



YKSD STAFF CONNECTIONS

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

2nd Quarter
2008

Greetings from the Superintendent

As winter break approaches, I would like to thank the students, staff, parents, board members and community members who contribute so much in helping to create a positive atmosphere at Yukon Koyukuk School District. We have had a productive beginning to the academic year. Staff and students are engaged in teaching and learning in the classrooms. Basketball season is beginning and holiday celebrations are in full swing at schools across the district. The holiday season is upon us, bringing joy and a chance to celebrate with friends and family. Many of our students generously give their time to help ensure the holidays are enjoyed by all. They share time with elders and participate in other activities all in the spirit of bringing in the New Year with hope and compassion. Beginning December 22, schools will be closed for the holiday until January 5th. January 6th is an inservice day. The District Office and Raven Correspondence satellite offices will be closed to the public December 25th and 26th and January 1st. Earlier this month, the school board and school administration reviewed and rejuvenated the Mission and Goals for the Dis-

trict. It is clear; students come first in our school district. Out of all the goals, Improving Student Achievement is the District's top priority and central to our work as a public school system. All students can, will, and must learn. We must hold high expectations for our students and I encourage you to continue to help your students meet or exceed the academic requirements. Additionally, many of our principal/teachers are now participating in a special program funded primarily by grant money through the RAPPS program. This program is a unique educational leadership program that prepares principals to lead rural Alaska schools. When finished, participants will earn their master's degrees with a Type B Certificate. This is a great investment for both educators and students. The district will be developing a strategic plan incorporating the mission and goals of the school district and we will be seeking your input to help set annual, measurable student achievement goals. In an effort to provide necessary professional growth for our instructional staff, the teachers and teacher aides will be participating in a district-wide professional development training February 11-

13th. There will be no school on these days, and February 10th will be a shortened day to allow travel to the training in Fairbanks. During the week of January 12-17, many schools will have a team of PEAK professional development trainers visiting their sites. Their purpose is to work with the teachers on implementing best practice teaching strategies and to offer resources where requested. Good News...YKSD did really well with its major maintenance projects through the Department of Education's Capital Improvement Process. \$1,078,835 for Kaltag Heating System Replacement, \$161,994 for Alakaket Water System Improvements, and \$923,685 for Huslia Exterior Upgrades. We will continue to seek funding for several other projects that are to be determined to be fire, life and safety concerns.

It is my hope that you enjoy the time with much laughter and good health. I hope you are able to spend time with family members and friends. Take time for yourself. I wish you a happy holiday season and wonderful New Year.

*Best wishes,
Kerry Boyd
Superintendent*

YKSD Mission Statement

The mission of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District, in active partnership with its village members, is to provide students with the skills and knowledge to be contributing members of their family, their community and society.

YKSD Goals

Student Achievement: *All students will have the opportunity to achieve high levels of proficiency and career preparedness*

Highly Qualified Teachers: *High-quality teachers will be hired, developed and retained in order to best meet our academic goals*

Parent and School Communication: *Ensure parental and community support and involvement through clear, open, and timely communication.*

Continuity and Communication with Staff: *Ensure support and involvement through clear, open and timely communication. Budget/Financial Management: Monitor and manage District finances in order to sustain educational program priorities over the long term and seek funding opportunities.*

Inside this issue:

Instruction/Curriculum	2
Art	3
State/Fed. Programs	4
SpEd/Counseling	4
Human Resources	5
Facilities/Maintenance	5
Huslia	6
Nulato	7
Ruby	7
Just for fun.....	8-10



Instruction & Curriculum News

High School Qualifying Exam scores are here and have been sent to the principals electronically. Paper copies will be in the district office by December 19th. Since principals already have electronic copies of individual scores for students, the paper copies will be mailed out after Christmas break. Electronic copies can be copied and sent to students and parents before the break.

The next Aimsweb testing window will be January 19th through the 31st. Scores must be entered by the 30th. Thank you for the great job you all did in the fall. This is the benchmark window. If you are progress monitoring with your students, those scores should be entered as you score their tests. During the window, please test all students, even those you are in progress monitoring. Our participation is looked at by our district coach and EED.

