

YKSD Staff Connections

4th Quarter

May 2007

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GRADUATION SCHEDULE:

Nulato and Kaltag. . . .May 17

Huslia and Minto. . . .May 18

Allakaket.May 20

Hughes, Koyukuk. . . . May 21
and Ruby

ManleyMay 22

Assistant Superintendent by Todd Poage

Greetings! Another year is almost in the books. Where does the time go? I hope that everyone enjoys their summer vacation and returns rested, refreshed and stress free. As for myself, just check the local golf courses. I might be living there all of June. The weather seems to have broke today, pushing 60 degrees, and the beginning of summer reminds us that graduations and proms are in the air. I will be attending the Nulato and Kaltag graduation this week. All of your efforts this year were appreciated whether leading the school as the site administrator, delivering daily instruction to the students, assisting teachers in the classroom, keeping administrators organized, cleaning the building so student have a conducive learning environment, maintaining building upkeep to provide heat, lighting, water and bathrooms, transporting students to school, feeding students and staff, extracurricular activities and all those other tasks too numerous to list but required to operate a school. Thanks! Below are a few items of interest.

District Hiring

At this time there are still six open positions remaining in the district. All open positions are posted on the YKSD and ATP websites as well as sent to all the village schools. This list will most-likely change on a

weekly basis. This year we will attend the Anchorage, Minneapolis, Michigan and Montana job fairs.

100 Day Verification Report

This is another report linked to the NCLB requirements. The district verifies all employees that have worked in the schools for at least 100 days between September 1st and the April 3rd, the first day of testing. If a high level of testing gains has been accomplished, then a bonus to that school's employees will be mailed from the State to each individual's home address. All certified and classified employees that have worked the required 100 days were submitted to the State.

SBA/HSGQE

The 12/12+ results were available on April 25th; 10th /11th grade on May 11th; and 3rd thru 9th will be available on May 16th via the web. The results will be emailed and mailed to each school for distribution to students and parents.

This year there were 34 seniors in the river schools and 28 seniors passed all sections of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. 82%. Congrats! Of the six students that did not pass all areas of the HSGQE; three students did not pass the Reading section; two students did not pass the Writing section; and four students did not pass the Math section. Also, four students

have one section remaining to pass; one student has two sections to pass; and one student has all three sections remaining to pass.

As most know, this is my last hurrah with YKSD and I thank the Board, administration, school staff, students and communities for all their support during the past 13 years. After all is said and done I need to thank the two people that tried to keep me in line thru these years and to whom I delegated portions of my job too, on a regular basis: Betty and Alice, thanks! Like I mentioned earlier; "Where does the time go?" It seems like only yesterday Superintendent Simon and I were beginning principals struggling thru our first year. I truly enjoyed my eight years in Minto, "Go Lakers!" and five years at the district office overseeing school operations. See you down the road. Anna Baasee'

**Good-bye &
Good Luck
Todd**

Office of Instruction by Carol Doyle

Science Curriculum—The written Science curriculum with its standards and checklists, content vocabulary, philosophy and curriculum guidelines was adopted by the Board at the last Board meeting. The student checklists are now on the district web site under “Curriculum” located on the left side of the web page. They are in PDF format so they will have to be filled out by hand unless you request an emailed copy. The checklists were put in this format because we were having problems with the forms overlapping each other when brought up on the Internet. These are a requirement at the end of each quarter for each student in the 2007-2008 school year for Science. The science texts recommended by the committee and staff were Glencoe for 7-12 and Macmillan/McGraw Hill for K-5. It was decided that 2nd grade materials would be purchased for K-2 classrooms, 5th grade materials would be purchased for 3-5 classrooms and 7th or 8th grade materials would be purchased for 7-8 grade classrooms depending on what the teacher was most comfortable with. Nine through twelve (9-12) classrooms will receive the subject matter textbooks for each of the 5 science subjects. There is one K-1 classroom and one 2-3 classroom. These teachers will receive the 1st grade and 3rd grade materials. Materials have not been ordered as yet. A budget must be created for these new materials.

