

**Yukon-
Koyukuk
School
District**

Volume 1, Issue

October 19,

YKSD Staff Connections

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Department News	2-4
In-Service Photos	5-6
New YKSD Staff	7-9
Newsletter Submission Information	9

News from the Superintendent By Chris Simon

I would like to welcome everyone back to the new school year. We are in the First Quarter of another busy and exciting school year. The warmer than usual autumn is turning to winter. We continue to undertake the most important work in the region: educating our children.

The goals for the district are the same. We want to improve building maintenance, provide a direction for adding Native language and culture into the schools, stop the trend of

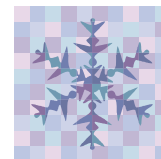
declining enrollment, provide quality guidance counseling, and increase communication between the school and parents. These goals will stay in effect until the Board of Education decides on new ones.

The following schools met AYP and deserve recognition: Nulato, Koyukuk, Manley Hot Springs, Hughes, Kaltag, and Minto. There are over 30 ways not to meet AYP and the three



other schools missed it in one criterion only. The hard work and outstanding efforts are reflected in the positive results across the district.

Last but not least, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new staff members, students and parents to Yukon-Koyukuk School District. Have a safe and warm winter.



Assistant Superintendent News By Todd Poage

I thank the certified and classified staff at all the sites, from the rural villages to the larger cities, for their efforts this first quarter. When the pavement hits the dirt, you are directly impacting student learning and that is where the most meaningful efforts occur.

One of the items that will be distributed district-wide and posted on the

YKSD website is the Report Card to Public. This report analyzes data to compare ethnic groups, learning abilities, gender, income and migrant status with each student category and also compares to the District and State as a whole. The Report Card to the Public will also include graphs that compare the two-year trend in Reading, Writing and Math SBA scores for students proficient and advanced

by grade level. Last year the State reformatted the SBA tests to include 10th grade students. This report will be mailed to each parent in the District and posted on the YKSD website.



Curriculum and Instruction By Carol Doyle

Many activities are taking place through the office of Director of Instruction. Four village schools have just submitted their improvement plans to the peer review team and Superintendent at the district, and also to the Department of Education and Early Development for approval required by NCLB regulations. Kaltag School, Jimmy Huntington School, Merrelaine A. Kangas School, and Allakaket School will be implementing their strategies and new materials over the year. Each school has a school improvement budget from the state for professional development, tutoring, and supplies and materials used with tutoring and day



to day lessons. Their special service provider, Alternate Learning Styles, will be delivering extra tutoring services to students who qualify.

The science committee, Geoff Johnson, Madeline Riley, Gina Hrinko, and Carol Doyle, is continuing to work on the science curriculum with many parts being completed at this time. Carol Doyle, the Director of Instruction has contacted several major science publishing companies for samples of textbooks, materials, and kits for the committee and other interested teachers to preview. A recommendation to the Board of Education will be made sometime mid-year for the adoption of the new curriculum

and its materials and texts.

Carol has also visited three sites at this point in time, Allakaket, Minto, and Manley. She had the opportunity to take a little field trip with the Minto primary classroom led by Lynn Culbertson, to search for fall signs. The students found many interesting items to bring back for an art collage they would make in the succeeding days.

Carol especially wants to thank all personnel who helped make the district-wide professional development a success. Special thanks to Tami Rump, Patty Hill, and Betty Inglis, administrative assistants to Carol Doyle, Kerry Boyd, Federal Programs Director, and Todd Poage, Assistant Superintendent.

Federal & State Programs By Kerry Boyd

Highly Qualified

I am happy to announce we have four more staff members who are Highly Qualified! Melanie Redington is highly qualified in Elementary Education and Danae Davis is highly qualified in K-8 Science. Irene Peters and Valerie Sam, teacher aides from Huslia, have met the Highly Qualified guidelines as Paraprofessionals. Congratulations!



Grants/Survey

The grants department is working on two grants, 21st Century and the Governor's Grant for Drug & Violence Protection. Over the next month or so, you will receive a federal programs survey. The survey provides pertinent grant information which will aid us in writing successful grants for the district.