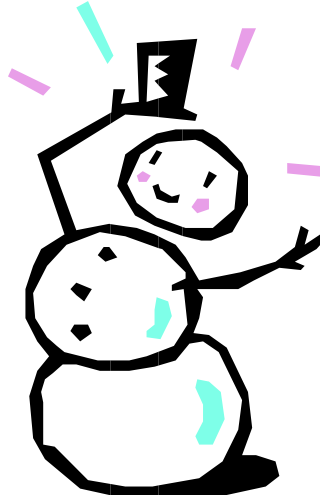
Terra Nova for grades 5 and 7 begin February 2nd. The window is from February 2nd through the 20th. The first week of February all 5th and 7th graders will be tested. Those who are absent during the first week may make it up during the window. However, most of the second week of February has been set aside for District-Wide Inservice here in Fairbanks.

The State Department of Education requested our district be at a training that happened just recently. They have mandated that we put our curriculum into a template form that shows the Alaska Standard Strand, the Stem, the GLE(PSGLE), the Specific Content, the Skills that support the GLE, the Activities/Strategies, and the Assessments. At our meeting

the districts asked EED to fill in the strand, the stem, the PSGLE, the content, and the skills. This is called unpacking the standards. After the state finishes those parts, then we would need to go through it and write the activities/strategies and assessments that would align with the content and skills, and change any content and skills that fits our district more realistically. Even this much

is an undertaking that we weren't counting on in the next few years, but it is mandated for all school improvement districts. There is no timeline to complete so as long as we are showing progress, there doesn't seem to be a "drop-dead" date for completion. This year, however, we will focus on Social Studies and will use their template as much as possible to finish the curriculum in this area. Social Studies teachers on the committee will be meeting in January and February to do this. Right now Nicholas Graves and Kurt Hadley will be requested to be part of that committee. We still need a couple of elementary teachers to help with the social studies curriculum project. The committee will also be reviewing new textbooks for next year.

Also, as part of curriculum, the English committee will be looking at a Grammar and Composition Textbook as part of the junior high/high school English curriculum. Since our lowest scores are in writing and in structures and conventions, we have determined that perhaps a textbook would help teachers structure this part of



the curriculum and make it more effective for teachers and students alike. Joan Jones and Nancy Mason are long standing Language Arts curriculum committee staff. I have mailed TE copies of the textbook, Writer's Choice by Glencoe to 7 out of 9 schools for grades 6-12. I want those of you who receive the text to take a good look at it and see if it would be worthwhile for the district to buy.

There would probably only be enough money for a TE text, a student text, and I'm hoping for the assessment CD since it would be another formative assessment we could use. No additional resources would be ordered since we also have social studies materials to purchase in this year's budget.

The District Battle of the Books competition is sneaking up on us. We will need a schedule in late January, early February for district battles over video conference. We will have to schedule around all the classes that come over video conference so the schedule may not be the best for everyone. I will be sending an email out after break about the schedule.

I sincerely hope all of you have a very Merry Christmas and a rest from the daily activities of teaching. May God bless your travel if you are leaving the village and watch over you until we see you once again after the break. Have a great New Year too!

Submitted by Carol Doyle



The ARTicle

By Laura Kaiser



Upcoming Site Visits:

January 7-9: Koyukuk

January 26-28: Huslia

February 2-5: Ruby

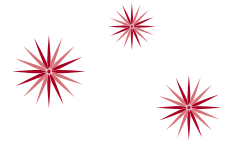
March 2-4: Hughes

March 30-31: Manley

April 1-3: Minto

April 27-29: Allakaket

*All scheduled visits are subject to change. Please let me know if something does not work for your school or if you would like to reschedule.



Art in the Outdoors
Culture Camp: Allakaket

Fun at Family Art Night!

Students of Raven Correspondence School had a blast at Family Art Night. The event occurred on November 20th and was a great success. F.A.N offered a fun night out for students and their families to come make art of all shapes and sizes. About 50 students in total attended and participated in activities including bookmaking, face painting, cookie decorating, and a whole lot more! Visiting artists from the community also participated by setting up booths and offering a look at professional artwork.

But Family Art Night could not have been a success without the enormous

support from the staff at the district office. Staff members "manned" the activity stations (with little to no breaks) giving each student personalized instruction as well as helping provide food to feed our guests. They also participated in a prep day in which we ate lunch, made signs and prepped all the stations.

After it was all said and done, F.A.N couldn't have turned out better. Parents of the students had nothing but good comments making this night one of my first major successes as your art teacher.