LA Curriculum—New novels for next year will be determined by the Language Arts Committee on the 9th of May. We have a draft list, but there may be some changes. An updated Language Arts syllabus for grades 6-12 will need to be drafted for next year. Most of the LA curriculum that was posted on the MAC server will be posted to the district’s web site in PDF form. The parts that will not be posted are available in the LA Curriculum Binder at your site. Every Language Arts teacher should know where that binder is kept at their site. Carol Doyle could also email or fax any parts that staff would like that are not on the website.

LA and Math Checklists—A summary checklist has been sent to Principals for teachers. Some of you may have also received them directly from Carol Doyle. If teachers have not yet received these from principals, please email her and she will send them to you. The summary checklists include just the fourth quarter outcomes of student performance. Please put the number of students performing in each of the categories: Emerging, Developing, Proficient, and Advanced in the 4th quarter ONLY on the standards. In math, the designations are: Advanced, Proficient, Below Proficient, and Far Below Proficient. The individual checklists for math and language arts go to the principal for your end of year checkout and then into the students’ portfolios. The summary checklists come to Carol and are part of the Principal’s checkout with the District Office. Please see that Principals have what they need. Your cooperation with this is very much appreciated. The results will be tabulated and compared with the SBA test scores. Please send summary checklists as an email attachment if possible. That would be very helpful.

Writing Institute—The district is in a partnership with UAF, Alaska Writing Consortium, and Fairbanks North Star Borough School District in a grant that provides some writing professional development for teachers this summer and during the October inservice. There will be an opportunity for 10 teachers from this district to attend the institute at no cost to the teacher. The open institute dates this summer are July 30th through August 7th. There will be two teacher leaders handling the institute. There will be workshops for elementary, middle, and high school level. A flyer and application form was emailed out to the staff. The application must be filled out and emailed or faxed back to Carol Doyle. Five slots will go to current staff and the rest to incoming new staff. Registration, per diem, credit, housing, and travel to Fairbanks from the villages will be paid for by the grant for current staff. Any slots that new teachers to the district do not use will be open to the current staff.

Advanced Placement—Six teachers/principals/DO are going to the Advanced Placement College Board Convention in Las Vegas, NV this summer. The district hopes to get more advanced students in our villages interested in taking pre-AP classes and AP classes. The convention allows these teachers to attend workshops in every area of curriculum. An email was sent out to all staff teaching at the middle and high school levels. Those attending are: Melanie Redington, Christine Semaken, Bob Hawkins, Kerry Boyd, Joan Jones, and Michael Day. The convention will be paid by the Advanced Placement Grant we have in conjunction with Anchorage, and Kuspuk.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters—This is the last year of the grant for this program. The district’s responsibility for it ends on June 30th. We were hoping that the BBBS of Fairbanks would still be interested in doing the program out in our villages. There are no district funds at this point in time to continue the program. Bigs and Littles at the sites could still continue to carry on activities on a volunteer basis which would be wonderful for our children.

Battle of the Books FY 08—Carol Doyle has had some requests for battle books for the 2007-2008 school year. These are not ordered until the end of the current budget year. Then they must be cataloged by the district librarian before they can be sent out to schools. At the present time, the district does not have a librarian for the next school year. This position will be classified and currently advertised as such. Any interested qualified applicants should contact Carol Doyle at the district office.

You have all worked hard so have a relaxing summer and take advantage of the professional development opportunities available to you if possible.



State & Federal Programs by Kerry Boyd

The end of the academic year is a time of reflection on the highs and lows of the past school year, and a time of anticipation as we look forward to a new school year bringing fresh challenges and some exciting opportunities. I would like to say thank you to our faculty and staff for making this year such a memorable year.

The welding and construction academies were a huge success! With support from our superintendent and enthusiastic YKSD staff members, 20 students were able to learn life-long skills, earn college credit, and have fun all at the same time. However, I would like to give a special thanks to Gina Hrinko for orchestrating the entire event over the course of the year. She worked tirelessly on every aspect of the program to ensure the students would have

what they need.

