



# STMS STORY

## UPCOMING

**May 10 - June 30**

Session 5

**May 10, 8 - 9 am**

Muffins with Moms, invitation to follow.

**May 14, 10 am - 3 pm**

Garden Day! Details to come.

**May 24, 1 - 3:30 pm**

Field Day & Carnival. Details to come.

**May 24, 3:30 - 5 pm**

**Montessori Monday BBQ, Details TBD**

**May 31, Memorial Day Holiday**

School Closed

**June 11 - 12, All Day** 🌴

Denali Park Field Trip / Camp Out

Details to come.

**June 17, Thursday, 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

2021-22 Parent Orientation Event

**June 21, 8 - 9 am**

Donuts with Dads, invitation to follow.

**June 23, 9 - 10 am**

Mock 1st Hour (for new students)

**June 30, After school / Evening**

**STMS Year End Celebration & Completion Ceremony**

**Location TBD (All invited!)**

**June 30**

Last Day of School

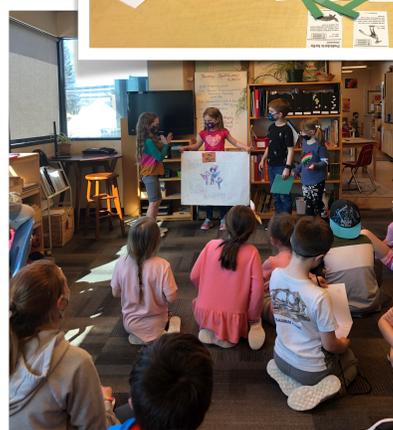
**July 29, 4 - 5 pm**

Back to School Open House

**August 3, Tuesday**

First Day of School

**See our 2021-22 School Calendar online.**



## A SHOUT OUT FROM THE

### *Tongass Upper Elementary Community!*

Upper Elementary has been a busy and productive place to be lately. During Sessions 3 and 4 we have experienced a lot of highlights. Students enjoyed going on several field trips, including trips to the UAF Student Rec Center and Museum of the North, the Library Bar & Bites restaurant to learn about culinary arts, and the Fairbanks Children’s Museum, where we participated in a space simulation. We recently completed a Science unit about energy, including sources and transfer of energy, electric currents, and renewable energy. We have continued to progress through our Math curriculums, with some favorite topics including exponents and coordinate planes.

We have continued to add pages to our Interactive Grammar Notebooks, resources that each student can keep as a ready reference for important grammar rules and conventions. Our recently concluded read aloud book, “A Wish in the Dark” by Christina Soontornvat, was quite engaging, and included themes of compassion and social justice. A large focus for the last few weeks of Session 4 was preparing for our school’s first ever Speech Competition - an opportunity to instill confidence in public speaking.

As we move into Session 5, we’re looking forward to opening our outdoor classroom to enjoy with our peers in Lower Elementary. Renewed opportunities for Upper Elementary to mentor and share lessons with Lower Elementary are ahead, and the students are excited about it.

- Mrs. Erin Reger, Lead Upper El Teacher



## A SHOUT OUT FROM THE

### *Taiga Community!*

The children in the Taiga Community have really enjoyed our continent studies of Asia and Africa throughout Sessions 3 and 4. We have learned about people who live in various parts of both continents, the rich and diverse cultures, and some of the religious holidays and celebrations celebrated around the world in the first few months of the year. We have studied the Life Cycles of a Salmon, Chicken, and Bean Plant and also made the most of our highly popular unit study of Dinosaurs.

In Session 5, we shift our continent studies to South America and Oceania. We will focus smaller unit studies on mammals and insects, gardening, and a few life cycles as well.

We are really looking forward to opening our patio classroom when we return next session. We plan to spend as much time as possible working and playing outside in Mother Nature and continuing to foster the children’s love, appreciation, and connection to the great outdoors. We will plant, cultivate, and care for our class garden, and enjoy nature walks to nearby parks in June. We are excited to return for the highly anticipated, whole-school Biking Month in May! Helmets required, pedals/training wheels optional.

Enjoy your Spring Break, Sockeyes!