Art and Language: A cross curricular experience

I recently returned from a trip to Nulato in which Susan Paskvan and I decided to try mixing art with her Native language lessons. The result was pretty outstanding because the two subjects seem to complement each other very well. Together, Susan and I taught all the age levels. Lessons often began with a native song and dance to get the students warmed up for art. After getting into the "art mode" students learned about texture and how to create texture using

different painting methods. As the lessons progressed, Susan quizzed the students on the native words that applied to the lesson at hand.

Completing their painting took about two days and on the third day Susan led the students in writing poems about their art. The result was a very well rounded lesson that leads me to believe that we should do this more often!



State & Federal Programs

Highly Qualified Status of Teachers

The State and Federal Programs department has been working on determining the highly qualified status of our teachers. If you are teaching a core academic area that you are not certified in, then you will need to become highly qualified by either taking the Praxis II exam, or for experienced teachers, building a HOUSSE. For those of you who qualify to build a HOUSSE, we have reviewed your file



and made a determination as to which professional development activities you have earned points for. The following staff will receive a highly qualified certificate, once all the paperwork has been signed:

Vicky Charlie—English Content
Pete Daley—English Content, Mathematics Content
Monica Garza—English Content, Mathematics Content
Robert Hawkins—English Content, Mathematics Content
Marilyn Janke—English Content

Jake Kramer—English Content, Mathematics Content
Jim Bob Webb—English Content, Mathematics Content, Earth Science
Marge Wilson—English Content

We have not made it through all of the files yet, but plan to have this process completed by the time school starts up again in January. **Congratulations!**

Submitted by Gina Hrinko

Special Education

Holiday Greetings! The special education teachers have been working diligently on keeping all paperwork in compliance this semester. We recently had a sped teacher meeting and discussed Aide training, the Alternate Assessment, and Speech/Language services. Also, the February ASSEC conference is coming up and

in order to attend, each teacher has to be in full compliance with paperwork! The race is on!!!!

Michelle Patterson recently attended an awesome conference about High Risk Kids. Since she covers three

sites, it was a perfect fit. She would be happy to enlighten any of you on what she learned!

Submitted by Cristina Poage



Counseling

All of the counselors recently attended the Professional Development Conference in Anchorage. Reports back were very positive! Please ask your local counselor to share what they learned!

As many of you know, our very own Ryan Tilbury will be deploying for three months. We wish him luck and pray for a quick and safe return. May our thought be with Ryan and his family during this time.

Happy Holidays and enjoy your break!

Submitted by Cristina Poage





Human Resources

The new Regional Counselor for the Fairbanks area is scheduled to be in Fairbanks the week of March 16 – 20, 2009. She would like to meet with our staff to discuss any questions that they might have on their PERS or TRS retirement Plans. Please let Edith Hildebrand know if you are interested in meeting with her during this trip. She generally sets aside 1-2 hours when meeting with individuals, depending on the interest, to discuss any of their benefits. She also may be able to arrange a group meeting to discuss informa-

tion on the retirement plans. This could be an opportunity for employees to ask questions about their retirement accounts and other benefits available to them in the PERS and TRS system.

Submitted by Edith Hildebrand



Facilities & Maintenance

From all of us in the maintenance office:

David Pratt/Bill Monroe/Vernon Albert/Roslyn Petersen

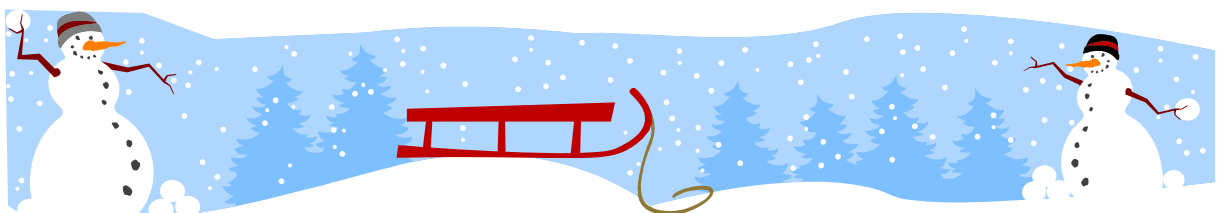
We would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone in the villages a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And to all of our field maintenance staff, I would personally like to thank each one of you for your support and determination to maintain a pleasant environment for our students to learn in.

