Welcome to a new school year. I’m glad to be back in Seldovia, and I’m looking forward to a fantastic year with your child.

**WEEKLY BULLETIN**

 Look for this bulletin to come home on the first school day of each week. (It will not usually be this lengthy!) If your child doesn’t offer the bulletin to you, please ask to see it. I’ll use this to let you know what is going on in our classroom along with scheduled school-wide events. By next week I’ll also post it on our classroom blog page so you have another option in the event the original is lost. I’ll give you directions to the blog in next week’s bulletin.

**CONTACTING ME**

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at school (234-7616) or on my cell (907-290-0068) after school. My e-mail address is kbornheimer@kpbsd.k12.ak.us and I check that frequently. Another option would be to stop by the classroom before or after school.

**ABSENCES**

 As always, the district is requiring that all absences be excused by parents. You can satisfy this requirement by sending me a note before your child is absent, if it is a planned absence. If we don’t know your child will be absent, you’ll probably be getting a call from Amy in the office unless you call her first! Thanks for your cooperation.

**LUNCH**

 While our class goes to lunch at noon, lunch count is taken first thing in the morning. Please be sure your child knows then whether he/she is having a lunch from home or a school lunch.

The district is no longer sending printed menus. You can access the online version on the district’s website, the school’s blog page, or the school’s Facebook page.

**NAMES PLEASE!**

 Please label everything that comes to school with your child’s name or initials. This is especially important for P.E. shoes, lunch boxes, backpacks, and jackets. If you don’t have a permanent marker at home, you are welcome to stop by and borrow one. Thanks!

**WATER BOTTLE**

 Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school. Please be sure the bottle has some type of cover that allows the child to drink without completely removing the lid so that if the bottle tips the water is contained (or at least slowed). This should eliminate accidental spills that ruin textbooks or electronic equipment. Thanks!

**SHARING**

 Your child’s assigned sharing day is listed below. If your child is in kindergarten, first grade, or second grade and forgets to share on the assigned day, he or she is welcome to share later in the week.

**Monday:** Ivan, Mark, Asher

**Tuesday:** Draven

**Wednesday:** Bo, Lily, Adelynn

**Thursday:** 3rd graders

**Friday:** 4th and 6th graders

 Sharing is a time for children to practice talking in front of peers in a relaxed, informal setting. It is also a great opportunity for children to learn to listen attentively to each other and to ask and respond to questions.

 For the most part, third, fourth, and sixth graders have mastered these skills, and many are no longer as excited about sharing. They are welcome to share on those occasions they have something special.

 Each week’s sharing will have a focus or theme. This week’s sharing should be related to summer vacation. Children can bring an object or just talk about an experience.

Next week the theme will be the outdoors. Children can bring in or discuss a treasure they found outside.

**ARRIVAL TIME**

 While our school has a handbook, most of what is covered in it applies only to middle and high school students. One thing that does apply to our class is the arrival time. The handbook states that children shouldn’t arrive before 8:10. I love the enthusiasm of students at this age, but by the end of last year arriving had turned into a competition to see who could be first. This led to instances where a child’s day was off to a bad start because he/she hadn’t been first! We understand that sometimes you have something to do that requires dropping your child off before 8:10. Just let me know so that I can expect the early arrival.

**DISMISSAL**

School is dismissed at 3:10 each day. Unless you’ve talked to me or Amy, I’ll expect you to pick up your child. If it is okay for us to release your child to walk from school without your presence, please send a note that we can keep on file.

We will be having children wait until 3:15 before they call to see why you are “late”. That got a bit out of control toward the end of the year with children racing through the commons and calling immediately.

I’m also going to try to eliminate the mad scramble after school each day to make plans to go to a friend’s house. It resulted in ambushed parents, hurt feelings, and many awkward situations. Please make after school playdates ahead of time unless you and the other parent are both here to help with the negotiations and plans or you have called us letting us know of the plans.

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

In next week’s bulletin I’ll be able to share our daily schedule with you. We are still working out some details.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

 Below is a list of supplies that each child should have at school by the middle of September.

**Required:**

* 1 large box of Kleenex
* Crayons (box of 24 is fine)
* Pencils (send a few with your child and replenish as needed)
* Erasers (those that fit on the end of a pencil work best)
* PE shoes (shoes that tie or Velcro with non-marking soles)
* 1 two-pocket folder (pockets at the bottom work best)
* 1 pencil box
* 4 large glue sticks (send two now and the other two when your child lets you know he or she needs more)
* 1 backpack

**Optional:** Colored pencils, markers, scissors.

 Please do not send binders with your child. If we end up using one, I have a class supply of them. Extra binders take up too much room in the desk.

 The two-pocket folder mentioned above will go back and forth between home and school each day. We’ll label one side “home” and the other side “school”. Those items on the side marked “home” are things that can stay at home. Items on the “school” side need to be returned to school. I’d appreciate your help in reminding your student about the folder until it becomes a routine.