- Mrs. Jamie Foland, Lead Children’s House Teacher, Taiga



## A SHOUT OUT FROM THE *Boreal Community!*

The annual breakup season we have been experiencing these last two weeks feels incredibly symbolic to me. With all the reflecting we have done about your children, and really this incredible year as a whole, I cannot help but feel the sun on my face and look toward the future. This is an amazing time in the classroom! Your students are displaying a refinement of the skills they first explored at the beginning of the school year. As if that wasn't satisfying enough; it seems everyone is hungry for more. More lesson presentations, more questions, one more chapter, and of course more snack.

In Boreal we all enjoyed discussions after our read aloud and general whole group activities. Topics ranged from various animal life cycles to the interesting and personal Show and Tell items brought from home. Through reading a variety of poems we were able to hear how things like rhythm, rhyme, repetition, and onomatopoeia are used as tools to paint an experience with words. The kids always impress with their knowledge about dinosaurs in the Jurassic Age. We brought back food preparation lessons with carrot peeling and chopping, followed by hardboiled egg slicing. The curriculum has been enriched by volunteers from our parent and Friends of Spruce Tree community. A big thank you to everyone that came in to share a peek into their lives, enabling us to broaden our understanding of this fascinating world we are a part of. Children's House is excited to host family members for birthday celebrations again next session. No doubt the warmer weather will provide ample inspiration and opportunity for us to celebrate the growth achieved and the development still to come.

In our final session of the year, we always enjoy extending our classroom into the outdoors! So many of our themes for Session 5 are a direct result of the season change. Our overarching topics include gardening, fruits, and vegetables, and the life cycles of the bee and butterfly. For our continent studies we are going to take an in depth look at both South America and Oceania.

- Ms. Megan Dean, Lead Children's House Teacher,  
Boreal



SPOTLIGHT



Mrs. Krystal Johnson accepted the position of Elementary Teacher Assistant, Tongass Community, in late March. Krystal was born and raised in Ohio where she attended college, earning both her associates and bachelors degrees in Early Childhood Education (K - 3rd). Upon graduation in 2018, she accepted a 2nd/ 3rd grade elementary position in Koyuk, Alaska, packed her bags, and moved 4,000 miles away from Ohio to begin her teaching career. While in Koyuk, she met wonderful teachers, and one holiday met her (future) husband who was visiting his parents (teachers) in Koyuk, but was stationed in New York. She says it was "love at first sight," and her next adventure was moving to New York where she lived for a little over a year and taught a wonderful group of second graders. Her husband returned from Afghanistan in early July 2020 with news that they'd be making the move back to Alaska, to Fairbanks this time, with their two pups, Max and Momo. Krystal is currently working on her Master's in Early Childhood Education at Antioch University, estimated completion Dec 2021. Krystal brings several years of experience to the elementary community and has made a wonderfully positive impact so far.

*Welcome Krystal!*

A SHOUT OUT FROM

*Tongass Lower Elementary!*

We have had another exciting session in the Lower Elementary community! In Culture this session we studied the continent of Africa. Students learned about the different countries, cultures, animals, plants, and biomes in Africa. We learned several African children's songs and learned about the importance of masks (not Covid face coverings) in African culture. We made art inspired by African art and African artists. Students also looked at the different types of instruments that are often used in Africa. Tied into this, students had a lesson on Early Human species and Ancient Egypt.

In Language, we continued our daily practice of journal writing to encourage student reflection and expression. We began the journey of Writer's Workshop and Author's Chair. Each student practiced narrative writing, descriptive writing, and opinion writing. They practiced presenting their writing to their peers and giving constructive criticism about each other's writing. We continue working with parts of speech and sentence analysis.

In Math, we focused on operations tailored to each student's level. Each student also received a lesson on "How Geometry Got Its Name," which is an impressionistic introduction to the study of geometry. This lesson helps the students understand that Geometry is all around us; it comes from the Greek "ge" meaning earth, and "metria" meaning measuring – Geometry literally means measuring the earth!

With the summer sun upon us, we will dive deep into Botany, MakerSpace, Alaska's biome, and so much more in Session 5. We are so excited to keep learning together!

-Mrs. Alisha Thompson, Lead Lower El Teacher

