

Special points
of interest:

- **Red Ribbon Week: October 23-30**
- **Alaska Federation of Natives: Oct. 22-27**
- **Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov. 22-23**



Inside this
issue:

GT Program	2
Technology	2
Library News	2
Grants	3
Safety	3
In-service Photos	4
Site News	6
New Staff	7

Instruction & Curriculum by Carol Doyle

Happy fall or winter whatever the case may be. I know some of you have already received some snow! This office has been extremely busy with all the newly required school improvements, data keeping, grants, curriculum, and testing procedures, to name a few.

Some of you have been asking for "Battle of the Books" books. They arrived in the library a couple of weeks ago and are being cataloged. Tamara is in the process of boxing them up and sending them out. I sent the passwords for the handbook and the practice questions via email October 11th. If you didn't get it, please email me.

Most of the science materials are in now. We are still missing some teacher editions for Biology, and a few other minor things. Thirty-five high school students books were ordered for the major courses: Physical Science, Biology, and Earth Science. Fewer books were ordered for Physics and Chemistry, taught to just a few students at the upper levels. Every Science teacher will have a manual for each of the different courses, but may not have enough student copies and lab manuals for all of your students. These were ordered this way because many of you use AGS materials in Joe Marley's classes and the materials were very expensive. However, you received at least one copy or more of these Glencoe materials. If we need more student copies, I believe we could order more during the year. Middle School and Elementary materials are also on the way. I have not received any of the hands-on demonstration kits so far.

Joan Jones has been working hard on putting the math GLE's into the checklist document as well as the new K-2 GLE's. The math GLE checklists will be used by the principals on their observation walk-thru that EED requires as part of the district improvement plan. Joan also spent a week out in Allakaket helping with their Aims testing and men-

toring a new teacher. If others of you have similar needs for testing or mentoring, please let us know.

Joan has also helped to order some preview math materials. Right now this office has Saxon and Everyday Math to look at. Carol and Joan would like to have the math curriculum committee meet sometime in November to review the curriculum documents and the materials. Interested participants can send Carol an email.

By the time you read this newsletter, all teachers who were responsible for AimsWeb reading and math hopefully have completed their testing. Your principal has had AimsWeb notebooks with the testing material in it and an email with the K-2 materials. The district office will insert your scores into the program as soon as we get final data (scores). Shawn is in the process of setting up your accounts so you can review your student scores and print out reports for collaborative meetings.

Jimmy Huntington School and Merrelina A. Kangas School have chosen Alternate Learning Styles as their school improvement support services provider. Those schools will have Michelle Walker and her colleagues visiting their schools to give extra tutoring services to students. Allakaket School has chosen Alaska Learning Labs. A teacher from their school will use this provider's curriculum to give students extra tutoring services after school. This provider pays the teacher to complete these activities.

Thank you for your kind attention during the in-service. We hope you enjoyed the prizes. I have not completed tabulating the results of the evaluations as yet, but she will let you know the results as soon as I have the information completed. I did collect the chart paper from the last day and will summarize your work.

Some of you have been asking for a few extra copies of the novels. Most of the novels we ordered (5 of each title) have come in. Let us know if you need extra copies of novels before we make the next order. Your timely response to this will be very much appreciated.

Thank you for being so prompt in getting your HSGQE exams back and inputting the information into the documents provided. It was a big help to me and of course the state and testing company. HSGQE results are posted to DRC's website by November 30th and we should have paper copies by December 7th.

I will make a trip to Montana with Carl's group to view the training that we will expect in our second year of the Voluntary Public School Choice grant. I will be talking to teachers to see what their challenges are and how they best feel is the most effective way to meet these challenges.

Most principals and a team of district office certified staff attended the "Response to Instruction" training required by the state in Fairbanks recently. Ruby, Allakaket, and Huslia sites will be developing their school improvement plan based on some of the previous training you all received at the district-wide in-service and on some of the RTI model principals we learned about. Principals will be talking to their staff about implementing some of these strategies. Just a reminder for the 3 schools who need improvement plans—they are due to November 1st and must also be approved by their CSC before hand.

We are beginning the second nine weeks already. Where has the first part of the year gone?! We have much to do, but you all have our support here in the district office. I will travel to Ruby and Allakaket toward the end of the month. Enjoy the snow!

Special Education by Cristina Welker



The GT Program is for students who are at or above grade level in reading.



