



Fireweed Academy

KPBSD Board of Education Presentation
April 7, 2025

Who are we?

- Fireweed Academy is a free public charter school in Homer, serving grades K-6 since 1997.
- Our Vision:
A vibrant community of readers, writers and problem solvers for the 21st century.

Our Mission

To provide a compassionate learning environment that gives students, parents, teachers, and community members opportunities to develop: Self-reliance, cooperation, creativity, reasoning ability, personal growth and academic achievement



What Makes Fireweed Unique?

Mixed Grade
Levels

Small class
sizes

Arts, Learner
Outcomes, & No
Child Left Inside

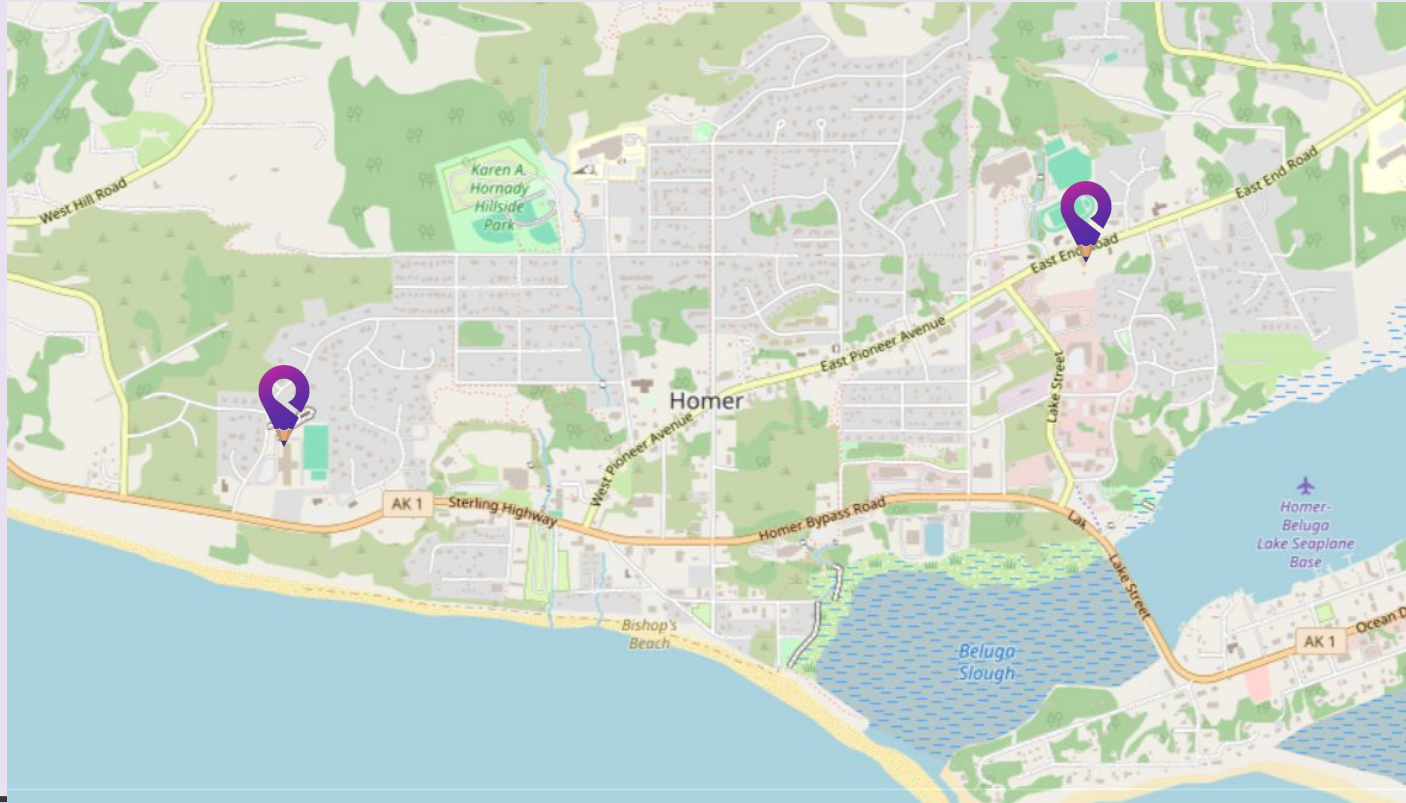


Thematic
Immersion

Community
Connectedness

One School, Two
Campuses

One School, Two Campuses



Little Fireweed

- Grades: K-2
- Focus on exploration, creativity, and foundational skills.
 - Outdoor learning spaces, 2 yurts, garden
- Class size - 18



