



Staff Connections

New YKSD Superintendent Selected

Kerry Boyd, the Director of State & Federal Programs, has been selected by the YKSD School Board to fill the Superintendent position when Chris Simon leaves the district in June. Here is a brief "bio":

Kerry Boyd began her career as a special education teacher in the state of Florida. She taught K-6 multi-grade special education classrooms as well as at risk high school students. In 1998, she relocated with her family to Eielson Air force Base, Alaska. She immediately accepted a special education position with Galena City School District. After four years, she began work as the coordinator

for the IDEA International Program, a world-wide distance education program of Galena City Schools.

Eight years later, she accepted a grant writing position with Yukon-Koyukuk School district and soon after filled the position of Director of Federal and State Programs. In this role, she provided oversight on all state and federally funded grant projects including the recently awarded grant from the United States Department of Education Voluntary School Choice Grant in the amount of \$7.9 million. She will begin her assignment as the new superintendent of YKSD in July.

Kerry Boyd earned a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from the University of Central Florida and a Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Alaska.



Staff News

Our own Vernon Albert from Ruby competed in the Iron Dog Snow Machine race. Unfortunately, his partner was injured early in the race causing them to "scratch" before getting to the Ruby check point. Better luck next year!



Congratulations to Brittney Batchelder from the Business Office. She was married on Saturday, March 1st in Fairbanks and is honeymooning on the island of Bora-Bora in the South Pacific.

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Upcoming Events:

- School Board Meeting: March 12
- HSGQE Academic Academy: March 17-21
- IPT Testing for identified LEP students through March 31st
- Standardized Testing: April 1-3
- PHLIGHT Academy with Derek Peterson: April 21-25
- Transition Camp: April 27-May 2

State & Federal Programs by Kerry Boyd

Accreditation

Gina Hrinko is working on accreditation for Minto, Kaltag and Nulato. The first visit (Minto) will be in March and Kaltag and Nulato will have their accreditation team visits the week of April 14-18th

A team of three will evaluate each of the schools to ensure they meet NAAS accreditation standards.

New Itinerant Teacher

Please welcome Will Boger to our staff as our new Educational Specialist. He will be traveling to sites to support classroom teaching. As part of his initial job responsibilities he will assess needs; help implement professional development goals, and may assist in formative assessment. Will has over 20 years of teaching experience and has even served as a teacher in Huslia years ago.

Boarding Home

The last day for a student to utilize the YKSD 2007/2008 school year boarding home program is March 26, 2008.

Close Up

Please remember the last day to submit an application for the Close Up program is March 10th. If you have questions, please contact Johnathan Sommer at jsommer@yksd.com. There are 11 spots available, one from the smaller sites and two from the larger sites. Funding is provided by the district.

HELP Test for Paraprofessionals

If you would like to take the HELP test to become Highly Qualified, we will arrange for you to test at your site. The test is approximately 3 hours long. All testing fees are paid for by the district, and once you successfully pass the test you receive an increase in pay.

Praxis II Dates

Remember the district will pay for your Praxis II test to become highly qualified. And, we can arrange for you to test at your site. Please contact Johnathan Sommer if you have questions.

Test Date	Registration Must Be Received by:	Late Registration \$45 LATE FEE	Emergency Registration	Approximate Score Report Mailing Date**
4/26/08*	3/27/08	4/3/08	4/18/08	5/27/08
6/14/08*	5/15/08	5/22/08	6/6/08	7/15/08
7/26/08	6/26/08	7/3/08	7/18/08	8/26/08

While in Washington DC, a few of us stopped by Congressman Young's office to discuss our district goals.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!



Curriculum & Instruction by Carol Doyle

It has been a really busy third quarter in the curriculum office. Joan and Carol have been busy training and answering questions about AimsWeb and ACFA. Thank you to all for your diligence in learning the program and inputting your own scores this quarter. Site techs were requested to put the ACFA program on student computers so teachers could use the program with their students. After getting an email from the testing coordinator at EED, teachers can use ACFA as a pre and post test for units in the strands (such as Numeration, Measurement, Forming a General Understanding, etc.) These strands are the ones tested on the SBA state exams. The strands and accompanied tests can be found on pages 12-15 in the ACFA Teachers' Guide.