Looking for supplemental teaching materials? A variety of kits are available at the Library . . . Check them out!



Although *GIFTED AND TALENTED* is not considered connected to Special Education anymore, Pat Baser, our Speech/Language Pathologist, is offering a GT program to those sites who are interested. Jr. Great Books and the National Geographic Bee are two wonderful programs to peak student interest and challenge their minds. Please see the video schedule to the right for times and days. (The slots designated for "Sounds Like Fun" is for Pre-K through grade 2, specifically for Speech/Language services)

Times	Thursday	Friday
9:30 - 10:30	Jr. Great Books Grade 3	
9:45 - 10:30		Jr. Great Books Grade 3
10:30 - 11:15	Sounds Like Fun	Sounds Like Fun
11:15 - Noon	Jr. Great Books Grade 4	
1:00 - 2:00	Jr. Great Books Grades 1 2	Jr. Great Books Grade 1 2
2:45 - 3:30	Geography Bee Grade 4-12	Geography Bee Grade 4-12

*Remember – students must be at or above grade level in reading to participate. Neither GT program is intended to be for remedial services. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Technology News by Patty Hill

Just a few updates from the Technology Department. We are in the process of hiring a Technology Assistant here at the District Office to help Shawn out with the huge volume of technology issues around the district.

Also, to alleviate some of the more tedious tasks, Susan

Paskvan will be addressing video-conferencing problems and Patty Hill will be helping out with email issues. Please be reminded that your first point of contact should always be your site tech, but if your problem cannot be resolved at the site level then please feel free to contact the appropriate person the District Office:

Shawn Coyle—374-9413
Susan Paskvan—374-9405
Patty Hill—374-9416

In order to get the best service, please communicate your technology concerns via email. This way, your request is documented with a time and date stamp. Phone calls are easy to forget and are more likely to get lost in the shuffle.

Library News by Tamara Wilkinson

Hello from the Library! Whew, what a busy year so far. Battle of the Books have been sent out, so everyone should have received their books or will be getting them soon. As some of you know, and some do not, I am new to the library experience. I was transferred over from the business office, working in payroll. I am learning everyday, so please be patient if I am not able to answer your questions right away, but will answer them after a little research or a few phone calls.

I am looking forward to this experience and hope to make the library a little easier for everyone to access. If you are looking for anything to supplement the subjects you are

teaching, give me a call and I will see what is in the library or go online to www.yksd.com, click the library link and look around. A few resources available are the Subject Kits, Art Kits, movies and different types of books.

Please feel free to send an email regarding what may be lacking in the library so that we can work to purchase what is needed. I will be needing your help in the near future choosing some items, such as books, videos, books on tape and items for subject kits. I hope to make many changes and any suggestions would be appreciated.

With every news letter, I hope to spotlight something that may be of interest and available in the library. Here is this quarter's

spotlight:

JUST IN. . . .

Story Watchers Club Series, Our Planet, World Folktales, Keys to Imagination, Good Character, Christmas, Fairy Tales, Fantasy, and Storytelling Fun!. The Call of the Story; An American Renaissance, Children Tell Stories; Teaching and Using Storytelling in the Classroom

Several new art kits also came in from the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. They will be cataloged soon and ready to be used. You can access the list online at yksd.com clicking on the library link. Please contact me with any questions at 907-374-9408 or you can email me at:

twilkinson@yksd.com

Grants by Gina Hrinko

The newly funded Tobacco grant is off the ground and making headway. Gina Hrinko recently traveled to Allakaket to work with the counselor and other school staff as they worked through the School Health Index assessment (SHI). The SHI is almost completed for Allakaket. Next, she will be working with Nulato staff as they work thorough the same process. The next step will be to participate in professional development on the *Life Skills Training* curriculum. We are working with a consultant from the Rocky Mountain Center for Health to secure a time and dates for the training. The training will take place in Anchorage and we will send teachers from the two sites piloting the program this year.

Angela Larson, our grants evaluator also traveled to Allakaket to meet with staff and ask questions regarding the implementation of grants. This is necessary for grant evalua-

tion purposes. Angela tries to visit a couple of sites each year to meet with staff in person. She also conducts telephone interviews and communicates with staff via email.