In-service Credit

Each in-service credit requires a two page double spaced reflection paper sent to me via fax, mail or email by October 31. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact

me.

We sure hope you enjoy the first edition of the YKSD staff newsletter! Thank you for your participation in making this a success! Patty Hill has worked diligently over the past couple of weeks assembling the information you provided. Please continue to submit pictures and articles to phill@ykdsd.com. The date for the next newsletter release is December 21, so we will need your articles by December 8th.

Thought of the Month

"It is a rough road that leads to the heights of greatness." *SENECA*

Career & Technical Education (CTE) By Gina Hrinko

Exciting news! Starting on October 23, our students will have the opportunity to participate in a distance education Hospitality course. Participating students who receive a 'C' or higher in the class will not only get 1 high school credit, but 3 UAF-TVC college credits as well.

I hope your school site will consider participating in this neat opportunity. Please call me if you have further questions. Class will run from October 23 - mid-May, daily from 1:30 - 2 p.m. All books and materials are provided free of cost and the approved course in-

structor is Frank Blakeney, Alaska Hospitality Alliance Foundation.



Culture & Language Programs By Susan Paskvan



It has been a busy fall for Susan Paskvan. She first headed out to Ruby for Culture week at the end of August. They incorporated a "Salmon" theme into all of their activities. A new mural was painted under the tutelage of Angela Kartes. Anne Titus, playwright extraordinaire, wrote a salmon life cycle play which the students performed for the Board of Education.

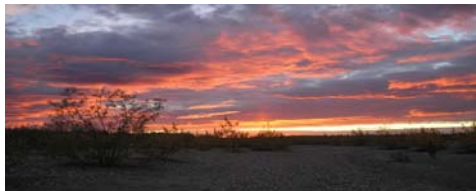
Next, Susan and the Allakaket teaching staff: Nancy Mason, Evelyn Esmailka, Roy Flynn, Virginia Ned,

Jesse Bartlett, and Irene Henry took 17 students camping 4 miles above Allakaket. At one time there were 75 people at camp! The support from the elders and community really made the camp successful. Congratulations to Nancy Mason on her very first of many camping trips and her first campfire since her college days!

Hughes and Huslia were next on the calendar but during the same week so Susan went along with Huslia staff Geoff Johnson and Kristin Roecker taking 13 students camping 4 miles upriver.

Nulato was the next stop on Susan's itinerary, taking 24 student and Nulato staff members: Bob Robertson, Martha Demoski, Scott Bendlock, Meta Bottjen, Judy Madros and Laura Barnett. They all learned how to set and check a net without a boat. It was a muddy affair, but the fish caught were worth the effort!

The last of the fall trips was a visit to Kaltag for Culture Week. The entire staff: Mike Day, Jake Kramer, Christina Semaken, Thelma Saunders, Marie Dayton, Barbara Arkell, Sophie Alexie, Lawrence Saunders and Elizabeth Charge participated along with all 35 students.



Susan's tips when taking kids camping:

1. Tell the boys to wear proper pants (many nearly lost theirs while doing camp activities)
2. Measure the fish before you cut its head off (ask Susan)
3. Never leave a lighter in your pocket while cooking (ask Kristin)
4. Check your tent before you go (Ask Todd or Geoff)
5. Secure the moose ears before you leave (ask Thelma)
6. Don't forget the coffee!
7. Enjoy listening to crazy student stories around the bonfire
8. Get up early to enjoy the sunrise and the quiet before the students get up



Library News By Kathy Hildie

(*Li'brary*) n. where the accent is on the best in materials, events and information.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Art Center and the Alaska Arts Education Consortium has been developing Art Kits for many years and this year some of these kits are being donated to our district media center. These comprehensive art lesson kits called Project ARTiculate" often reinforce other subjects and are available for check out from YKSD Media Center. Project ARTiculate is a U.S. Department of Education Development and Dissemination Grant that supports the sharing of the art lessons with teachers throughout Alaska.