This is the final Staff Connections News Letter for the year. With your support, Patty Hill has done a phenomenal job of providing us a wonderful newsletter on time! Next year we will continue with the newsletter, so be sure to take pictures of your summer activities you would like to share with the rest of the staff.

Be safe and work on your highly qualified documentation! I look forward to meeting with all of you at our upcoming staff inservice in the fall.

CTE Programs and Grants by Gina Hrinko

CTE Happenings

This spring, 21 YKSD students participated in our first ever Construction and Welding Academies. The Construction Academy was held in Minto while the Welding Academy was held in Nulato. Participating students earned their 10-hour OSHA Basic Safety card as well as 5 college credits through UAF-IAC. We even had some community members who sat through the safety class to earn their OSHA card. Many of our students are already looking forward to the next academy!

Thank You

Thank You

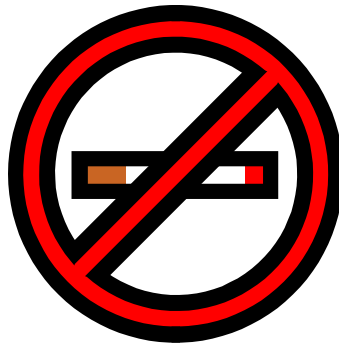
Thank You

Thank You

A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone who helped make our dream of implementing these academies a reality. The academies could not have happened without the dedication and hard work of these individuals!

Grant Info

This April, YKSD was awarded funding for a Tobacco Prevention grant through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. This grant will be implemented in Allakaket and Nulato next year. The Department asked us to choose two sites to pilot for next year. These sites were selected based on data collected from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys that were conducted district-wide. More information will be sent out regarding this new program.



Technology Department by Shawn Coyle

Video Conferencing equipment is expensive and slow to replace, please ensure it is in a safe place and all equipment is secure. Please make sure that your sites Video Conferencing Equipment is plugged in and ready for video conferencing. It takes a lot of valuable conference time to troubleshoot a faulty connection at the start of a conference, thanks!

PowerSchool/Power Grade Administrative implementation and support has taken a lot of work, but I believe we have most everyone ready for our next year of reporting period. I will be scheduling Principals, Admin Assists and Techs to work out final configurations, reports, and updates, for PS/ PG.

PowerSchool - We have been working with sites preparing the 4th Quarter Progress Reports and will be looking to adjust any historical grades for HS MS and Elementary Students.

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 final report card posts. I will contact each principal teacher and discuss their schools status.

GCI is moving through the river school sites and installing/ updating School Access equipment, please assist them with whatever their needs are. We will complete our GCI migration before July 1st 2007.

We will be purchasing the new YKSD teacher laptops, this summer and they will be available upon return with PG MS Office pre-loaded.

Library News by Cheryl Schweigert

Students at all the sites have really been reading, and the library received many orders for incentive books. Thank you to everyone for being so careful to get those in. Hopefully, you have received all your books. If you didn't receive a book that is on back-order, you might want to write the library with the book order's number and the title of the missing book. That way, if the missing book shows up here, it can find its way back to you.

Hopefully you've sent all your media center checkouts back by now. Your principal needs to sign off on your check out sheet. If you need the library to look for items you think we should already have, please email me at cschweigert@yksd.com.

There are so many neat kits here at the media center, for all levels and all subjects. If you are looking for teaching resources, it's likely someone has put them all together for you already. There are maps, diagrams, hands-on materials, books, videos and projects. I'm sure you can find some fun and helpful resources for every Alaska Standard you need to teach. To get some ideas, go to <http://list.yksd.com:7000/webopac/main?siteid=1> and type in KITS. Be sure to hit the arrow at the bottom to go to the next page. If you have time while you're in Fairbanks, come see for yourself all the resources available.

There are also many classroom sets of books. Literature is a great way to tie in concepts across the curriculum, and YKSD has books that are yours to use. Often, especially if you ask, there are hard copies of literature guides as well. You can try going to the same site as stated in the above paragraph, then click on "subjects." You'll spark your own mind and save hours gathering your own resources and information.



