November Events

- Monday–Friday, October 29th–November 2nd– Parent Teacher Conferences
- Thursday & Friday, November 1st & 2nd– NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
  - Monday, November 5th– School Board Meeting– 6:00–9:00pm in the SHS Library
  - Wednesday, November 21st– Baranof’s Thankful Gathering @ 8:15am in the Gym
- Thursday & Friday, November 22nd & 23rd– Thanksgiving Break– NO SCHOOL
- Thursday, November 29th– Baranof Family Meeting @ 4:00pm in the Commons

Calling all Families –
Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles, Brothers and Sisters!

Everyone is invited to:
Baranof’s Thankful Gathering!
Wednesday, November 21st @ 8:15am
Come join us while we sing, move and celebrate!

Thank you for helping us Fix the Fish Tank!
Between the donations, silent auction, and carnival we raised enough to fix our chillers and our critters will be back at school soon!!

Thank you!
Hello Baranof Families,

Thank you to all the families who attended Parent-Teacher conferences! Families and teachers working together ensure the best chance of success for children. Parent-Teacher conferences are a good chance to connect with each other. Fostering good home-school connections and communication increases a child’s success at school and at home as they develop socially, academically, and emotionally.

All School Assemblies

Every month we have all school assemblies that are 15-25 minutes long! Families are encouraged to attend. Our November Assembly will be Baranof’s Thankful Gathering on Wednesday November 21st at 8:15 am. A few students will be sharing what they are thankful for. We will also be singing a Thanksgiving song and doing the turkey tango. Please join us!

BARANOFS FAMILY MEETING

I would like to invite each and every one of you to our Baranof Family Meeting; casual conversations with our school and families. Our November meeting will be November 29th @ 4:00 pm in the Baranof Elementary Commons. I am varying the days and times for our meetings to accommodate various schedules. Some people expressed a need for childcare to attend meetings. Please feel free to bring your child because these are informal meetings.

This month’s meeting discussion items:
1. Fall Carnival and Silent Auction Updates. We raised enough money to Save our Fish!
2. December Winter School Wide Activities:
   · Winter Caroling Assembly
   · Cookie Decorating Party
   · All School Movie
3. Upcoming Universal Screeners and MAP assessments.

BECAUSE WE CARE ABOUT BARANOFS CHILDREN...

We LOVE it when adults visit and volunteer at our school! We want everyone to feel welcome and at the same time keep the children in our school safe. To help us in our efforts to provide a secure environment, please:

- Use the main door during the day (other outside doors are locked between 8:10-1:00)
- Sign in at the front desk
- Put a visitor badge on after signing in (they are in a container next to the sign in sheet)
- Return the visitor badge to the container before leaving the school

If you have suggestions or concerns please contact Jill Lecrone, Baranof Principal, 966-1328

Don’t forget to clip your Box Tops!

Our school gets 10 cents for each one. Fill your sheet (included with this newsletter) and send it in your child’s folder. Remember, make sure that they haven’t expired please. Thank you!
CARNIVAL FUN
Social Worker Section

GIVE YOUR CHILDREN GIFTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON THAT ARE GOOD FOR THEM

(Avoid exposing your children to violence in video games and movies.)

As you purchase gifts for your children this holiday season, please consider buying toys that encourage creativity and pretend play. A wealth of research about how young children learn tells us that toys that encourage pretend play such as dolls, blocks, Legos, cars, and puppets promote healthy brain development and lifelong positive behaviors (Pediatrics Vol. 124 No. 5 November 1, 2009). Avoid electronic toys that expose your child to violence in their play. A simple toy that invites pretend play will help your child learn to self-regulate, problem-solve, compromise, think creatively, express their feelings, and promote happiness.

Did you know? *Children who play teen or mature-rated video games for a minimum of 40 minutes a day may witness over 180 incidents of aggression per day, or 5,400 incidents per month (The Lion and Lamb Project).

*Many parents use video games to “babysit” their children, exposing their children to violence and other forms of inappropriate content.

*Children suffer greater harm when they watch a person playing a violent video game than when they actually play the game because they are powerless observers. Please do not let your child watch you play violent video games.

*When children are in Kindergarten and First Grade, their parents are the most important people in their lives. You have the power to influence how your child behaves and feels with the toys that you give them.

Children learn from repetition. Take violent video games and movies out of your child’s life and replace them with toys that encourage creativity and happiness.

(This message was brought to you by the Early Support Program School Social Worker, Jeanine Brooks. Feel free to call her at 966-1321 with any questions or for specific parenting support.)

P.E. News

This month our students will be practicing the wonderful world of YOGA! We have been doing yoga here at Baranof for almost 10 years in P.E. class- we often have guest yoga instructors and are always looking for any parent helper that can show us a few yoga moves! Our students already know the tree pose and it is often used to re-focus after a high energy activity, or even just for fun to test our body strength and control- hopefully you will see your child trying yoga with you at home next month! Enjoy!

