

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

YKSD Staff Connections

**2nd Quarter
December 19,
2006**

Superintendent News by Chris Simon

Hello, I hope everyone is doing well and taking care of one another. Since winter break is right around the corner it is time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I truly hope everyone has a wonderful and safe vacation and spends quality time with family. Children will remember family holidays for the rest of their lives.

The Board of Education recently met in Fairbanks for several days to provide guidance and directives for the district. The following committees met: Budget, Building, Curriculum, Legislative, Native Language, Negotiations, Policy, and Technology. In addition, there was a Board workshop on the various distant education programs of the district. The Board meeting was held on December 1st. The next Board of Education meeting will be held in Koyukuk on January 22nd. I am pleased to announce that the popular student laptop program will be returning this year. Furthermore, the schools that met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) will

receive additional funds for travel, parties, etc...

It is good to see schools cooperating with one another to form teams thus providing excitement and entertainment for almost everyone. Hughes and Koyukuk, along with the other schools, have some skilled basketball players. High School basketball is next and I remind players and parents that there are rules to be followed when representing your community and this district.

The warmer than usual weather has been nice. This should cut down on the fuel bills for everyone, including the schools. However, this may have made overland travel dangerous so please be careful traveling over the holidays.



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Asst. Superintendent News by Todd Poage

Happy Holidays! It seems like the Holiday vacation has come upon us quickly again this year and the second quarter is about over. I know this is a real busy time of the year with the Holiday programs, grades, report cards, extracurricular activities and the daily preparation and instruction of students. Your efforts are appreciated. The High School Graduation Qualifying Exam results were distributed to all schools on November 30th via email. The same day the State posted the results on their password protected web-

site. This year the District has 33 seniors in the River Schools and 25, 76%, have passes all area of the HSGQE. Of the eight seniors that have not passed all areas of the HSGQE, five students need to pass one testing area (Reading, Writing or Math) and three students need to pass all testing areas. The students that have passed all areas of the HSGQE and have met District Graduation Requirements will receive a diploma. Students that have not passed all areas of the HSGQE but have met District Graduation Require-

ments will receive a Certificate of Achievement. However, all students and adults that have not passed all areas of the HSGQE can retake the exam each time it is given. Once all areas of the HSGQE are passed, a High School Diploma will be awarded. The second and final HSGQE testing dates for this school year, along with the SBA exams for grades 3rd thru 10th, are April 3rd, 4th and 5th. Have a safe, enjoyable and relaxing Holiday vacation!



State & Federal Programs by Kerry Boyd

Thank you to everyone for helping the federal programs department gather survey and statistical information. We submitted the proposal for the Governor's grant and should hear if we have been awarded funding sometime in January. In the meantime, we are busy working on the 21st Century Grant. The 21st Century Grant, if awarded, will provide after school educational programs for our 9 river schools. This grant will be submitted at the end of this month and the award notification date is March.

Highly Qualified Update

By January 31, 2007, YKSD must submit a plan to the state that demonstrates how our certified teach-

ers and paraprofessionals will achieve highly qualified status in all core areas they teach. Some of you I will need to speak with directly to ensure we have all necessary documentation in place. Remember, YKSD will pay for teacher travel and expenses to take the PRAXIS II. If you are building a HOUSSE, please, let's finish this before the end of the school year and before the regulations prohibit the use of the HOUSSE as it is today.

As far as paraprofessionals, once you pass the HELP test you will automatically move down one range on the salary schedule and your pay increases! And, you will be considered highly qualified in Alaska and the rest of the nation.

In the spirit of Christmas, I will share the story behind mistletoe.

Ancient Romans believed that mistletoe had the magic power of peace. If opposing soldiers met under a mistletoe covered tree they would temporarily put down their weapons and declare peace for the day. In later times, in both England and Scandinavia, it was customary to hang mistletoe over doorways. Anyone who passed under supposedly came in peace and was greeted in a friendly manner, perhaps with a kiss. This probably accounts for the current custom of kissing under the mistletoe. Have a wonderful Holiday!



Native Language by Susan Paskvan

Native Language Curriculum Workshop

15 hours of hard work! Judy Woods, Heidi Wright, Irene Henry, Madeline Williams, Gertie Esmailka, Lillian Simon, Josie Dayton, Eliza Jones, Martha Demoski, Thelma Saunders, Phyllis Williams and I met for two days December 11-12, 2006. This amazing group shared ideas and concerns in their classroom, reviewed the current Kindergarten and 1st grade curriculum and reviewed three new curriculum units developed by Phyllis: 2nd grade, 3rd grade, and 4th grade. The group had very interesting discussions of what is culturally appro-



appropriate for teaching in the classroom. For example, the raven is a spiritually strong bird, so teaching about it in the classroom is huttaane.