And to let you know your hard work does not go unnoticed. I would also like to thank everyone

who has helped me in my transition, not only into a new position, but also to a new state, environment, and ways to face the cold. Thank you very much. Just please tell me when does the sun come back?

Submitted by David Pratt



Jimmy Huntington School Happenings

K-5 News

The K-1 class of Annette Penn

Annette uses word walls with the kids. She also has a "books read" chart on the wall. The class also has both writing and a reading center.

The 2-3 class of Helen Huffman

Helen utilizes several PEAK strategies. She uses the 10 minute strategy as well as movement ideas. She also uses science solution stations.

The 3-5 classes of Brandy Henderson

Brandy uses a word bank for her English classes. Her class is also highly computerized using pertinent programs/games (PEAK strategy) for her math and language classes.

The 4-5 class of Gertie Esmailka

Gertie uses the PEAK movement strategy. They are also working on the 6 Keys currently. She also uses games which are suggested by PEAK and her Learning Styles class.

6-12 News

The 6-12 Math and Science Classes of Steve Swatling

The 9-12 classes have been developing a web page to share knowledge with the world. The biology students described the climate, locations, species, and their adaptations for selected biomes. You can view their work at husliaschool.com.

The 6-12 Language Arts classes of Peggy Bruno

Mrs. Bruno's high school arts class finished a unit on surrealism. She has several talented artists. They viewed Chris Raschka on Teaching-books.net. They also did pop-ups and cards.

Grades 6-8 students have just finished a starter course in French and Spanish. The regular language arts classes are leveled for success. The students have read The Contender.



The PEAK strategy of incremental learning is used in the high school classes. They have read A Separate Peace, Two Old Women, and they are reading Winterdance.



The 6-12 Social Studies classes of Mr. Hadley

Mr. Hadley utilizes the PEAK strategy of curriculum on the walls.

Submitted by
Doug Woods



Huslia Huslers High School Basketball Schedule

January 9-10	Tanana at Huslia (Girls Only)
January 9-10	at Tanana (Boys Only)
January 22-24	Huslia Tourney (Boys and Girls)
January 29-31	at Nulato Tourney (Boys and Girls)
February 4	at Effie Kokrine (Boys and Girls)
February 5-7	at Nenana (Girls Only)
February 5	at Lathrop J.V. (Boys Only)
February 6-7	at Delta J.V. (Boys Only)
February 19-21	at Shungnak Tourney (Boys and Girls)
February 26-28	at Tanana Tourney (Boys and Girls)
March 26-28	Regional at Fairbanks (Monroe High School)
March 16-19	State at Anchorage

Boys Team will be an YKSD composed Team
Girls Team will be Huslia Girls Only



Pen Pals in Nulato

Students in Derek French's K-3 classroom at Andrew K. Demoski School in Nulato have been busy working on their writing skills and making new friends. The students are pen pals with a 2nd grade class from Elgin West

Elementary in LaRue, Ohio. Each class is learning about each other's culture and each other's school. The most popular question asked to the Alaskan students was how much snow do they get and how cold does it get.

Derek's students wrote back answering the Ohio student's questions and asking questions of their own. Derek's class wanted to know if the Ohio stu-



dents had a pool in their school.

The Alaskan students also sent gifts to the Ohio students including pencils with Alaska facts and a book about the Northern Lights. Derek's class also wrote informing the Ohio students of their native culture and subsistence activities. The two classes plan to meet via video conference after the Christmas break. Lots of exciting learning is taking place between the two schools.

Submitted by Derek A. French

Coming Events in Ruby

December 26-27	Three on three tournament
December 27, 29, 30	Tutoring continues
January 6	CSC Meeting
Jan.9	2nd quarter awards/presentation hosted by 3-5 grade
February	CSC Meeting Winter raffle
February 19	Wellness/Gymnastic Presentation Tutoring Family Night
March	CSC Meeting 3rd Quarter-Awards Presentation





Politically Correct Santa

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?

His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.

And labor conditions at the north pole
Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety,
Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.

And equal employment had made it quite clear
That Santa had better not use just reindeer.

So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!?

The runners had been removed from his sleigh;
The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.

And people had started to call for the cops
When they heard sled noises on their roof-tops.

Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened.
His fur trimmed red suit was called "Unenlightened."

And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows:
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose
And had gone on Geraldo, in front of the nation,
Demanding millions in over-due compensation.

So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,
Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,
Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,
Demanding from now on her title was Ms.

And as for the gifts, why, he'd ne'er had a notion
That making a choice could cause so much commotion.

Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,
Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.

Nothing that might be construed to pollute.
Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.
Nothing for just girls. Or just for the boys.
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacific.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.
Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.

And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,
Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.

For they raised the hackles of those psychological
Who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football...someone could get hurt;
Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.

Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe;
And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;
He just could not figure out what to do next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,
But you've got to be careful with that word today.

His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;
Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might
Give to all without angering the left or the right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,
Each group of people, every religion;
Every ethnicity, every hue,
Everyone, everywhere...even you.

So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...

"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."





Rich Delicious Fudge...

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups (18 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips (or milk-chocolate chips)
- 1 (14-ounce) can **EAGLE BRAND** Sweetened Condensed Milk (NOT evaporated milk)
- Dash salt
- 1/2 to 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS: In heavy saucepan, over low heat, melt chocolate chips with **EAGLE BRAND®** and salt. Remove from heat; stir in nuts (optional) and vanilla. Spread evenly into wax paper lined 8- or 9-inch square pan. Chill 2 hours or until firm. Turn fudge onto cutting board, peel off paper and cut into squares. Store leftovers covered in refrigerator.



Submitted by Cristina Poage

CHRISTMAS SONG QUIZ

1. The apartment of 2 psychiatrists.
2. The lad is a diminutive percussionist.
3. Decorate the entry-ways .
4. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis.
5. A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z.
6. Present me naught but dual incisors for this festive Yuletide.
7. The smog-less bewitching hour arrived.
8. Exuberation to this orb.
9. 288 Yuletide hours.
10. Do you perceive the same longitudinal pressure which stimulates my auditory sense organs.
11. The red-suited pa is due in this burg.
12. Stepping on the pad cover.
13. Uncouth dolt has his beezee in the booze and thinks he is a Dark Cloud's boyfriend.
14. Far back in a hay bin.
15. Leave and do an elevated broadcast.
16. That exiguous hamlet south of the holy city.
17. Behold! I envisioned a trio of nautical vessels.
18. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully.
19. A joyful song relative to hollow metallic vessels which vibrate and bring forth a ringing sound when struck.
20. As the guardians of little woolly animal's protected their charges in the shadows of the earth.
21. Frozen precipitation commence
22. Monarchial triad
23. Oh, member of the round table with missing areas
24. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
25. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling
26. Wanted in December: top forward incisors
27. We are Kong, Lear, and Nat Cole
28. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
29. Oh small Israel urban center
30. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your yuletide season
31. Parent was observed osculating a red-coated unshaven teamster
32. May the Deity bestow an absence of fatigue to mild male humans
33. Natal celebration devoid of color, rather albino, as a hallucinatory phenomenon for me.
34. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.
35. Tranquility upon the terrestrial sphere.
36. Have hitherward the entire assembly of those who are loyal in their belief.



Answers on
page 10



CHRISTMAS SONG QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Nutcracker Suite
- 2) Little Drummer Boy
- 3) Deck The Halls
- 4) Silent Night
- 5) Noel
- 6) All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth
- 7) It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
- 8) Joy to the World
- 9) 12 Days of Christmas
- 10) Do You Hear What I Hear?
- 11) Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
- 12) Up On The House Top
- 13) Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer
- 14) Away In A Manger
- 15) Go Tell It On The Mountain
- 16) Oh Little Town of Bethlehem
- 17) I Saw 3 Ships
- 18) Hark The Herald Angels Sing
- 19) Carol of the Bells
- 20) As Shepherd's Watch Their Flocks At Night
- 21) Let It Snow
- 22) We Three Kings
- 23) Oh, Holy Night
- 24) Jingle Bell Rock
- 25) Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer
- 26) All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth
- 27) We Three Kings
- 28) Silver Bells
- 29) O Little Town of Bethlehem
- 30) We Wish You A Merry Christmas
- 31) I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
- 32) God Rest You Merry Gentlemen
- 33) I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
- 34) Frosty the Snowman
- 35) Peace on Earth
- 36) Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