At this time the following ARTiculate kits are available to be checked out from the District Office Library:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Henry Moore Figure Sculpture (Grade K) | 9. Masks and Symmetry (Grade 2) |
| 2. Athabascan Mittens (Grade K) | 10. Faith Ringgold Memory Quilt (Grade 3) |
| 3. Shape-ka-Bobs (Grade K) | 11. Celebrating the Elements (Grade 3) |
| 4. African Painted Rhythms (Grade 1) | 12. Flower Parts (Grade 3) |
| 5. Mondrian Trees (Grade 1) | 13. Rachel Carson Silent Spring (Grade 4) |
| 6. Folded Lines (Grade 1) | 14. Butterfly Paper Sculpture (Grade 4) |
| 7. Shaveroonies (Grade 2) | 15. Deep Space (Grade 4) |
| 8. Story Sculptures (Grade 2) | |



Special Education By Cristina Welker

On September 8-9, 2006, the Special Education Department hosted an in-service for Zoo-Phonics. All Y-K special education teachers attended, Raven Correspondence School parents and staff, and two pre-school teachers from Open Arms Development Center also participated. It was

a very useful in-service and the presenter was pleased with the participation. Zoo-Phonics can easily be integrated into the Open Court curriculum and is used to help students with delays in phonemic and language awareness.



Ask your special education teacher about it today!

Technology Tips By Shawn Coyle



Remember. . . PowerTraining Q/A for Teachers every Thursday 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm via Video Conference with Shawn Coyle

Watch for these technology sessions beginning in November:

- Email programs
- Using Excel
- PowerPoint
- File Management

Facilities & Maintenance By Andrea Durny

SAFETY FIRST SAFETY FIRST

In January 2006 the board passes a Loss Control Incentive Program to help decrease the amount of work place injuries, and to help lower our insurance costs.

One thing you may notice is monthly safety briefs inserted in your first pay stub of the month.

Take a look out for next month safety brief.

Safety Brief for November: Slips, Trips, and Falls

SAFETY TIP

Choosing the appropriate footwear! Choose your footwear to meet the environment that you will encounter. Especially with the change in season and all the snow and ice on the roads!



Have a ssssssaafe Halloween!!!!



For Sale Board



Sharp Carousel microwave oven:	\$30
Sylvania DVD Recorder Player (never been used):	\$125
Sony 5 disk carousel CD player:	\$100
Epson Stylus Ink jet Printer (includes 1 new black ink cartridge and 1 new color ink cartridge):	\$75
Pioneer 4 track, 2 channel reel to reel tape recorder, Professional model (5 reels included)	\$100

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact

Kathy Hildie @ 374-9428 or 479-4598

District-wide In-service Photos





Welcome New YKSD Staff

Allakaket

Jesse Bartlett is from Bellingham, Washington, although he grew up in Kenai, Alaska. Last year he worked full-time in a crisis residential center serving at-risk youth between the ages of 12-17 in Washington state, and worked as a part-time contract learning teacher at an alternative school. This year is his first full-time teaching position since his student teaching assignment 3 years ago in Heidelberg, Germany. He has been married for two months to his wife, Crystal, and they are having a great honeymoon in Allakaket.



Roy Flynn has lived in Fairbanks, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, and Pennsylvania. He worked last year at Nunamiut School in Anaktuvuk Pass. This is his 3rd year of secondary teaching. I have taught some geology classes as a M.S. in Geology student at UAF. His interests include: fishing, hunting, rock collecting, exploring, etc. and most sports.



Christina Reynaga (Tina) is originally from Roswell, NM but has been living in Las Cruces for the last seven years. She taught at a private preschool for a year and has also done substitute teaching with long term sub positions and spent a year with Sylvan Learning Center. She likes to read, do any sort of craft (mostly sewing). She also loves to cook and bake.



Virginia (Moses) Ned was born and raised in Allakaket. She last worked as a Principal/Teacher in Hughes in 2000. She worked for ANKN at UAF for four years as Program Assistant and also taught a graduate course on Documenting Indigenous Knowledge. For the past two years she worked as Program Assistant for Alaska Native Women's Coalition. She has been in education since 1974, first working as a teacher aide and then as a certified teacher since 1980. Her hobbies are reading and walking. Her interest is in promoting quality education for all students. She would like to write children's books that reflect the history, culture, traditions and values of the Athabascan people.