The teachers also addressed Athabaskan values they would like to see brought into the schools. They had an open discussion on student attitudes and behaviors. What they have noticed over the years is a change in student's responsibilities and chores have decreased while staying in the house and playing games or watching TV has increased. As a result, students are not taught to work and they are becoming more negative towards themselves, peers and adults. The

teachers would like to have a district wide curriculum on improving student behavior and attitudes through Athabaskan values. To undertake this venture, the values need to be written down with concrete examples for students to follow that is grade level appropriate. For example, a Kindergarten student can be taught to do classroom chores such as collecting all the papers at the end of an assignment. At home, the student can be responsible for gathering the dishes. The teachers, parents, and district administration will need to be consulted in developing this program. If you would like to participate, please contact Susan Paskvan.



Director of Instruction by Carol Doyle

The office of the Director of Instruction has been busy with curriculum revisions for science. Geoff Johnson, Monica Garza, Madeline Riley, and Carol Doyle met to discuss and revise documents in the science curriculum started last spring. They also reviewed texts and materials sent to the district from science vendors. The committee was consistent in recommending Glencoe Science, 7-12, and McGraw/Macmillan, K-6. They thought these materials and texts would be the best match for the schools and written curriculum/standards. Samples will be sent out to the sites immediately after the Christmas break. Site staff will be asked to review the materials sent on the district textbook evaluation rubric. Carol Doyle will continue to work on the science checklists for each grade level and syllabus. The committee hopes to be able to recommend the curriculum, texts and materials by the March or April Board meeting. After the first 9 weeks, Language Arts teachers asked for a revision

to the reading and writing checklist. Those have been completed, but they are not yet on the district website. Teachers wanting to use the revised checklists for the 2nd quarter can get them by sending Carol Doyle an email. The current checklists on the web can still be used if the teacher prefers that format instead of the revised one. The important aspect of the checklists is that they are kept up by each 9-week period for each student, and that it is saved electronically. Teachers will be asked to send these to Carol Doyle electronically at the end of the school year for the four quarters.

Carol has enjoyed traveling to the sites this fall and winter. Traveling has included Minto, Manley, Nulato, Huslia, Ruby, and Allakaket. She has plans to travel to Hughes, Koyukuk, and Kaltag in the second half of the semester. She has been pleased to see what teachers are doing in their classrooms with different aspects of the curriculum.

A group of 14 teachers recently attended an advanced placement

conference in Anchorage. The teachers came back excited about the possibilities of having advanced placement become a reality in the district either at the site level or through video conferencing from designated and willing teachers to a multitude of students across the district. More study about what the curriculum should be and how to manage the classes is needed. A committee of teachers including Monica Garza, Mike Day, Christina Semaken, and Joan Jones will work with Carol Doyle to see how the district can proceed. A couple of students are signed up for pre-AP classes next semester through APEX Learning which is a computerized class. There are pre-AP classes for talented junior high and high school students available and the Appeal Grant pays for it. Teachers and principals may look at the content of these classes at <http://www.apexlearning.com>.

The office of the Director of Instruction wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas. God bless you all and safe travels to wherever your plans take you over the break.

Art Class by Angela Kartes

Eggs and Silk-No Yolking

The creative side of YKSD is showing through silk and eggs. The softer side of the story is a silk painting class where several creatively challenged district employees



participated in a fun evening of silk painting. The end results were incredible even for

those hesitant to let their creative juices flow. (Wisteria by Gina Hrinko)



Everything cracked-up in another class for high school Raven students. Not one to let

students take the easy road, the mean teacher made them create their own egg-tempera paints. After 18 eggs were lost to trial



and error the yolk finally was successfully extracted and used to paint well composed pieces based on the African American artist; Jacob Lawrence.

All else in the art world is going super. I would like to take the time to thank all teachers who participate in the satellite classes. I have been seeing some very creative pieces and it is a pure joy to look at the rooms full of busy students as they get in touch with their right brain. Hope to see all your students on the screen next semester!

Angela Kartes

'Visual Enlightenment Specialist'

Egg cracking good time—

Tristan Tomsha and Kayleigh Manning

Director of Facilities by John Christian

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
That's because someone left the village and turned the heat down
Thinking energy conservation is right and has a good sound!

The pipes were all busted, with ice cycles inside
Enough water was lost to take a snowgo ride inside.
The toilet shattered from a huge block of ice
And let me tell you it did not look nice.