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

“Any Turkey can Tango, Any Turkey can Dance.
Any Turkey can Tango if they have a chance!”

Happy holiday season! You will be hearing a lot of this cute turkey tango music in the coming weeks. It has become a fan favorite with our wonderful students as well as Mr. Joe! They love the dance and the music, so get ready!!

Thank you to all of you for taking time to come to our open house and our Alaska Day assembly a couple of weeks ago and for coming down to the music room. We are so lucky to have a space to sing, play games and move. I was so proud of their singing of the Alaska Flag song!

Kindergarten is continuing to work on basic concepts that will eventually lead into the “words musicians use” such as beat/rhythm, tempo and dynamics. Right now these concepts are being taught in the Kodaly philosophy of internalizing before naming. It is so much fun to see our students develop in fun ways. They have enjoyed playing the triangle, tambourine and maracas this week and bubbles!!

1st grade has recognized the interval of a minor third but only knowing that the sounds are different, one high and one low. Don’t tell them but next week we will learn the names of these sounds on the tone ladder as Sol and Mi (shhhhhhh!!).

We will be singing many seasonal songs in the coming weeks as well as playing some instruments. What a glorious time of year for music and laughter.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments or come by and visit.

Keep Singing! Mrs. Jones,

You can now make lunch payments online! Please go to this website:  https://sitka.revtrak.net/

There is also a direct link on the sitkaschools.org web site and our Facebook page.

If you have any questions, please call us at 747-5825.

Cost for Hot Lunch $3.30 $0.70 Milk $66.00 Monthly (approximately)

PLEASE DRESS YOUR CHILD FOR THE WEATHER!

Remember to dress your child according to 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.
SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION

Fall is here, and winter fast approaching. We thought it a good time for some reminders and information.

Good behavior is expected and insisted on while riding the buses. Students must assist the driver and not distract by not following the rules. School principals are notified if unacceptable behavior occurs.

Mornings are darker making it difficult to see students while waiting for their buses. Please have children wear reflective clothing or bright colors making it easier to see them from greater distances.

Behavior at the bus stops has not been a problem. However, please review with children to remain far back from the street until their bus comes to a complete stop. There can be no pushing at bus stops, they need to be controlled stop locations. Thank you to the parents that stand with their children, you are so appreciated!

We would like to share in advance our policy regarding snowy and or icy days. All the buses have drop chains and are prepared for snow or ice, but for safety sake and to avoid any problems, we take precautions and keep the buses on level ground. Students whose homes are at higher elevations must come down to flat ground to catch their bus. At areas like Georgeson Loop and Wortman Loop the riders need to meet their bus on Edgecumbe Drive. Cascade Creek Road and Donna Drive will be picked up at Grace Harbor Church. The bus will go down Cascade Creek Road, but will not make normal stops. The bus running that route on snow days, runs the route backwards. So please be patient, the bus stop times will be slightly later.

After school activity buses for Baranof Buddies, Glo, and Blast, service will be provided on snow days. However, buses will drop at the bottom of hills and students will be expected to walk the rest of the way home.

The School District has been excellent in getting the news to the public, and will continue to do so by notifying the radio station, and Facebook.

Please watch for the amber lights and prepare to stop for flashing reds. Too many times vehicles try to beat the reds, that is an accident waiting to happen! Use caution when approaching buses, and never pass a bus.

All our school bus drivers are excellent! They are well trained, experienced, and have your children’s safety in mind at all times. Your help with student transportation is imperative. Thank you for your assistance and support by speaking with your students regarding bus safety.

Parents you are always welcome to call the bus company at 747-7321 with questions or concerns.

Student Drop-Off

A reminder to parents/guardians that students are to report directly to the playground in the morning no earlier than 7:45 am, as we will have no adult supervision until that time. In an effort to minimize delays and maximize safety, please do not park in our student drop-off area. When dropping your child in the morning, please do the following:

• **Pull forward as far as you can in the designated student drop-off area. This will allow the maximum number of parents to drop students off at a time.**
• **Have students ready with their backpacks and other school supplies when being dropped off.**
• **Have your child exit the vehicle from the passenger side and walk directly to the sidewalk. This will keep them from having to walk in between cars in the dark and rain.**

This is a high-traffic area in the morning, so please use caution, and encourage your student to use sidewalks and go directly to the playground. **We ask that you find a parking space if you would like to walk your child in.** Thank you for your continued efforts to help everyone have a safe start to their day.
October Bear Paw winners

Great job following our school rules by being safe, kind, and respectful!
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Happy Halloween!

Parent Teacher Conferences

NO SCHOOL TODAY

Baranof’s Thankful Gathering!

Thanksgiving Break No School

Baranof Elementary School