Huslia

Arthur L. Sosa is originally from Austin, Texas. He has been living in North Carolina for the past 20 years. He last worked as an Assistant Principal in Charlotte, North Carolina. He did his student-teaching in Bratislava, Slovakia in 1995. He taught in La Paz, Bolivia for 1 year in 1996. He taught Middle School and High school from 1997-2002. He became a school administrator in 2002- 2006. He has a total of 11 years in education. I enjoy reading, jogging, and laughing.



Tom Stoltz moved up here from La Crosse, WI, where he has been living for five of the past 6 years. He worked as an itinerant Deaf/Hard of Hearing Specialist in Bethel from 1993-99. He is originally from Chicago (Go BEARS!) and he still has family living in that area. His last teaching job in the lower 48 was in Winona, Minnesota and the last one in Alaska was in Unalakleet. He has been teaching since 1991, taking with a few years off from education from 1999-2001 and 2003-2006 to raise his step-children. During summer, He likes to fish, bowl, play darts/pool. In winter, he likes to ice fish and winter camp. He reads throughout the year, mostly history and fiction. I am separated from my wife and three step-children.



Terrie Aschenbrenner is a Kindergarten—First grade teacher in Huslia From Stevens Point, WI. She is the mother of two children-- Sam age 9, Sarah Kate age 7. Her husband's name is Patrick. This is her first full time teaching job. She holds degrees in English Literature, Creative Writing and Elementary Education. I love reading, especially children's literature.



Kristen Roecker is from Colorado. This is her first teaching job. She enjoys skiing, biking, reading, and traveling.



Terry Reed is a new teacher at Jimmy Huntington School. He is currently teaching High School Social Studies.



"Just hangin' out in Huslia"

Kaltag

Michael Day and his wife have traveled all over the world. They were both raised in Winslow Arizona, moved to Washington State, Kentucky, Germany, Georgia, back to Washington, and finally to Alaska. They last worked at Lake and Peninsula School District in the village of Perryville. They have been teaching or in education off and on since 1992. He enjoys archery, horse back riding/ packing, and the outdoors. He has been married for 32 years, and they have 5 sons, 3 daughter-in-laws and 8 grandchildren.



Minto

Monica Garza has lived in Fairbanks since 1977. She has been working in education for 10 years and is starting her 5th year teaching. Science is her absolute favorite subject. She has taught in Al-lakaket and in La Joya, Texas. She enjoys doing needle crafts and I has a wonderful family, 2 children and her husband's name is Robert Webb.



Nulato

Bob Robertson is the new principal at Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato. He has been an administrator and educator all of over the state of Alaska for many years.



Meta Bottjen is currently teaching Language Arts and Social Studies in Nulato. This has been her most challenging assignment in all her thirty years of teaching. However, she walks to school with a smile on her face because she is going to get to spend the day with a delightful group of young people who love to tell her that her house is sitting on top of old bones and that the gym is haunted and she better not visit it at night. Judy Madros is Meta's neighbor and keeps Meta grounded in any number of ways including a daily dose of shared chocolate. Where is Meta's pay check going? Well, talk to her for more than a minute and you will find out that she has three high spending over achieving children in college where the chemistry books cost \$200.00 a pop. Meta's children, Molly, Emily and Gregory were all raised in the beautiful town of Palmer. They all brag about being life time Alaskans.



Blu Wallen is from Alaska, but was born and raised in the lower 48. She last worked in Adak, "Birthplace of the Winds". She has been a teacher for 4 years and has volunteered in the schools since 1992. She became a youth counselor for behavioral students in 1999. Her family is the biggest part of her life. She enjoys traveling, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, crafts, photography, and computers.



Koyukuk

Diane Seitz grew up on a dairy farm near a very small town called Waverly, South Dakota. I graduated from Dakota State University in Madison South Dakota where I met my husband, Dan Seitz. We packed everything that we owned into a car and moved to Southern Texas. I later transferred to teaching Physical Education to K – 5th grade students.



