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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO SCHOOL CALENDAR\***

May 13 Lower EI Field Day K – 2nd  
 May 17 ½ day school-release 11:00  
 May 24 ½ day school-release 11:00  
 May 27 Memorial Day-no school  
 \*June 13 Last day of school ½ day  
 - -release 11:00

**DID YOU KNOW**

**Kind. /Y5,** In kindergarten, we are full swing into our service learning project to raise money for the zoo animals! The students are doing a change drive between the tiger, red panda and butterflies. The animal that wins the most money will get all the money to sponsor the animal and maybe buy a toy or special item to help as well! The students are excited to see our sponsored animal when we take our trip to the zoo at the end of May.

**1st,** The first grade students have been learning about animals. They have gone outside and observed animals in their natural environment. The students studied the different habitats that animals have, and they noticed the things that are in the habitats that help the animals survive. The students will also be studying the life cycle of animals and how animals are alike and how they are different from each other. The first grade students will end the unit with a trip to Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park.

**2nd,** 2nd graders did a wonderful job performing in their musical, "Go Fish", last week. Thanks to Mrs. Peterson for her hard work and for choosing such a cute program! Thank you to the friends and relatives that attended the musical, too. This week our focus is on protecting the Earth. We are learning how our actions can help the Earth from fiction and nonfiction reading. Last week we focused on heroes. It was so interesting to read about how people make a difference in our world. In math we are wrapping up our geometry unit and will begin learning how to use centimeters to measure objects. Students should keep practicing their addition and subtraction facts at home until they know them well from memory.

**3rd,** The third grade classes have all completed the water safety classes at the YMCA in Ionia. Each class earned a trip to Moo-ville & a pizza lunch on the last day. The classes were very informative and exhausting for the kids but they enjoyed it. We have also survived the ELA and Math M-Step tests and are looking forward to some fun days ahead as we close out the year. Field day, a popcorn party, book it pizza lunches, and maybe a walk to the park for a picnic are on the horizon. Watch for info from individual teachers.

**4<sup>th</sup>,** Fourth graders are in the middle of M-Step testing this week and next. We finished the English-Language Arts portion of the test this week and will be taking the math test next week. If your child was absent during their testing days, they will complete the test in a small group later. Please make sure your kids have plenty of sleep and breakfast so they can perform at their best

**5<sup>th</sup>,** Did you know that the 5th Grade VIP Day has changed to Friday, May 17th. We really look forward to seeing everyone's VIP from 9:45-10:45am. Also, did you know that Mrs. Milks and Mrs. Rasmus' classrooms are working on persuasive writings. Many students are going to be given the opportunity to present their persuasive writing in front of the school board on June 10th!

**6<sup>th</sup>,** 6th grade students are busy finishing up the school year. In Writing, they are finishing up their fiction stories and will begin their Invasive Species research and essays soon! In Reading, they are busy reading fiction and non-fiction for Reading Workshop. June 4 will be the last day to take AR tests to reach their last AR Goal. 6th graders will be taking M-STEP May 20-24. It is important to be at school on those days, get good sleep, and eat a good breakfast!



**THANK YOU** to all of our wonderful families, community members, Administration, & School Board for the thoughtful notes, cards, yummy treats, & gifts to help celebrate Staff Appreciation this week. Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated!

A special shout out to the PTSO group for the wonderful luncheon provided to all of us courtesy of the Goblin Good To Go Food Truck. Thank you Jolene Hopkins & Vicki Kennedy, the food was delicious!



**Junior League at  
Morrison Lake Golf Club**



**When: Every Wednesday of the  
summer beginning June 19<sup>th</sup>  
from 9:00-11:00am**

**Cost: \$65 registration & \$7 each  
week**

**Includes: Basic Instruction each  
week & Golf. End of season  
cookout, prizes & Junior League  
Shirt.**

**Participants: Ages 6-15 years old**

Help! I need strategies!

As parents, we sometimes need tools to help our child(ren) to be successful. Here are a few strategies to help you assist your child(ren) with how to act/react to different situations.

- Give clear, short, and specific directions.
- Have patience...It takes younger children at least 5 seconds to mentally process directions.
- Be consistent. It helps a child learn and feel confident in what you want.
- Stay calm & use a calm voice.
- Focus on logical consequences when a problem arises.
- Reward positive effort – this sets the stage for success.
- Set and enforce reasonable limits.
- Try to give 5 positive responses for every 1 negative response.
- Set the example – actions speak louder than words.
- Try to anticipate where your child might have trouble and prepare them for the situation by coaching them on the behavior you want to see.

Credit:

<https://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/Workarea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=33370>

## NEWS FROM THE HILL

### The Power of Specific Positive Feedback

At Saranac Elementary, we acknowledge positive behavior when we see it. We know that when we give specific positive feedback to students, it greatly increases the likelihood that the behavior will be repeated. In fact, you can improve behavior by 80% just by pointing out what someone is doing correctly. Now that is powerful! To shape behavior we connect the specific behavior to the expectation. At Saranac Elementary, students hear statements like this from adults in the building:

- “Sara, thank you for being responsible by following directions and getting started right away.”
- “Justin, thank you for being safe by keeping your hands at your side when walking in the hallway.”

We are creating a positive school climate when students are recognized for doing the right thing. PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) encourages that we try to acknowledge positive behaviors four times more often than correcting inappropriate behavior.

Credit: <https://home.lps.org/pbis/home/pbis-monthly-blurbs/>