Big Fireweed



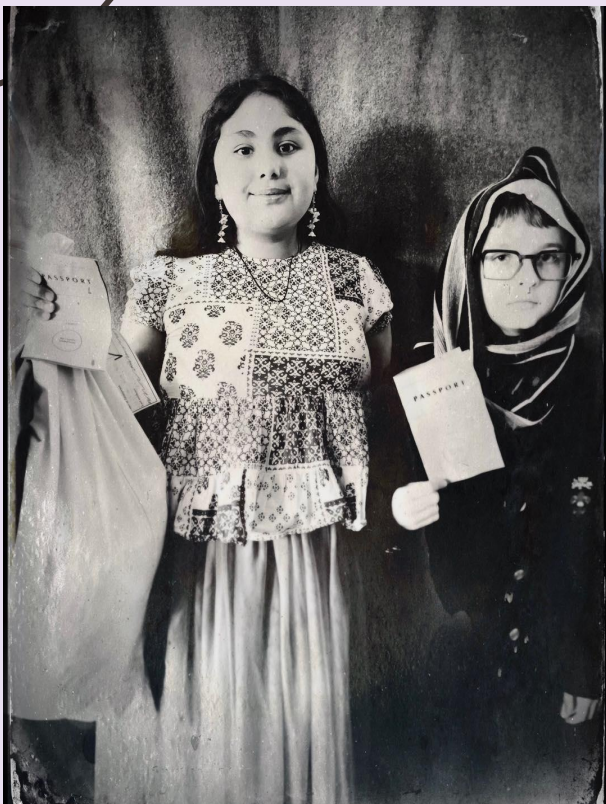
- Grades: 3-6
- Expands on foundational skills through thematic immersion.
- Encourages critical thinking and responsibility.
- Class size - 20

Why Fireweed?

- Fireweed exists because of this community and for our community
- Emphasis on creativity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning
- Small class sizes = intimate, tight knit community
- Why Fireweed? Because we believe...

1. We Believe ...

...that students learn best through hands-on experience and reflecting on those experiences.



Ellis Island Simulation



Winter Survival Skills



Hands on CKLA

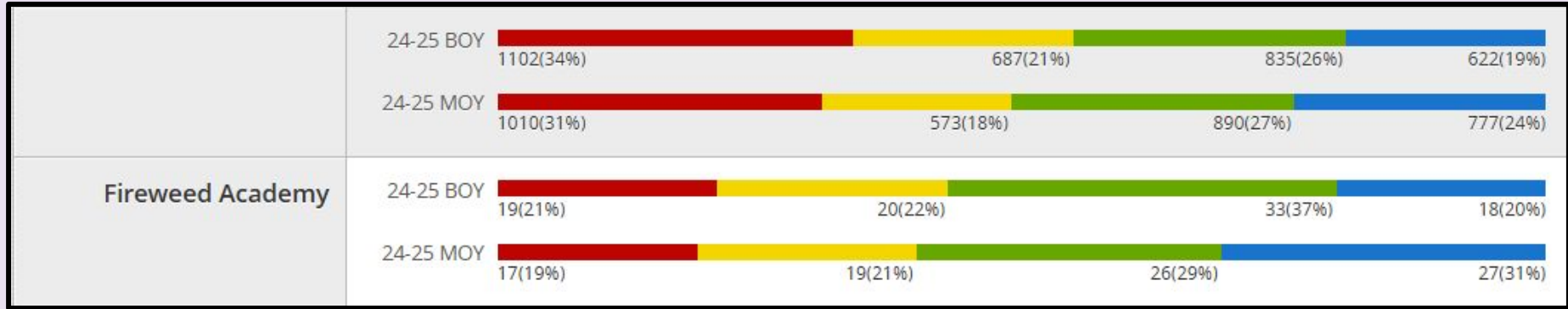
Hanover Climate Survey Data

Item	Percent Agree 2023	Mean Score 2023	Percent Agree 2024	Mean Score 2024
Adults at my school treat students with respect.	67%	3.89	92%	4.33
I feel safe at school.	44%	3.22	91%	4.36
The school is a welcoming place for students and families like mine.	56%	4.11	90%	4.40
I have fun at school.	44%	3.22	75%	3.75