Business Office by Edith Hildebrand



Those of you moving on or going on summer vacation:

Please remember to provide Payroll with your current mailing address if you move or are leaving the district. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Information on Health Insurance & COBRA:

Just a reminder that those certified staff currently on health insurance and leaving the district after this school year is over or by June 30th, your health insurance ends 6-30-07. Principal/Teachers & Principals (or Administrators) your health insurance ends 8-31-07. Classified staff health insurance ends the last month of employment. Continued health coverage can be obtained through COBRA, where you select what plan you would like to pay on. Please contact the Business Office for more information on this. The COBRA rates vary!



I learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again. Age 12

I learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. Age 14

I learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. Age 15

I learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there. Age 29

I learned that children and grandparents are natural allies. Age 47

I learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. Age 58

I learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt in both hands. You need to be able to through something back. Age 64

Safety Program Update by Andrea Durny

This past year has been a wonderful year in Safety for the Yukon Koyukuk School District. We created a Safety Team from four departments here at the District Office.

One of our goals as a Safety Team is to encourage safety and awareness to each employee. We are doing this by inserting a safety brief with the first paycheck of each month. The safety brief includes one safety topic, and the injury report for the prior month, so please take a minute to review your monthly safety brief. This month we will be covering crisis response. Each school site has its own crisis management plan; I'd encourage you to take a look at your school plan in the event that a disaster does occur. If you cannot find a copy, give us a call 907-374-9434.

So far we are very pleased with the program and its direction towards district wide safety. CONGRATS ON A JOB WELL DONE! We thank you for your participation in our loss control program by promoting safety at each of the school sites, and helping to create a safe and healthy work environment. Safety is a concerned effort by each individual to lead by example for each other and our students. In our case (YKSD) we believe it is especially important to exercise safety precautions because of the remoteness of our sites, our harsh weather conditions in the interior, and mostly because we need to protect each other, our employees, our communities, and our students.

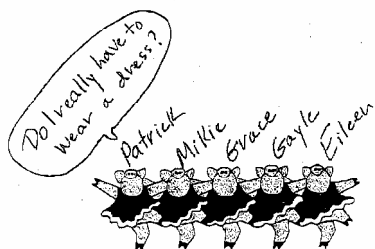
The number of reported injuries for the 2006-2007 school year is 5. Although this is the same number of injuries reported for the previous year, we are pleased that it did not exceed last year's amount.

Now that this school year is coming to a close, we encourage you to have a SAFE and enjoyable summer wherever your travels may take you.

Thanks, from your Safety Team and the District Office!

Alyeska Central School

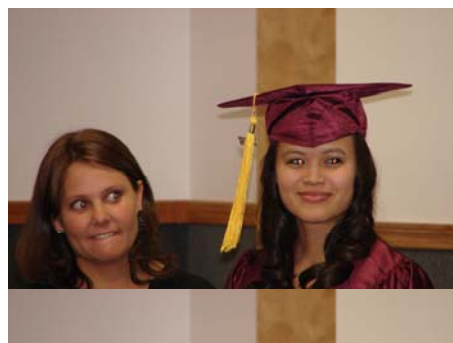
CHORUSPONDENCE



Recently, Alyeska Central School sent care packages to all the district schools from their warehouse. Some of the items were science equipment, graphic calculators, crafts supplies, pencils, art supplies, awards, etc. We hope everyone enjoyed getting them.

From all your friends at ACS!

Raven Correspondence Graduation



The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt.



Huslia GIS/GPS Training by Geoff Johnson

During the week of March 13 La'ona DeWilde delivered a training on ArcView mapping software and the use of Trimble GPS units to seven middle and high school students at Jimmy Huntington School.