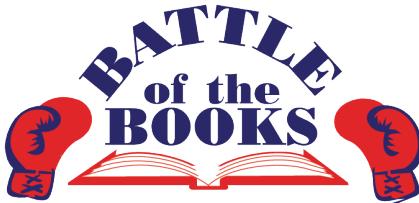
Carol attended training February 20th and 21st for the upcoming SBA



and HSGQE tests. There will be several trainings before testing begins for proctors

and associate coordinators. These tests should be in her office by the end of the first week of March and soon after that out to the sites. Principals, please make sure these tests are locked up when you receive them. Also, this month, district schools have completed the Terra Nova test for grades 5 and 7.

Thank you to all for getting your tests back to me on time.



The "Battle of Books" state battles took place February 18th-21st. Manley took 5th place in the state battle on the 18th after 3 rounds of battling. Nulato's 3-4th grade placed 18th. Raven's 7-8th grade placed 13th, and Koyukuk's 5th-6th placed 18th. Congratulations to all the teams! The district champs for grades K, 1, and 2 were Huslia. Mrs. Aschenbrenner was their coach. All the champs will receive T-shirts and the other participants will receive awards as well for their hard work.

District-wide Writing Assessments were sent out the week of February 18th. The district wide writing assessment takes place the last week of February as part of writing instruction in the classroom. Student papers are due back in the office by March 7th. Around 10 retired teachers from FBNSB School District will score our assessments this year.



With everything going on, the curriculum office decided to keep our own teachers at the site instead of bringing them

into the district office to score papers as we did last year. As soon as scoring is completed, scores and papers will be returned to the teacher. The essays are to be put in the students' writing portfolios.

March 17-21st, 11th and 12th grade students who haven't passed the HSGQE will attend an academic camp (with their parent's permission) for a week of special individualized tutoring. Arrangements are being made at this time. After a day of instruction, students will be able to enter into some fun activities in the evening. Instructors will be two retired teachers from FBNSB School District and our own Joan Jones.

Allakaket School was awarded \$50,000 for moving ahead with an excellent school improvement plan. Ruby was in the running too, but the state would not divide the money.



Special Education by Cristina Welker

2nd Annual Transition Camp!!!

April 27-May 2, 2008 in Fairbanks

Transition Camp applications were sent by mail to each principal. Feel free to make copies, or if you need an electronic copy, just let the sped department know! The applications are due by fax or postmarked no later than **April 7**. We are making huge gains in the planning process for this year and adding many new opportunities for the students, including vocational research in the areas of cosmetology and massage therapy!

Welcome to Kelly Hoffman, our new Administrative Assistant with the Special Education Department!



Transition Camp 2007 Participants

YKSD On-line Distance Education Continues to Grow

by Joe Marley

YKSD's online distance delivery program continues to grow. Currently, over 290 YKSD students are enrolled in our online program and are taking more than 780 credits of online courses. We also have 42 other students from across Alaska taking 52 credits of courses. Each year we continue to offer a wider range of courses and enrollment continues to grow.

This year we started the Alaska Independent Distance Education program. It focuses on giving students a more rigid structure than Raven Correspondence School. The courses are based on providing courses which meet all Alaska High School Performance Standard but with simple structure, clear assignments, and easy to read textbooks.

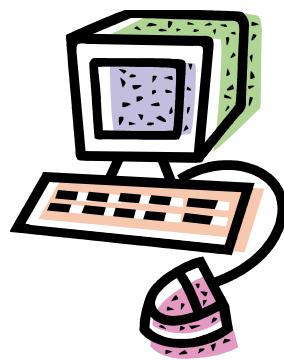
Joe Marley, former EBV Principal, is currently managing the student records, course diagnostics, student progress, and new course develop-

ment. At our rural sites students take part in the courses 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.

Courses currently include: Biology, Earth Science, Physical Science, Health, U.S. History, Alaska Studies, U.S. Government, World History, Algebra 1, Pre-Algebra, Math for the HSGQE, Life Skills English, Exploring Literature, Basic English, and American Literature. Soon we will be adding Career Planning. Courses are written using a team of individuals in the process and the focus is on making sure all Alaska standards are being met. The goal of the curriculum is to keep all resources readable for all students but at a 9-12 grade interest and stan-

dards level. Each course is 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.



Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference (BMEEC)

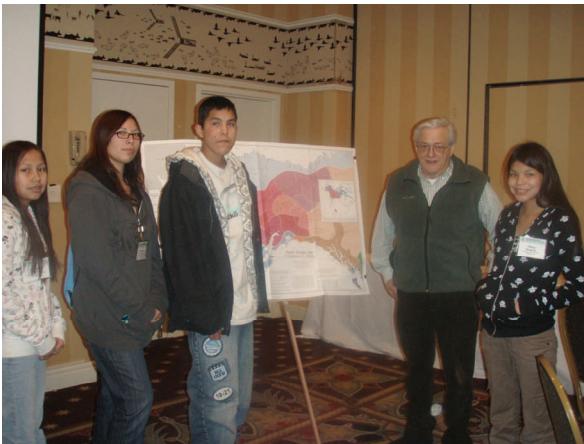
by Susan Paskvan

ANLC and the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) are updating the ANLC language map. They are changing the names of the languages to what the people call their own language. For example, Christina J., 8th grade student, of Johnny Oldman School in Hughes recommended that Koyukon be changed to Denaakk'e.



L-R: Tiffany Bergman, 9th grade student from Allakaket School; and Mariah B., 8th grade student from Johnny Oldman School in Hughes; check out the latest version of the Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC) languages map. They attended this session at the Bilingual Multi-cultural Education Equity Conference (BMEEC) in Anchorage.

L-R: Mariah B., 8th grade; Christina J., 8th grade; Dylan D., 11th grade, Dr. Michael Krauss, and Tiffany B. 9th grade pose in front of the 1982 ANLC languages map. The students learned the history of how Dr. Krauss made the ANLC languages map: mapping the language boundaries; counting the number of speakers, and his position on issues to consider in updating the languages map.



They also changed some other place's languages to what the people called themselves (the people versus the name of the language). Ingalik was changed to the name of the people, Deg Hit'an.



Susan Paskvan with students Christina J., Tiffany B., Flora H. and Emily P. sing the opening song Doogh Dzaanh Hoozoohn at the Bilingual Multicultural Education Equity Conference (BMEEC) in Anchorage. Students also sang Amazing Grace in Denaakk'e. Also attending the conference were Mariah B., Dylan D., teachers Gertie Esmailka, and Shawn Arnold.



2008 RCS Cyber Science Fair by Andrea Berg & Mark Pope



There is still time to register for the 2008 RCS Cyber Science Fair (RCSCSF). Registration has been extended to March 28. We hope that you will join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our young home school scientists, journalists, and engineers.

The RCSCSF is intended to encourage "Project Based" education in the home and to provide an opportunity for students to display their

work in science and technology, via the Internet. Real science fair projects will be created by the student and presented on-line, via MS PowerPoint presentation. Wooden plaques will be awarded to all project teams or individual entrants this year. Students may enter projects in any of FIVE categories, depending on the methods they have chosen to study science and/or technology.

Please visit the 2008 RCSCSF website for all up-to-the-minute news and information. The link below will take you to the "First Time" entry page. After downloading the Shock-Wave player, you will be able to go to the home page of the web-site, with out delay.

<http://learningsurge.com/rccs/rccsf0708/index.htm>

All rules may be found by clicking on the "Handbook" link, once you enter the RCSCF venue

We hope that you will join us for this year's competition!

Timeline:

Registration Due: **March 28**

Projects Submissions Due: **May 5**

Project Posting to Web site: **May 12**

Judging Completed: **May 24**

Awards Posted: **May 30**

Mark Pope
RCSCSF Coordinator
Office: 907.357.9573
E-Mail: mpope@yksd.com

Websites of Interest

Massachusetts Institute of Technology has created a free **OpenCourseWare** site for teachers and students. The site provides materials designed to help students understand concepts by watching video demonstrations, study for tests or homework. Recent MIT courses, as well as some developed and taught at MIT themselves, are posted online with video and audio lectures in a wide range of subject areas. It is worth a look.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/web/courses/courses/index.htm>



Virtual fieldtrips. They have many "places" to visit that might offer a new perspective to students or give them ideas of life beyond....

<http://www.meetmeatthecorner.org/>



Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Tips

Like many people, you may experience cabin fever during the winter months. Or, you may tend to eat more or sleep more when the temperature drops. But seasonal affective disorder (SAD) goes well beyond those symptoms. Seasonal affective disorder is much more than the winter blahs. It's a type of depressive disorder.

If you have seasonal affective disorder, winter's short days and long nights may induce feelings of depression, lethargy, fatigue, cravings for sweets and starches, headaches, sleep problems and irritability. Though seasonal affective disorder commonly begins in young adulthood, it's uncommon in people younger than 20. It's more common in women.