Hanover Climate Survey Data

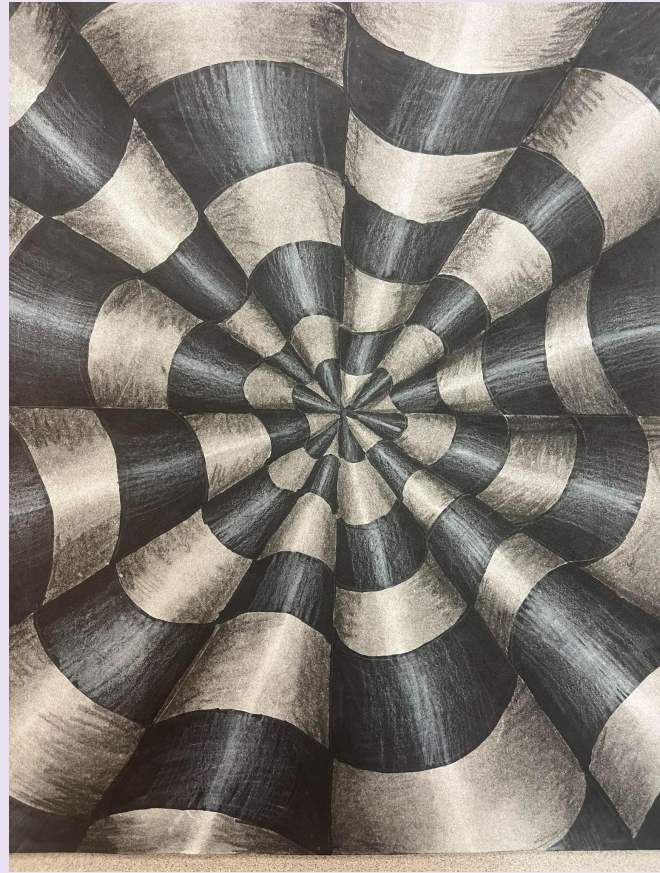
Item	Percent Confident 2023	Mean Score 2023	Percent Confident 2024	Mean Score 2024
Make ethical and constructive choices.	67%	3.56	100%	4.42
Respect other people's opinions, even if they are different from yours.	78%	4.00	100%	4.50
Recognize and compliment others' accomplishments.	67%	3.67	90%	4.60
Remain calm even when under stress.	56%	3.22	83%	4.08
Stand up for myself without putting other people down.	44%	3.56	83%	4.25
Think about what may happen before making a decision.	56%	3.56	82%	4.27
Work in a team with other students.	67%	3.67	75%	4.00