A sleigh pulled by eight feisty sled dogs
Had to haul all of the logs
To thaw the home out and get it to dry
So work can be done without a wet eye.

Two weeks later the person could enter
The house once again as the primary renter.
Good thing too, because it wasn't too cool

To live and shower and eat in the school.
When the maintenance guy was done
He said it was no fun.
To fix a fifty dollar savings in the energy fare
With a thousand dollar extensive piping repair.

So with a smile on his lips he yelled to his team
It was time to be off, sure it did seem.
Now Bubba, now Rocky, now Bootsy, and Fella
Mush Duke, Mush Barry, Mush Harry, and Mush Mellow.

Merry Christmas to all and have a good vacation
Please don't get snowed in at your favorite destination.



Technology Department by Shawn Coyle

1. PowerGrade- We need to verify that all teachers are taking daily attendance and inputting their daily assignments, so their information can be checked for accuracy before the report card posts.
2. PowerSchool- We have been working with sites publishing the 2nd Quarter Reports and will be to back loading the 1st quarter grades for report card continuity. Also, we will allow the elementary grades to utilize the Citizenship accessory report card (page 2).
3. Video Thurs- Tech How to Thursday will resume January topics to include: Making imovies, organizing your USB Devices, demonstrating how to setup and manage file directories and backing up your files. Other topics to include utilizing Word and excel to manage you classroom documents.
4. Internet Filter Activity- We have a new filter online and have adjusted the settings for this new service, please send in your requests for site filtering, so we may place the correct web sites in the correct filter time/ site slots. These requests should include after 4pm site overrides, 8-5 site block requests, and any educational related site that may be blocked but needed for instructional resources etc.

A Sad Goodbye

Juneau resident William "Bill" B. Maloch, 59, died Nov. 21, 2006, in Juneau due to an apparent heart attack.

He was born on April 22, 1947, in Memphis, Tenn., and spent most of his life in Jackson, Miss. He spent many years traveling to and from Alaska where he rode horses, hunted, camped and fished. After receiving a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Florida Southwest and teaching in Florida, he returned to Juneau where he taught math at Alyeska Central School for the past eight years.

According to his family, his enthusiasm for teaching and concern for his students were ever-present. He loved inspiring young minds. He was looking forward to retiring next spring and returning to the farm that he shared with his wife in Chehalis, Wash.

"He loved raising horses and enjoyed watching the cows eat and the horses play," his wife said. "Bill never met a stranger and will be missed by all that knew and loved

him."

He was preceded in death by his father, James Maloch.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Maloch; mother, Elizabeth Maloch, of Juneau; sister, Betsy Truss, of Houston; cousin, Harold Moyer, of Naples, Fla.; and aunt, Eleanor Eastland, of Jackson.

His wife can be contacted at 3148 Jackson Highway, Chehalis, WA, 98532.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Dec. 2 at the Juneau Pioneer Home, followed by an open-house reception in his memory at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Bill and Debbie Chalmers, 1628 Glacier Ave., Juneau, AK, 99801.



On-line Distance Education Leaping Forward by Joe Marley

With the exceptional success of our online program over the last three years we have decided to expand even further. Currently, over 220 YKSD high school students are taking more than 580 credits of our online courses. In the coming months you will no doubt see the name, "Alaska Interior Distance Education", this is the new name of our on-line distance delivery program. The new name will separate this program from other parts of the district. Before the new year we will begin advertising campaigns and visits to other school districts promoting our program. There will be a need in coming months for more certified staff to oversee students' progress in the teachers' respective highly qualified fields. Joe Marley, former EBV Principal, and Chad Sorenson, RCS Soldotna are currently managing the student records, course diagnostics, and student progress. At our rural sites students take part in three different ways: they

participate in a video conference lessons along with the online course and classroom activities; they complete the on-line quizzes and use online resources with classroom teachers; or they work through the on-line course with the help of Mr. Marley and Mr. Sorenson.

Courses currently include; Biology, Earth Science, Physical Science, Health, U.S. History, U.S. Government, World History, Algebra I, Pre-Algebra, Life Skills English, Exploring Literature, and American Literature. The goal of the curriculum is to keep all resources readable for all students but at a 9-12 grade interest and standards level. They are built using many short assignments instead of a few long ones and are organized with a series of checklists. The ability for students to check their grades in real time and to start the day they enroll have also increased student motivation to complete the courses.

Please contact Mr. Marley at (608) 675-3122 or jmarley@yksd.com if you want to find out more or have any questions.