The purpose of the training was for students to learn how to use professional mapping software to begin documenting the migration of houses away from the riverbank as the Koyukuk River slowly encroaches on the village of Huslia. The project can be viewed at La'ona's website at:

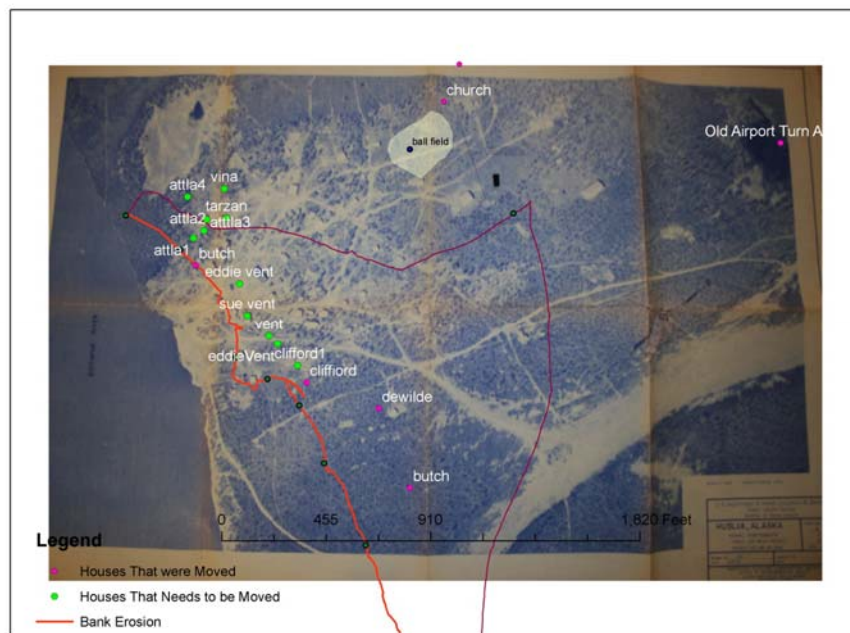
www.letsmapalaska.com. Please realize that the project is still under construc-

tion and much of the written work still needs to be edited. This training will hopefully help students become interested in using GPS for geographical purposes. The map seen here and on the website is a 1975 aerial photo of Huslia that was geo-referenced using the ArcView software. The students then walked along the bank to show where it is currently. This is the red line on the map. Houses near the bank were then marked with a GPS and placed on the map to begin a graphical display of how and where the village is migrating. The green dots are houses that need to be moved. The pink dots

are houses that have been moved. The green dots with black border are points made by the GPS while walking the bank. The pink line will be removed when the map is edited.

Future extensions of this project will be for students to research where the riverbank has been in the past by gathering oral information from elders and community members and collecting old photographs. These can then be placed in the ArcView program and made into a web page where visitors can see pictures of the riverbank and houses (before, during, and after they have moved).

2007 Huslia Bank Erosion with 1975 Background Picture



Huslia Science Festival by Geoff Johnson

Jimmy Huntington School's annual science festival has been a great success over the last several years. It began after I took the Alaska Science Consortium class that stressed inquiry science. Students in middle and high school science classes are challenged to find an activity or project which relates to that year's science class (Earth, Physical, or Life Science) and student interests. They then research the topic in order to create a display board such as one might find at a Science Fair. However, this is where the similarity to science fairs stops. Most important, beyond gathering pertinent information on the topic, is to develop an activity that elementary students will find fun and fascinating.

This proved somewhat difficult the first couple of years, but as students have seen ideas from past years they have become more and more creative. Over the years students have made catapults, an igloo, a dog sled, electric circuits, lemon batteries, volcanoes, gak, play-doh, instant ice cream, medicines from medicinal plants, spit wad shooters, film

canister rockets, dog mazes, smoke bombs, and list goes on. A regular favorite is the Star Lab which can be borrowed from the District Office. The Aurora Alive program and CD have complimented the use of the Star Lab as well. Traditional Athabascan skills; such as trapping, hunting, sled-building, and winter survival have also begun to play a large roll in the event.

This yearly project, while difficult to initially implement and sometimes costly when trying to provide supplies, has been an attempt to have older students show younger siblings and peers that science can not only be fun and exciting, but that almost all traditional skills and knowledge are evidence of scientific understanding. These science festivals have hopefully increased students' interest in science and encouraged them to enter regional science fairs in the future. Or to at least realize that science is all around them all the time.

Huslia Students Have



Fun with Science

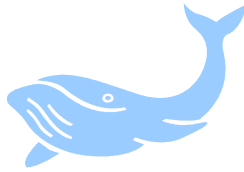
Minto Field Trip by Madeline Riley

Madeline Riley's 4th and 5th grade class went on a field trip to Anchorage and Seward. Sunday, May 6th through Saturday, May 12.