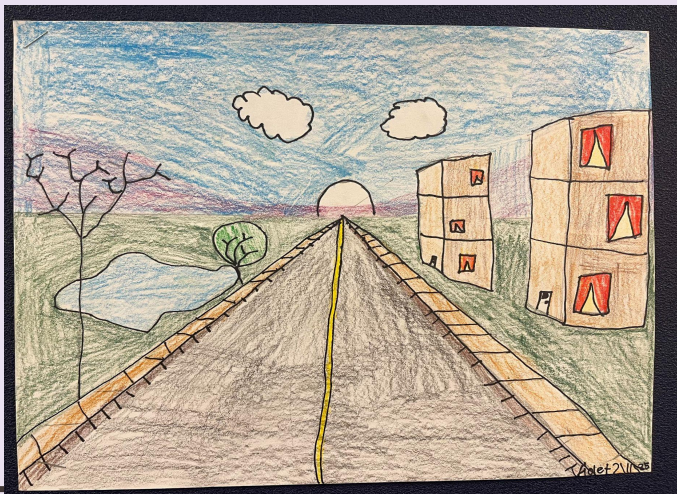
mCLASS Growth & Achievement Data

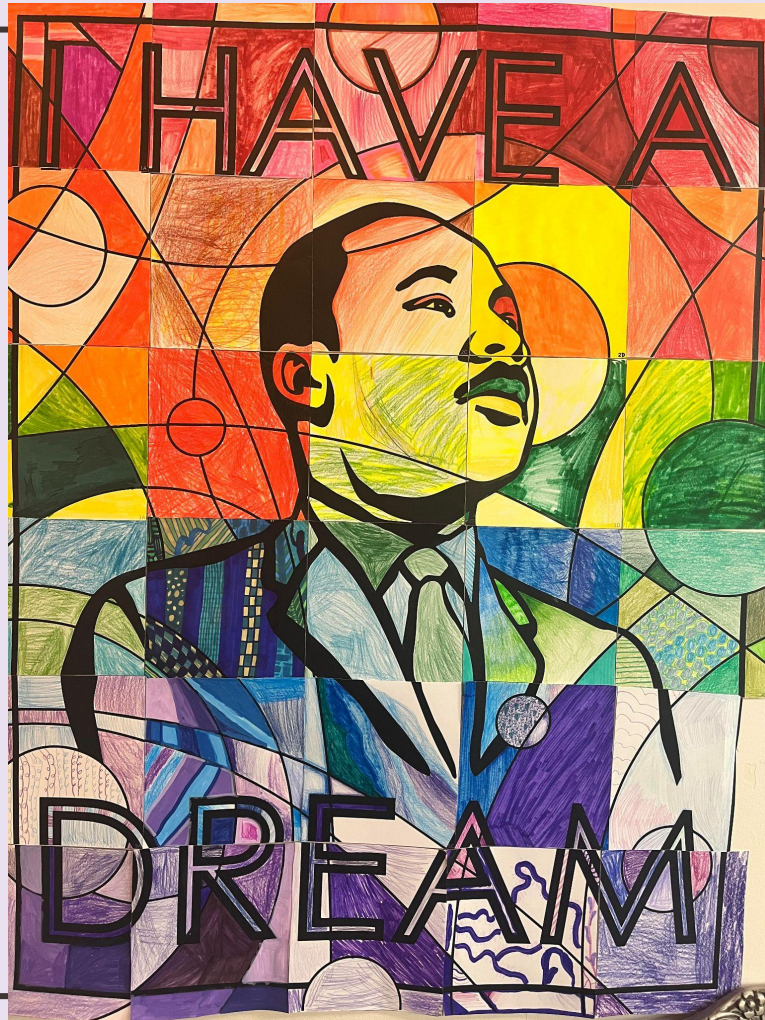


2. We Believe ...

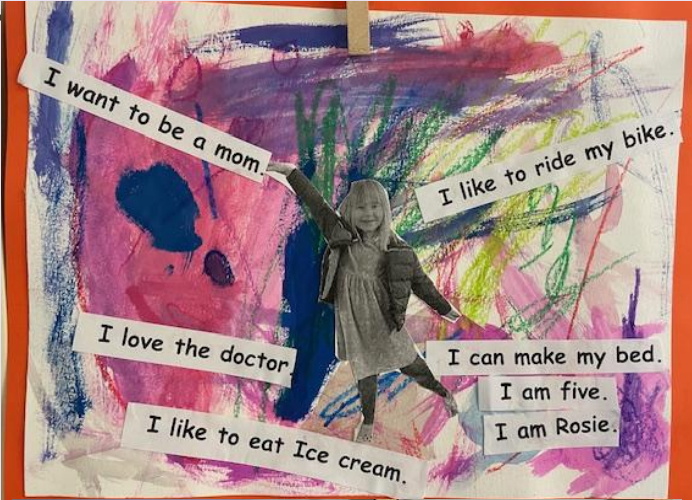
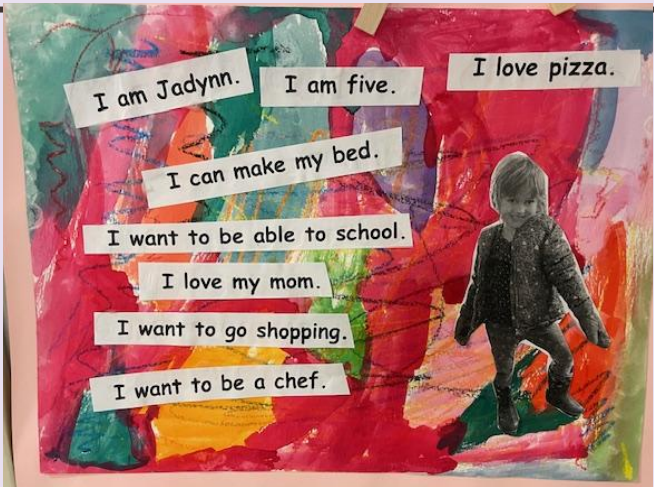
...that music, arts, and creative self-expression nurture strong learners and responsible citizens.