Our son, Daniel Buster Seitz, was born in 1999. When he began pre-school, we decided to was time for a change. Why not Alaska? Last year was our first year in Alaska. I received a position for the North Slope Borough School District and was assigned to the village of Nuiqsut. (From the frying pan to the deep freeze?) Nuiqsut was not quite my vision of Alaska, so we decided to find that vision. And we did! After 20 years of teaching, I found a place that really makes me feel 'at home.' My family and I enjoy outside activities like hunting, fishing and snow machines, which makes it obvious why we are enjoying Koyukuk.

Laura Barnett is from Cleveland, Ohio. She last worked at Cuyahoga Community College. She worked 6 years as in Guidance Department at Shaker Heights High School, then left to manage non-profit organizations. She is happy to be back in education and counseling students. She loves the outdoors, photography, cooking, and her dogs.



Scott Bendlock grew up outside of Boston, Massachusetts. He has two older brothers, Mark and Paul. Before coming to Alaska, he lived in Colorado for ten years. He taught three years in the Denver Public Schools. This is his third year teaching in Alaska, last year he was in Tanana. This is his sixth year as a Special Education teacher. In my spare time he love to watch movies, hike, camp, snowmachine, ride my Honda, and fish.



Ruby

Alice Kangas is from Ruby, Alaska. She attended Merrelaine A. Kangas school from kindergarten to 9th grade and then left to go to Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska. After high school she started college at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She graduated with a BS in General Science May 2005. After graduation she enrolled in the post secondary education program at UAF. She did her student teaching at Lathrop High School in Fairbanks. She is now back in Ruby teaching at the Merrelaine A. Kangas School; full circle. She says it is a great honor to be home and show the students they can leave home for a higher education and come back home. She loves to learn, travel and be around kids of all ages.



ACS

Dr. Patrick Doyle is the Acting Principal at Alyeska Central School. He is returning to Alaska after three years working in China. He doesn't have time for a hobby or extracurricular activities. He will be doing an assessment of ACS operations and procedures and looking to update their programs to better service home schooling families in the years to come. He has 35 years of experience in Education, with 32 of those as an administrator. He has served as a teacher, principal, and a central office administrator over the years.

Eileen Wagner is returning to ACS this year, but she was a teacher here before working in the village last year. We are happy to have her experience back in our program.

RCS

Marla Larson has lived in Fairbanks, Alaska for the last



22 years. She is a transplant from Portland, Oregon, where all her family lives. She just recently retired from the Fairbanks School District as a special education teacher and has spent the last 17 years at Ticasuk Brown Elementary. She has been teaching for 36 years, 22 in Fairbanks, 8 in Washington, and 6 years in Oregon. She has 2 children,

Lars, 25 who is deploying to Iraq for his second tour, and Lindsay 23, who is a veterinary student in Edinburgh, Scotland. Marla's husband just retired from the Army Corps of Engineers, and is getting ready to return to Iraq for his second tour on construction jobs.

Newsletter Name Suggestions:



YKSD STAFF CONNECTIONS



Qayeh / Kkaayeh (where people live/village)

Hedok'uhde-eeghenh goobaagge (school teacher newspaper)

YKSD Happenings

Focus on YKSD

YKSD Communicator

Next Submission Deadline for YKSD Staff Connections:

2nd Quarter—December 8

Is there anything exciting happening at your school or in your department?

Please email your text and/or photos to phill@yksd.com

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * Announcements | * Policy/procedure changes | * Department news/updates |
| * Special events | * Reporting deadlines | * Y-K employment anniversaries |
| * Teacher/staff recognitions | * Interesting trivia | * Items for sale |
| * Photos | * New employees | * Funny stories or jokes (clean) |
| | * Birthdays | |

Susan Paskvan is working on a YKSD calendar - she would like stunning photos of your site - staff, students, scenery, artwork, student work etc.

Please email photos to spaskvan@yksd.com and include a caption.