They went to Seward to the Sea Life Center to study about marine adaptations. Before the trip, they turned their classroom into an ocean. They created an undersea world with seaweed and lots of ocean animals. The class learned about the animals, but had never seen them in real life before. There were so many things to see at the Sea Life Center in Seward.

The class raised almost two thousand dollars for the trip through fundraisers like bake sales, selling pies, cookies, cakes, and lots of bread and aprons made with donated materials.

While in Anchorage, they went to H2 Oasis to swim and have fun. They also made plans to go ice skating, to the zoo and the Imaginarium to study about the ins and outs of digestion.



Koyukuk Students Volunteer by Diane Seitz



The students in Diane Seitz's Middle School Class got bit by the "Volunteer Bug."

The students spent 2 hours raking leaves, cutting branches and hauling dry grass away from the front of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Koyukuk. This act of community service was just a chance to give back to the community.

The students said they felt very proud of their work and that the community really did respect them.

They would also like to put a little challenge out there to the students in the other villages to do something for their community. The feeling you get is worth the world!

The students in the pictures are:

(Picture #1) Leonard Kriska, Conrad Jones and Lenny Joe Dayton cutting the tall grass.

(Picture #2) Bit by the "Volunteer Bug" were Diane Seitz, Lenny Joe Dayton, Kalene Lolnitz, Rochelle Albert, Leonard Kriska and Conrad Jones.



Nulato Supports Reading at Home



Special Education Teacher Scott Bendlock reads to Sheldon Albert, Preston Silas, Brandon Patsy, Richard Demoski, Nulato School Board Member Shirley Kruger, and Shirley Ekada



Nulato's Headstart and AKD students enjoy a little art in Karen Eddy's class

Patience: The quality that's best learned through years of teaching.

Ruby Tribute by Ann Titus

I was asked to write the following article as a tribute to Bruce Buffmire our principal of two years as he is moving on due to family obligations. It was nice to have someone move into the position of principal and offer a bit of professionalism and dedication that we have not seen on the South bank of the Yukon for some years. Because of Bruce's efforts our staff became more diligent at reworking their classroom offerings and came up

with engaging ways to keep students on task and always in a learning mode. The first year out as a team we made academic AYP, and this year at our school we anticipate that we have made it again. The majority of high school seniors graduating have passed their qualifying exams.

Through his dogged effort over two seasons Bruce was able to bring a team of 6 boys into the re-

gional finals in basketball.

A feat no one could ever have predicted, nor has never been done in Ruby. Mr. Buffmire came here at the right time and in the right place, and I believe we have all benefited from his service. Next year I have decided to step into the principal's role at Merrelaine A. Kangas School. I hope to continue the progress begun by Bruce Buffmire and our staff.



Mr. Buffmire with the Ruby Raven Boys Basketball Team:

(Back) Brandon Peters

Eric Peters

William Dozette

(Front) Garreth Cleaver

Leo Captain

Nate Titus

A few tidbits from: Erasing My Sanity! By Kimberly Chambers

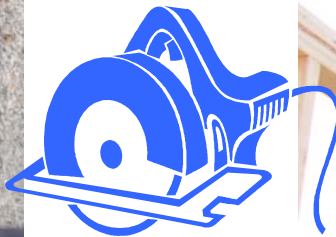
Stress is:

- When you taste your morning coffee and realize it was left over from yesterday
- Using up all the ink in your pen to correct one paper
- Your principal decides to have a fire drill while it's raining (35 below)
- Deleting the computer file with your class grades
- The health aide shows up unannounced to your class to do a lice check

Construction Academy by Pete Daley

The Yukon Koyukuk School District held a construction academy in the village of Minto. There were eleven students who attended the 10 day event. The students were busy all day learning pertinent information to the construction industry. Mornings were spent on academic material pertaining to the field like Construction Math, Safety, Employability Skills, Tools, Blueprints, and other various topics dealing with the trade. Afternoons were spent on building an 8'X10' shed for the community garden near the hall. The students particularly enjoyed this portion of the academy. The weather was cooperative and the students learned so much.

