

# HAROLD KAVEOLOOK SCHOOL

## North Slope Borough School District



November 16, 2020



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As many of you know, the school lost some of its power on Friday and we are currently working to get it restored. The North Slope Borough responded quickly and had linemen on the ground Friday evening. The linemen determined that one of the three transformers was not working properly. As there are no spare transformers readily available and getting one will take some time, it was determined that the best solution was to get the backup generator hooked up. This was a project that needed to occur anyway. A team of North Slope Borough electricians and gear arrived on site Sunday morning. They have been working very hard getting the generator online. Once it is up and running, the school will have to be brought back to temperature. The maintenance crew will also have to determine if there was any damage caused by the brown-out. I want to thank the HKS maintenance crew, the power plant workers, the NSB, and the Search and Rescue pilots who were able to transport the necessary people and items to our community.

As the situation has evolved, it has become clear that we will not be able to open school to students for a couple of days, so we are going to go to remote learning starting on Tuesday, November 17. Packets and materials will be delivered on Tuesday. Once their packets are prepared, staff are being asked to work from home until the building can be made comfortable again with bathroom facilities and additional heat. I will keep everyone posted on the situation and when we will be able to return to in-person schooling. Please stay alert for updates on the Kaktovik Announcements and Harold Kaveolook School Facebook Pages.

Unfortunately, one of the areas of the school that is most effected by the power outage is the kitchen. We do not have a functioning kitchen at this time, so meal preparation and delivery will not be able to occur until power has been restored. I am very sorry for this and understand the hardship this may place on families. Please know that everyone is working very hard to get the power restored so meals and school can resume.

Until the power has been restored, all after-school activities have been suspended. Again, as the situation evolves, please stay tuned to the Kaktovik Announcements and Harold Kaveolook School Facebook Pages for events that may be able to take place later this week.

As we move into remote learning once again, I would please ask parents and family members to encourage their students to do their work. They should not be receiving things that are too difficult for them and many of the teachers have established ways that students can communicate directly with them. The high school is being asked to participate in Zoom classes for their Inupiaq Language, math, language arts, and leadership sections. If students do not have internet at home, they are encouraged to call their teachers on their cell phone so they can participate that way. Hopefully, this will not be a long session of remote learning, but the more that we stay on a routine and practice our skills, the easier the transition will be back to in-person school.

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I know that at times it can be easy to slip into despair. There is so much going on in the world and Kaktovik with the pandemic. We are also still recovering from the fire. However, we knew that there would be some issues with a new building; there always are. I am so thankful for everyone's patience, kindness, and perseverance. We will get through this bump and move on down the road until we encounter another, but we will keep moving forward. The students of this community are our primary concern and we will do everything in our power to ensure that they are happy, healthy, and safe at school.

There will be no school next Thursday, November 26 or Friday, November 27 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone at the city for the potluck! I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing break.

Finally, on Saturday, November 21, the teachers will be participating in a culturally-based site in-service. We will be focused primarily on organizing the materials in the cultural library so that teachers can begin utilizing those once again.

If you have any concerns about COVID or the school's actions during the pandemic, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or speak to one of the representatives on the HKS COVID-19 Response Team.

Alicia Solomon- SAC President/Parent  
Carolyn Kulukhon- SAC Member/Parent  
Leroy Stigen- Plant Manager  
Randy Linderbaum- M&O Staff  
Mary Catherine Rexford- Health Aide/Parent  
Amanda Kaleak- Mayor- City of Kaktovik/Parent  
Nathan Gordon, Jr.- KIC Board Member/Parent  
Brandi Going- Classified Staff/Parent

Kim Kaleak- Parent  
Lorrie Scoles- HKS Counselor  
Michael Lancaster- HKS Teacher  
Norma Gordon- Clinic Staff/Parent  
Nora Jane Burns- School Board Member  
Shantel Linderbaum- HKS Food Service  
Rita Fischer-Akootchook- Transportation  
Edward Rexford, Sr.- NVK President

Please be safe and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at school or by cell at 907-440-7030 or 435-491-0417.

Sincerely,

Todd Washburn, Principal

Mondays- Girl Scouts @ 6 and 7 @ Presbyterian Church  
November 21- Cultural In-Service  
November 26-27- Thanksgiving Holiday- NO SCHOOL  
December 16- Last Day of School before Christmas

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