Robin Davis, our Succeed Together (SIOP) project support teacher, has visits scheduled to the five remaining sites that did not receive a visit last year. The dates for these visits have been emailed out to site principals. Initial site visits to each site will be completed by December. Robin is here to support you and your language development efforts in the classroom. Please feel free to contact her if you have any questions or if you would like her to model a lesson in your classroom. Starting in January, Robin will be available to visit your site for a second time and provide follow up support. Let me know if you would like to schedule a second visit.

Three sites are up for their on-site accreditation evaluation this year (Minto, Nulato, Kaltag). Minto School will go through this process during the first week of December. Nulato and Kaltag's evaluation will take place in the spring, after testing. All sites are working diligently as they prepare and update the necessary documents for this evaluation.

Exciting News! We are working closely with the Interior Tech Prep Specialist to revise our current articulation agreements and develop new ones. This year, we have students in Minto and Nulato enrolled in a Construction Math course at their site. The students who successfully complete this course will receive 3 college credits. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Gina Hrinko to discuss the details further.

Four teachers and the CTE Coordinator will attend a CTE professional development conference Nov. 14 – 17th in Anchorage. Important CTE information from the training will be disseminated district-wide, upon our return.

Safety Program Update by Andrea Durny

Welcome back for another wonderful year in safety at the Yukon Koyukuk School District. Last year we created a safety team here at the District Office and this year we will be continuing our efforts to help promote safety district wide.

One of our goals as a safety team is to encourage safety awareness for each employee. This year we will be continuing to insert 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.

As apart of the program we have been working with our insurance company to provide a safe and healthy work place for all employees and to help reduce the frequency of losses. This program also helps YKSD with the cost of purchasing safety related products such as ice cleats to reduce slips, training on proper lifting techniques to reduce back injuries, protective eye-wear, gloves, or ergonomic keyboards. Last spring we sent out a box of personal protective equipment to each of our sites for the Maintenance guys.

In order to improve safety and reduce our losses we must first be aware of which losses are occurring and the causes of those losses, below is a list of the top ten claims:

Top Ten Accidents by Frequency of Claims:

- Sprain/Strain/Tear – By Lifting/ Throwing
- Fall/Slip/Trip – On/Through Ice/Snow
- Struck/Injured – By Falling or Flying Objects
- Miscellaneous Causes – Foreign Body in Eye/Poke/Scratch
- Sprain/Strain/Tear – by Pushing or Pulling
- Sprain/Strain/Tear – by Overexertion
- Fall/Slip/Trip – on Same Level
- Auto Rear End Backing - Backing or Rolling Back
- Cut, Puncture, Scrape – by Ob-

ject Being Lifted/Handled

- Cut, Puncture, Scrape – by Hand Tool/Utensil: Not Power

From these losses, we can see that preventing back injuries and slips and falls is a priority. Proper machine guarding and personal protective equipment may also prevent injuries from being struck by flying objects.

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.

If you have any questions or concerns about the program please contact Andrea Durny @ 907-374-9434. Thanks, from your Safety Team! And the District Office.

Protect Each other... Put Safety First!



September In-service

Allakaket & Hughes Staff



Huslia, Kaltag & Koyukuk Staff



Manley and others helping out at in-service





**Minto, Nulato
& Ruby Staff**



Raven Staff



Bob, John & Cristina



**Thank you to our
World Wide IDEA
presenters!**



Manley Culture Camp by Ajay Wright (student)

Every year at the Gladys Dart School we have a fall Culture Camp. We focus on learning about cultural things, like wild harvesting and other outdoor activities, and have out of school classes. This year, we were taken mushrooming, cleaned the town, made pickled dilly beans, and went to Rampart Site. Tanis and Cindy took us out onto the side of the road to look for and learn to classify different types of mushrooms. After introduction in classifying, we went back to school and set up the mushrooms collected to be examined the next day. When the class started the next day we got out the microscopes and examined their spores.