1st Grade
Critters

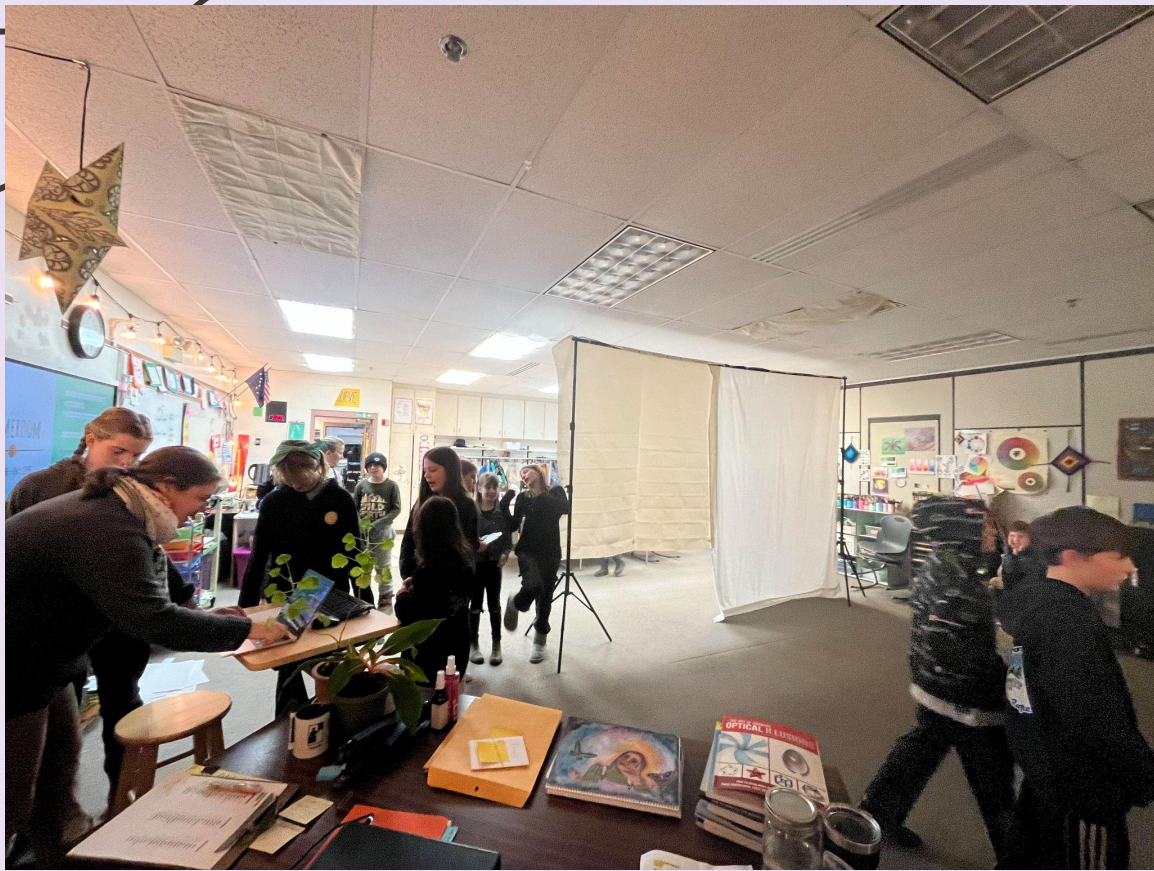


Yurt Birds





Fireweed Frescoes - K-2 Violin Program



Artist in the Schools - Bunnell Arts Sponsor





3. We Believe ...

...in nurturing a compassionate learning community.





Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports



4. We Believe ...

...that the natural and cultural community of Kachemak Bay is fertile grounds for learning.





Outdoor
Classroom Spaces

Burning Basket





6th Grade Field Trip -
Kasitsna Bay



Barely Planned




Tide Pooling





5. We Believe ...

...in building skills for
engaged and responsible
citizenship.