A Special Thank You

Thank you to all the Raven and YKSD staff who were so kind and helpful after our house burned. We really appreciated all the help. We bought a mobile home and had it parked right in front of the house. Now that we've got a place to live and are all back together, we

will be starting on sorting through and cleaning out the house to see what damage was done to the structure itself and figure out where we will go from there.

"I just want to thank everyone for helping us get our world back together so everyday living was possi-

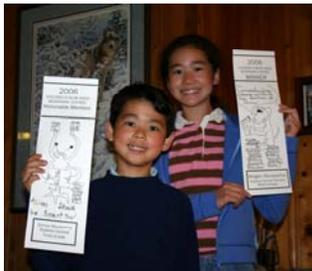
ble. A special thank you to Kathy Vander Zwaag for coordinating and doing so much for me."

Thanks,

Julie

RCS Delta

Alyeska Central School News



Two students from Alyeska Central School were honored by the Juneau Public Library for their submissions in the annual Bookmark Contest. Ninth grader Megan Murayama won first place in the high school division, and her brother, third grader Simon Murayama, won an honorable mention in the third grade division. One thousand ninety-eight entries were received in this year's contest, held annually to celebrate National Children's Book Week.

Congratulations to Megan and Simon!

Johnny Oldman School

A Thanksgiving feast in Hughes!



MHS Gladys Dart School

Polar First Project

The students have completed the first stage of the Polar First project. Our students have written descriptions of the local environment and it is posted on their web site: www.passporttothepoles.org.

Art Mortvedt is on his way to England to see Jennifer and Colon off on their flight. He took a pillow cover with for the pilots to carry to the South Pole for us and all the students have their picture on it. We hope to see the pilots and our pillow cover back here in March.

Ella B. Vernetti School

'Twas the Week Before Christmas
 'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the schools,
 The children were running and breaking all the rules.
 When Santa walked in with big, wide eyes,
 He yelled, "Hey, stop it you guys!"
 He heard some language that was a swear,
 And then he saw one pulling another's hair.

Santa reminded them of there culture, Athabaskan,
 And then they all promised not to do that again.
 So he got in his sleigh and went up like a balloon,
 And all the Athabacans yelled, "Nedaats'e Koonh!"

Mrs. Seitz's Middle School Class
 Ella B. Vernetti School
 Koyukuk, Alaska



Minto School



Minto Dancers perform @ Superintendent's Meeting, October 6, 2006

Staff/CSC & Guests, December 12, 2006

The Minto School staff, CSC Members, and guests had their annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 12th. An evening of good food, good company, and lots of laughs were had by all. The annual Christmas Dinner is something that we look forward to each year.

Andrew K. Demoski School



Jake and Jim Bob kick up their heels at Chena Hot Springs.



Scott's class hard at work



Memory Matching



Shirley and Scott



AKD Senior
Melvin Demoski

LESSONS ON LIFE



There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in the summer, and the youngest in the fall.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said no it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed; he said it

was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them, he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end,

when all the seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall.

MORAL

Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest.

Don't judge life by one difficult season.

Persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come with help of God. Amen to this one.

Holiday Recipes to Share



This is Blu Wallen's (Nulato) grandma's Christmas potato recipe. The parsley and chives are really only for the green color of Christmas, likewise the paprika is the red color represented at Christmas. I wouldn't leave them out because it completes presentation although I was told they are used only for color. Customs.....the things we do for our family.

Siegfried Christmas Potatoes

This is for a large family gathering AND IT GOES QUICK! (smaller portions have to be figured before preparation)

2 Boxes of mashed potato mix (prepared)

8 ounces of cream cheese

1 tablespoon parsley or chives

Shake of paprika

Prepare mashed potatoes. Blend in cream cheese with a mixer until creamy. Add in parsley or chives while blending. Put mixture into presentation baking dishes, sprinkle paprika on top potatoes. Bake 350 degrees until top crusts and brown very lightly. Approximately 30 minutes to an hour.

For Sale

Sheared beaver mitts with smoke tanned palms and beaded strap: \$250.00

Sheared beaver neck warmer or head band: \$60.00

Sheared beaver and turquoise color trappers cap, Womens Med.: \$175.00

Black corduroy and beaver trappers hat, Mens Med.: \$ 175.00

Mink headband with tail, unusual: \$100.00

Misc. beaded jewelry, hair barrettes, beaded lighter covers, beaver tail key chains

10% off for YKSD employees Call Cindy Furtado in Manley @ 672-335!

District Office Holiday Potluck



Chocolate Kisses & Mittens don't mix

"Chubby Snowman" Contest for the Administration



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**YUKON-KOYUKUK
SCHOOL DISTRICT**