ways to earn cash for your child's school, go to BTFE.com.