Social Emotional Learning

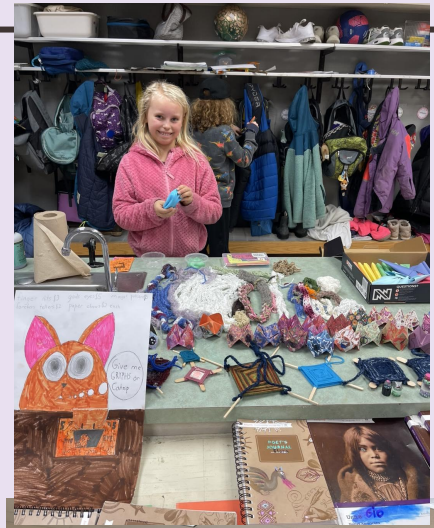
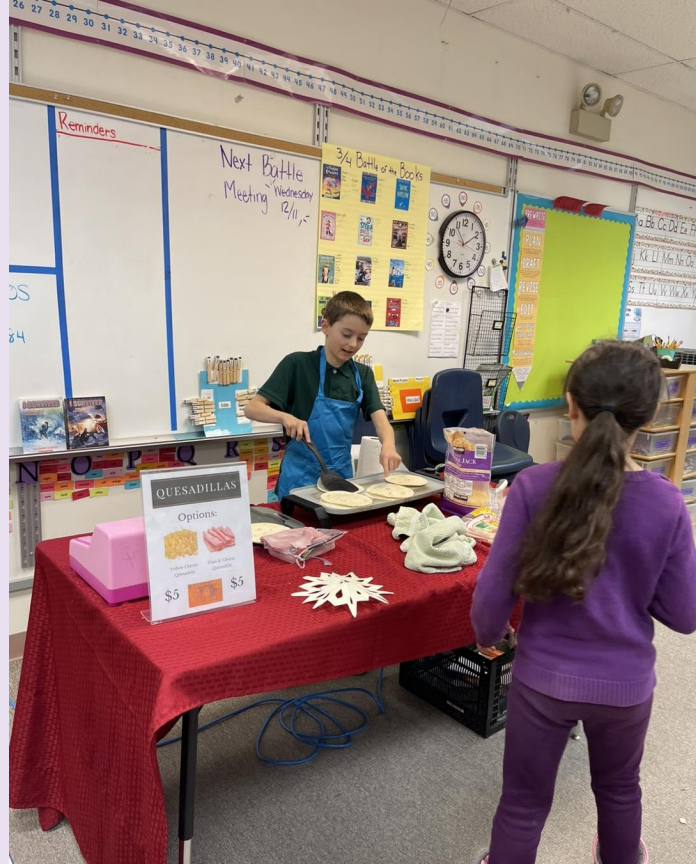
- Self awareness
- Self Management
- Relationship Skills
- Social Awareness
- Responsible Decision Making

+

Time for Teacher Collaboration



PWC Regional Action Committee Oil Spill Lessons & Grants



Gryph Flea Market

6. We Believe ...

...developing a mindful and responsible relationship to technology is critical to equip our children for today's world.

APC Approved Documents:

[APC-Fireweed-Bylaws-Approved-03.28.22](#)

Download

[FWA Technology Policy – APC adopted 12.5.24](#)