Since this was the first academy of it's kind, there were a few wrinkles to iron out, but overall it was a huge success. I had the "pleasure" of housing eight high school boys at my house. Needless to say, this made for some fond memories. I want to give a huge **THANK YOU** to all who participated in making this academy a huge success. The names are too numerous to mention. You know who you are. I couldn't have done it without you. The students are equipped now with some valuable skills that will help them in any field they choose. I hope this can be an annual event for the students of our district. Have a great summer and I will see everyone in the fall.



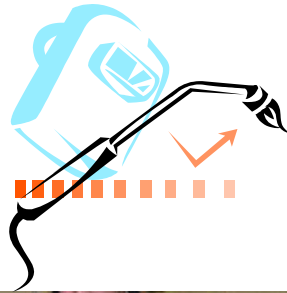
Welding Academy by Jim Bob Webb

"The ten students who attended the welding academy were all thrown together. They were excited at the beginning as well as all the way through to the end. These students for the most part did not have any idea of welding. By the time we got to the last day, they were standing in line to be the next one to get into the welding room and practice.

The students were fun to teach and eager the whole ten days. They gained good knowledge from this course. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to have ten outstanding students to work with and watch them grow in many ways in just ten days. These were ten outstanding individuals. I truly enjoyed the time that we had, but it was too short. The students learned and so did I."

"Without a doubt, one of the most positive programs that I have seen in education in my 18 years of teaching!! Totally positive, enjoyed by all, just not enough time, kids wanted more"

Jim Bob Webb



Transition Camp by Cristina Welker

Greetings from the Special Education Department! As many of you have heard, the YKSD Transition Camp was a HUGE success! I would like to thank the sites for sending such wonderful, well mannered students. They were awesome to get to know and I believe we really had an impact on what they will decide to do in the future. We hope to have a follow up video conference sometime in the fall to reconnect

and possibly have some returning students become “student leaders in training” for the next camp. The staff did an excellent job of being flexible and positive throughout the week, even though I know it was exhausting! Thank you Yuko, Tom, and Lynne! A BIG thanks also goes out to the district office staff for all their help in planning, donating, and volunteering (Patty, Tami, Gina, Angela, Shawn, Kerry, Susan & the Elders).

As the year comes to an end, please remember to turn in both the principal and sped teacher handbooks, as well as the special education issued lap top computers. If you are returning next year as a special education teacher, you may use the computer over the summer.

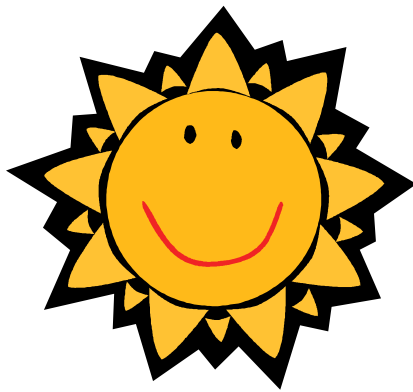
Thanks for a GREAT year and I hope everyone has a nice warm summer!



TRANSITION CAMP



The "JEOPARDY" contestant search came to Fairbanks on May 1st. Their bus just happened to make a stop at the District Office for visit. Susan Paskvan conducted an impromptu game of Denaakk'e Jeopardy via Video Conference for the Jeopardy recruiters. Baasee' to Koyukuk and Kaltag. They were very impressed by the use of the game to learn Denaakk'e. They especially liked it when a student asked "Can I play it in our language?" and the exclamation of "Edzegee!" for "I'm scared." After the game, they told the students they are all winners. It takes smart people to play the game!



Funny Business. . . .

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

"If there are any idiots in the room, will they please stand up" said the sarcastic teacher.

After a long silence, one freshman rose to his feet.

"Now then mister, why do you consider yourself an idiot?" enquired the teacher with a sneer.

"Well, actually I don't," said the student, "but I hate to see you standing up there all by yourself."



Some drink at the fountain of knowledge...others just gargle.



Have a great summer!