On another day, we went out at 11:00 A.M. for an hour of town clean up. The school student's split up and while one group went to the dump, the other went to the landing. The group at the dump cleaned up the surrounding area, and the group at the landing cleaned up the Tanana River landing before heading back towards school. At

12 o'clock the two teams met at the Roadhouse for lunch. On another day, during cooking class, we made dilly beans from beans harvested by the teacher. We packed beans into jars and put in some garlic, dill, and peppers. We closed the jars and put them into boiling water. After two weeks, they would be ready. The last, but definitely not least, activity of our culture camp was the Rampart Site trip. We took off in the morning just as school started, and drove to the Rampart turn-off. Minto met us there after about ten minutes and then we drove the rest of the way to Rampart Site. When we got there, for the first time in student memory, we had visitors. Some people had parked their



trailer there. We started a fire in the parking lot, and then we started climbing. Jacob and I were a team, and were first to the two peaks. We climbed the large hill in about ten minutes. We buried a time capsule on the top of the hill this year in an old pretzel jar. When we were ready we rolled down the hill and went back to the lot. We cooked hot dogs and marshmallows and even had some cupcakes. After lunch Minto left and we went along the road and looked at Bill Strack's crashed truck. We eventually headed home. Culture camp is always a good week in this school.



Examining Mushrooms in Manley

Manley students take pride in their community and lend a hand to keep it clean.



Great Job Kia Ho Chee!!!

Minto News by Madeline Riley

One of my students, Kia HoChee, was invited to speak at the AFN convention on October 22 at the Carlson Center. Kia is 10 years old and in the 5th grade at Minto School. In her speech she spoke in

Athabascan and In English, expressing her love for her family and the importance of keeping her culture alive. She received a standing ovation.

This was her 3rd public speech. Her first speech competition was in Anchor-

age last year. She also sang a song in Denaak'e and came in second.

Last March she was invited to speak at the Doyon meeting in Fairbanks. She did well at each event.

GREAT JOB KIA

New to YKSD

Shawn Arnold-Allakaket



Originally from New York City, I first came to Alaska with the military when I was twenty years old. Fourteen years later I'm now out of the military and following my dream of becoming a teacher. My wife Jodi is a teacher as well, down in the Mat-Su School District; where she also bravely takes care of our two mischievous dogs.

Dale Hargis-Nulato



I was born and raised in central Missouri and have lived in the small town of Fulton with my wife Tracy for the past 12 years. We don't have any children but we have two cats and nine nieces and nephews. I have taught language arts the last seven years at South Callaway Middle School, along with teaching summer school

in the Fulton school system. In Nulato, I teach high school English, P.E., Physical Science, and Earth Science and I am also student government adviser. In my spare time, I write and record hard rock music with my band, King's Row (www.kingsrowmusic.com) and I am keeping a journal of my Alaskan adventures on my own website at www.dalehargis.com. I also enjoy reading, listening to progressive rock and metal music, watching hockey and football, and watching Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, and Pixar movies.

**A warm
welcome to
all of our
new staff
members.
We are
happy to
have you!**

Tony Saner-Huslia



My name is Anthony Saner and I am in my first year teaching at Jimmy Huntington School. I come from Kentucky and am wondering what happened to fall, it has already snowed in Huslia! My daughter and I are enjoying our experience and look forward to the coming months.

Tom & Julie Siebenaler-Huslia



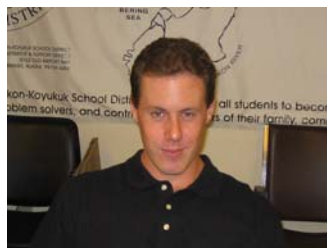
Tom & Julie are newlyweds, and moved up from Minnesota to start their Alaskan adventure. Tom is teaching Language Arts and Julie is the Special Education teacher for Huslia.

Flora Johnson-Allakaket



Flora returned to her home village of Allakaket this year. She is teaching elementary grades 3-5. Welcome back Flora!

Matt Campbell-Hughes



Matt is from Pennsylvania. He graduated from Temple University and holds a Masters in Education. He is teaching Elementary students in Hughes.

WELCOME



Yukon-Koyukuk School District

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Although we are all busy doing our own jobs, it is important that we stay connected as a school district. The purpose of the YKSD Staff Connections newsletter is to keep the lines of communication open between staff, departments, schools, and villages. You can do your part by sharing things that you are Involved with. More times than not, we get so caught up in what is going on around us that we forget to share, becoming disconnected from the big picture. If you enjoy reading about what's going on around the district, we would also like to know what is going on around you. The next newsletter will go out at the end of the 2nd quarter in December, please start thinking about what you can contribute to keep the staff connected!

Thank you to all who contributed this quarter!

We look forward to hearing from you next quarter!



Birthday Doggy Kisses for Jim Bob! (October 27)