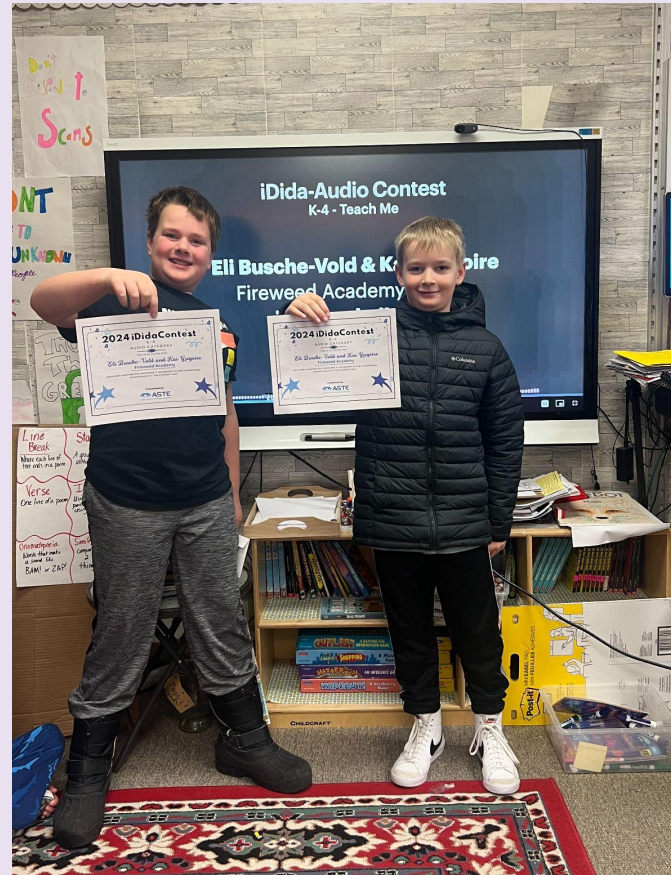
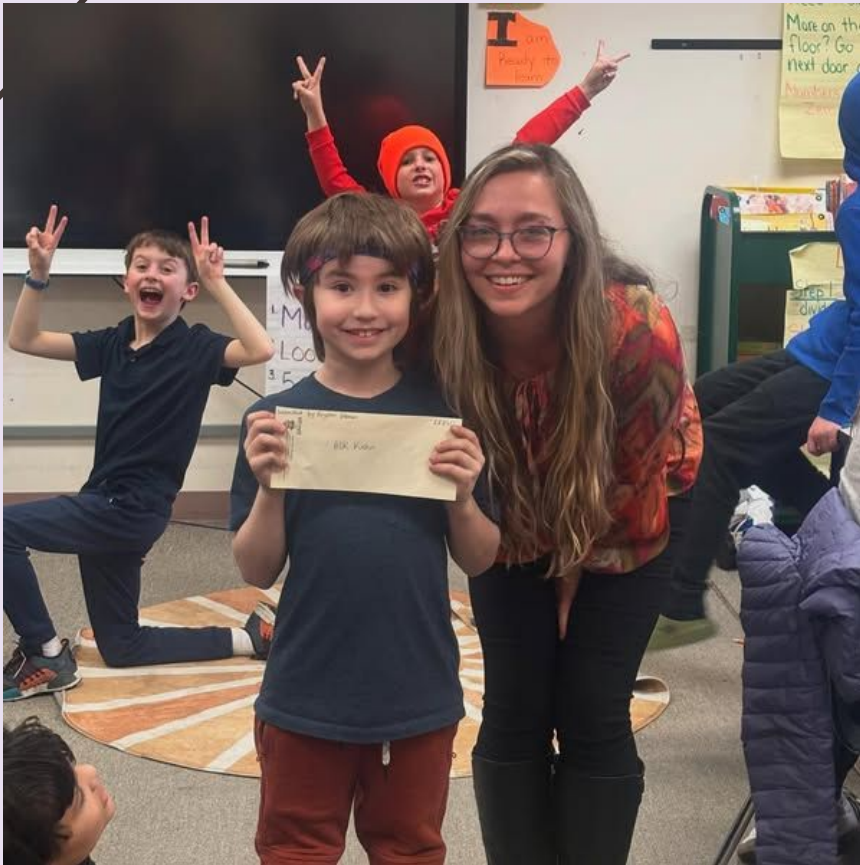
Download

[FY25-26 Fireweed Academy Strategic Plan](#)

Download

Link to Technology Policy ^





ASTE Statewide Winners

7. We Believe ...

...engaged families make for a better school, a better future for our kids and a better community.

HARVEST FESTIVAL UPDATE



\$12,696.99 Raised in two hours!

**IN JUST 2 HOURS, WE RAISED OVER 70%
OF OUR TOTAL YEARLY GOAL!**

Words are not enough to thank our Harvest Fest Volunteer Champions - You are INCREDIBLE!
Greta Mahowald, Ash-Lee Waddell, Maygen Lotscher, Tessa Sullivan, Beka Thoning, and Jonathon Young





May Day 2024



Shorebird Field Trip w/ parent experts

Our Journey

The Move

WHE welcomes
FWA into extra
classroom space

Future

One Campus
Dream

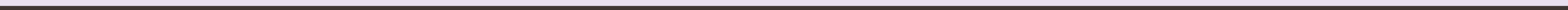
'97 ——— '02 ——— '13 ——— Next

HCS Opens

Homer Charter
Begins as
portables @ PBE
as grades 3-6

K-2 Added

Little opens in
building on East
End Road





Thank You!

Any questions?

kdarbonne@kpbsd.org