What causes seasonal affective disorder is unclear, but it may have to do with the amount of sunlight you receive. Although SAD can affect people anywhere, it becomes more common the farther north you live — perhaps because these areas of the earth experience decreased daylight for months at a time. In some people, however, recurring episodes of depression may occur in the summer, rather than in the winter.

Although there's no cure for seasonal affective disorder, treatments can help you successfully manage the condition so that you can go through every season of the year in relative comfort.

Signs and symptoms

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Loss of energy
- Social withdrawal
- Increased sleep and sleepiness
- Loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Overeating, especially foods high in carbohydrates
- Weight gain
- Difficulty concentrating and processing information

Treatment

Like depression, it's often possible to successfully manage seasonal affective disorder. Treatments may include:

Light therapy. This is the main treatment for many people with winter depression. In light therapy, you sit a few feet from a special lamp that's 10 to 20 times brighter than are ordinary indoor lights for 30 or more minutes each day, usually in the morning. You can do other activities, such as reading or eating breakfast, while sitting in front of the light.

Light therapy is easy to administer and has relatively few side effects. Nearly 70 percent of people experience a reduction of their symptoms from daily light therapy,

and about 50 percent experience remission while undergoing light therapy. Light therapy needs to be done daily until springtime, when the sun shines for a longer period during the day. Lights from tanning beds can't be used for light therapy, because tanning beds use potentially damaging ultraviolet light.



Medication. Your doctor may prescribe an antidepressant medication in combination with light therapy, or as an alternative, if light therapy isn't working. About 70 percent of people taking antidepressants have decreased symptoms, and about half experience remission while taking medication. Summer depression may also be treated with antidepressants.

Psychotherapy. Psychotherapy helps you identify and modify negative thoughts and behaviors that may play a role in bringing about signs and symptoms of SAD. You and your psychiatrist or psychologist may also talk about ways to reduce stress in your life.

Coping skills

Some things you can do on your own can help you cope with seasonal depression. The following suggestions may help you better manage SAD:

- ◆ **Increase the amount of light in your home.** Open blinds, add skylights and trim tree branches that block sunlight.
- ◆ **Get outside.** Walk outdoors on sunny days, even during winter.
- ◆ **Exercise regularly.** Physical exercise helps relieve stress and anxiety, which can accentuate SAD. Being more fit can make you feel better about yourself.
- ◆ **Find ways to relax.** Learn how to better manage stress.
- ◆ **Take a trip.** If possible, take winter vacations in sunny, warm locations for winter SAD, or cooler locations for summer SAD.

http://www.valleyhealth.com/Health_Library/Article

**Yukon-Koyukuk
School District**

4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Phone: 907-374-9400
Fax: 907-374-9443



About St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and the Irish. He was born about 389 A.D. in Northern Wales, which at that time may have been part of England or Scotland.

Saint Patrick had an adventurous life. He was captured by pirates at the age of 16. The Irish pirates brought him to Ireland to tend the flocks of a chieftain in Ulster. Six years of slavery made him a devoted Christian. He escaped to France and became a monk. In 432, a vision led him to return to Ireland as a missionary bishop. He brought Christianity to Ireland and taught there for 29 years. He used the shamrock, a 3 leaf clover, (Ireland's national flower) to explain the Blessed Trinity. St. Patrick founded 365 churches, baptized over 120,000 people and consecrated 450 bishops.

Many tales sprung up about this popular saint. One of the most popular legends was how he charmed all the snakes of Ireland down to the seashore to be drowned by the water. The only certain writings of St. Patrick's are his Confessions and a letter written to a man named Coroticus (See *Tripartite Life of St. Patrick* by Stokes and Lives by Todd, Healy, Bury and Lusack.). His Confessions are written in crude Latin.

According to some Irish writings, St. Patrick died on March 17, 461 A.D. The anniversary of his death is celebrated as St. Patrick's Day. It's interesting to note that the shamrock clover flowers around that time of year.

Today St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by the Irish as well as many Americans with parades, parties, wearing of green, Irish songs and jigs. People wear green on this day to represent the lushness of Ireland - The Emerald Isle.

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St. Patrick's Day

Missionary

Shamrock

pot of gold

March

Green

luck

Saint

Ireland

holiday

rainbow

trinity

seventeenth

celebrate

pinch

Irish